

# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 2015



School closes on Thursday at 11 AM December 17 for the Winter Holiday Recess-The children return on Monday, January 11. Also, on December 17 at 10:30 AM please join us in the KAS Quad area for The End of Semester Assembly with the students.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In my last E News message I wrote about the 'coming' International Potluck Dinner (IPD). The event had not taken place when I wrote that message. I wrote a 'thank you in advance' to the IPD Committee and to the community for their participation in this very special annual school-community event.

Now that the event has passed, I want to again congratulate Mrs. Mona Hassan, IPD Committee Chair, the IPD Committee, Mrs. Didith Lanario, music department, Mrs. Maie Hassan, art department, and Mr. Samuel Yacoub, maintenance staff, and you parents for what turned out to be a spectacular event! The IPD 2015 stands out as one of the most memorable school-community gatherings I have ever attended. With over 600 hundred adults and children in attendance, including many dignitaries and heads of missions and embassies, the event proved to be a celebration of the KAS values of collaboration and cooperation. By coming together at this charity event to raise funds for the Sadagat Organization with Nijood Al Kheir, you have helped children with cleft pallets whose families cannot afford corrective surgery. In my opening remarks I said, "...As a result of your donations, many children will have their facial deformities corrected. A child will also have restored her/his self-esteem and hopes for a life lived with dignity and acceptance. Thus, the theme of the KAS International Potluck Dinner is "KAS Will Help You Smile".

All who attended and participated in the IPD can take pride in collaborating to help everyone smile. Thank you and congratulations KAS School Community!

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Sincerely,

**Dr. Rob Beck**  
Superintendent

## Why do I Love this Place...

I always feel proud and honored when I say that I work at the Khartoum American School. Every time I feel that I should stop bragging about that, I find myself in a situation were I give myself an excuse to start bragging again. Take a look at this example: The idea of **Warm Bodies, Warm Hearts Drive** came from one of our teachers when the weather started to cool down. Thanks to technology, we organized things very quickly. We created a WhatsApp group where everybody could share their idea of how we could do the drive and make things happen as soon as possible. Thus, people who were in need could benefit before the cold weather hit Khartoum. We would like to thank the parents who sent clothes and money to support the idea. Today I'm happy to announce that we organized a huge amount of bags and boxes of clothes will some will go to the workers and to orphanages around Khartoum. We will share more about this drive in the upcoming newsletter with more details. But I just wanted to point out that The Khartoum American School has this unique sense of community and desire to help others. Our students and teachers are amazing in working together when it comes to making a difference in the lives of others. I'm a better person because I belong to this community!



**Egbal Mohamed**  
Technology Coordinator

## Saying of the week

**To Be Hoisted** By One's Own Petard means to become a victim of your own deceit, or caught in your own trap. In medieval times a petard was a thick iron container, which was filled with gunpowder and set against medieval gates, barricades and bridges. The wicks, however, were unreliable and often detonated the gunpowder immediately, blowing up the engineer in the process. In which case he was 'hoisted (blown up) by his own petard (container of gunpowder).👉

**Minette van der Bijl**  
Hight School/Middle School English Department

**High School Exam Week Schedule  
December 2015**

	Monday, December 14	Tuesday, December 15	Wednesday, December 16
8:30 – 10:00	Ancient History 9 Modern History 10 Pre-Calculus 11 Math Studies 1 (11) English Lit 12 English Lang 12	English Lang 9/10 English Lit 9/10 African Studies 11 Comparative Govt. 12	Geometry 9 Integrated Math 1 (9) Chemistry 10 Chemistry 11
10:30 – 12:00	Algebra II 10 Integrated Math 2 (10) Statistics 12 Math Studies 2 (12)	Biology 9 (Presentations) African Literature 11 English Language 11 Physics 12	(make-up exams)

**Letter from the Middle School/High School Principal**

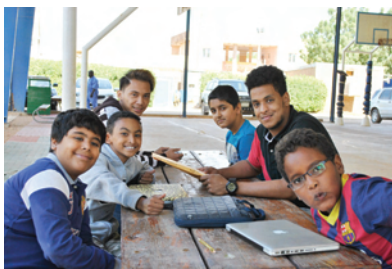
As the end of the year approaches, and in the spirit of thanksgiving and the holiday season, all of our students wrote letters of appreciation to each other. This is the time of the year to be thankful and grateful.

This week middle school students wrote letters of appreciation to each other. High school students wrote letters of appreciation to each other last week and this week they helped elementary students write a thank you letter. The students were spread around school and were writing in small groups.

This is great experience because the elementary school students look up to the high school students and it gives high school students practice with working with younger students. It also puts them in the role of teacher and some high school students realized they do in fact enjoy teaching.

This experience offered all of our students the opportunity to reflect on all the things for which we are grateful and to take the time to appreciate each other. I am very grateful to Ms. Shalash for organizing this event and making all this possible.

I hope that this “practice of gratitude” stays with us throughout the school year and in the years to come.



Have a great weekend!

