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# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 22, 2011



# PTA Family Picnic

**Parent Teacher Conference**

Tuesday, October 11, 2011 from 7 am to 3 pm





## Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

The Family Picnic held last Friday was an outstanding success. Our appreciation and thanks goes to Ms. Haska and the rest of the PTA volunteers who made the day a special one. Not only were families able to relax on our beautiful campus, but the various games and the bake sale organized really added to the day. From what I could see we had a record number of people patronizing the event and from the hundreds of smiles on display it was obvious that everyone was having a great time.

Building a sense of community here at KAS is just as important as the multitude of other tasks that go on day after day. We are acutely aware that our school needs to be the focal point of community and we hope to build upon this wonderful start in the weeks ahead.

If you are interested in joining the PTA please keep an eye out for announcements in the newsletter.

Once more have a great weekend.

### Notice to Parents

The new covered court has been completed and it has already provided much needed shade for some of our Basketball teams. This covered area is phase one of what will one day be a multi-purpose gymnasium.

Unfortunately during the construction of the project there were two work place accidents. While these accidents were regrettable, care was taken throughout the project to ensure that students did not have access to the construction site, and at no time were students placed in any danger.

Should parents wish to discuss this issue further please feel free to make an appointment to meet with the Superintendent.



3rd Grade – Emotional Picasso Portraits (Franke and Brooke)

## Letter from Susan Boutros, Middle School and High School Principal

It was a pleasure seeing so many of you at the Family Picnic Day. The family picnic was a great success. It was a great opportunity for new families to be introduced into our community and for all the other families to catch up. It was a very casual get-together where families and friends shared food and participated in activities. The students also had a great time. They played soccer and volleyball with some of our parents and teachers. The PTA bake sale had many delicious cakes on sale. The goal for the PTA this year, is to reach out through different activities and help build the school community on and off campus.

The student council also has a big role in building our community. The elections for the High School Student Council were held in the quad yesterday after a whole week of campaigning. Saba Khan and Iman El-Mahdi ran for Student Council president. Hayam El Sanousi and Zhu Bole ran for Student Council Secretary. There were five students who ran for treasurer. They were Mengfei Wang, Mohamed Yasir, Xianli Fu, Sarah Seifeldin and Muwaffag Elbashir. All the candidates had speeches after which the voting started. The student council is a representative structure for all the students of the school, through which they can become involved in the affairs of the school. The student council will work with Mr. Cronin, who will be the link person between the students and the staff of Khartoum American School. The student council is a great opportunity for the students to work in partnership with school management, staff and parents.

I would like to congratulate all the winners of the Student Council Elections and wish them a great school year. I am sure that our already excellent school will become even better with a good PTA and Student Council.

### KAS Student Council Election Results

With the new year comes new Student Council Officers and this year is no different. After two solid weeks of campaigning the election is now over. While only a few students were elected there is room for everyone to participate in fundraisers, decision-making, and preparing for events (dances, movie nights, etc). In addition to the Officers elected yesterday, there will also be four class representatives, one from each high school class. The only requirement for these positions is that you are a student in that grade. These elections will take place in the weeks to come.

Our new President is IMAN!  
Our new Vice President is SABA!  
Our new Secretary is HAYAM!

In the closest race of the day our new Treasurer was decided by only a handful of votes. Our new Treasurer is Moi! Be sure to congratulate our new Officers when you see them and while you have their ear tell them how they can make KAS a better place!



## Message from the Art Department

How are you feeling today?

We have been having a lot of fun in the art room so far this year. Right now the students are finishing up their second or even their third art projects.

Kindergarten has been creating artwork with shapes using a variety of art materials and now we are starting to talk about patterns.

First grade has also been learning about patterns, but they are using different kinds of artistic lines.

The rest of elementary and seventh grade have been discovering more about the word "empathy" and how it can be used to recognize expressive qualities in art. The students strengthened their critical thinking skills by viewing an array of photographs of people expressing emotions, including some famous paintings. They have also investigated the images and found clues of how the people were feeling in the photographs or how the artist was feeling when they painted the artwork. There was a wealth of imagination spilling out from each grade level. Later the students used their creative thinking skills and made their own expressive artwork. Here are just a few of the projects that were created:

2nd: Sometimes I Feel... Paintings

3rd: Expressive Picasso Paintings

4th: Empathy Portraits and Descriptive Words

5th: Gridding and Transferring Expressive Images

7th: Empathy Clay Masks, Inspired by Korean Hahoe Masks

In the high school Mosaics class, the students have just started to get warmed up. They worked in groups and individually on paper mosaics. Now they are constructing beautiful seed and bean mosaics. I can't wait to display these when they are done.

Be sure to check the three Art Moodle pages to see pictures of the students working and lists of current and upcoming projects.



## Fun With Sand

The School Spirit Club made up of 6th & 8th grade girls went to the Kindergarten and did a fun activity with them. Writing their names with glue and sand. The kindergarteners were very excited and enthusiastic about today. They learned how to draw straight lines and print their names nicely in sand. It was great that we shared this activity together!

