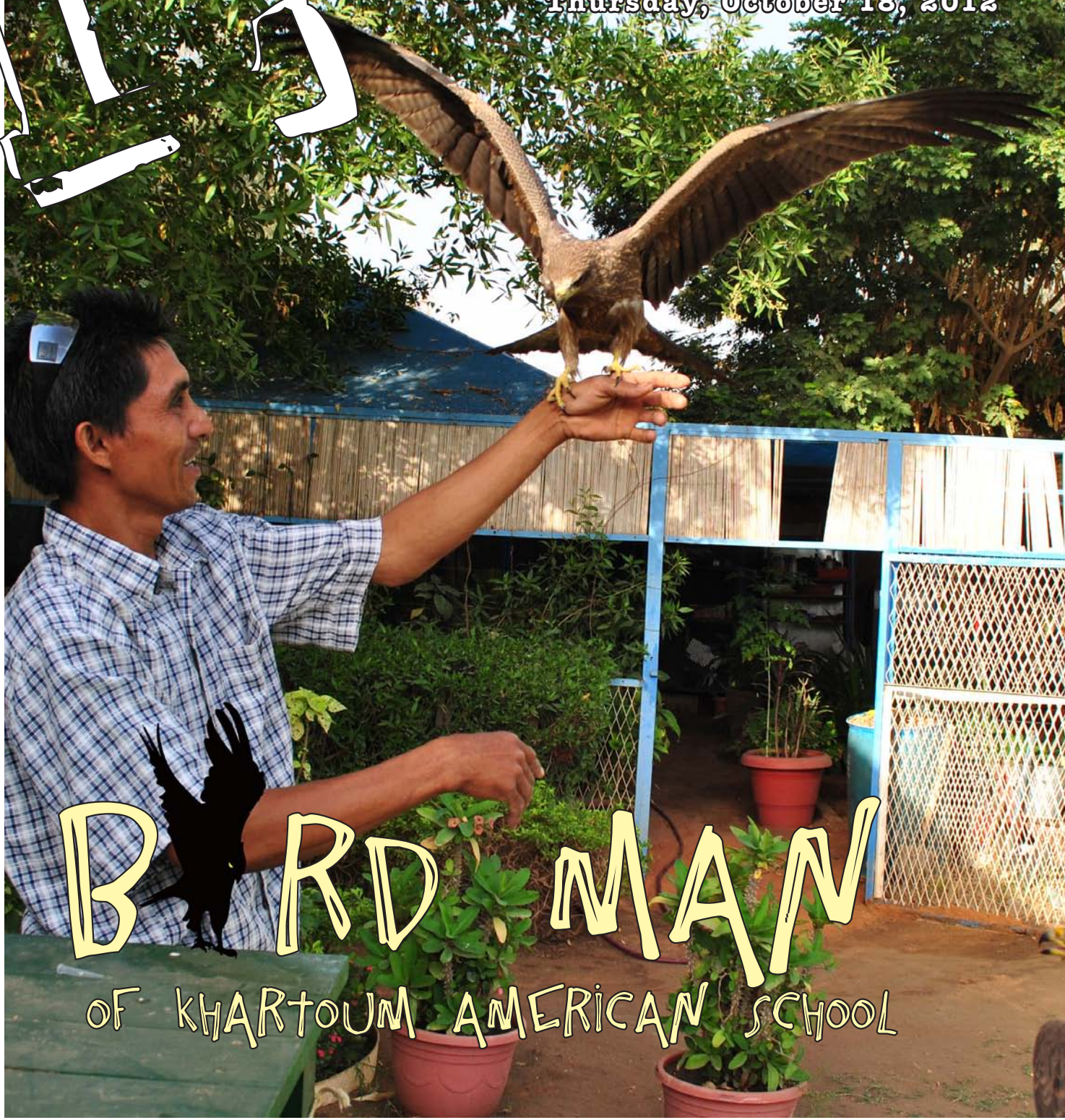




news

news from the trunk

Thursday, October 18, 2012



BIRD MAN

OF KHARTOUM AMERICAN SCHOOL

PTA Family Picnic

Friday, October 19, 2012, from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm at KAS



Letter from the Superintendent, Mr. Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

In a school that is as busy as ours it's often difficult to keep track of all of the activities, events and work that goes on in and around the school. Even the weekends are a hive of activity and this weekend was no exception.

