

# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 19, 2013

# COLLEGE NIGHT

All that  
PARENTS  
+  
STUDENTS  
**NEED TO KNOW**  
about choosing the perfect  
UNIVERSITY  
+  
GETTING ACCEPTED.




Wednesday, September 25, 2013,  
from 6:00 pm  
High School ESL Room

**GOAL Event: Pool Party Fundraiser**

Thursday, October 3, 2013, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm





## Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,


Each year our students look forward to learning and growing as individuals, but one group of students with an added responsibility are our senior students who also have to answer the very important question, "Where do I go after my time at KAS has finished?"

Fortunately, help is on hand in the form of our wonderful college counselor, Mrs. Katee Jo Ross, whose job it is to work with these students and their families in order to answer this question, and many others. From the start of the year to their graduation and acceptance into universities or colleges across the world, Mrs. Ross will be providing a mountain of information aimed at making the college application process as simple as possible, while also working with families to ensure that our students are not only accepted into universities worldwide, but are also happy with their final choice.

There is so much for families to consider when enrolling their children into universities, including the cost, location, and size of the institution, as well as the types of programs offered. To kick start this process we will be hosting a "College Night" during which a wealth of information will be explained about the college selection and application process while also providing parents with ample opportunity to pose the many questions that they have on their minds. Naturally, this evening will be just the start of a long journey, but by starting well and making sure that students, families and the school all pull together, I am confident that this senior class will once more do our school proud.

All parents of juniors and seniors are welcome to attend this event on Wednesday the 25th of September starting at 18.00 pm in the High School ESL room.

As always have a wonderful weekend.



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

Dear Parents and Friends,

Now that the summer break is officially over and behind us, students are back to school, they have received their laptops and classes are now in full swing.

As I visit classes around the school, it struck me once again, how extremely important the skill of reading is for all the children. In Mr. Michael's Grade 7 Language Arts class, he asked his students a question, "what would a world without words look like"? The students started responding to the question and they quickly realized what a boring world it would be. Of course, we all know that reading is one of the most important skills children (and anyone) must master to succeed in school and to succeed in life. Almost everything we do involves reading in some form and it is undoubtedly one of the best practices to stimulate intellectual development in students.

Here is a list, in no particular order, of some reasons why students should read:

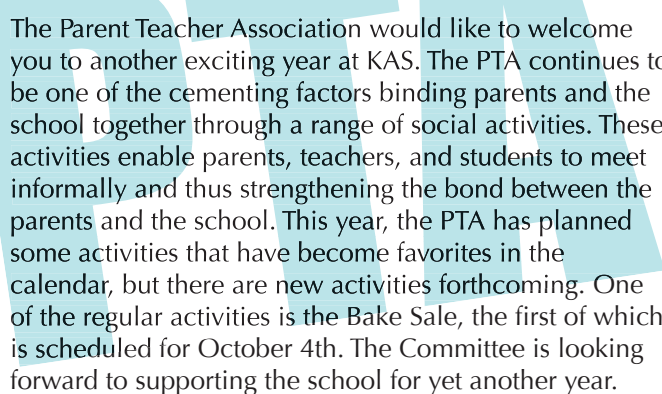
- Reading expands a child's vocabulary.
- Reading works as an exercise to improve reading fluency and comprehension. You can't comprehend what you can't read.
- Reading is directly related to a child's academic success.
- Reading helps improve grammar, sentence structure and enhances communication skills.
- Reading helps improve writing skills. Reading different texts can be used as a model for the student's own writing and essays.
- Reading helps independence and self-confidence.
- Reading helps us make more sense of the world around us.
- Reading enhances imagination.
- Reading helps you relax and reduces stress.
- Reading is a free and enjoyable activity.

Reading is a skill that all the teachers at Khartoum American School work hard to encourage in all of our students. Because reading is so important to children's success in school, we ask that parents help their children become interested in reading and encourage growth in their reading skills.

Maybe you could all encourage an activity that involves reading with your child this weekend e.g. cooking (reading a recipe), constructing a kite (reading directions), or plan a holiday (reading a reference book or searching the Internet).

Have a great weekend!

Dear Parents,



The Parent Teacher Association would like to welcome you to another exciting year at KAS. The PTA continues to be one of the cementing factors binding parents and the school together through a range of social activities. These activities enable parents, teachers, and students to meet informally and thus strengthening the bond between the parents and the school. This year, the PTA has planned some activities that have become favorites in the calendar, but there are new activities forthcoming. One of the regular activities is the Bake Sale, the first of which is scheduled for October 4th. The Committee is looking forward to supporting the school for yet another year.



## Fun with letters...

This week the Zebra Class has been exploring the letter B. We identified many objects starting with the letter B by looking at pictures, reading some interesting books and checking our surroundings.

During circle time we sang many songs relating to our letter of the week like Bingo, Ba Ba Black Sheep, The Wheels on the Bus, and The Bear Song.



We also had a lot of fun creating beautiful art work with objects beginning with the letter B.

Letter B scavenger hunt:

The Zebras went on a scavenger hunt around the classroom looking for items beginning with the letter B and here is what they found: Boys-Blue paper-Box-Banana-Book-Bag-Bottles-Ball-Black bag-Building blocks-Binder.

