

news

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 20, 2012

KEEPING
OUR SCHOOL
SAFE

SECURITY



GUARD



College Counseling

Wednesday, September 26, from 6:30 pm at KAS



Letter from the Superintendent, Mr. Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

As you know, the school has been disrupted over the past week and it is pleasing to see everyone back at KAS in good spirits, ready to start work again. It is never easy dealing with situations regarding security, as different people have different expectations; however, it was pleasing to receive a great deal of positive feedback from many families who appreciated our "safety first" approach.

Last weekend there were protests worldwide in response to a video that is extremely offensive to the Muslim faith. This video has been condemned the world over for its insulting content and here at KAS we also join in this chorus of displeasure at its posting on the Internet. In Khartoum there were also some protests, so based on the advice we received from our security advisers and in particular our friends at the US Embassy, we closed the school on Sunday and Monday just as a precautionary measure. We are hopeful that these problems have now passed and that the remainder of the year will be free from disruptions. As a final precautionary measure we are limiting the use of the campus this week and therefore the swimming pool will be closed outside of school hours until further notice, and we apologize for this inconvenience.

This small break from school was an inconvenience for all of us. However, it did give us some time to reflect on how we deal with security matters. While we were generally very happy with our response we will be reviewing all of our security procedures and making sure that the school remains the safest place that it can be for our entire school community.

As with all matters relating to the school, parents are welcome to give their feedback and any constructive ideas are welcome.

As always, have a safe and happy weekend.

KAS School Board Vacancy



A position has become vacant on the School Board, and the Board needs to appoint a new member. Therefore we are seeking expressions of interest from any parents who would like to serve the school in this capacity.

If you are interested in serving on the School Board please send a letter of interest and a brief biography to the Superintendent, via email at ghughes@krtams.org, by the 27th of September.

Letter from the Middle and High School Principle, Ms. Susan Boutros

Dear Parents and Friends,

Our school is a very special community school and as we begin this year, I would like to emphasize to all parents that this is your school and we welcome your involvement. In fact, your involvement is vital to the success of our school. There are so many ways that you can become involved in the school and your child's education. I would just like to mention a few.

One of the best ways to know what your child is doing in his/her classes is through Engrade. Engrade is a program that enables teachers to post assignments and grades for parents and students. It is a great tool our middle school and high school teachers use to make their class available online and to communicate better with students and parents. In addition to posting homework and grades, students and teachers can even use it to have discussions. If you don't already have an Engrade account, please see Ms. Egbal or myself to get details about how to set one up.

We now have beautiful student planners and all the students from grade 1 to 12 have received one. The student handbook is at the front of this planner. Students are required to write their homework, assignments, quizzes, tests and other important information in them. Please make sure that you check your child's planner everyday. You can also write a note to the teachers in the planner, which makes it an ideal means of communication. Also, please make sure that your child has organized all his/her papers in their binders.

Another excellent way to keep informed about everything that is happening at KAS is to read our weekly newsletters that go home every Thursday. You can also visit our website, which provides a variety of current information throughout the year.

Another very good way of becoming more involved in our school is by joining the PTA – Parent Teacher Association. The PTA plays an active role in supporting the school community. The main goal of the PTA is to organize activities to bring our school community together. Last year the PTA organized several bake sales, family picnics, a sports day and an African Dance Evening. If you would like to join the PTA, please contact us or see Ms. Haska.

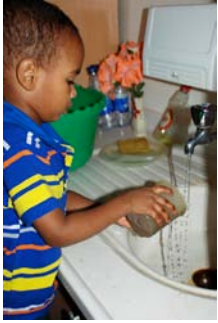
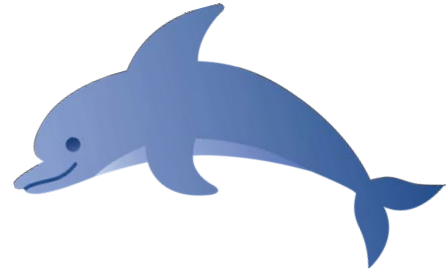
We always welcome parent volunteers so if you would like to volunteer by offering an after school activity or coaching a sports team, please let us know.

We would love to see as many of you as possible this school year - during conferences (that happen twice a year), during school events, or just drop by and have some coffee and cake with us every Thursday morning. Also, please feel free to call the school and make an appointment to meet with the principals or the teachers.

Your continued interest and support is necessary for our success. Students and staff are very energetic and happy to be working together.

Let's work together to make this a FANTASTIC school year!

Dolphin Class: Where Learning is Fun



Welcome to a new year in preschool!

For many of us here in Dolphin Class we are starting our second year and hopefully we will build and grow by building upon the many successes that we had last year! For those who are new, I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children and I know they are all going to grow both in terms of education and social development. We are also going to have a lot of fun along the way and have an overall fantastic school year here at KAS. We know how much you care about your child's education, and we will do everything we can to ensure a successful year of preschool.



Preschool children learn best through play so we try to keep our activities as interesting and fun-packed as possible. In this way they will enjoy their time here and also be more receptive to learning. We spread activities throughout the day with alternating active and calmer activities to ensure a structured and balanced day. Art activities are open-ended to encourage creativity. Letters and numbers are taught through play by counting the number of blocks the child is using to make a tower or by writing the letters in their names with sidewalk chalk.