It gave me great pleasure to witness two wonderful events. The first was a good old-fashioned birthday party with an aquatic twist. Two of our families took advantage of our wonderful facilities by hosting their children's birthday parties in the swimming pool area. Needless to say, the pool was full of happy children along with all the regalia associated with a birthday party. The families and children had a great time but more importantly it allowed the children to use our pool and to enjoy a long, hot afternoon splashing around in the water with their friends.

The second was a wonderful surprise, in that one of the gardeners had taken on the responsibility of taking care of five injured birds that were in need of medical treatment and nourishment. One of our greenhouses has been transformed into a makeshift aviary, consisting of an assortment of kites, eagles, and hawks. While I have often awed at the sight of watching these beautiful birds from afar, it was a real treat for me to see them up close. Sudan is home to many glorious birds of prey, 61 species in fact, and several of these follow migratory paths as they travel across the African continent. They can often be seen circling the school, but rarely do we ever get the opportunity to observe them so closely. By the time this newsletter is printed we hope that they will have fully recovered and been released back into the wild, but for now our guests are happy recuperating and readying themselves for life outside.

While this generous gesture is typical of the nature of our school, it was for me one more reason to smile while walking through the grounds of Khartoum American School.

As always have a great weekend.



Positions Available at KAS for school year 2012/2013:

- Elementary ESL Teacher
- Special Education Teacher

Please send a cover letter and CV to ghughes@krtams.org

Letter from the Middle and High School Principal, Ms. Susan Boutros

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to see so many of you on Parent Teacher Conference Day. At Khartoum American School, we truly believe in a home-school partnership. This is a shared relationship through which the people who care for students in the home setting and the people who care for them in the school setting, jointly promote the students' learning and wellbeing. The students themselves are part of both these groups, which together make up the wider school community. Teachers, parents, and the students themselves all have different kinds of knowledge about the student, and an effective home-school partnership facilitates the sharing of this knowledge and jointly finds ways to promote student achievement.

Home-school partnerships are part of our school's culture. We have so many events throughout the school year that strengthen the relationship between students, parents and teachers. This week in the PE classes, middle school students were involved in the KAS 2012 Middle School Olympics. It was a swimming competition where students were competing for their countries. Parents, teachers and students enjoyed the event tremendously. The high school basketball team played against the teachers on Wednesday after the parent-teacher conferences. It was another amazing event that everyone enjoyed.

I hope to see you all at the picnic organized by the PTA on Friday from 2pm to 7pm. Please note that since this is a family event, students will not be allowed to attend without their parents. The swimming pool will be closed on that day, but the barbeques will be up and running.

Have a great weekend!



Kerry Hyslop, KAS School Board's Vice President, volunteered to share a story.

If you would like to share a story, see Ms. Shannon or email sshannon@krtams.org

Art Show

Wednesday was Parent Teacher Conferences and the first KAS Art Show of the year. Kindergarten through Grade 5 participated as well as Grade 7 and the High School Mixed Media Group. We hope you enjoyed it. The next art show will be on March 13 during the next Parent Teacher Conferences. However, there is a regular rotation of artwork hung outside the art room throughout the school year.



Agib, Grade 2



Grade 1

Come and take a look!

By Ms. Jamie



Amina, Grade 4



Grade 5



Neeka, Grade 3



Omer, Grade 10



Grade 7



K i n d e r g a r t e n

Grade one tuck shop

The week before last, grade one began learning about money in math. As well as using it as a platform for addition, I was hoping to creep in a little knowledge about the value of money. Ms Erini and Mr. C came up with the idea of starting a class shop. Students were able to earn money through good behavior, quality work and of course, well thought out compliments for the teacher. The store was an instant success and as well as improving classroom behavior dramatically, we really got to see the personalities of the students come out. Some spent all their money on the smallest items and others have been saving and saving to buy some of the big-ticket items.



Middle School Happenings

The MS school is planning on having a dance on November 8th. The theme is going to be Halloween. Any students who want to dress up may do so. For this event, we are exploring the possibility of hiring a D.J., if you would like to recommend anyone, please contact me at asanchez@krtams.org.

The first five week rotation in the MS advisory has been successfully completed. Our students spent some time with their facilitating teachers learning about honesty, trust, perseverance, leadership and teamwork. There will be a new set of activities for them after our fall break. Special thanks to our facilitating teachers.

The first round of exploratory classes is also coming to an end. The students participated in Writing Lab, Spanish, Gardening, Nutrition, Well-being and in Library activities. The next batch of exploratory classes will be announced shortly.

