



# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015



## The Middle School-High School Trip to Meroë



INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK

**DINNER**

& SCHOOL COMMUNITY SHOW

Thursday, December 3, 2015 from 7:00pm

Entry & Raffle Tickets are at the office now.

Limited number of tickets at the door

Tickets available at Khartoum American School, please call +249 15 577 0105 +249 15 577 0107 or email us at [kas@krtams.org](mailto:kas@krtams.org) for more information.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As all of you are aware, this evening is our annual KAS International Potluck Dinner. The entire faculty and the entire Elementary and High School/Middle School student body have been preparing for this very special event for quite some time. Over the past few weeks students have come forward as individuals and in groups to practice their dance and music routines. All of the children have been cooperating in practicing for the International Parade of Nations. That is one of the highlights of the evening.

The faculty will be present to help in the food area and at the entrance gate to welcome parents, students and dignitaries. They have also been involved in preparing for the entertainment, in organizing the raffle, and in creating and designing the attractive posters, and the stage set. The proceeds for the event will be given to the Sadagat Kheir Organization with Nijood Al Khier. This group organizes interventions that lead to the repair of children who were born with cleft pallets. Thus, the theme of the Potluck Dinner is '**KAS Will Help You Smile**'.

We want to thank you parents for your contributions of wonderful food. And we wish to thank all those who provided prizes for the raffle. We have over 30 nationalities represented at our great school. And tonight at the Potluck you will be able to enjoy foods from those nations. The International Potluck Dinner is when the entire KAS community comes together to celebrate as the KAS Family.

I wish you a wonderful International Potluck Dinner with family and friends. See you there!

Sincerely,

**Dr. Rob Beck**  
Superintendent

### MATH CORNER

#### THIS WEEK'S WINNERS!



Joshua Iskandar - Kindergarten  
LesleyAnn Hyde - Grade 1  
Mohamed Mohammed - Grade 2

### From our Nursery School

*Different but the same.*

*We might each have a funny name,  
We don't mind it's just a name,  
We are different yet we are the same.*

*We like to play outside,  
We love to seek and go hide,  
We are not allowed to pinch nor bite,  
We are learning to do things right.*

*Our teacher speaks to us in English,  
Which mostly sounds like gibberish,  
Yet the more we hear it, the less it is ticklish.*

*We come from different countries,  
We have no boundaries,  
We don't care about our different ancestries,  
Since we are all besties.*

*We look different, we sound different,  
But there is no one to blame,  
We enjoy being different because we are the same.*

**Nada Salih**  
Nursery Teacher



## END SEASON REVIEW-SPORTS

Dear Parents and Community Members,

The KAS mission statement says that we are a student-centered school, and this is a true statement. But what does it actually mean in practice? There are several aspects to KAS being a student-centered school.

First, we are student-centered because we have an American curriculum that has embedded in its approach a “can do” attitude of optimism towards our students and the learning process. This approach to education, at its finest, emphasizes process over product, creativity over rote drilling and memorization, and making learning a fun adventure rather than a mechanical duty. These are all student-centered emphases. Students emerging from this approach to education, at their best, are known for their spontaneity, creativity, and ability to solve problems. Obviously such people are urgently needed to help us solve the myriad of issues facing humanity in the 21st century.

Second, we are student-centered in that our teachers truly put our students first in all that they do instructionally. We do not put test results before student learning, as many school in the U.S. unfortunately currently do. We do not put staying within our comfort zones and avoiding risk before our student learning. We simply put our students first. And I believe that this shows in the joy, excitement, and satisfaction that our students express regarding their school experience.

Finally, being a student-centered school means that we make decisions on all levels of the school organization based on what is in the best interest of our students. We do not as a “for-profit” school. We exist solely in order to foster “educational growth and development for our internationally-diverse student body.” Because we do not have school goals other than the well-being and healthy development of our students, we are focused in a powerful way, and that way is student-centered. This is reflected in our well-earned and -deserved reputation as being a kind and caring school. We are kind and caring towards our students, and towards all other stakeholders of the KAS community.

It is a privilege to be part of a learning community that genuinely “walks its talk.” Here at KAS we say we’re a student-centered school, and it’s my experience that this is really true.

**Phil Centers**  
Elementary/Early Childhood Principal

### Integrity Passion Solidarity Discipline Respect

**END SEASON REVIEW:** KAS Basketball Teams end their season on a high against the goliath of the Khartoum Schools, KICS. KAS turned in yet another strong campaign.

