

# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, April 11, 2013

## Field Trip to Khalifa Museum in Omdurman

Imam Al-Mahdi [more info](#) ☆

Al-Mulazmin  
Omdurman, Sudan  
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**Professional Development**

Thursday, April 25, 2013, at KAS, No School for Students





## Letter from the Superintendent Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to hear from Ms. Bhuyan, our High School Social Studies teacher, this week regarding a group of students who traveled to meet with one of the countries' well-known politicians, Mr. Sadiq al-Mahdi. Mr. al-Mahdi served two terms as the democratically elected Prime Minister of Sudan and as such is well qualified to comment on the recent history of the country as well as its current state of affairs.

During their visit Mr. al-Mahdi spoke on a range of topics and enthralled our students with an insider's perception of Sudan, its triumphs and challenges. It is not too common for a group of students to have access with someone of Mr. al-Mahdi's stature and from all accounts they were amazed by his in-depth understanding of politics in Sudan, and his ability to place current issues in Sudan within a historical context. Like most politicians, Mr. al-Mahdi was a wonderful speaker who managed to captivate his audience on a range of issues.

Beyond his impressive resume as a politician, people aware of Sudanese history will know that Mr. al-Mahdi is also the great grandson of the famous Mahdi (Muhammad Ahmad bin Abd Allah), who was responsible for the taking of Khartoum from the British and Turco-Egyptians in 1885. The British led by General Gordon were no match for the Mahdi's forces and the "Battle of Khartoum" was a monumental part of Sudanese history and was a significant step towards Sudan gaining independence.

In last week's newsletter I spoke of the need for our students to come away from their time at Khartoum American School with a deeper appreciation of this wonderful country and this week's field trip was just another example of how we work towards reaching this goal.

As always have a wonderful weekend.



## Letter from the Elementary School Principal Ben Voborsky

KAS teachers strive to plan authentic learning experiences for our students. Real world application brings learning to life. The upper elementary is finishing up an ancient civilizations unit and heading to the National Museum. Connections like this make learning go deep.

All of this is by design, our teachers plan and plan and plan. They look for experiences that will provide evidence of higher order thinking, stimulate real and substantive conversations, personalize learning, and integrate 21st century skills. Instructional strategies vary and student autonomy, mastery, purpose, choice, and self-direction are valued. This helps student own the learning. Our teachers plan so they can be on the sidelines and not at the front of the classroom lecturing but rather guiding, facilitating, and supporting learning.



Cool experiences are happening everywhere! Grade 3 has a class monetary system in place. Complete with earning change, exchanging dollars, filling out a deposit

slips, banking, and of course spending it in the class store. When I talked to Mohanad, he showed me his deposit slips. He is saving for a "big ticket" item.



Grade 5 kicked off the morning with the KAS News. With student-generated reports from Early Childhood to the International News and everything in between, it was exciting and included a pretty good sound track as well. There was even an appearance by Sponge Bob and Patrick. They reminded students to do their homework before tuning in and not watching them all the time.

When they asked if the KAS students love Khartoum American School,

**EVERYONE RAISED THEIR HAND!**



Our students will reflect back on their learning experiences and these opportunities for extending and refining their thinking with a smile on their faces. Thank you for all the planning teachers!



## Arabic Language at KAS



Grades 1 & 2 Arabic students are now experiencing a new setting for the 4th quarter. For two weeks now they have been working together as a team, and what we have noted throughout this experience is that we are now more prepared about what to expect from certain students... how to look at what they can produce in a different way...

Students' attitudes towards the subject have also changed a lot. Now we see them more excited and willing to learn Arabic; we, as well, see improvement of behavior inside the classroom and willingness to take initiative roles during class time - like offering to help each other with reading and writing, or native speakers helping the nonnative with word meanings, for instance.

Mr. Adani



## Poetry at KAS

In Language Arts 7 the students are each writing ten poems. The poems have to be connected in some way so that they tell a story. The students who were here last year in Grade 6 read "Love That Dog" and "Hate That Cat" by Sharon Creech, novels in poetry format that tell the story of a student and a teacher learning about poetry and writing poems. This year they are reading "Pieces of Georgia" by Jen Bryant, another novel in poetry form, the story of a motherless girl who begins keeping a journal just after her 13th birthday. One of the first, and best-known novels in poetry form is "Out of the Dust" by Karen Hesse, a story set in the 1930s Oklahoma Dustbowl of the Great Depression. Although each 7th grader is writing ten poems, there isn't space to feature all the poems or all the students. Each poem featured here is one of a set of ten poems.

From "A Soldier's Poem"  
Mohammed Eltigiani

THE WAR IS OVER.  
WE HAVE WON.  
BUT WHEN I LOOK BACK,  
I REMEMBER ALL THOSE INNOCENT PEOPLE.  
I JUST ... I JUST ...

