

news

news from the trunk

Thursday, April 17, 2014

BOOK-'N-BAG-IT LUNCH



Long Weekend

From Friday, April 18 to Monday, April 21, 2014



Letter from the Superintendent, Mr. Steven Alexander

This time of the school year becomes extra busy because there are many activities planned up to the end of the year. In order to help everyone keep informed it is important that parents pay attention to the calendar of planned events. The best way to do this is go to our website and check the monthly calendar of events which we update on a regular basis. We also continue to send SMS messages to remind parents of forthcoming activities.

Two very important events will occur on Wednesday, May 14. One event will be the Elementary Music performance, which, is always well supported at KAS. The other important event will be the KAS Annual General Meeting. This is important since we will give a report on the status of the school and also hold an election for vacant seats on the School Board. At the end of this month we will send detailed information to parents about the Annual General Meeting.

I would also like to inform the community about some facility improvements that will take place over the summer holiday.

- Construction of a new classroom that will be positioned near the Early Childhood area. We anticipate having all present classrooms being occupied next year and we are planning the construction with a view towards growth in our enrollment.
- The basketball court will be refinished and brought up to international quality standards.
- We have purchased a large quality built portable theater from Australia. A group of high school students made an excellent presentation to our School Board about the need for this and the School Board has authorized the purchase. It is large – 54 square meters at its largest dimensions, but can also be arranged for a smaller area. It is very versatile and will be useful for many different events. We are all very excited about this.

A reminder that we are accepting applications for our first KAS Summer Camp that starts on June 15th. If you would like to register your child, please come to the KAS office and fill out a registration form. If you would like more information, please find it on our website.

Steve Alexander, Superintendent

Announcement

Swimming pool will be closed from Friday, April 17th till Monday, 21st, 2104 for maintenance.

Letter from the Middle and High School Principal, Susan Boutros

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

There is so much going on at Khartoum American School at this time of the year.

Our high school students, and particularly those in AP classes, are working hard at the moment and I am hugely grateful to the many teachers who have been offering extra help and support outside of classes and are also giving time to revision sessions at the end of the school day.

These weeks the middle school science classes have been concentrating on their Science Fair projects. They are very excited and looking forward to the Science Fair on May 7.

Over the last few weeks, students in the High School Theater Production class and some students from Grade 6 have been busy becoming actors and refining the Middle and High School musical production, which will take place on Thursday, May 8. The Elementary students are also working on their Musical production that will take place on Wednesday, May 14. Whatever your preferences are, there is a production to please you all. The students are looking forward to entertaining you all.

There is great excitement today in grade 9 as the students are preparing to leave for their camping trip to Jabal Awlia. The students have been actively involved in all the preparations associated with the trip. I am sure that they will have a great time.

I wish you all a very enjoyable and exciting long weekend!

Student's Corner

It's Time for Another Movie Night!

Part of the objectives of the GOAL program in the High School is to bring the KAS community together and have fun.

This week Ms. Burwash's goal group is hosting a movie night. There will be 2 movies showing on Thursday the 17th starting at 6:30pm. The first one will be **The Nut Job** and then at 8:30pm there will be **Thor!**



The goal of this movie night is to just chill and have the time of your lives. In addition, this is a journey back in time to the good old days when people watched movies outdoors. I'm looking forward to this movie night, and I'm sure it's

going to be a successful event.

Mariam Elsanousi

Using Technology to Motivate Middle School ESL Students



How do we as ESL teachers teach middle school scholars essential grammar skills without boring them to death with “the rules”? It’s actually quite simple: by teaching grammar in context. And in a fun way!

From my experience, middle school students learn best when they are actively engaged with the content. When students participate in hands-on, inquiry-based learning, they develop lasting skills that often translate into higher levels of student achievement. Computer-based approaches help students develop higher order thinking and problem solving skills. As students are busy handling data and learning by doing, involvement in their own learning increases along with enthusiasm. Students are no longer passive

recipients of knowledge; they become active participants in the learning process.

Over the last two weeks, middle school ESL students were asked to create a presentation that demonstrates their understanding of English parts of speech. Each student chose one part and presented it using a technology application tool such as PowerPoint or Prezi. The 10-15 minutes presentation was then followed by an interactive game or a quiz that engaged the whole class. Moreover, receiving the feedback from the class was thrilling! Yohanes, a grade 8 student remarked, “I think this is a much better approach than the worksheets, because we’re doing the work not the teacher!”

“During this experience, I have learned a lot about different kinds of adjectives and adverbs. It was hard work, but it was worth it in the end”, confirmed M.I, grade 8. Sukaina and M.E, grade 7 added, “This presentation was very helpful. We learned how to work as one group and it has helped us to write using correct grammar in Language Art lessons.” Yes, all the hard work has been worth it.

Salma Saeed
ES and MS ESL Teacher



Book-‘n-Bag-it Lunch

Today in 1st Grade and Kindergarten we had a book-‘n-bag-it lunch. Parents were invited to come share their favorite story while having a picnic with their child. What a wonderful turn out from both moms and dads and they came with the most delicious food. In the words of one of my Grade 1 students “I enjoyed it because I could eat and talk with my Mommy and Daddy at school.”



