

news

news from the trunk

Thursday, February 18th 2016



Celebrating The Wonderrful Diversity
That is **KAS!**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I want to thank a very important group of volunteer parents for the service and love they extend to the children and staff of KAS. I am referring to the KAS Parent Teacher Association (PTA). This past week I watched (and participated!) as the children and staff enthusiastically lined up to purchase baked goods that were made by our PTA parents. The PTA worked hard to organize the bake sale. I can assure you that they were very busy at the sale. The bake sale is just one example of an event the PTA organizes throughout our busy school year. Other PTA sponsored events include PTA picnics, assisting teachers with large school events, celebrating teachers by bringing them "thank you" morale building treats, and giving educational supplies to the school.

A close partnership of a PTA with the staff and administration is symbolic of a school community that strives to work collaboratively and cooperatively in the best interest of children and families. PTA activities and events build school pride and dedication to KAS. Their activities support our school mission and vision of developing responsible global citizens through cooperation among adults and children who come from widely different backgrounds and cultures. The 'big educational idea' that a school, through partnering with parents, gets better and better in the delivery of a comprehensive quality education experience for every child is evidenced by the synergistic relationship we have with our PTA.

The team spirit, the joy and the camaraderie of parents and staff at KAS that is a by-product of the efforts of our active and caring PTA is something that we are most grateful for. Not all schools can claim to have such a productive parent support group as our PTA. You bring us together as a family. We are proud that you are our PTA!

We thank you PTA. We admire and respect you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Beck
Superintendent

FROM THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Math Studies 12 at KAS with Ms. Boyce and Ms. Leena is fun when we play jeopardy. It is an easy way to review all of the concepts that we have learned in our class.

This week's categories were: integers, area of triangles and rectangles, surface area and volumes of triangular and rectangular prisms.



Students: Hassan, Ayman and Jamal

Mattie Boyce
MS/HS Math Teacher

This Week's Riddle

I have four strong legs,
but I can't neither walk nor run?

Answer: The Table

Math & Riddle Master

This Week's Winner



Ahmed Omer Abdasalam
Grade 5

Mohamed Osman
Grade 4

Mishqa Merican Hady
Ahmad
Grade 3

Uthman Azhan
Grade 3

Samir Amer
Grade 1

Aleen Alzain
Kindergarten

Dear Parents and Community Members,

This morning I was privileged to join the Superintendent-Parent Information Seminar called "Art as a Learning Tool" presented by Ms. Maie Hassan, our wonderful KAS Art teacher and "artist in residence" which took place in Ms. Maie's Art classroom. Ms. Maie began her presentation sharing a video called "The Invisible Gorilla" which demonstrated how when we focus on one thing intensively we often miss other things going on in our environment, even events that would otherwise significantly capture our attention. She equated this phenomenon with our school learning process, namely that if we concentrate solely on academics, we often miss other significant events taking place in the lives of our students, such as their emotional challenges and growth. Art, shared Ms. Maie, is the antidote to this problem of tunnel vision. When students enter Ms. Maie's Art classroom they relax, sink into the creative process, and know that their individual expression is all that is asked of them – there are no right or wrong answers to the art activities and projects they engage in.

Ms. Maie pointed out that art addresses learning styles that mere information-exchanging can never reach, for instance the tactile learners who need to touch things to learn them. She demonstrated this through the example of a fact about the brain which she shared, namely that the visual cortex of the brain is 5 times larger than the auditory cortex. While this is an interesting factoid, particularly for intellectual learners who grasp concepts easily, it may mean little to those with other learning styles. But when Ms. Maie displayed two different pictures of the brain showing visually the same fact, one flat in black and white and the second with perspective in color, we saw how much easier it was to grasp the concept of the two cortexes described originally with words. This use of art as a tool to support the process of grasping and understanding concepts that otherwise might be inaccessible to various learners is one of its most powerful applications, and the key to "art as a learning tool."