The soccer season is rapidly approaching and in preparation for it, the coach (Mr. Sanchez) is asking that ALL MS students interested in playing submit a letter of interest. It needs to explain why you want to be part of the team, how you would be an asset to the team, and how your sportsmanship would best represent KAS. The application deadline is November 22nd. A carefully proofread letter of application is a prerequisite for the tryouts in early December.



Winners:
Ella-KG,
Kamal-G1,
Nathanael-G2,
Adam-G3,
Ruba-G4,
Kristina-G5

Differentiated Instruction

There's lots of talk around KAS about differentiated instruction. For families who are new to our school this might be a strange term. According to the New Brunswick board of education, in a "Differentiated Curriculum the content, process and/or product of the prescribed curriculum are modified to accommodate variations in students' learning styles, preferences, characteristics, multiple intelligences, talents, strengths and needs. A critical step in the development of differentiation is the identification of the underlying concepts to be taught."

This brings up another term heard often at KAS. Understanding By Design (UbD). Knowing and teaching the underlying concepts is at the core of UbD. As a school we are continually working on best reaching every student using these strategies.

The New Brunswick Board also suggests some best practices for parents...

- understand the school's expectations.
- supervise the completion of practice home assignments.
- communicate regularly with the school and their child's teachers regarding successes and difficulties that the child experiences with home assignments.
- communicate problems or concerns about their child's progress, or any other information that might help the school to better understand the child and to develop and deliver appropriate instruction.

With report cards fast approaching and progress reports recently having gone home, let's continue to support our children at school and home, and keep our lines of communication open.

Elementary School Math problem:

Kindergarten: Find the missing number: 1, 2, ____, 4, 5.

Grade 1: How many pennies in one dollar?
How many nickels in one dollar?
How many dimes in one dollar?
How many quarters in one dollar?

Grade 2: How much money do you need to buy a balloon for 15c and a teddy bear for 52c?

Grade 3: Complete these fact extension questions:

$$9 + 4 \quad \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad 29 + 4 \quad \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$59 + 4 \quad \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad 119 + 4 \quad \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Grade 4: A giant tortoise can live about 150 years. An elephant can live about 78 years. About how many more years can a giant tortoise live than an elephant?

Grade 5: Write the first five square numbers, starting with the number four.

Middle School Math problem:

There is a man at point A 100 miles away from a second man at point B. They start walking towards each other; each one is walking at 10 mph. A dog runs at the rate of 30 mph ahead of the man at point A, meets the man from point B, comes back to the man from point A, goes back to B, then back to A. How far does the dog run before the man from point A and the man from point B meet?

High School Math problem:

Find the probability of rolling four dice whose sum totals up to six. Assume each of the four dice is "fair," meaning each outcome is equally likely.

Solutions from the last week:

Kindergarten: 1, 3; **Grade 1:** 1c, 5c, 10c, 25c; **Grade 2:** $20 + 4 = 24$; **Grade 3:** Answers will vary; **Grade 4:** Answers will vary; **Grade 5:** 2, 3, 5, 7, 11; **Middle School:** House numbers, each one costs 25 cents; **High School:** 9 mi/hr;

Circle one:

High School Middle School Elementary School

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Answer: _____

PTA Family Picnic



On Friday, October 19, 2012, the swimming pool will be open until 1 pm. The family picnic will start at 2 pm and end at 7 pm. The swimming pool will be **CLOSED** during the family picnic. Please drop by the family picnic, there will be soccer, basketball, volleyball, games

and Pinata's!! If you get hungry: another spectacular parent made bake sale, hot dogs, and drinks so please stop by.

Sport News

On Thursday, October 11th, the Under 12 Boys, and the Under 12 Girls had an enjoyable time playing KICS, NVA, and UHS. On Tuesday, October 9th, Under 15 Boys played against UHS at our court. Their sportsmanship attitude has improved considerably. On Wednesday, October 10th, we had three games, two at UHS and one at KAS. The Under 15 and Under 18 Girls took off to UHS. The Under 18 Girls had an astounding game; they scored 38 points to 16 for KICS. The Under 15 Girls showed great sportsmanship and commitment, keep it up! The third game was the 18 years old boys against our staff.

Adult Sport: Any student in grade 11 or 12, wanting to attend the after school Adult Sport program must drop by the PE room and pick up a permission slip from Ms. Shiren.