



news

news from the trunk

Thursday, April 19, 2018



KAS DRAMA CLASS PERFORMANCE OF BEING EARNEST, A GREAT SUCCESS!

PLEASE NOTE: The Annual General Meeting and Board Elections of the KAS parents for the school year 2018 - 2019 will take place on May 13, 2018 at 6:30 PM at KAS.

Superintendent's Message

KAS Celebrates Earth Day

On Sunday, April 22nd, KAS will take part in Earth Day Celebrations. Students and Staff will take part in the following activities:

Flower planting – grades Kindergarten to Grade 12

Tree planting – grades 2 to 5

Ribbon hanging on Trees – Middle/High School

Tree measurement and recording grades 2 to 12

Tree labeling grades 2 to 12

Documentaries shown to students in various grades

School Board Meeting

The KAS School Board will hold its April monthly meeting this Sunday.

Reminder that the Annual General Meeting of the Board and parents will be on Sunday, May 13 at 6:30 pm in the quad area of school. Any parent wishing to serve on the Board for a 2 year term should contact the Superintendent before April 29th.

Battle of the Books

I had the opportunity to be a chaperone for the KAS – KICS annual "Battle of the Books" this week which was held at KICS. Students from grades 2 to 5 from both schools participated in answering questions about books students from both schools had read. Our students performed very well and enjoyed the competition. Thanks to Ms. Shireen and Ms. Lina for preparing the students for this fun event.

Steve Alexander
KAS Superintendent

KAS Talent Show 2018



It is with great pride and joy to share with you the success of the first Talent Show held at the KAS Rock Garden on Monday, April 16, 2018. The High School Music Instrumental class sponsored this event and every student in this class contributed their time as mc's, deejays, stage managers or runners. It's a way to teach them skills to be leaders and good training for them to develop their sense of responsibility.



About 80 guests and performers attended the event. There were 15 musical numbers performed by students from 3rd – 12th grade. The Talent Show featured piano and guitar pieces as well as solos, duets, and group singing. A student played on a djembe, while singing a Sudanese song. The Talent Show showed internationalism and the performances were entertaining.



The performers walked onto the stage and performed their songs, dances and instrumental pieces with confidence. Among the audience were KAS Superintendent, Mr. Steve Alexander, parents and families of the performers, teachers and other guests. Cheering applause were heard after every performance and parents and guests took photos of the performers. The evening went on with smiles from the audience till the very last performance and ended with acknowledgements and thank you's. Well done to the High School Music Instrumental Class and the performers.

Didith Lanario
Music Teacher

Play, in Earnest



As part of the spring course offerings at high school, students had the option this year to take a Drama class, and twelve of them chose to pursue that interest. The first decision the class made was to perform *The Importance of Being Earnest*, a classic British play by Oscar Wilde, first performed in 1895.

During the rehearsal process the students learned about dramatic characterization, interpretation of the script, and subtext. Working to memorize lines, they learned to mimic actions and expressions to emphasize the dialogue. While some were practicing, others designed the set, costumes, and posters, plus all gathered props and set pieces as the story started to take form. After Spring Break the stage was erected, allowing the actors to maneuver purposely to convey their motivations.

With that, projection became a challenge. Now they needed to project above the sound of air conditioners without any acoustical support. So the class started practicing theatrical vocal techniques, correct breathing, posture, resonance, and speaking from the diaphragm. As teens' voices are still maturing, this worked better for some than others.

In the end, we had fun! We laughed, argued, were silly, and worked through exhaustion. In the end, we grew. Closer, better at conveying ideas, and more supportive of each other. In the end, it is a play. And in the end, we played well!

