



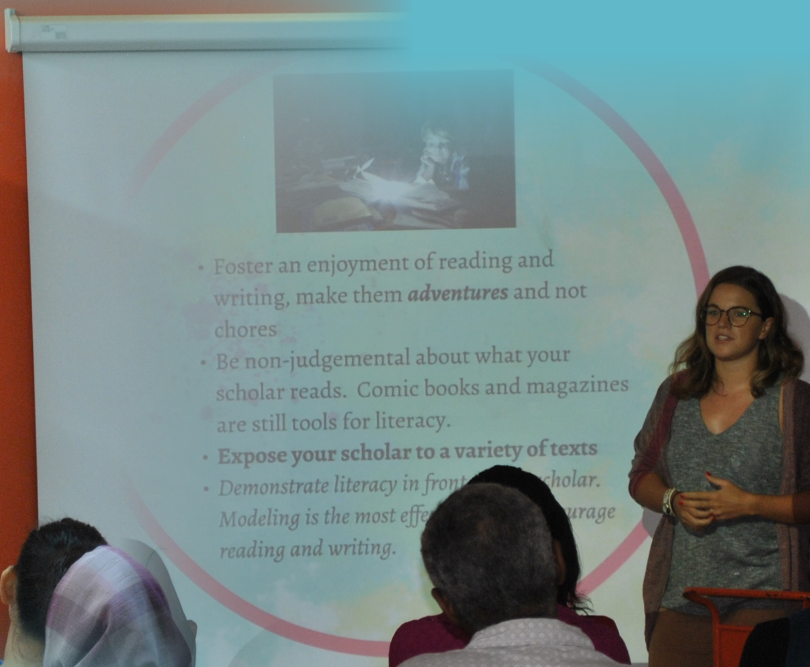
# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, October 22nd 2015

**Swim - A- Thon - Friday Oct. 30 !**

**KAS School Store Opens This Sunday Oct. 25!**



- Foster an enjoyment of reading and writing, make them *adventures* and not chores.
- Be non-judgemental about what your scholar reads. Comic books and magazines are still tools for literacy.
- **Expose your scholar to a variety of texts**
- **Demonstrate literacy in front of your scholar.** Modeling is the most effective way to encourage reading and writing.

# Superintendent's Parent Information Seminars



## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents,

The second quarter of the school year has started with great energy!

It was a very busy and productive first quarter. Parent-Teacher Conferences were held this Wednesday, October 21. Unlike the large group meetings of Back To School Night held at the beginning of the school year, Parent-Teacher Conferences were designed so that just you and your child's teachers could chat about your children's academic and social adjustment since the opening of school. Parent-Teacher Conference meetings provide excellent opportunities for you to continue to stay in close communication with your child's teachers as you work as a team to support learning. If you were not able to attend Parent-Teacher Conference Day, and you wish to meet individually with your child's teachers, please contact them for an appointment

The months of October, November, and December before the winter holiday break that begins December 18 constitute the second quarter of the academic school year. It will be an 'action packed' and exciting time of learning, and a time that students will be actively involved in extra-curricular and after-school activities. As always, we seek and welcome your support as the children engage in the business and excitement of learning and living at KAS.

Below are two activities specifically designed for you as parents that are coming up during the month of November (several Superintendent's Parent Information Seminars have been completed during the months of August through October) :

**SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT INFORMATION SEMINARS. PLEASE BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES FROM KAS AND FROM OUTSIDE OF KAS:**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12- 8:30-9:30 AM, KAS LIBRARY  
"THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KAS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE-BUILDING RESILIENCE IN YOUR CHILD"  
- PRESENTER, DR. ROB BECK**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26- 8:30-9:30 AM, KAS LIBRARY  
"MATHEMATICS AND THE EARLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEARS"  
- PRESENTER, MRS. ANDURETTE VAN DER MERWE**

I wish you and your child a successful second quarter!

Sincerely,

**DR. ROB BECK  
SUPERINTENDENT**

## LETTER FROM ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

One of the 4Cs of our school is Curriculum. Students, parents, and teachers sometimes wonder how Curriculum, something already fixed and outside of the student, can be on the same par as the other 3Cs of Character, Citizenship, and Community in helping our students to develop into outstanding human beings. Does it really belong as one of the 4Cs?