Ms. Maie expressed gratitude for the unique learning community that is the Khartoum American School, where the

arts, both the visual arts and performing arts, are strongly supported through our curriculum and investment in resources to provide a deep and meaningful art program and experience for our students and our KAS adult community. Speaking of which, please be sure to attend the performance of Shakespeare's Macbeth ("The Scottish Play") by the Middle and High School students on the evening of February 28 and 29. Please note that because of the adult nature of this play, only older students and adults may attend these performances.

Phil Centers

ECC/ES Principal

NEWS FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT

KAS Soccer 2016

KAS vs. KICS

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:

Please forgive the writer comparing the KAS girls' team, coached by Coach Sarah Ernest and Katie Taylor, in with the famous William Shakespeare's Sonnet 18.

The girls played two games against KICS and were magnificent outscoring, out maneuvering and out playing the KICS girls.

The jubilant girls and their coaches enjoyed the warm winter's day in Khartoum and for a moment in time the feeling of euphoria coursed through their veins and those close to them.

Consider the article from last week. Hard work wins out.

RESULTS

Round 3	KICS vs. KAS	Junior Boys	3 - 1
	KICA vs. KAS	Senior Girls	1 - 0
	KICS vs. KAS	Senior Boys	4 - 3
Round 4	KAS vs. KICS	Junior Boys	1 - 4
	KAS vs. KICS	Senior Girls	2 - 1
	KAS vs. KICS	Senior Boys	1 - 1

Kind regards,


Hanro van der Merwe
Athletic Director



3 Smart Tips to Pick Up Arabic Quickly

Marhaba! In this post, I would like to discuss 3 smart and easy ways for you to pick up Arabic quickly. I want to thank a close friend of mine who brought up this idea a couple of times over the last couple of months. She is learning Arabic and constantly asks me about different ways to get immersed in an Arabic speaking environment. My best advice to her centered on different things that I do to maintain my level of fluency (مستوى الفصاحة). I offered her these tips and after a few weeks she rushed to thank me mentioning that these tips granted her great exposure to an Arabic speaking environment in turn facilitating the learning process. In addition to my friend's request, many of you through different

means have asked the same question. How can I continuously practice Arabic? I am confident that these tips can help you out! Some of these might be obvious to many of you, while others might be new and useful. Needless to say, Arabic like other languages requires a constant drive for speaking (التكلم), listening (الاستماع), practicing (التمرين), reading (القراءة) and writing (الكتابة) on a daily basis; otherwise, it becomes rusty and might seem difficult all over again.

1 . Surf the Internet for Arabic Resources (تصفح الإنترنت للمصادر العربية)

Given the fact you are reading this post, then you are already making use of this first tip. Make it a point to visit the Arabic Language Blog (<http://blogs.transparent.com/arabic/>) hosted by Transparent Language (<http://www.transparent.com/learn-arabic/#.UgT76m25894>) on a daily basis.

2 . Read Arabic newspapers (قراءة الصحف العربية)

As a native and fluent speaker, I maintain my level of fluency by reading Arabic newspapers on a daily basis. I tend to read around 5-6 newspapers on a daily basis. I admit that some articles might be hard for you, but most of the shorter articles are easier for new learners. The best part in reading some of these newspapers is that they are accessible on the internet and in most cases for free!

3 . Listen to Arabic Music (الاستماع الى موسيقى عربية)

Every now and then, choose one of your favorite songs in Arabic and translate the song lyrics into English. I personally believe that listening to Arabic music is one of the most important ways to get immersed into an Arabic speaking environment. Music teaches you about the cultural expressions and values of any community and it is crucial to familiarize yourself with Arabic native music.

- If you want to read the whole article please follow the link below..

- Source: <http://blogs.transparent.com/arabic/3-smart-tips-to-pick-up-arabic-quickly/>

Ismail Adani

Arabic Language Teacher

SAYING OF THE WEEK

“Something going at **Nineteen To The Dozen** is operating very quickly indeed. Back in the 18th century coal-fired, steam-driven pumps were used to clear water out of Cornish tin and copper mines. Hand-powered pumps were slow and ineffective but at full power the steam version could clear 19,000 gallons of water for every dozen bushels of coal burned, which is how the expression became used.”

Minette van der Bijl

High School/Middle School English Department