

# TRUNK NEWS

news from the trunk

Thursday, October 1st 2015

## KAS = A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS



## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear KAS Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back from the Eid and fall break!

You are invited to attend a series of Superintendent's Parent Information Seminars that will take place at KAS during the months of October and November. You can choose to come to as many of the Seminars as you wish. These parent information meetings are a continuation of the series of Parent Seminars that started on KAS Back to School Night. At that time the Seminar topics were: "Interpreting Your Child's MAP Scores"; "Using the Engrade System of Virtual Communication for Grade 6-12 Students and Parents"; and, "Using the Edmodo System of Virtual Communication for Nursery-Grade 5 Students and Parents".

Please bring friends from the KAS community. Colleagues and friends from outside of the KAS community are welcome and encouraged to attend with you. Please share this information with them. We are proud of our teachers and we are proud of our specialist staff who will be presenting the Information Seminars. We want to share the excitement of the KAS Parent Information Seminars with anyone who may be interested in attending!

The following Parent Information Seminars will be presented in the KAS Library on the following days in October and November from 8:30--9:30AM:

Thursday, October 8: "Creating A Language-Rich Environment At Home"

Thursday, October 22: "Positive Parenting - How to Help Your Child Succeed"

Thursday, November 12: "The Importance of the KAS International School Experience - Building Resilience in Children"

Thursday, November 26: "Mathematics and the Early Elementary School Years"

We look forward to seeing you at the Seminars!

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Beck  
Superintendent

## LETTER FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

I want to share exciting news from our KAS Library. First, as you know we have a new Librarian this year, Ms. Shireen, as well as a new Library Assistant, Ms. Grace, both of whom are doing a wonderful job in making the Library such an inviting place for all our Library patrons: students, parents, and staff members. Congratulations on a great start to our school year!

We have begun our KAS Electronic-Library (known as our E-Library)! Our first set of 20 dedicated e-reader devices (in this case, Kindles) are here! The very first e-book in our KAS E-Library is *The Red Pencil*, an award-winning African young adult book by Andrea Davis Pinkney. Additional titles added to the E-Library in the last few weeks include:

### Literature

- *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai: a Newbery award-winning book written as short free-verse poems about a Vietnamese family that immigrates to Alabama in the United States.
- *The Complete Harry Potter Series* by J.K. Rowling: these are the best-selling children's books in history, and among the best-selling books of all time, for a reason, namely they are extremely well written and tell a fabulous story.
- *The Dreamer* by Pam Munoz Ryan, illustrated by Peter Sis: an American Library Association Notable Children's Book, it combines "elements of magical realism with biography, poetry, literary fiction, and sensorial, transporting illustrations," taking mature readers on "a rare journey of the heart and imagination."

## Science

- *Periodic Tales: A Cultural History of the Elements, from Arsenic to Zinc* by Hugh Aldersey-Williams
- *Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters* by Matt Ridley

## History and Biography

- *The Penguin History of the World: 6th edition* by J M Roberts and Odd Arne Westad
- *Henry V: England's Greatest King* by R.B. Mowat
- *Beethoven: Anguish and Triumph* by Jan Swafford
- *A World Undone* by G.J. Meyer: the epic story of WW1
- *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream* by Doris Kearns Goodwin: hailed by the New York Times as "the most penetrating, fascinating political biography I have ever read," this is the engrossing story of President Lyndon Johnson from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Team of Rivals*.

Currently the Kindle e-readers may be used in the Library, or checked out by teachers for their students, while we establish usage policy for this exciting new component of the KAS Library. We will keep you abreast of new e-book titles, and of new E-Library developments, as these unfold.

Phil

*ES/EC Principal*





## MATH MINUTE QUESTIONS



THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2015

Kindergarten

Q: USE ANY 2 SHAPES TO MAKE A REPEATING PATTERN.

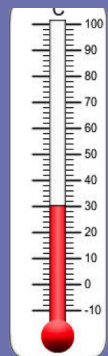
GRADE 1

Q:  +  =

 -  =

Grade 2

Q: WHAT TEMPERATURE IS IT?



A Plum Job or a Plum Role is considered to be one of the best and most important a person can have. During the 1600s the slang term in England for £1.000 was 'plum' in the same way as a 'monkey' is now £500 and a 'score' is £20. Back then £1.000 was a seriously large amount of money but it was the fixed amount some politicians received for certain government roles. This was considered by the average layman to be a vast sum of money for doing very little and these posts became known as 'plum jobs'. It is easy to see how this phrase caught on and is applied to this day to easy or privileged positions, although it is often used in admiration rather than the contempt the expression started with.

