



news

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 10th 2015



KAS Competes in Sports Go KAS!



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents,

As you read through the E News today you will read articles contributed from the sports department (including one by a KAS athlete), and you will read an interesting and insightful article contributed from the art department. As you know, our students are involved in these subjects and activities throughout the year. In our approach to teaching the “whole child”, KAS takes very seriously its commitment to providing quality programs in the arts, sports, after school activities, and in physical education (PE).

As children grow and develop we know that their acquisition of knowledge, understandings, and skills based on the academic subjects of English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign languages help prepare them to be open-minded and successful life-long learners. Equally important is that students gain an appreciation of the arts, and of the importance of physical fitness. The arts, sports, activities, and our PE classes aim to provide balance in developing the ‘whole child’.

Noteworthy in the articles you will read today in the E News is the belief that even if one is not a ‘winner’ every time in sports competitions, or even if one does not plan on becoming an accomplished or professional artist, the very act of trying and enjoying the arts and sports leads to a deeper appreciation of life, and to a deeper appreciation of the importance of finding joy in life in the act of ‘trying’ and doing one’s best. I am proud to report to you that KAS offers a quality program in the arts, sports, activities and PE. Our expert and caring teachers and coaches are dedicated to teaching the whole child!

I wish you a pleasant and enjoyable weekend with your family.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Beck
Superintendent



“To practice any art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make you soul grow. So do it.” – KURT VONNEGUT

**ART ENCOURAGES
COGNITION, CRITICAL
THINKING, AND LEARNING.**

At KAS we recognize that the arts are not a “frill” or enrichment activity, the arts are basic to education. With the many challenges we are facing with differentiation within a classroom today, combining art with academic subjects in the classroom becomes increasingly important.

Art is an outstanding tool for teaching not only developmental skills, but also academic subjects such as math, science, and literacy. The most effective learning takes place when children do something related to the topic they are learning. When children study any given concept, they learn it better and retain it longer if they do an art activity that reinforces that learning.

This information has been recognized by teachers since the time of Confucius, when he said: “I hear and I forget. I see and I remember; I do and I understand.”

Ms. Maie Hassan
Art Teacher

LETTER FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Community Members,

It is my privilege to be able to visit our Early Childhood and Elementary classrooms on a regular basis, to observe our students and teachers in action and the learning experience that is taking place. What takes place between teachers and students is the heart of all our work here at Khartoum American School. Everything else is in support of this most important of all activities at our school. For it is here, in our classrooms and on other parts of campus, in the interaction between students and teachers, that the miraculous exchange called teaching and learning happens.

This exchange called teaching and learning is so incredibly complex! As a Stanford University study discovered, this exchange is more complex than engineering, even more complex than medicine. For engineering works entirely with and within the laws of physics, which can be learned, mastered, and applied in almost every situation. The infrastructure of our amazing modern civilization is a display of this engineering mastery. Medicine is more complex, because along with working with the laws of the human body and its relationship to the world of substances (medicines), it also works with a less predictable factor, that of the human mind. Even with the best mastery of the physical laws of medicine, if the human mind decides against healing, it can be very difficult to achieve.

Teaching is even more complex because it works almost entirely with the human mind, along with the body, the "psyche" (root of the word, "psychology"), and, one could even say, the human spirit itself. Teachers are teaching their students on these multiple levels all at once! They are teaching ideas and concepts, ranging from simple facts all the way to complicated systems of knowledge such as math and science and language. They teach these ideas on a conscious, articulated (spoken) level. Teachers are also teaching "skills" to their students, things that their bodies can replicate and which eventually become unconscious abilities, such as physical coordination and conditioning, keyboarding, creating arts and crafts, performing music, etc. Teachers are teaching character development to their students on the level of the "psyche" through the underlying messages of their curriculum content, through specific social/emotional instruction, and through the examples that they, as adults, communicate on a less-than-conscious level to their students. Finally, in the mood of enthusiasm for learning, and in many other ways, the human spirit itself is affected through the interaction of teacher and student.

Kudos to our teachers for their incredibly hard work and dedication to their students and to this most complex of vocations called education, and for the remarkable achievements they are accomplishing with their students!

PHILIP CENTERS



MATH MINUTE QUESTIONS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2015

KINDERGARTEN

Q: GO OUTSIDE, FIND 2 LEAVES. STICK THEM ON A PAPER, AND NEXT TO THEM WRITE THE NUMBER 2 AND THE WORD "TWO."

GRADE 1

Q: DRAW AND LABEL A CIRCLE, TRIANGLE, HEXAGON AND RHOMBUS

GRADE 2

Q: HOW MANY \$10 BILLS DOES IT TAKE TO EXCHANGE FOR TWO \$100 BILLS?



PTA Bake Sale
THURSDAY 17TH, SEPTEMBER 2015

SECURITY CHECKS AT KAS

ALL CARS MUST HAVE THE PROPER KAS SECURITY STICKER TO ENTER THE CAMPUS. ALL DRIVERS, NANNYS AND PARENTS MUST PRESENT THEIR KAS ID ON ENTERING THE CAMPUS. PLEASE COOPERATE WITH OUR GUARDS AND SECURITY STAFF. SEE MAIN OFFICE STAFF TO GET YOUR ID IF YOU HAVE MISPLACED YOURS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION IN THESE SECURITY MEASURES AND WITH OUR SECURITY STAFF.

3on3 Basketball Tournament at Nile Valley School September 3, 2015.

The basketball dropped! That was the joyous end KAS' girls experienced in their game against Nile Valley School. The score was 10-9 in favor of KAS. The game was evenly matched between the two teams who scored at each end in this fast paced game. Both teams were determined not to give in. Unfortunately, the heckling from the host school during the foul shots marred this otherwise very exciting game. I am very proud of the girls' behavior as they had every right to be upset but this did not affect their play. They listened to positive coaching and kept their focus.

When you think of the relationship of a coach and an athlete who is competing in sports, there are so many great lessons to learn. One of the things I have learned is this: a great coach can allow an athlete to take advantage of all positive attributes that he or she has.

I love the fact that KAS provides wonderful opportunities to connect young people with coaches who inspire them by improving their lives, and by giving them the resources and tools to have a great relationship with sports and life!

Subject Focus- Physical Education

The P.E. department is very excited to develop 'physically literate' individuals who have the knowledge, skills and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity. One of our aims this year is to raise participation in after school activities and I am pleased to say that the KAS After School Activities Program offerings are continuing to grow giving the students an opportunity for wider sporting development.

We would like to invite everyone to join our Facebook group (Khartoum American School Sports) and follow us on Twitter (@KASPhysEd) to find out all of our latest sporting news along with news of big sporting events so you can plan your calendar.

By Hanro van der Merwe
Athletics Director



About Our 3 on 3 Tournament

"Our KAS girls walked into the NVS court nervously as they saw all the competition. We had a shy start, but we ended up playing with more intensity. Although the other teams displayed bad sportsmanship and put pressure on us, we were determined to try harder. Unfortunately, we lost most of the games, but comparing the way we played after about only two practices, to the other teams who have clearly been practicing for months, we did very well. Also, even though losing, we tried our best to show good sportsmanship and kept supporting each other. We may not have won this time, but we'll be back for more!"

By Lydia Makram
Grade 10

