

news

news from the trunk

Thursday, August 18th 2016



KAS "Ambassadors" Welcome Our New Students!

Superintendent's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A WARM WELCOME TO THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR. THIS IS THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR GREAT SCHOOL! CELEBRATION EVENTS ARE BEING PLANNED...IT WILL BE AN EXCITING YEAR.

The campus looks beautiful. Thank you KAS School Board for allocating the resources to carry out summer renovations of many classrooms, construction of a new PE Office, construction of a new Conference Room, completion of the new basketball court and outdoor seating area, and upgrading of our computer lab with new computers. All of these campus upgrades, in addition to our annual building and grounds maintenance, are in line with the KAS long-term continuous improvement Strategic Plan approved by the Board. Thank you KAS School Board. And thank you Mrs. Mona Hassan, KAS Business Manager, and the operations staff for all the hard work in getting the campus into such excellent shape in preparation for the coming school year.

The children and their teachers are well into establishing classroom routines. They are working on curriculum goals and objectives that will carry them through the year. If you have concerns about your child's academic, social or emotional adjustment at any time during the school year, please first contact your child's teacher about your concerns. You may also wish to speak with your child's school counselor about your concerns. Mr. Dworak is the grade 6-12 Counselor and University Admissions Counselor; and, Dr. Ann Beck is the nursery through grade 5 Early Childhood and Elementary School Counselor. If after speaking with your child's teacher and/or counselor you feel your concerns are still not resolved, then you may wish to see the Principal, Mrs. Susan Boutros, grade 6 to 12 Principal, or Mr. Phil Centers, Early Childhood to grade 5 Principal.

To remind, for safety and security reasons, it is important that you pick up your child as soon as school ends each day at: 2:50 for pre-kindergarten to grade 12; 12:30 for nursery and pre-school; 3:50 at the end of the After School Activities Program if your child is participating in ASAP. Please support this important school regulation in order to maximize the safety and security of your child.

Please also be reminded that Back To School Night is Wednesday, August 24 from 6:30-8:00 PM. This is an excellent opportunity for you to meet your child's teachers and an excellent opportunity to learn about their classroom organization and goals for the year.

Wishing you and the children a great year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Beck
Superintendent

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SAYING OF THE WEEK

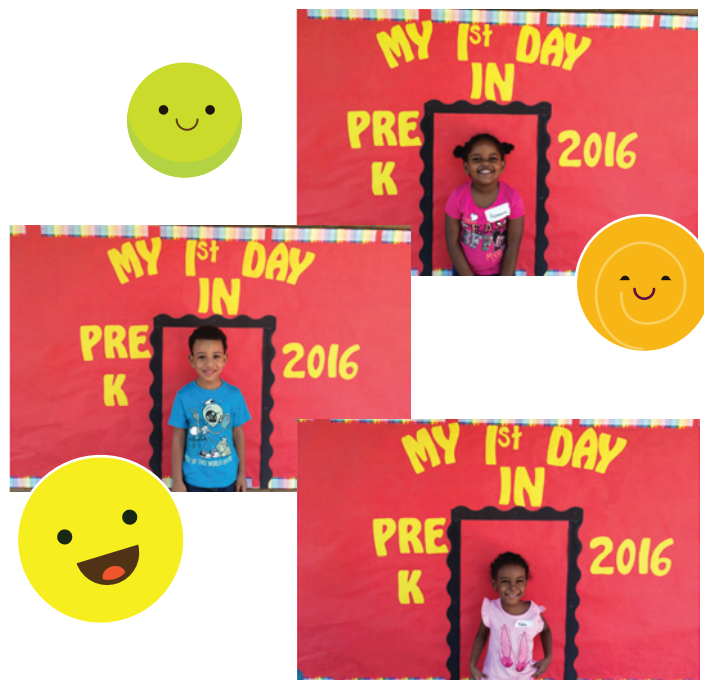
To Pull Out All The Stops implies a big, concerted effort is being made to complete a task in time. This is a simple one and alludes to the grand church organs, which used 'stops' to tone down the volume of the instrument. At vast gatherings, with many people present, an organist would 'pull out the stops' to increase the sound of his organ, enabling everybody at the back to hear it clearly.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department

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Pre-Kindergarteners Rule!