*Minette van der Bijl*

## SELF-REFLECTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF A MUSIC TEACHER

THE HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT OF A MUSIC TEACHER COMES FROM THE JOY SHE SEES IN HER STUDENTS. WHEN MY STUDENTS CAME TO MUSIC CLASS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL THIS AUGUST, I ASKED THEM TO DEFINE THE WORD MUSIC IN THEIR OWN WORDS. THEY HAD INTERESTING DEFINITIONS. ONE STUDENT SAID, "MUSIC IS SOMETHING THAT IS BEAUTIFUL AND MAKES YOU FEEL HAPPY." ANOTHER SAID "MUSIC IS SOUND YOU HEAR THAT MAKES YOU JUMP WITH JOY, DANCE OR CRY." A YOUNG STUDENT DEFINED MUSIC AS "SOUNDS YOU HEAR FROM THE WHISTLE OF THE WIND AND THE HUMMING OF A BIRD."

FOR THE FIRST TEN MINUTES OF THE LESSON THE STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT GRADE LEVELS ENGAGED IN DISCUSSING THE TOPIC. THIS STRUCTURE REALLY WORKED FOR THEM RATHER THAN SITTING TO DO A WORKSHEET. STUDENTS NEED TO HAVE MORE HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES AND I'VE SEEN THEM WORK BETTER WHEN THEY PLAYED THE DRUMS AND OTHER PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS. A SHEET OF PAPER WITH NOTE VALUES OR PATTERNS TO PLAY OF COURSE ALLOWS THEM TO UNDERSTAND MY LESSON BETTER BECAUSE THEY APPLY WHAT THEY LEARN. THE IDEA THAT THEY CAN BEAT OR BANG ON A DRUM, HIT STICKS TOGETHER OR SHAKE A TAMBOURINE GIVES THE STUDENTS FREEDOM TO EXPLORE AND SHOW THE EXCITEMENT TO DISCOVER MUSIC THROUGH SOUNDS.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH ALLOWS MY YOUNGER STUDENTS TO LEARN AND UNDERSTAND MUSIC CONCEPTS SIMILAR TO THOSE LEARNED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL, NAMELY INTRODUCING THE CONCEPTS THROUGH METHODS THAT RELATE MUSIC AND ART TOGETHER. IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 2 MUSIC CLASSES, STUDENTS DRAW, COLOR OR MAKE ILLUSTRATIONS. IN GRADES 3 THROUGH 5 MUSIC CLASSES, A FAVORITE METHOD IS FOR STUDENTS TO EXPRESS THEIR THOUGHTS ON A MUSIC TOPIC THROUGH DEVELOPING THEIR WRITING SKILLS. FOR INSTANCE, MY 5TH GRADERS WROTE STORIES ON THE BEGINNINGS OF MUSIC USING CORRECT LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS AND WRITING TECHNIQUES.

DURING OUR STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY LAST SUNDAY, THE KAS FACULTY WAS FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND A WORKSHOP ON

A NEW WAY OF TEACHING CALLED PROJECT-BASED LEARNING (PBL), LED BY Ms. EGBAL, OUR ICT TEACHER. I INTRODUCED WHAT I LEARNED IN THIS WORKSHOP TO MY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS THIS WEEK. THE RESULTS DEMONSTRATED THAT A MORE STUDENT-CENTERED CLASS TRULY HELPED IN MINIMIZING NOISE AND UNNECESSARY DEBATES. IN ANOTHER PBL LESSON, MY STUDENTS GOT TO CREATE CHANTS AND DANCES TO MAKE A PRESENTATION DEPICTING MUSIC IN THREE DIFFERENT MUSIC ERAS. MY STUDENTS SHOWED COLLABORATION, STAYED MORE ENGAGED, AND SHOWED CREATIVITY THROUGH MAKING THEIR OWN PROPS, COSTUMES, AND SCRIPT, AND CHOOSING THEIR OWN ACCOMPANIMENTS.

I CONTINUE TO BE AMAZED AT HOW STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT AGES AND SKILL LEVELS LEARN MUSIC. I HAVE GROWN IN MANY WAYS TO MEET MY STUDENTS' NEEDS IN "LOOKING FOR LEARNING" (L4L) IN THE MUSIC CLASS. I LOOK FORWARD TO MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INSTRUMENTAL (NO PUN INTENDED!) TO THE MUSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MY STUDENTS AT KHARTOUM AMERICAN SCHOOL.

Mrs. LANARIO  
KAS Music Teacher

