



2015-GRADUATION CEREMONY



NEWS FROM THE TRUNK

Thursday, June 4, 2015

KHARTOUM AMERICAN SCHOOL CLASS OF 2015



KAS

School opens for children 8:00am August 12
HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



Letter from the Superintendent, Dr. Robert Beck

Dear Parents,

The second semester has now ended and so has the 2014-2015 school year. I congratulate all parents, students and staff on a job well done! It is time for the KAS Family to 'recharge your batteries' as you rest and relax during the summer break. For those of you who will not be returning to KAS, we will miss you. You will always be a part of the KAS Family. For those of you who plan to return to KAS, please be reminded that the first day of school for the coming year is August 12. Classes begin at 8:00 every day for all the children (gates open only at 7:45, not before). I would like to share with you a letter I wrote to students, parents, and staff in our 2015 School Yearbook (you can purchase a copy of the yearbook from the administration office):

"It has been an exciting year of learning at KAS. I congratulate you on a job well done. The Khartoum American School is an historic and famous school in the world. It is because of you that KAS has reached the level of success and prestige that it has.

Over the past school year you have worked hard. As a result, you have moved to the next level of excellence in your journey of learning. Students, you are now ready to move on with confidence to your next grade level at KAS, or to the next grade level at the school you are transferring to. And if you are one of the 17 senior graduates of the Class of 2015, you are ready to enter university and/or the world of work. You have completed the requirements to receive the long-awaited and well deserved prestigious Khartoum American School High School Diploma. I congratulate you.

The **Class of 2015** is the largest graduating class in the history of KAS. Since 1957, KAS has made a positive impact on the lives of the children who have been fortunate to be a part of the KAS Family. There are hundreds and hundreds of KAS Alumni who have taken the cherished memory of KAS with them whether they live in Sudan or in another country. Even if you attended KAS for a relatively short time, we consider you a KAS Alumni. Always know that no matter where you are in the world you will be considered part of the history of KAS and a member of the KAS Family".

Congratulations everyone. Best wishes always.

School Opening and Closing Times starting August 2015-2016 - 8:00am classes begin and classes end 2:50pm (Gates open at 7:45)

Nursery and Early-Childhood Opening/Closing Times: 8:00am - 12:30pm

Letter from the Middle/High School Principal, Susan Boutros

Dear Parents,

Thank you for another fantastic year at Khartoum American School!

Every year of my years at KAS has seemed to fly by faster than the one before and this one was no exception. I am looking forward to next year when our 11th graders return with all the confidence and knowledge they need to have a successful senior year.

As I look back at our middle school students, I personally find it hard to believe our 8th graders are going to become high schoolers in August. I wish them all the success in their high school years. Our 5th graders are well prepared for middle school where the workload will increase and the pace will speed up. I am very sure that with the support that our students receive from school and home they will rise to the challenge.

I would like to thank all of the parents, students and staff for a successful school year.

I wish you a safe and happy summer with family and friends!

See you in August!

2014-2015 KAS MEMORIES



Letter from the Early Childhood/ Elementary School Principal, Phil Centers

Dear Parents, Teachers, Students, and Community Members,

I came across an article recently that I shared with the KAS faculty. It described the experience of a fourth grade teacher in the U.S.: "When Tori Nelson found one of her fourth-grade students crying outside the classroom, she quickly hatched a plan to make him feel better. Matthew Finney told her that an older kid had teased him on the school bus about his new buzz cut. Nelson then surprised him by offering to let him shave her head so that they'd match. The 9-year-old gleefully shaved his teacher's hair off on the playground while all the other students cheered. 'It was a lot of fun for the kids,' Nelson said. 'Teaching isn't just about reading and writing. It's about self-esteem and accepting differences.'" 1

While this teacher's actions may seem quite extreme relative to the situation, the core lesson of the story—that teaching isn't just about core academic subjects, it's about human beings and the human family—rings true. And this teacher's response to a seemingly mundane situation also has a ring of truth to it. What kinds of things would we do every day if we weren't constrained by our ideas about the way the world is supposed to be, for instance, that it is unthinkable that we would shave our head to cheer up a student? In fact, isn't it just our ideas about the way the world should be that make life mundane? These are thought-provoking ideas, and we certainly need our thoughts provoked once in a while!

There's a very short yet quite powerful saying that sums up for me the power of shaking off the mundane that our lives are always tending to become, through embracing the opportunities that experience continuously offers us to get outside our boxes: "whatever it takes." Teachers often live this ideal in connection with their students, and administrators with their staffs and schools: we dedicate our lives to doing whatever it takes to lift even one student out of the ordinary so that they, and we, can experience the extraordinary that surrounds us, and maybe, just maybe, become a little more like that.

We have now concluded the KAS 2014-2015 school year, and this has been an extraordinary year for me and my wife Juliane. We have been embraced in our new community at Khartoum American School, and offered priceless opportunities to get outside of the ordinary, to do whatever it takes to create the extraordinary together here in the heart of Sudan. Thank you for your kindness this year in giving us a chance to serve this amazing learning community. We move forward into our summer adventures filled with the glow of this year of wonder.

1 http://cdn.app.theweek.com/editions/com.dennis.theweek.issue.issue722/data/34691_8f6c04663c37f41c7f34b8ee078c0e17/web.html

class of 2015

It has truly been a wonderful and enlightening experience teaching the class of 2015 for the past two years. I am proud to say you are all writers, poets and storytellers. In the words of Walt Whitman: "Love the earth and sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to every one that asks, stand up for the stupid and crazy, devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, have patience and indulgence toward the people, take off your hat to nothing known or unknown or to any man or number of men, go freely with powerful uneducated persons and with the young and with the mothers of families, read these leaves in the open air every season of every year of your life, re-examine all you have been told at school or church or in any book, dismiss whatever insults your own soul". Congrats class of 2015,

you
will
rise.



Jocelyn Urkow
HS Language Arts and Model United Nations


Puzzle: Goodbye kids, I'll miss you.
Winner: Tawfeeg gr. 6

