

NEWS FROM THE TRUNK

Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014

*Happy Fall  
Break*

**KAS**

**School break October, 3<sup>rd</sup> to October, 11<sup>th</sup>**



## Letter from the Superintendent, Dr. Robert Beck

Dear Parents,  
In previous E News messages this year I wrote about the meaning of Community and Character. They are two of the KAS 4 Cs that support our school's Mission and Vision. The 4 Cs are: Character, Curriculum, Community and Citizenship. Today I will be reminding us of the C of Citizenship (you can also see Mr. Center's comments about the C of Character in today's E News and you can always read about the KAS Mission/Vision and the 4 Cs on the KAS homepage).

The KAS C of Citizenship is explained as follows:

"We promote citizenship and the expectation of our students to reflect upon their own world and the world around them and to develop the skills required to make positive changes worldwide. We encourage students to embrace the diversity present at Khartoum American School and to celebrate the fact that it makes us a richer school community."

This vision to develop "... the skills required to make positive changes worldwide..." may sound grand and ambitious. Some may even argue that this vision is not realistic since students are so young and lack the wisdom that comes from experience. On the contrary. Research points to the reality that it is exactly the young who are the individuals who can successfully fulfill this ambitious vision. This is so because children and young adults are naturally giving, they are altruistic, caring and idealistic. It is the young who are the world's leaders and problem solvers of the future. They are our future positive change agents. Because of your parental love and guidance, and because daily at KAS students are living, learning and interacting with so many different nationalities at KAS, our students will for sure be productive global citizens.

I wish you a pleasant Fall Break and I look forward to seeing you when we reopen on October 12.

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

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Not a week passes by without something really exciting going on at KAS.

Last week was full of excitement in the high school as Student Council Elections were taking place. We followed with great interest the campaigning around the school that included free food, campaign posters and a kindergarten parade.

I would like to congratulate our new student council and I would like to thank Ms. Leena Salih and all the teachers and students for making the elections such a success. The Student Council plays a very important role at school and helps promote a positive environment for student life.

The student council helps share students' ideas, interests, and concerns with the teachers and administration. It also helps raise funds for school-wide activities and of course they assist in building the community.

This week was our Open Mic Night for students. This is a live show where audience members may perform at the microphone. It was a very successful evening. We all enjoyed the performers who got up on stage and shared.

I would like to wish you all a very relaxing Eid Break with family and friends.

## Letter from the Early Childhood Center & Elementary School Principal, Phil Centers

Dear KAS Parents, Students, and Community Members,

You may have noticed that this year we are focusing on the 4Cs of the school's core mission and vision: Character, Curriculum, Community, and Citizenship. In the Early Childhood Center (ECC) and the Elementary School (ES) these four qualities form the basis of most of what we do together. And it begins with Character.

We might agree that everything in the world of human beings begins with Character, the inner quality of a person. If a person's character (attitude and attributes) is right, then their activity in the world, however humble, will be right; at the very least it won't be harmful. However, on the flip side, if a person's character has somehow become not right, warped or twisted through a poor upbringing, education, and/or the hard knocks of life, then their activity in the world, however exalted, will also be not quite right, and will probably cause harm even if this isn't noticed directly. How many examples in the world do we see of this basic truth in both its positive and negative manifestation! In education our mission could be said to be to maximize the number of human beings whose character is right, and minimize the number whose character is not right, in order to help the world be a better place.

Don't we all agree that the best way to make sure a person's character has the best chance of being right is to start working with this quality at an early age? In the U.S. we have a humorous yet profound statement that reflects how important it is to begin early with forming positive character: "All I really need to know I learned in kindergarten." This statement is followed by such basic things we learned in kindergarten as "play fair," "share everything," etc. It's so true that we learn our basic character traits right from the beginning of our lives by the examples and lessons of everyone around us. What an awesome responsibility we all have to model the highest character traits we can to each other, especially to the little ones in our care whose characters are being formed right in front of our eyes.