**Susan Boutros**  
High School / Middle School Principal

**Winter Holidays Around the World**

**Christmas:**

People celebrate this Christian holiday by going to church, giving gifts, and sharing the day with their families. In some parts of Europe, "star singers" go caroling — singing special Christmas songs — as they walk behind a huge star on a pole.

**Hanukkah:**

For eight days each November or December, Jews light a special candleholder called a menorah. They do it to remember an ancient miracle in which one day's worth of oil burned for eight days in their temple. On Hanukkah, many Jews also eat special potato pancakes called latkes, sing songs, and spin a top called a dreidel to win chocolate coins, nuts, or raisins.

**KWANZAA:**

Kwanzaa, which means "First Fruits," is based on ancient African harvest festivals and celebrates ideals such as family life and unity. During this spiritual holiday, celebrated from December 26 to January 1, millions of African Americans dress in special clothes, decorate their homes with fruits and vegetables, and light a candleholder called a kinara.

**New Year:**

In Ecuador, families dress a straw man in old clothes on December 31. The straw man represents the old year. The family members make a will for the straw man that lists all of their faults. At midnight, they burn the straw man, in hopes that their faults will disappear with him.

**St. Lucia Day:**

To honor this third-century saint on December 13, many girls in Sweden dress up as "Lucia brides" in long white gowns with red sashes, and a wreath of burning candles on their heads. They wake up their families by singing songs and bringing them coffee and twisted saffron buns called "Lucia cats."

**Chinese New Year:**

Many Chinese children dress in new clothes to celebrate Chinese New Year. People carry lanterns and join in a huge parade led by a silk dragon, the Chinese symbol of strength. According to legend, the dragon hibernates most of the year, so people throw firecrackers to keep the dragon awake.

**Jason Mann**  
Grade 3 Teacher

# A LETTER FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER



I asked the Middle school science students to write about the best thing they've learned in science this term. Here are some of their responses.

## 6th Grade

This year we learned many different kinds of things. It really hard to decide what was the best thing that I learned. I liked both Magnetism and Electricity and Botany. I think the best thing is how different kinds of plants reproduce. We learned how moss, worts, and flowering plants reproduce. I liked how flowers reproduce. **(Ghoson)**

The best thing I've learned this year was about magnetism. The best thing about magnetism was that I could make an electronic out of it, by using magnet and copper wire. **(Syahmi)**

The best thing that I've learned in science this year was magnetism. It was my favorite thing because we had a lot of activities that had to do with magnets. So I enjoyed that unit also because I love how magnets work and what they are made off.

**(Yahia)**

My favorite thing that I studied and I found interesting when I came to this school was the study of plants. It was the first time I knew about vascular and nonvascular plants and gymnosperms and angiosperms. I also got to know about phytoplankton and zooplankton, which were some of the first organisms on earth. Also I learnt about cycads and pinecones. **(Mohammed)**

The best thing that I have learned in science is about plants. It (Botany) was my favorite subject because I love planting flowers, vegetables, and fruits. Also I want to learn about them. I loved when we planted everyone's vegetable fragments (to see if the fragment would) grow. **(Yula)**

## 7th Grade

The best part of Science this year was learning about climate and weather. (Some of) the factors that contribute to climate are evaporation, precipitation, humidity, and rain. **(Omer)**

The most interesting thing that I learned in Science is when we had to research famous astronomers. We had to talk about what they contributed to astronomy. The cool thing is that we had their role (could become the astronomer we researched) which made it extremely interesting and fun. **(Bashir)**

To me, all the subjects were interesting, but the one that interested me most was about space. There are many reasons as to why I find it interesting, one of them being I barely knew anything about it. **(Qiestina)**

The best part of science this year was when we researched about a planet in the solar system. I learned a bunch of stuff like: Saturn has the most rings in the solar system. Also that 1 million earths fit into the sun. And that Saturn is so dense that it could float on water. **(Tawfeeg)**

## 8th Grade

I learned about fossils and I liked it the most because this is the first time I actually get to touch a tree fossil and now I know what actually fossils are. **(Divya)**

My favorite thing I learnt this year was about rocks and minerals. It was really fun to try and identify the different types of rocks and minerals. It was hard but testing them on different things made me feel like a real geologist. This topic also interested me because I want to become a paleontologist, which deals with these types of things. **(Zoltan)**

I learned how rocks are formed and I know what the rock cycle is. I learned what carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, and minerals and vitamins are. I remember some ways to identify a mineral and what a mineral is. I learned that our body actually doesn't think when there's something frightening happening it either fights or flights. **(Fawzia)**

Actually this is my best year in science with Ms. J. I learned many new units such as nutrition, geology etc. The unit that I liked the best is nutrition because I liked to learn about cell structure and the muscular system, nerves, and the skeletal stem.

**(Bedis)**

The best thing I learned this year is what the health benefits of foods. It helped me watch out for foods that may harm me and not be good for my body. Now I know what carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals, lipids and proteins are. I also know what foods have it in it and how it will help my body. It made me look at what I eat in a whole different way. **(Laura)**