Hiba Salih, 8th grade



## Message from the ESL Department

The acquisition and mastery of a second language is a complex, time-consuming yet, extraordinary process. Conversely, the lack of vocabulary in English is often the biggest difficulty for speakers of other languages. At KAS, we strive to offer our ESL students the best practices in order to make this process as smooth and fun as possible, with literacy as our primary target.

This week, as part of a writing assignment, the students in the middle school ESL class had a terrific time playing with words to build these alliterated sentences – the same sound or letter used at the beginning of each word:

Farouk's famous father flew for France, Luna Kairawan  
 Fruit falls fairly fast from forks, Alyssa Bernard  
 Tony threw that tasty tomato to Tom, Tony Wang  
 Muhammad makes me mixed mangoes Monday morning, Anis  
 Suraya Binti

The primary goal was to think creatively, practice spelling, and to have fun.

Mr. Sanchez  
 ESL MS





# Healthy Adolescents

At the Learning Center, we hope to help our students academically, socially and emotionally. At <http://www.search-institute.org/system/files/40AssetsList.pdf> you can find a great guide from Search Institute for developing well-rounded, healthy students. At the Search Institute website, you will also find checklists and activities to supplement this list. The list is a great resource to put on your fridge, and refer to. Ask yourself, how many of these forty do I see in my child's life? In the coming weeks, we'll be looking at various assets on this list, suggesting ideas for their development. This week, we'll start with number two, "Positive Family Communication"

Some Ideas:

- Encourage every family member to find one positive thing to genuinely recognize in each family member each day. Set the example for this.
- Keep track of the comments made between family members for one day. Track the number of positive ones, vs. negative ones. Are they at least balanced?
- Try to have one "Neutral Topic" conversation each day, so that everyone walks away from at least one conversation without worry, or concern.

## Take the Stress and Worry out of Raising Your Child

There will be a presentation and discussion by Mr. Dave Zakem, the KAS Early Childhood team leader. The presentation includes: guiding the use of TV and computers; food and eating issues; avoiding power struggles; when lying isn't lying; difficulties with friends and peers; setting and keeping reasonable limits; adolescents and teen issues; difficult but normal stages of development; and good toys, bad toys. The presentation will be repeated on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 4, 5 at 7:30 PM in Mr. Dave's preschool room. No childcare available. Everyone is welcome.

## Basketball News

Our basketball teams have been working very hard lately. It is hot, sunny, and sweaty but they are all doing a great job. Last Monday, the U14 boys and girls played Nile Valley at KICS. Even though both teams fell short of a victory, it was a great effort by the teams. On Tuesday, we were able to open up our new covered court and play against a new team, Al-Jazeera International Academy. The U14 boys took to the court first, and won the game 20-5. After that, the U18 boys followed the lead by winning their game 55-18. It was great to see the teams win their games in the new facility. I hope there are many more wins in the future for all the teams.

Dates to Remember	
Tuesday, October 11, 2011 No School for Students	Parent Teacher Conferences
Thursday, October 20, 2011 No School for Students	PD on Differentiation
Thursday, October 27, 2011 from 7:00pm	International Potluck Dinner



MR. HOVDE'S AMAZING



Here are the winners from last week: Hassan Grade 1, Yasmine Grade 2, Hamadelnil Grade 3, Rajveer Grade 4, Justin Grade 5. There were no correct answers to either the HS or MS math question.

Elementary School Math problem:

**Grade 1:** Ms. Fredericks has three apples in her refrigerator at home. She needs five more apples to make an apple pie for the bake sale. How many apples does she need altogether?

**Grade 2:** Ms. Jamie has 12 paintbrushes. She needs two more to have enough for each Grade 2 student. How many will she have in all? Write the number model. What is the unit?

**Grade 3:** Write two addition facts and two subtraction facts using the numbers 15, 9, and 6.

**Grade 4:** I am a convex quadrilateral. I have exactly one set of parallel sides. Am I a, b, c, or d? Write a name of polygon.



**Grade 5:** List all of the factors of 54.

Middle School Math problem:

Find the number that satisfies all these conditions: an odd number, has 2 digits, the sum of the digits = 16, and it is the largest prime number less than 100.

High School Math problem:

A farmer has 200 feet of fencing. He must use it to create a rectangular area for his sheep to graze. What are the dimensions of the rectangle that maximizes the area for the sheep to graze?

**Solutions from the last week:** **Grade 1:**  $3+5=8$ , **Grade 2:**  $12+2=14$ , paintbrushes, **Grade 3:** Answers will vary, **Grade 4:** d, **Grade 5:** Factors of 54: 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 18, 27, 54, **Middle School:** 3 boxes or 9 spheres, **High School:** 18 grams of silver should be added.

Circle one:

High School     
  Middle School     
  Elementary School

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_