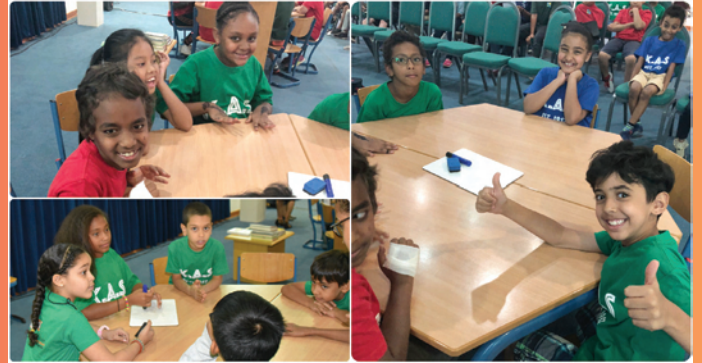
If you did not join us for opening night, please come this evening at 7 pm and enjoy an evening of frivolity.

Anne Scott
High School English Teacher

THE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS (BOB)

Dear Faculty, Parents & Students

The library team is very proud of the participants of THE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS (BOB) competition which took place on Tuesday, 17th of April. The KAS students participated in this fun and educational event competing with other schools, discussing and answering questions about books they read. The dedicated readers did a great job at the competition and even though KAS did not win the students as well as the teachers left with high spirits due to the hard work and effort that was put in.



Thanks to Nada and Steve who accompanied us to the battle as chaperones, your presence was appreciated. In addition, a special thanks to Lina and Sara Osman who were supportive and helpful in preparing for the competition throughout the year.



The Nile Book Awards (NBA), which was a fun activity, designed to encourage students to read is also coming to an end. The NBA required students from eight different schools around Africa to read the same books and vote for their favorites. Due to the success of these events the Library team has decided to hold a voting party for the students at the KAS library on Thursday, 19th of April during lunch, in order to keep the excitement for reading going.

Yours Sincerely,

Shireen Shiber
Librarian

KAS Teamwork and Caring

Khartoum American School is a model of a learning community, which goes the distance, demonstrating teamwork among all members. The learning community puts children and their needs first at all levels. Parents are not only concerned for their individual children, but bring what they are able to offer to the other children too. Teachers meet in small groups daily, weekly and monthly discussing how to service all the young people they teach. Student Support embraces the students and treat them like they are their own children. Older students model and lead the younger students. Most definitely the words teamwork and caring define KAS.



The bonding established with the families and children allow a comfort level that truly embraces dialogue with parents through the means of assemblies, meetings, newsletters, Class Dojo, Edmodo, Engrade, Google Docs, WhatsApp and personal email. What is impressive is that the parents not only participate in their own children's learning, but they note what the other children are learning. Parents volunteer their time to share with all the students, not just their own children. This was made evident when a parent of a first grader, Mr. Edward Armin Tadros, observed grade 4 studying rocks. Mr. Tadros brought rocks to the classroom from his rock factory, spoke to the children about rocks and provided a live field trip visit to his factory, Sara Stone. Did Mr. Tadros have a child in grade 4? No, but he embraced the subject matter and took grade 4 to another level of love for, and understanding of the rock cycle.



Teachers and support staff have ongoing discussions about each child they are charged with educating. Support staff promotes mindfulness, provides community activities in the after school programs and goes beyond expectations with regard to sports activities on offer for KAS students. Care for the child is demonstrated when coaches and staff use their free time to provide

more opportunities for the children. This is evident in the areas of gymnastics, karate, soccer, basketball, volleyball, swimming, drama, movie nights, cooking, fashion, and gardening to name, but a few!

The younger KAS students look up to the older KAS students. Older students support, lead and guide the younger learners. Reading Buddies is a favorite time of the week when KAS older and younger elementary students partner with each other to enjoy the experience of reading. Whole school activities like the most recent writing experience addressing Global Citizenship has high school students leading learning experiences for the elementary, middle, and other high school students.



Once again it is about teamwork and it is about caring. Khartoum American School has all of this and much, much more.

Ann Kathleen Crowley
Grade 4 Teacher

Saying of the Week

When somebody claims they **Don't Give A Jot** they are implying they care nothing at all about a circumstance. The phrase is thousands of years old and is exactly the same as the expression **I Don't Give One Iota**. the origins of both can be found in the Greek language. A jot is the letter 'iota' which is the smallest in the Greek alphabet. It was used at the time implying 'the least of anything'.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department