From "Moving On To My Brand New Everything"  
Lydia Makram

In the first day I came  
Everyone looked at me like I wasn't welcome  
I was the last one in and out of classes  
I worked alone I ate alone I sat alone  
Till one day you saw me and felt bad  
You opened up your big heart to me and  
welcomed me warmly  
You introduced the people who later become  
dear to me  
Slowly I made my way through levels of  
popularity I made it to the top  
Now everyone knows me as the bomb dot com

## The Science of Nature



When most people see a spider, scorpion, or snake, their instinct is to swat it or flee the area. The six graders however, learned are keenly aware that most insects and small animals have useful purposes as well as how to give simple hints to survive or avoid any threat. They learned how to predict the native insects and animals in the area where they live and what services do those insects and small animals offer. Some of them are harmful as well as predator insects. Predator insects eat prey insects that host on crops, saving farmers huge losses. The dung beetle for instance, which feasts upon cow patties, keeps flies and parasites away from cow waste. They work to fertilize the pasture by decomposing bovine waste. Insects also serve wildlife. Without insects, birds wouldn't exist. Most birds feed upon a variety of bugs



Harmful insects are insects that are harmful in any way to plants, animals or humans. There are many ways in which insects can be harmful to the above; insects such as locusts can form huge swarms that can destroy whole crops in minutes. Scorpions could kill in less than ten minutes and other insects can pierce a leaf or stem of a plant and suck out its juices, leaving the plant to wither and die. Various types of insect and small animal carry diseases such as malaria and encephalitis, which leave many children in developing countries orphaned and many parents childless.



From "The Survivor"  
Sakuntala Jabatunni

The survivor was  
Baffled & confused.  
He sat there &  
Just thought.  
After two days,  
He was finally  
Rescued by the  
government of  
Another area.

From "Anthology of Sports"  
Mamoun Ismail

THE EARTH  
We use it as a football  
We kick it in its fall,  
No homage, no respect at all,  
The only planet for us all,  
Yet, nothing we do for the poor ball.  
Are we going to wake up at all?  
Or ignore the EARTH until we die all?  
Everyone is a player to destroy it all,  
Doomsday will come when the earth can't  
breathe at all,  
For God's sake, wake up, all  
Save the planet,  
As that is we have all





Anna-KG, Adalia-G1, Lina-G2, Neeka-G3, Mustajab-G4, Tina-G5, Haider-G8.

**Elementary School Math Problem:**

**Kindergarten:**  $2 + 2 = ?$

**Grade 1:** 5/10 is the same as what fraction?

**Grade 2:** I am curly and you can see, upside down I am plus three.

**Grade 3:** What is this number?

- 5 in the tenths place
- 6 in the thousandths place
- 3 in the hundredths place
- 9 in the ones place

**Grade 4:** Draw base ten blocks to show each number:

- a) 2.034
- b) 0.32

**Grade 5:** What operation do you use to rename a percent as a decimal? Show an example, work and answer. What operation do you use to rename a decimal as a percent? Show an example, work and answer.



Physical Health

It is no surprise that the current generation of children is the most sedentary generation the world has seen. It may be a surprise that some studies indicate that children are spending approximately 7 hours a day in front of a screen. This is affecting their brain development, their muscular development, and their social emotional development. Students know what they want, but they do not know what is best for them. They are not able to self monitor their screen time. It is our responsibility as adults in their lives to teach them healthy living. See the following website for some advice in this area.

<http://www.webmd.com/parenting/features/kid-fitness-when-your-child-wont-exercise>

**Middle School Math Problem:**

Maureen notices that 3 years ago, she was  $\frac{1}{3}$  of her mother's age, and that in 7 years she will be  $\frac{1}{2}$  her mother's age. How old are Maureen and her mother now?

**High School Math Problem:**

Find the pattern and fill in the blanks: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_

**Solutions from the last week:** Kindergarten: Hearts; Grade 1: 20-17=3; Grade 2: 6, 7, 5, 9, 2; Grade 3: 0.03, 0.13, 0.3, 0.31; Grade 4: 20; Grade 5:  $0.90 \times 20 = 18$  questions; Middle School: Two 34's and two 16's; High School: \$3790.43;

**KAS Sport**

With the rising temperatures, our students have jumped in the pool! KAS is organizing its swim team and swim activities for everyone. We are creating the base for a long lasting swim program and commencing a new stage in KAS history. We assure this will be the foundation of a program that will emancipate prodigies, and thanks to our multiculturalism, these prodigies will be from all over the world.

At this moment we are organizing internal, external and international swim competitions. If your child is a good swimmer make sure you encourage him or her to join the KAS swim team.

**Announcement!**

Grade One is hosting a mini-souk on Thursday, April 18, from 11:30 am. There will be: BBQ, Baked Goods, Fresh Juice, Beauty Salon, ...

Anyone who is free that day is welcome. Grade One is very excited and look forward to seeing you.



Circle one:

High School      Middle School      Elementary School

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_