Character is certainly always within a person, and it is rarely fixed, because each person must cultivate their own character each day and the positive traits that accompany it, or these noble traits, this quality of being ethical, will be present in the individual on a limited basis if at all.

Citizenship isn't quite so deep as Character, but it is broad. Citizenship is the response of the individual to the needs and demands of the community, a dynamic quality which must always be sparked anew.

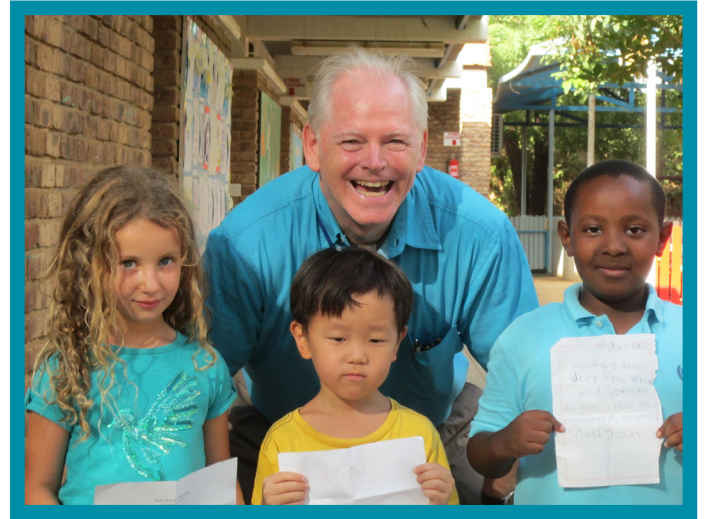
Community, like curriculum, is outside of us, but, unlike curriculum, we are automatically part of a community, in fact of many communities simultaneously (the community of human beings, of children or adults, etc.) just by who we are or where we happen to live. Some communities, however, require active effort on the part of their members—their citizens—to exist and thrive. The learning community of Khartoum American School, for example, is that kind of dynamic community that must be consciously created.

Curriculum is a course of study that we engage in, but this is set and fixed by the school, isn't it, so what does this have to do with helping our students to become wonderful human beings? Is it that the better our curriculum, the better human beings our students may become? Well, it's partly that of course, and we are continuously striving to improve our curriculum just for this very purpose. But there's a deeper level. Like community, we are all engaged in many curriculums (curricula) simultaneously. We may be students in a formal educational setting, and we may also be learning new skills at our places of work or for personal development or just for fun. We may learn new things from watching a movie or reading a book or listening to a young child or an old man or a friend, or stranger. We are all enrolled in the great school of Life, and our learning opportunities are endless. The degree that we recognize this fact and embrace it determines our success rate in mastering the curricula we are engaged in. So Curriculum as one of our 4Cs really means that we and our students are "curriculum-minded," i.e., that we are passionate about learning in the many forms it takes in our lives, that we are scholars of the knowledge, as well as of the mysteries, of life.

May we all be ethical, community-minded, scholar-citizens of KAS!

Phil Centers

**ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL**



## Letter From Athletic Director

SWIM - A - THON FRIDAY OCT. 30

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am pleased to announce the second KAS Aquatic Center Swim-A-Thon! It is a fun activity for all of our swimmers and the KAS community as a whole (Parents, Teachers, Students). The challenge this year is to try an emulate Coach Sara Gadala's epic feat of crossing the Mediterranean from Napoli to Capri. Today it is aptly called the Maratona Del Golfo Capri- Napoli. This event is surely one of the most celebrated and known in its field.

### About the KAS Swim-A-thon

To encourage members of the KAS community, whatever the age or ability, to understand and realize the benefits of regular swimming as a means to improve health and well being, and to achieve personal fitness goals.

### Sponsor a swimmer!

Know someone who has entered the 2015 Swim-A-Thon? Please consider supporting their valiant efforts to swim their personal best (even as a super team up to the equivalent of the Maratona Del Golfo Capri- Napoli), while at the same time raising funds for the KAS Swim Team.

