



n e w s

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 26, 2019



Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Testing

Superintendent's Message

Dear KAS Community,

I hope your children are settling into their routine at school and are sharing with you what they are learning. I would also encourage you to make use of KAS' learning management system, Classe. If you are having any problems accessing this site please do let us know so the IT Department can help you.

At KAS we know that each child is an individual and their educational progress will differ depending on their strengths and areas for improvement. One way of discovering these strengths is via the MAP tests which are taking place at the moment. During the latest early release day, faculty members worked together to analyze the summer MAP results specifically focused on how this information could lead to individualized support for each child.

Positive relationships with parents are vital and throughout the year KAS will organize seminars to support this intent. I would like to invite you to join the following Parent Seminars. They will all take place in the library at 8:15 am:

- October 3: KAS Mission, Vision & Safeguarding
- November 7: Instruments of Learning
- November 28: College Talk

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Best wishes,

Bridget Davies
KAS Superintendent

This Morning's Assembly



A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff, these are the four houses from the Harry Potter series. The purpose of the houses is to create fair and quality competitions, mentoring younger students and to give leadership roles to older students. As we see in the movie these competitions and challenges bring groups together and foster a sense of belonging and school spirit.

Here at Khartoum American School we are introducing a house system to encourage the same qualities helping to foster our 4 C's; Community, Citizenship, Character and Curriculum. On Thursday the 26th the students were divided into three houses to compete in competitions throughout the year to earn points for their respective houses. The students were first placed into their houses based on the birthday months. Then each team selected captains of their houses one male and one female senior who will help make final decisions for the houses.

The houses then competed in two competitions. The first competition was for selection of house color. All house members created a chain by holding hands and the objective was to pass five hula hoops down the line without letting go of hands. The first team to finish had first selection for team color and second place received second selection of team color. The third place team then had last selection for team color. The second competition of the day was a relay race involving; water, cups, buckets and a ping pong ball. All members of each house set up in a line with each house receiving 5 cups at the beginning of the line. Once a cup was filled they passed the cup down the line until the last person in line received the cup of water, who then poured it into the bucket that had a ping pong ball in it. That person then ran with the cup to the back of the line and filled the cup with water and started passing it down the line. The first team that had the ping pong ball float over the top of the bucket was the winner. This competition was for choosing house mascot. The houses had a selection of, Rhino, Lion, Falcon and Leopard. Each house was also awarded points for finishing first, second or third. These points will continue to add throughout the year.

We plan on using these houses throughout the year and in future years for competitions and activities. We are planning on having other sporting events that will make use of the houses, such as a sports day, track and field event and even a swimming competition. As we develop the house system we would like to have students earn points in other ways such as; percentage of students that earn honor, displaying good behavior and citizenship, and completion of service projects. These are just a few examples of how we plan to use the house system here at Khartoum American School. The students will be a part of these houses for the entirety of their time here helping to provide the students with school pride and a sense of belonging.

"Competition is very good . . . as long as it's healthy. It's what makes one strive to be better." - Christine Lahti

Jeremy Albright

Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

STEAM Projects



Grade 4 is loving their mechanical engineering unit with hands on activities. They are using STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) to create different projects like a wind turbine, rubber band racer, and a hydraulic claw. STEAM helps students become more proficient in collaboration, questioning, problem-solving, and critical thinking by using hands-on, project-based learning where students learn by doing.



What 4th graders are saying about their STEAM projects:

"Can I stay in at recess and make something?"

"Can we make our own project and show it during the Thursday morning assembly?"

"I can't wait until Discovery time!"



Jon Caldwell

Grade 4 Teacher

News from the Foreign Language Desk

Bonjour, KAS Community

The summer holidays are but a distant memory now and we are all hard at work settling into the new school year. None so more than in the French department where we have some exciting new additions to our curriculum.

We believe strongly that as educators our aim is not merely to instill knowledge in our students, but to inspire each and every student to a life of significance. To this aim our French curriculum has a strong emphasis on the cultural aspect of learning French. This leads us to exploring the different countries where French is spoken as not only an official language but also with strong community ties to France. As a result, our learners perception of the world is challenged and they become more aware of their own cultural significance as global citizens.



KAS is privileged to be able to offer all our students of French the use of the Linguascope website and associated applications. Linguascope offers tools to enhance our curriculum and what we learn during our daily lessons in class. We have purchased a school licence for this software and students of French will be given access to the site and it's resources through a username and password. I am often asked by parents what they can do to help their students learn French, especially where they do not speak the language themselves. This is one opportunity where parents can encourage their children to use Linguascope during their free time to build on their language skills. We will be rolling out this programme during the month of October.

Sources: Linguascope <https://www.linguascope.com/>
European Day of Languages <https://edl.ecml.at/>



European Day of Languages 26 September

The 26th of September 2019 is European Day of Languages, Europe's celebration of linguistic diversity. It aims to promote the rich linguistic diversity of Europe and raise awareness of the importance of lifelong language learning for everyone. It was set up by the Council of Europe and was first celebrated in 2001. We will be joining the celebrations of the 6000+ languages spoken around the world throughout the day during our French classes to promote language learning and have some multilingual fun! We encourage parents and siblings to have a look at the Council of Europe's website and enjoy the day with us. Lastly, if you have ever wanted to take up the study of a foreign language yourself but just never had the time or motivation, why not make this academic year a success story for yourself and start learning a new language today?
Yours in teaching

Ilse Young
French Teacher

Saying of the Week

To find yourself in **Queer Street** is to be in some sort of financial trouble, possibly even bankrupt. The phrase originates from the word 'query' which tradesmen and merchants would write in their ledgers against the column of customers who were late in paying. The word would be written as a reminder to enquire to the debt the next time that person attended the premises for business. Carey Street, off Chancery Lane in London, housed the bankruptcy courts and through that became affectionately known as 'Queer Street'.

Minette van der Bij
High School English Department