Good hunting everyone!

In Grade 7 language Arts students are being asked questions such as:

Will we all eventually stop reading books and writing things down?  
Why do we write things down?

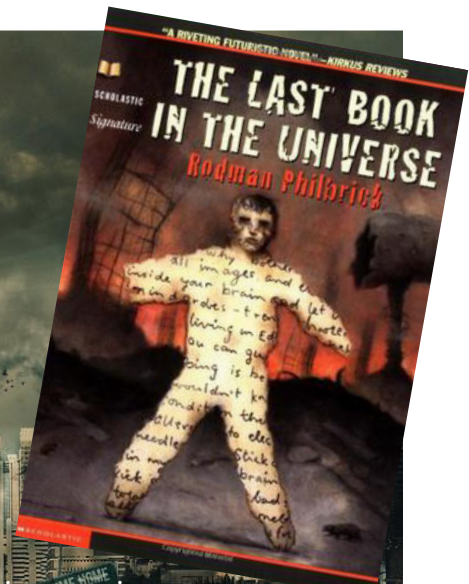
Could you imagine a world without words?

Will some form of technology replace the written word?

These are questions that are addressed in Rodman Philbrick's dystopian novel, "The Last Book in the Universe, which Grade 7 is reading at the moment. Set in the future, the Last Book in the Universe is the story of Spaz a teenager with epilepsy who is on a quest to bring human learning and intelligence back to the planet. In this dystopian world most people are fixed into brain-drain entertainment systems and reading and writing is a thing of the past. Spaz meets an old man called Ryter, and begins to learn about the history of Earth. With his aged companion, Spaz sets off an unlikely hero's quest to save his dying sister - and hopefully a world that has been plunged into ignorance.

The book is very engaging and our lesson activities have brought into much sharper focus the way in which words play such a dominant role in our lives as well as the importance of reading and writing, be it by traditional books, e-books or going to web sites.

Dystopian: a frightening, horrible society usually set in the future.

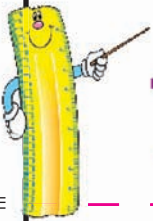


**MATH:** The stepping stone to a wonderful career...



### Last Week's Winners

Ahmed, Zahed (Pre-K ), Alfred (Kindergarten), Mariam (Grade 1), Nour (Grade 2), Sara (Grade 3), Youssef (Grade 4), Amina (Grade 5), Zuhair (Grade 6), Celeste (Grade 7), Talha (Grade 8)



## Mr. C's Amazing Math Contest

### Elementary School Math problems:

**Kindergarten:** Draw three different shapes.

**Grade 1:** 27, 28, 29, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.  
8, 10, 12, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**Grade 2:**  $37 + 20 =$  \_\_\_\_\_.

**Grade 3:** RULE : - 4  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 16, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade 4:** If Tom paid for a hot dog that cost him \$14.23 and he gave the shopkeeper a \$20.00 note, how much change would he get?

**Grade 5:** If we divide a number by 3 and the remainder is zero, then the number is said to be divisible by 3. Is the number of students' feet in Grade 5, plus the number of students' heads in Grade 5 divisible by 3? Circle Yes or No. Explain how you got your answer.

### Middle School Math problem:

Evaluate the following:  $7 - (-5)(9 - 4) + 1$

### High School Math problem:

In Bhutan, where there are very few cars, the license plates are made up of only three digits. Numbers can be repeated but the first number cannot be a zero. How many license plates can be made using three digits?

**Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; **Grade 1:** 18, 15; **Grade 2:** 55, 65, 75; **Grade 3:** \$1.25; **Grade 4:** 37; **Grade 5:**  $1 * 100 = 100$ ,  $100 * 1 = 100$ ,  $2 * 50 = 100$ ,  $50 * 2 = 100$ ,  $4 * 25 = 100$ ,  $25 * 4 = 100$ ,  $5 * 20 = 100$ ,  $20 * 5 = 100$ ,  $10 * 10 = 100$  Factors: 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, 25, 50, 100; **Middle School:** Dan; **High School:**  $(-5/4, -9/8)$

## The Counselor's Update

Juniors & Seniors,

It's that time in your life when many of you are beginning to contemplate where you will be after your time is finished at KAS. While this might be a stressful question to ponder, it is an experience that symbolizes the "turning of a page" in your lives, one that marks a fresh start, new beginnings, and novel learning experiences. However, this life-changing experience does not come without a little bit of hard work. The college selection and application process can be very time consuming, which is why I encourage all of you to start early!

Not sure what you should be doing? Come to next week's "College Night" during which you and your parents can learn more about your roles in the whole process. During this meeting you will receive priceless information about some of the following:

- What you should be doing with the rest of your time at KAS to make the perfect "stepping stone" into your future;
- What resources are available to learn more about different majors and careers that interest you and match your skills;
- How to choose the right university/college that's fits you and your family's goals for your future;
- What materials you will need to start preparing for the application process; and
- How to find financial aid and scholarships that can help make college more affordable for you and your family.

Want to know the answers to these topics and more? Bring your parents and come along to next week's "College Night" on Wednesday, September 25th @ 6:00 pm in the High School ESL Room. Don't miss this great opportunity to get a jump-start towards "turning the page" to the next chapter of your future.