We have started our year exploring:

- Color - yellow
- Shape - circle and triangle
- Letters - A,B,C
- Song - Old MacDonald had a Farm
- Themes
- Farm life
- Friends

Dolphin Class Team,
Fatima and Salma

Message from the High School Department

The High School English Department is pleased to announce five new classes this year! Last year, we engaged in an intensive review of our English curriculum and as a result, chose writing as our focal area for improvement this school year.

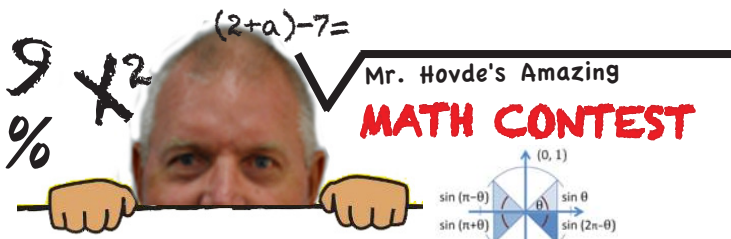
Consequently, high school students are currently enrolled in Writing Labs: intensive semester courses designed to quickly improve writing skills. Another brand-new course is Honors English, which is being team-taught by Ms. Kelley and Mrs. Shalash.

Right now we are examining the classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* through the lens of perspective-taking and the students are all rising to the occasion. High school seniors not taking Honors are enrolled in Intensive College Writing where we are working on both the college application process as well as strategies for how to write effectively at university.

Finally, we are offering AP Language and Composition after school on Mondays for those students really wishing for a challenge!

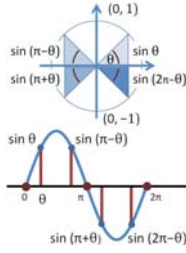
I have no doubt that we will see a dramatic improvement in the writing skills of our high school students this year.





ARE YOU READY TO ACCEPT THE

Challenge



Winners:

- Katya-KG,
- Hugo-G1,
- Masa-G2,
- Neeka-G3,
- Noah-G4,
- Anne-G5
- Ali-G6
- Manuel-G6.

Elementary School Math problem:

Kindergarten: Write the numbers one to fifteen.

Grade 1: What is the number, one before 16?

Grade 2: Show 25c in nickels and pennies.

Grade 3: Complete this challenge number grid puzzle.

		82		
		92		94
101				

Grade 4: Why is a trapezoid NOT a parallelogram?

Grade 5: List the 9 factors of 10

Middle School Math problem:

Use three 2's to make a number > 450:

High School Math problem:

Find the standard deviation of the data set below:

3 5 7 7 8 12 15 17 18

Solutions from the last week:

Kindergarten: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; **Grade 1:** 5,10,15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50; **Grade 2:** 144, 145, 146, 147, 148; **Grade 3:** 14; **Grade 4:** It is straight and thin; it has a beginning and an end; its length can be measured; **Grade 5:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, 72; **Middle School:** 111- 11- 1; **High School:** $(2x+1)(3x+4)$

Circle one:

High School Middle School Elementary School

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Answer: _____

With students going back to school around the world this past month, education is the topic that is occupying everyone's mind. I was listening to the latest broadcast on "This American Life" yesterday. It was all about school, education, and learning. Many very interesting points were made, and it is definitely worth a listen. You can get the transcript and read it over if you prefer reading to listening.

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/474/back-to-school>

The majority of the show focused on the importance of what they called "non-cognitive skills". The result of listening to the show is yet another reminder of how important home life is to learning. We all want to see every student succeed. One of the things we have decided to do as a school, in cooperation with home, is to require all middle and high school students to use a binder. Students in middle and high school should be coming home each day with an organized binder, and no loose papers in their bags. Please reinforce this at home. Please be sure your children have 2 1/2" binders, ten dividers, lined paper, pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners, glue sticks, scissors, and colored pencils.

Looking through the binder daily to see that papers are in the correct places and are dated and labeled with a subject and title will give parents the opportunity to see what has been done in school, and will give students the extra bit of organization, which will improve their ability to keep up, hand items in on time, and increase their confidence in their school work.

Basketball

Last week was the official beginning of the KISSC basketball season. We opened up with the boys traveling to take on Unity. The U18 boys played with a lot less players than they may be used to, however, they still showed a lot of effort and heart. In the end, they lost to Unity 43-21.

The U15 boys had many returning players this year. In fact, every student in grade 8 is on the team! The boys also played well against a very tough Unity team. The final result was KAS 21 to UHS 23. Well done to the boys' teams.

Adult Sports

Due to recent events, Adult Sports will be postponed until further notice. KAS will also be requiring new and up to date information for all participants. Please look out for further details during next week.

PE Classes

The PE swimming lessons have been going very well. Even though most students are doing things just right, there are a few things that should be restated.

- Students should change quickly to get in and out of the pool.
- Swim goggles are highly recommended.
- Sunscreen should be used to avoid sunburn.