We are fortunate at KAS that the importance of Character is recognized, and put at the top of our list of what we are striving to accomplish as the mission of our school. In the ECC/ES I have introduced a set of 100 character traits that are the focus of character building in organizations, schools, and families around the world. We have begun to choose one of these traits a week to remind ourselves about. This week's character traits Fairness. Remember, that thing we learned all in Kindergarten?!

# KAS

# COMMUNITY

This quarter and especially this week have been very busy in the 1st grade classroom.

We are busy working on our summative assessments re-creating our community.



We started talking about our communities; we talked about who we are and where do we fit in our families. Then we looked at our community at school. Mrs. Andurette asked us who is in our school community? She asked us whom we thought worked at KAS. We did a brainstorm, and this is what we thought they do:

- Dr. Rob: "He is the president of the school."
- Ms. Mona: "She tells you everything about the school. Then you wait three days; and then you can come to school."
- Mr. Hani: "His job is to be in his office and sell newspapers." "If someone is new he gives them a computer and he cleans computers."

Mrs. Andurette then sent us with Mrs. Shireen to find out what different people do at KAS.

- "Dr. Rob is the Superintendent. He helps all of the people, and he is the head of the school." Samantha and Timon.
- "Mr. Centers is our Elementary principal. He takes care of children and teachers in Elementary." Runjhun and Murwan.
- "Ms. Reem is the graphic designer. Her job is making the newsletter. She takes pictures of people at school." Maies and Daniel.



We now understand how important our school community is and how all the people at school take care of us.

A few weeks ago we started exploring the community all around us - Khartoum. Mrs. Andurette asked us to look at what we can see when we drive from home to school and from school to home. This week we are re-creating our favorite building. Please come visit our class after the mid-term break if you want to see our community.

## English saying

Andurette van der Merwe  
1st Grade Teacher

**Money For Old Rope** is simple to explain. In days long gone, when the tall ships returned to their ports, some sailors were allowed to claim old rigging damaged during the voyage. Although of no use to the ships needing long undamaged lines for their sails, parts would still be in good condition and sought after by local traders. Sailors profited by selling it on and, as no effort was required on their part (it was regarded as a perk amongst senior shipmen), some jealousy occurred. The chosen few were criticized for making 'money out of old rope'. These days estate agents have replaced favored crewmen.

# TECHNOLOGY

At KAS our mission statement under the "curriculum" section indicates that our student-centered program offers a technology-rich and an inquiry-based approach, which allows students to reach their potential.

As a KAS teacher I am required to safeguard our mission and ensure that our philosophies are always implemented in the curriculum. In this quarter, I am teaching grade 6 students who are new to the middle school system. They are learning many new skills but the most important one is to be organized and committed to their learning.

As for the organization skills I think it is a long learning process that takes a lot of effort between school and home.

Here at KAS we put our students in charge of their learning success through our virtual management system Engrade. In Grade 6 Computer Class, students have learned about our grading system and how they can use it as a two-way communication between themselves and their teachers. They are doing great using Engrade!



They recognize the skills they are acquiring are enriching their learning experience and preparing them for the future. They have explored the use of iMovie as a tool of presentation. Each student

in class had a chance to create a small scene using iMovie and participated in creating a movie about web 2.0 applications. If you don't know what web 2.0 applications are...ask any student from grade 6 and they should be able to tell you! Now they are exploring some of these tools and demonstrating that they are very useful as a presentation tool.

We also talked about the negative impact of using digital communications such as Facebook, Skype, Whatsapp...etc. We talked about cyber bullying and its impact on people. I was amazed with how informed our students are on how to protect themselves.

Today, digital devices have become an integral part of one's learning environment, both within the classroom and beyond. At KAS we are trying to equip our students with 21st century skills. Communication and collaboration, Creativity and Innovation, and Digital Citizenship are some of the standards that students have to master before they are ready to enter high school. iMovie, Google applications, PowToon, and Prezi are just a few tools that help students to master these standards.

