

NEWS

news from the trunk

Thursday, March 17th 2016



WELCOME BACK FROM SPRING BREAK!



Upcoming KAS Events

Parents Teachers Conference

Wednesday - March 23

FUN FAMILY PICNIC!

Friday - March 25

Superintendent's Parent Information Seminar -
"STUDY SKILLS: A Key To Success That PARENTS Can Help Turn"

David Lauchmen presenter

Thursday, March 24, 8:30-9:15 AM, KAS Library



KAS PTA
Welcomes you, your family and friends to a
FUN FAMILY PICNIC!
AT KAS GARDENS WITH **LIVE DJ!**
FRIDAY - MARCH 25TH 2016
3:00 PM - 9:00 PM

WE WILL PROVIDE:

- FOOD AND DRINKS
- BAKE SALE ITEMS
- MUSIC/LIVE DJ
- GAMES AND ACTIVITIES
- FACE PAINTING
- PARENTS' TUG-OF-WAR
- TEA AND COFFEE

COME AND HAVE FUN!



NOTE: THE POOL WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY THE 25TH

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back from the Spring Break.

I hope you had an enjoyable time with your family over the Spring Break. We are delighted to be back with the children. This past Sunday we held a Professional Development Training Day for our teachers. There is a great deal of energy and excitement about completing the last quarter of the school year. Everyone at the Professional Development Day agreed that the last quarter will be one characterized by high energy and in-depth learning.

At KAS, we often use a 'Train-the-Trainer' model to conduct professional development workshops. This means that KAS staff that have an interest and expertise in a topic are invited to give a workshop for their colleagues. Sixteen of our teachers presented workshops this past Sunday. The workshops included the following topics: Humans Teaching Humans, Classroom Management and Discipline, How to Create Smart Rubrics, ESL for Early Childhood, Intervention Strategies for Misbehaving Students, Productive Struggle, Click and Tips on Technology Integration, Creating Consequences That Are Effective, and, How To Talk So Students Will Listen And Listen So Students Will Talk.

Sunday's Professional Development Day demonstrates again that KAS is truly a learning community made up of life-long learners. Whether a student or a staff member, everyone at KAS is dedicated to advancing their knowledge and skills. The culture and climate of KAS is one that fosters collaborative learning. The children and the staff are moving forward every day in their pursuit of knowledge!

I wish you and your child an enjoyable final quarter. It will be an exciting time at KAS.

Sincerely,
Dr. Rob Beck
Superintendent



From Our Nursery School

To my family with love.

My dearest family,

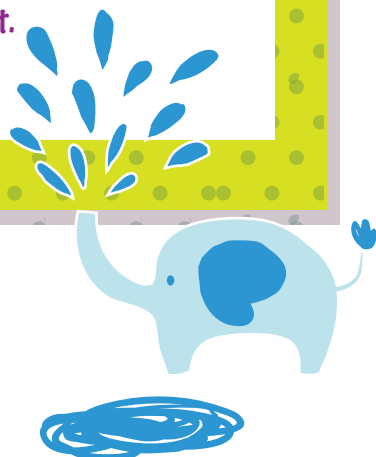
I know that even though I'm in school now, you still think of me as a baby. I can walk, run and jump yet you can't wait to carry me. I spend my days with my friends having fun but I know you still worry about me. I'm learning to be independent and social so you will be proud of me.

I take risks, jump off chairs and climb on tables knowing you are right there to catch me. I cherish the time we have together but sometimes you have to let me be. For your hugs and cuddles are what keeps me strong when you are not there with me.

I love you all and appreciate everything you do for little big me.

Love Always,
A Nursery Student.

Nada Salih
Nursery Teacher



SAYING OF THE WEEK

To hear something **On The Grapevine** means to have obtained information through gossip and rumour while remaining unaware of the true source. William Morse invented the telegraph in America and first used it in a demonstration to Congress on 24 May 1844. Such was the enthusiasm for this new system of communication that companies all over America rushed to put up telegraph lines, often cutting many corners. In 1859 a Colonel Bee began work on a line between Virginia City, Nevada and Placerville, California and to save time and money decided to use trees instead of fixed telegraph poles. But the natural movement of trees soon pulled and stretched the line, leaving it coiled and tangled resembling one of the wild grapevines in California. From then on any general source of information was known in that area as 'the grapevine' and the term quickly spread throughout the land.