ALL THE FUN AT THE BUTTERFLY CLASS

Many of the children are close to or turned four years old! They have not only grown physically, but cognitively, emotionally, socially and academically. They are beginning to explore and experience the bigger outside world and its fascinations. Bearing this in mind, the Butterfly class reached a big milestone in their school lives. For the very first time they had experienced a bus trip, and gathered a lot of information about horses. The butterflies and the tigers had another opportunity to socialize with the KICS preschoolers as they spent a very busy and exciting morning at the KICS horse riding stables.

Our adventures have been continuing this week. We visited our music teacher, Mrs. Lanario and explored a few musical instruments. The students enjoyed listening to different sounds and never cease to be amazed by the music room and the instruments. Back to our classroom!

Making our own play dough at the Butterfly class was fun, while improving their fine motor skills, sharing space and equipment, taking turns and respecting their friend’s contributions.

As we have been learning about sharing, this is a good opportunity for the Butterfly class to share the play dough recipe with everyone.

1 cup of flour, ¼ cup salt, 2 tsp cooking oil, water and food coloring.





Elementary School Math problems:

Kindergarten: $5 + 2 = ?$

Grade 1: . What is the sum of: $3+7 = \underline{\quad}$; $6+\underline{\quad} = 10$; $\underline{\quad} = 2+8$; $0+\underline{\quad} = 10$; $9+1 = \underline{\quad}$;

Grade 2: How many sides does a hexagon have? Draw one.

Grade 3: How many stones and ounces do you weigh?

Grade 4: Write three equivalent fractions for one half.

Grade 5: Aliya is baking 2 different kinds of chocolate chip cookies. One recipe calls for $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of chocolate chips. The other calls for $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of chocolate chips. How many cups of chocolate chips does she need in all? Write a number sentece _____ . Show work _____

Middle and High School Math Problem:

Find three positive whole numbers that have the same answer added together or when multiplied together.

Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten: 7; **Grade 1:** Less than, Less than, Greater than; **Grade 2:** 44; **Grade 3:** 1104; **Grade 4:** Answers will vary; **Grade 5:** $\frac{1}{2}$ is greater than $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{7}$ is less than $\frac{1}{4}$; **Middle & High School:** 9 Tables and 12 Stools;



Omer (Pre-K), Jason (KG), Mariam (G1), Serene (G2), Ibrahim (G3), Youssef (G4), Qiestina (G5), Bushra (G6).

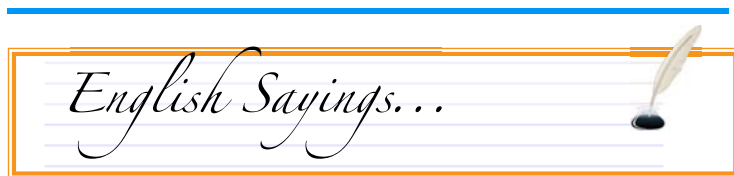


The Alternate Route

As students move through high school it is inevitable that they will become increasingly concerned about which college or university they will choose for the next stage of their career path. It is incumbent upon students to get good grades, have a high GPA, be involved in extracurricular activities, and take exams like TOEFL and SAT. While it is important to encourage our students to get into the best university they can and be the best they can be, we must not forget about the students who need to go down an alternate path.

Many schools with student support services, like our Learning Center at KAS, must encourage students to choose not only their best options for their future, but also options in which they will be most successful. Choosing successful programs for students who require support involves looking into alternative programs like Technical-bound Colleges, 2-year Universities, and vocational programs.

As educators and parents, it is important to be inclusive and open-minded in fostering the most successful future education for children. Here at KAS we are proud of our all inclusive program and the Learning Center, Counseling Service, and experienced members of staff are always on hand to provide advice and guidance in this area to ensure that our students and parents are prepared and informed about the many opportunities that are out there for alternate routes to success.



To be **Put Through The Hoop** means to be punished or chastised for a wrongdoing. This is a nautical phrase related to the ancient marine custom of ‘running the hoop’. The punishment comprised four or more convicted sailors being stripped to the waist, and having their left hands tied to an iron hoop. In the other hand each would hold a length of rope known as a nettle. The bosun would then hit one sailor with a cat o’ nine tales and he in turn would have to hit the man in front of him. Being put ‘through the ordeal of the hoop’ later became shortened to the phrase we know today. Originally, it was a form of horseplay when the ship was in calm waters, but as each blow landed the angry recipient would land a harder blow on the man in turn. As it went on the blows became harder, leading to its effectiveness more as a punishment rather than a game.

Ross's Rebus
 I am I king forward to see your answers!

Teacher:
Why can I hear talking?

Student:
Because you have ears.

Elementary School Rebus

Middle and High School Rebus

Serene, Grade 2

Bushra, Grade 6

This Week's Winners are...

Solutions from the last week:
Elementary Schol: Pizza party; **M&H School:** Community Service;