### How do you do it?

By registering you or your team's intent to participate in Maratona Del Golfo Capri- Napoli challenge to swim part of the 1440 lengths or 720 laps as a community. Once you have registered please practice following a structured plan\* that will enable you or your team to complete the required distance.

### The Maratona Del Golfo Capri- Napoli

Will the KAS Community come forward this year to attempt this most celebrated and known race in its field. The **Maratona Del Golfo Capri- Napoli** is an official leg of the 2015 FINA WORLD GRAND PRIX. The ones who know the event surely remember the so-called "Nile's Crocodiles" the famous Egyptian athletes who invented this kind of contest. Our own Coach Sara took second place in 1975 at the age of 16 years!!

We hope that each swimmer will participate in the Swim-A-Thon to the best of their ability.

Thank you for your participation!

Hanro van der Merwe  
Athletic Director

\* Please take note that the Aquatic Center has training plans available for you.

\* You can also register on the day of the Swim-A-Thon.

## MATH MINUTE QUESTIONS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22ND, 2015

### Ki n d e r g a r t e n

Q1: COUNT FORWARD FROM 1 -10 WHILE STANDING ON ONE LEG (PRACTICE AT HOME, AND THE KG STUDENT SELECTED WILL DEMONSTRATE DOING THIS DURING THE ASSEMBLY)

Q2: WHICH SHAPE HAS 2 LONG SIDES AND 2 SHORT SIDES? DRAW A PICTURE OF THIS SHAPE AND WRITE THE NAME.

### GRADE 1

Q1: ADD THE FOLLOWING COINS TOGETHER:



WRITE THE TOTAL AMOUNT HERE: \_\_\_\_\_

Q2: SHOW THIS AMOUNT USING FEWER COINS (DRAW THE COINS NEEDED)

### Grade 2

Q: MAKE A FACT FAMILY TRIANGLE USING THE NUMBERS 8 AND 4

# *Learning to Read Reading to Learn*

THE JUXTAPOSITION OF THESE WORDS DESCRIBES THE 5TH GRADE PERFECTLY. THE CHILDREN ARE TRANSITIONING FROM ELEMENTARY INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND MOST OF THEIR LIVES ARE IN FLUX. SO MANY DOORS ARE OPENING INTELLECTUALLY FOR THE FIRST TIME AS THEY HOVER BETWEEN BEING CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS. AND LIKE ALL TRANSITIONS PEOPLE EXPERIENCE IN LIFE, A FOOT REMAINS IN EACH DOOR UNTIL THE CHANGE IS COMPLETE.



TAKE MATH. IN 5TH GRADE THE CLASS IS REVIEWING COMPUTATION, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT'S BEING INTRODUCED TO ALGEBRAIC, GEOMETRIC, AND STATISTICAL CONCEPTS. SO WE AS A CLASS HOVER BETWEEN CONCRETE AND ABSTRACT IDEAS, WITH ONE FOOT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND THE OTHER IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.



THE KIDS EXPERIENCE A SIMILAR SHIFT IN LANGUAGE ARTS. ORAL COMMUNICATION AND READING HAVE STARTED TO SOLIDIFY; SO CONVERSATIONS ARE LENGTHIER AND CHAPTERS CAN BE READ WITHOUT INTERVENTION. YET GRAMMAR AND WRITING, ACTIVITIES THAT NEEDS ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE, TAKE MORE TIME AND THOUGHT.



IN SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES, THE STUDENTS ARE STARTING TO ASK "WHY." "WHY DO WE NEED TO LEARN HOW TO CONVERT FROM ONE SYSTEM TO ANOTHER?" "WHY DID THE ANCIENT PEOPLE MUMMIFY THEIR PHAROHS?" "WHY



DO WE USE BOTH PRESENT AND PAST TOGETHER IN PRESENT PERFECT TENSE?" "WHY DO WE SEE THE REFLECTED COLORS RATHER THAN THE ABSORBED ONES?" FIFTH GRADERS ARE ON THE VERGE OF CONCEPTUAL THOUGHT, AND THIS SINGLE QUESTION IS A THE ROOT OF LEARNING. THIS IS DONE WITH BOTH A YOUNG CHILD'S CURIOSITY, BUT ALSO WANTING TO PROCESS THE NOTIONS MORE DEEPLY.

*A foot in each door.*