

# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 27, 2012

## ASAP SIGHTINGS



ACTIVITY LISTS, DATES, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS JUST A CLICK AWAY AT [WWW.KRTAMS.ORG](http://WWW.KRTAMS.ORG)

## Progress Reports go Home

Thursday, October 4, 2012



## Letter from the Superintendent, Mr. Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

The first week of activities for the 2012/2103 school year “kicked off” this week and without doubt these were a huge hit with our student body. Each year I look forward to activities starting and the excitement that is generated among all of the students as they actually get to stay in school longer. Seeing them doing what they really enjoy is something to behold.

Kudos goes out to Ms. Kirby for the great job organizing and a big thank you to all of the staff who gave their time to make this special part of our school program work.

The activities that we offer our students are always excellent. However, this year they are very special with the pool now being fully functional. It has not only enhanced our activity program, but taken it to another level. With two days devoted to learn-to-swim classes and another two days to our swim team it will not be long before we will be developing quite an aquatic reputation.

I adore Sudan, I adore Khartoum and most of all I adore KAS, and while this passion will hopefully last a long time, I know that living here has its challenges. For our students boredom is unfortunately the biggest of them all. We hope that our activities program, along with all of the other extra curricula activities that we run throughout the year, will make our students well rounded and more importantly very happy.

As always, enjoy the weekend.

## A Letter From the Elementary School Principal, Ben Voborsky

Dear Parents and Friends,

What a start to the 2012-2013 school year we have had!

There are so many excellent things happening around KAS and our students are settled in and focused on learning. All Elementary teachers and assistants have been giving me such positive feedback and telling me about the things that they are looking forward to every week! As educators we look forward to the moment when a concept “clicks” in our students’ brains, or as Mr. Charrington, Grade 1, summed it up, “when I see that light bulb flash above their head”.

The first session of the KAS **A**fter **S**chool **A**ctivities **P**rogram just concluded its first successful week of excellent activities. Just about every student in elementary signed up! Kristine Kirby has done a great job organizing and improving the ASAP program this year. This session will be the best one yet! There are a variety of activities to enhance our students’ time and provide the opportunity to explore and have fun with their schoolmates. From *Crafts & Fun* to *Origami*, *Computer Exploration* to *The Sketchbook Project*, *Homework Club* to *Reading for Pleasure*, and *Soccer* to *Swimming*, the options are exciting.

If you are interested in offering an activity during the second ASAP session please email Kristine Kirby ([kkirby@krtams.org](mailto:kkirby@krtams.org)). The activity can be anything you are interested in and would like to share with a small group of inquisitive students! We like to provide as many activities as possible to keep group numbers small, the options abundant, and the opportunity for all elementary KAS students to participate.

### KAS School Board Vacancy

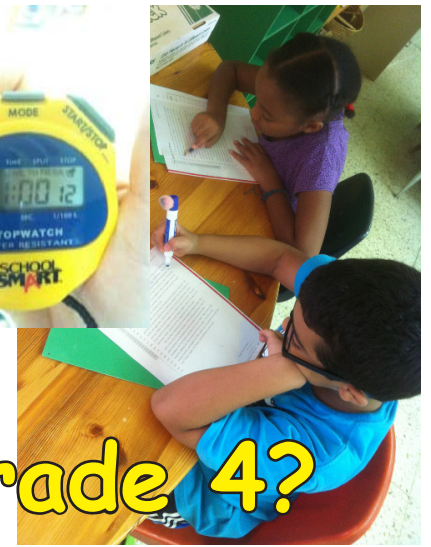


A position has become vacant on the School Board as it seeks to appoint a new member. Therefore we are seeking expressions of interest from any parents who would like to serve the school in this capacity.

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](mailto:ghughes@krtams.org), by the 27th of September.







# What's Going on in Grade 4?

This year, one of the goals that we have set in Grade 4 is to become more fluent readers.

## What does fluency mean?

Fluency is the ability to read smoothly and automatically, with expression and attention to punctuation.

## Why is fluency important?

Fluency is directly related to: reading comprehension, independent reading, and work completion. Fluent readers recognize words automatically, group words together quickly, do not have to concentrate on decoding the words, give their attention to comprehension, and recognize words and comprehend at the same time.

One way we are reaching this goal is through timed, repeated reading. Everyday after lunch we use a program called:

## The Six Minute Solution.

Just like the name says, it only takes six minutes to do, and we get to see our improvement each week because we graph our results every time we read.

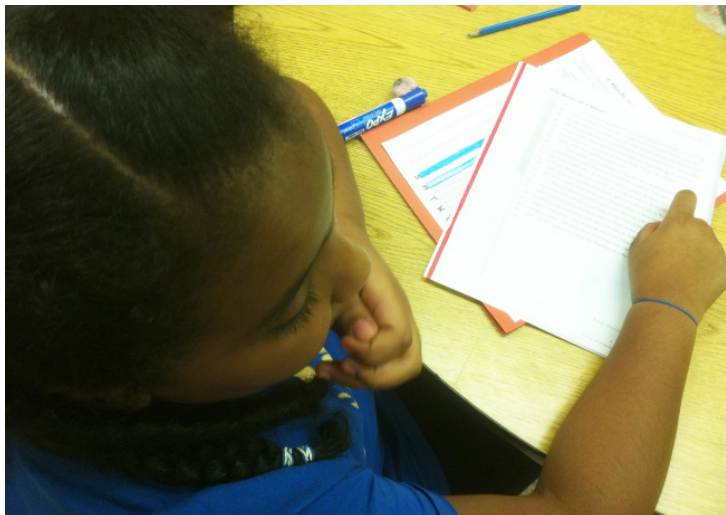
## The Six Minute Solution Format:

- Minute 1: Students get organized with materials needed
- Minute 2: Students silent read their passages
- Minute 3: Students mumble read their passages
- Minute 4: First timed read. Partner 1 reads, while Partner 2 marks. Partners calculate correct words per minute, and graph results
- Minute 5: Repeat steps (partners switch roles)
- Minute 6: Clean up

## What is Grade 4 saying about this program?

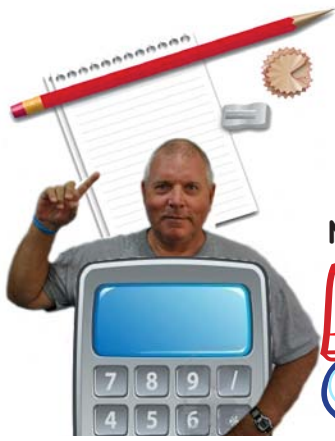
- "It's great because I get faster every time I read my passage." -Amina
- "We can see our improvement every day when we graph our scores." Ruba
- "The Six Minute Solution passages are non-fiction and interesting to read. We learn about the world." Hamadelnil
- "The more I read the passage, the words go in my mind, and the next time I read it, I say the words right away." -Bashir
- "We get to help each other by marking our partners reading, it's like we are the teachers." Fauz

For more information on the Six Minute Solution, talk to any Grade 4 student, or email Ms. Shannon at: [sshannon@krtams.org](mailto:sshannon@krtams.org).



## Vision Screening

At KAS we work to meet the needs of the whole child. One critical aspect of learning is vision - the ability to see text, see what you are doing and see where you are going. Each elementary child will have his/her vision screened during the week of September 23rd. They will come home with a note about this screening. If additional follow-up is needed, the note will indicate this. If you have any questions please talk with Ms. Aleli. If you have a middle or high school student and would like his/her vision screened, please see Ms. Aleli.



## Mr. Hovde's Amazing MATH CONTEST



### Winners:

Hannah-KG,  
 Mohammed Nail-G1,  
 Mahammed-G2,  
 Syahmi-G3,  
 Vishesh-G4,  
 Fawzia-G5,  
 Celeste-G6,  
 Abdelrahmen-G7.

### Elementary School Math problem:

**Kindergarten:** Write the numbers 1 -20.

**Grade 1:** How many minutes in an hour?  
 How many hours on a clock?

**Grade 2:** How many pennies make one dollar?

**Grade 3:** What is the difference between 89 and 63?  
 What is the difference between 47 and 68?

**Grade 4:** What are two characteristics of a polygon?

**Grade 5:** Write a 3-digit number that is divisible by three and five.

### Middle School Math problem:

Use each of the digits 1-7 once only. Make an addition problem with the sum of 100.

### High School Math problem:

Seven students in a class are asked to line up at the door. How many different arrangements of students are possible?

### Solutions from the last week:

**Kindergarten:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15; **Grade 1:** 15; **Grade 2:** Answers will vary; **Grade 3:** 82,85, 92, 93, 94, 95, 101, 102, 103, 105, 111, 113; **Grade 4:** It only has one pair of parallel sides. A parallelogram must have two; **Grade 5:** 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, 25, 50, 100; **Middle School:**  $22^2$ ; **High School:** 5.45;

Circle one: \_\_\_\_\_

High School      Middle School      Elementary School

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

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

## Technology and the Family

Technology is becoming more and more accessible and making our lives easier and easier in many ways, and more complicated in many other ways. The Learning Center highly recommends reading the following article: <http://yourteenmag.com/2011/11/technology-parents-take-control/>. It's a little long, but it is an excellent article.

Outside of reading this article, the best way to maintain healthy use of technology in a family is for parents to model healthy use. If there are rules to be followed, then parents ought to model this.

Here are just a few suggestions:

- If family members are having a conversation or sitting together and someone receives a message or call that they feel they must read or take, they should excuse themselves first.
- If it is a text message that was received and responded to, have the courtesy to share with the people you are with a little bit about the message. "I just received an invitation to dinner Friday. I messaged back that we'd be there."
- Use phones, computers, televisions, etc. outside of bedrooms. Keep bedrooms technology free.
- Set a time after which all technology is turned off. For example – no technology after 9 pm. Or stagger the times. No computers after 8, no televisions after 9, etc.

## NEW PE T-Shirts



The new PE T-shirts have arrived!

We have just received our shipment of all new shirts. This year brings a new design and new colors:

- Kindergarten to Grade 2 will wear red (sizes 8 and 10).
- Grade 3 to Grade 6 will wear light blue (sizes 10 and 12).
- Middle school and high school will wear yellow shirts (M, L, XL, XXL).

The cost is 30 SDG and shirts can be purchased from your child's PE teacher. We are trying to accommodate the proper size and color for the appropriate grade level, but please understand that there may be a need to give a different color shirt if the sizes don't fit. I hope you are ready to show your PE spirit with these new shirts!

## Letter from the New Athletic Director

Hello everyone,

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Shiren Elmhadi and I am the new KAS Athletic Director. I've resided and studied in Denver, Colorado, the majority of my life and I truly enjoy playing sports.

Now for the latest news at KAS.

On Tuesday, September 25, the U15 and U18 boys played KICS at our court. The scores were:

U15: KAS 17-KICS 15      U18: KAS 21-KICS 30

The girls U15 and U18 were magnificent playing KICS on September 26. The Scores were:

U15: KAS 16-KICS 14      U18: KAS 38-KICS 38

The girls' and boys' performance was outstanding on the court; they kept the audience on their feet.