#### Best Game – KAS Varsity Boys vs. UHS

Solidarity was the key as KAS stood tall and turned back UHS 43-27. Coaches Nick and Owen used all 12 players on the roster at a frantic pace. KAS’ 32 minutes of fast break basketball has worn out its opponents.

#### Best defensive block – Mohamed Ibrahim (MI)

People are still standing in their seats after KAS’ Mohammed Ibrahim (MI) blocked, collected the steal and dribbled down the center of the court to finish with the layup. The only thing missing was the dunk. MI is one of the more athletic players in Khartoum he certainly showed his talents on that particular defensive play.

#### Best team(s) – KAS Varsity Boys, Girls and the KAS Junior Girls team

The Boys’ team lost only to KICS but was triumphant against NVS and Unity. Both the Girls’ teams lost only to NVS but were triumphant against KICS and Unity.

#### Most valuable – Hasebo Omer and Beryl Kem Bumbara

Hasebo has the ability to break down the opposition on either end of the court, while Cheryl’s (JV Girls) speed allows her to outrun the defense for layups.

#### Biggest mysteries – KAS Junior Boys

The boys were expected to be in prime position to defend their unofficial title as the Khartoum Cup winners. Coach Hanro has to wonder what he needs to do to get his young players to make baskets.

#### Best shot – Kareem El Shanousi

When the junior team was 3 down against KICS, 16-13 Kareem delivered the most unorthodox shot in basketball scoring two points and spurring his team to better performance.

#### Best Sportsmanship–KAS Junior Varsity Team Girls and KAS Varsity Boys

The boys led by Hasebo Omer had the best attitude and sportsmanship all year round.

#### Best dressed team- KAS Varsity Boys Team

On every game day, the boys’ team and their coaches were sporting ties and dress shirts unifying their team and producing excellent results on and off the court.

Overall, yet another inspiring season with positive coaching and positive behavior all around showcasing the discipline and passion needed to participate in sport. The student athletes followed the coaches’ lead. They played with integrity and respect for their opponents making this a memorable year for KAS.



Kind regards,

**Hanro van der Merwe**  
Athletic Director





# Grade 7 and 11 Discover Ancient Meroë!

On November 26th and 27th, the 7th and 11th grade social studies classes took part in the annual Meroë field trip. Students in both classes had been working on units concerning the history and society of Ancient Kush, so the field trip served as an exciting capstone to end the unit. Leaving Khartoum with a gang of chaperones, KAS support staff and employees of a local bus company, not to mention a caravan full of food, tents and other supplies, the students enjoyed the journey to Meroë although were anxious to get to the pyramids and frequently asked me, "Are we there yet? Come on Mr. McMullen, you said 15 minutes!". Arriving late afternoon, we set up tents and set off to explore both the south and northern cemeteries of the Royal Pyramids.

Clipboards in hand, students drew pictures and analyzed certain pyramids and answered questions pertaining to the history of Ancient Meroë. Students identified depictions of Kush Queen Amanishakheto and gods like Anubis performing rituals out of the Book of the Dead on the temples connected to the pyramids. After exploring the pyramids, students enjoyed a somewhat expensive ride back to the camp on camels. We celebrated American Thanksgiving with a dinner of barbeque chicken and enjoyed a campfire as well as seeing the bright stars and moon in the desert. Before returning to Khartoum, we stopped off at the Royal City of Meroë, impressed by the royal baths (some of the students were eager for a bath themselves) although we failed to find a Sudanese Rosetta Stone that would help unlock the still untranslatable Ancient Nubian language. Overall it was a wonderful and rewarding trip. Thanks to all those who assisted and participated!

Owen McMullen  
MS/HS Social Studies Teacher

## Saying of the week

 To have **Cold Feet** indicates a loss of nerve or to have doubts about a particular situation. This phrase has its origins in the gaming world, albeit a fictional one. In 1862 Fritz Reuter, a German author, described a scene in one of his novels during which a poker player fears losing his fortune but does not want to lose face by conceding defeat. Instead he explains to his fellow poker players his feet are too cold and he cannot concentrate. This gives him a chance to leave the table and then slip away from the game. It is not known whether Reuter was drawing on a real life experience (as many novelists do) but his scene certainly appears to be the origin of the phrase. 

Minette van der Bijl  
High School/Middle School English Department