Egbal Mohamed  
Technology Coordinator

# POOL SCHEDULE

DAY	HOURS
FRIDAY	POOL CLOSED
SATURDAY	
SUNDAY	10 - 3PM
MONDAY	10PM - 7PM
TUESDAY	10PM - 7PM
WEDNESDAY	10PM - 7PM
THURSDAY	10PM - 7PM

SUNDAY
3 - 7PM

LADIES DAY

# MR. MANN'S MATH MINUTE



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MATH PROBLEMS:

- KG** FILL IN THE MISSING NUMBERS:  
 10, 9, 8, \_\_, 6, 5, \_\_, 3, 2, \_\_, 0  
 10, 9, \_\_, 7, 6, \_\_, 4, 3, \_\_, 1, 0
- 
- GRADE 1** CAN YOU DRAW THE TALLY MARKS FOR:  
 1) 4    2) 5    3) 7    4) 12
- 
- GRADE 2** USE THE GREATER THAN, LESS THAN, OR EQUAL TO SYMBOLS TO COMPLETE THE NUMBER SENTENCE  
 17 \_\_\_ 71
- 
- GRADE 3** WHAT IS:  $12 \times 3 =$  \_\_\_  $11 \times 4 =$  \_\_\_  $9 \times 9 =$  \_\_\_
- 
- GRADE 4** WRITE THREE DIFFERENT NUMBER SENTENCES WITH 20 AS THE ANSWER.
- 
- GRADE 5** WHAT IS THE SQUARE NUMBER OF 25, AND 2,500?

### Last weeks solutions:

KG: (4,7,10 - 2,5,8) G1. (10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1). G2. (Counting backwards), G3. (18,27,36,45,54,63,72 - 14,21,28,35,41,48,55 - 8,12,16,20,24,32), G4. (Reflex), G5. (Prime - there is no more than two factors)

### Last weeks WINNERS are!



- KG. Samir
- G1. Taemin
- G2. Joyce
- G3. Namassa
- G4. Duru
- G5. Mohanad

## Ross's Rebus

LOOKING FOR YOUR ANSWERS!

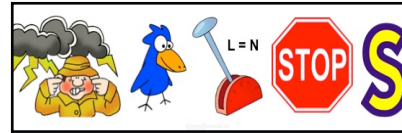
### Elementary Rebus



### Middle & High Rebus



### Teacher's Rebus



### Last week's solutions:

Elem: Save the Monkey!  
 MS/HS: Congratulations  
 Teachers: Working for the weekend

### Last week's WINNERS are!

Elem: Serene gr. 3  
 Teacher: Egbal!

# Welcome to Eagle Class!

Every new school year brings along a new group of students, and every year in Pre-Kindergarten we like to choose a name for our class. This year we suggested that we could look into the bird family, and we quickly agreed that the powerful eagle would properly represent us. By the way, the eagle is one of the symbols of the United States of America, so there is a close connection with our school too.

During the first weeks teachers and children worked together to develop a sense of community; our classroom has soon become a place where all students, old and new, feel comfortable, safe, and cared for. Their different backgrounds bring richness to our class.

Lately we have started working on the curriculum, particularly in the area of Literacy. We have learned to recognize, name, and trace letters A and B, capital and small, and the sounds they make. Every morning all students 'sign in' by copying their printed name, and have also started to independently write their names on the worksheets. By reading to the class several times a day, we are developing their listening skills, as well as expanding their vocabulary. We have begun to go around the school and 'scientifically' explore the environment with the help of binoculars.

The students learned about the difference in what they can see according to what side of the binocular they used. One morning we had a great time sitting outside under a tree and having a music session lead by Mr. Ghirmay (our Music and Movement teacher), at the end of which all students had the opportunity to experience the feeling of handling a guitar.

On Mondays we usually spend 30 minutes at the Library; on Thursdays we celebrate the end of the week by watching a short movie and munching popcorn; but Tuesday is our favorite day because we can spend an hour at the swimming pool. Whether they actually swim or just splash, all 'eagles' have great fun while learning some pool-related safe behaviors. Our school days are always filled with learning adventures and fun discoveries. We're looking forward to the weeks to come!

Eagle Class Team  
 Ms. Ivana - Ms. Reem - Ms. Yeng  
 & 21 Soaring Eagles