This year we have a bustling class of four year olds, all excited about making friends and learning new skills. It has been smooth sailing coming into the second week of school with our new friends falling into our daily routines. Our classroom is constantly filled with laughter, conversations, questions, and the best four-year-old jokes. This year we have a full schedule that includes yoga and breathing exercises, cooking, gardening, outdoor obstacle courses, crafts, swimming, and our Creative Curriculum. These Pre-Kindergarteners are in for a fun year and I can't wait to watch them grow!



Sarah Boyer
Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

Letter from the Middle and High School Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

I would like to welcome you to the 2016- 2017 School Year at Khartoum American School. I hope you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday with family and friends.

I would also like to welcome our new teachers to Khartoum American School. Our new teachers have been in Sudan for over two weeks now. They have now joined our returning faculty and together have formed an exceptional team.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome our new students and their families to KAS. It has also been great to see all our returning students come back to school full of excitement and enthusiasm for the new school year. I am delighted to report that we have enjoyed a very positive start to the new academic year. I am extremely pleased with how quickly our students have settled into their classes and I am particularly impressed by the manner that they are conducting themselves and applying themselves to their studies.

I know I speak for everyone at Khartoum American School when I say that we are here to ensure that all our students have an exciting and productive school year and to help each of our students reach their full potential.

Please know that our doors will always be open to our community. Feel free to call upon us if you should have any questions or concerns. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Back to School Night, which will take place on August 24 at 6:30pm. You may also visit our website for updated information throughout the year. We know and understand that communication is the key to a successful year.

With my very best wishes for a successful school year!

Susan Boutros
Middle & High School Principal

What I Did on My Summer Break

Do you remember writing this essay when you got back to school as a kid or, if you're a student now, is your English teacher making you write one now? I certainly remember doing it way back in the day. It seems, though, that I have a bit more to write about than when I was a kid growing up in Northern Michigan. Not that summers weren't great then, but it was summer kid stuff that I was writing about. Now that I'm teaching here in Khartoum, just getting back and forth between here and our home in Petoskey, Michigan can be an adventure.

Anne and my adventure started with a 4-day stop in Paris, France on our trip back to the USA. We arrived just hours after the Seine River crested in a more than 100-year flood. This meant that all the museums we wanted to visit were closed due to the flooding, but we were still able to wonder around, walk up the Eiffel Tower, visit Notre Dame de Paris and Saint-Denis (the first Gothic Cathedral), and see the ballet Giselle at the Paris Opera House

At home in Petoskey we did our usual summer things: visit family and friends, spend time on the water, watch the 4th of July fireworks, and have fun with our dogs, and other activities that are a part of being "up North" in the summertime. Somehow, those ordinary things are much more important now that I am older and I don't live in my hometown for most of the year. What I took for granted as a child I now find incredibly precious. But, along with the perspective of age, the opportunity to work abroad has enriched my appreciation of my little town. I see how other people relate to their places of origin and I realize that where we are from is each person's center of the Universe. Every place is special. Every summer story is worth telling, and listening to.

On Anne and my returning trip to Khartoum we stopped for a mini-break in Amsterdam. Although it was a bit rainy there was no flooding, so we did do some museums.

The Rijkesmuseum had an amazing collection of Rembrandts, and the Van Gogh Museum had – well, Van Gogh. Amsterdam is a beautiful city, with all its canals and quaint, old houses, but really, it was just a place to stop on our way back to get over some of our jet lag.

It is often said that a student's favorite day of school is the last day of the year, but their second favorite is the first. It is probably much the same for teachers. Happy second-favorite-day-of-the-year everyone.



The Louvre and the flooded Seine, 6 m above its usual level.

Defying gravity in Giselle.

One doesn't walk huskies, they need to RUN!



Sunset over the bay in Petoskey.

The Van Gogh Museum and one of Amsterdam's back streets – both paved and water.

Math & Riddle Masters This Week's Winners



Ayman Magzoub
Grade 4

Eleazer Ulochi
Grade 2

Toby Faig
Kindergarten

Marc Scott
Middle & High School
Math Teacher

Team Building Field Day!

On Thursday afternoon students from KG-12 kicked off the school year with a team-building field day! Ten groups of students and teachers collaborated in a variety of activities including building a human pyramid, passing a ball from one to one another and

naming as many countries as possible in under 5 minutes. There was a winning group for each station. Group 3 that took the title of Overall Winner with 3 victories!

Dina Shalash
Middle & High School
Social Studies