Minette van der Bijl
High School/Middle School English Department

Math & Riddle Master

This Week's Winner



Mohamed Mirghani
Grade 2

Cyberbullying... What Does It Mean?



Teaching middle school is a challenging task for most teachers, regardless of tenure or temperament. Those between the ages of eleven and thirteen vary remarkably in their levels of maturity. As an educator and a technology coordinator at KAS, I feel that technology has huge impact on these students. One area of concern I would like to share with our KAS parents is cyberbullying and how to help promote healthy behavior while they are using technology through different digital devices. I also want to mention to our community that it is always important to have parents' support in addressing these types of issues at home.

Cyberbullying is the use of different digital media such as cell phones and the Internet to harass and humiliate others. Cyberbullying is different from physical bullying. But in some ways is worse because it can happen anytime 24/7 and at any place (at home or school). It usually takes a variety of forms, such as harassing or imitating someone, spreading rumors, or posting embarrassing information about someone online. This kind of bullying affects students and makes them feel humiliated and embarrassed. At KAS, we do all we can to prevent this type of thing from happening. Parents at home can spot cyberbullying also. Here are a few tips for parents about cyberbullying. These tips are listed on commonsensemedia.org website. Hopefully the tips will help you to recognize the warning signs of cyberbullying:

What Families Can Do and Say to your child.

You seem down. What's going on at school? Is anything upsetting happening online?

I'm here for you and so are your friends. Talk to me anytime.

Are there any teachers at school who have dealt with these kinds of situations before? I think you should tell one of them about what's been happening.

Bullies want attention, power, and status, which explains why they need to cause drama. I saw a news story about a teen who was bullied online. What would you do in that situation?

Recognize context.

Cyberbullying is often not thought of as "cyberbullying" to the

teens involved. Even though an incident has a history, a story, and nuance, rather than referring to it as "cyberbullying," try the words "digital cruelty," "abuse," or "being mean" online.

Help teens understand when behavior crosses the line.

Help your teen tune into his or her own feelings. If they feel emotionally or physically scared, it's time to get help.

Encourage empathy.

Help teens understand the detrimental impact of cyberbullying on people who are targeted, now and later in life. Encourage them to listen to targets and to become their allies.

Be realistic.

Teens have their own social dynamics that often don't include parents, so helping them directly may be difficult. Encourage teens to find friends or other trusted adults to help them through the situation, even if it's not you. Websites are often slow to respond, if they respond at all, but reporting an incident to a website administrator can be an empowering step.

Remember that your teen might be the bully.

Teens can take different roles in cyberbullying at different times. A teen who is cyberbullied might turn around and cyberbully someone else to feel powerful again. Ask questions to understand what role or roles your teens are playing.

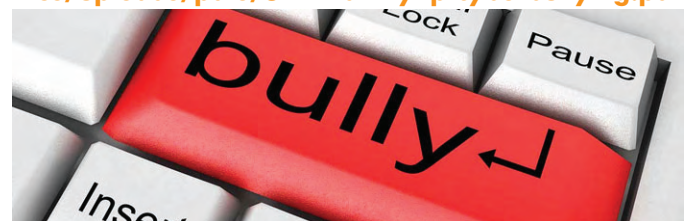
Tell them to disengage.

Encourage your teens to ignore and block the bully, and even log off the computer for a while. Point out that cyberbullies are often just looking for attention and status, so don't let them know that their efforts have worked.

Final Note: I would like to remind you of these thoughtful words from our school counselor Mr. Douglas Dworak: *"while parents want to help foster the independence of their children and not become "helicopter moms/dads" they also have the right to see what is on the devices of their children. Parents should feel free to expect social media access and phone access from their kids, but more importantly, this requires first a solid foundation of open communication, trust, and understanding so students do not take drastic steps to hide anything from their parents."*

Reference:

<http://www.commonsensemedia.org/sites/default/files/uploads/pdfs/6-12-familytip-cyberbullying.pdf>



Egbal Mohamed
IT Teacher