

# TRUNK NEWS

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 28, 2017



**GRADE 3 STUDENTS RECEIVE THEIR LAPTOPS**



## Superintendent's Message

### Annual General Meeting – Parent Conferences

Elementary and Early Childhood grades will be dismissed at 12 noon on Wednesday, October 11th for parent conferences beginning at 12:30. Parents of elementary students should have received a sign up link from your child's teacher by email. If you have not received this link, please contact your child's teacher. Grade 6-12 conferences will start at 5:00 pm. All conferences will end at 7:00 pm.

At 7:00 pm we ask parents to come to the Quad area for our Annual General Meeting. Parents will be voting for 4 candidates to be elected to the Board to serve two-year terms. Their profiles follow below.

#### Dr. Mario Kamal Saad Samaan

Dr. Samaan holds a Bachelor of Science in Medicine from the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacology, Carol Davilla in Bucharest, Romania. Dr. Samaan is a member of the Board of Trustees at the St. Mary Maternity Hospital and a Resident in the Pediatric Department. Dr. Samaan has served on the KAS School Board for 5 years and served as a member of the Facility Committee. Dr. Samaan has 2 boys attending KAS in grades 4 and 5.

#### Dr. Salma Mustafa

I would like to serve on the school board to share my humble experience as a parent who values education and volunteerism. I think I have decent communication and problem solving skills which I believe I got from interacting with people globally. I was so fortunate to have that experience. I can see the big picture and I do respect others opinions.

I am a physician by profession. I graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Khartoum. I practiced medicine in Sudan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United States of America. I still work as a flex locum during summer in Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA. I am married and a parent of four children. My youngest child is a 9th grader at KAS. My husband and older kids live in the USA. I have volunteered since I was a student in medical school. I was a member of the Sudanese Medical association. I was a volunteer in schools of my children in the USA. I volunteered for the Boy Scouts of America in Missouri. I am one of the founders of university of Khartoum Alumni in the USA. I am the secretary of Khider Ali Mustafa philanthropic organization which is a family philanthropic organization promoting health and education in Sudan. I am an active member of the KAS PTA.

#### Abdel-Rahman El Mahdi

Abdel-Rahman El Mahdi has over 20 years of experience in international development. He specializes in organizational management and development programming, and his thematic expertise is in peace building and human security, civic engagement and democratic transformation. El Mahdi founded and currently serves as the President of the Sudanese Development Initiative (SUDIA), a nongovernmental organization that works to achieve greater stability, development and good governance in Sudan. El Mahdi holds leadership positions in and is a member of several national and regional networks, a few of which include the African Democracy Forum and the Arab Working Group for Media

#### Mohamed Omer Sulieman

I am interested in joining the board for a 4th term. My main goal for joining the board is to support my fellow members in maintaining the well-being of the school. I was a commercial pilot graduate in 1992 and have been the Director of Detasi Company Ltd. since 1992 that has specialized in the poultry industry. I have four children who have attended KAS, two who have graduated. I have served on the KAS Board for 7 years.

**Steve Alexander**  
KAS Superintendent

## ONE TO ONE LAPTOP PROGRAM



## Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents,

It's this time of the year again! Students in grades 2 -11 are currently taking the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) tests. These tests help our KAS teachers to determine your child's instructional level and measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year in the areas of reading, mathematics and language usage.

MAP Assessments are given to students in the fall and spring. When taking a MAP test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. Although the tests are not timed, it usually takes students about 75 minutes to complete each test. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

Students receive an individual score, called a RIT score. A RIT score is a different type of measure than a typical test that provides a percentage correct. It is also different from many tests that provide results based on your child's score compared to others in his or her grade (a percentile ranking). Instead, the RIT score is an equal interval scale, like feet and inches, which is independent of grade level. MAP tests do not influence your child's grades and are not reflected in the report cards.

Individual growth goals are developed for each student based on his/her achievement. This model of assessment is based on individual growth, rather reaching the same benchmark for each student. These tests are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth and skill development. They let teachers know where a student's strengths is and if help is needed in any specific areas.

Thank you for your continued support of your child's learning.

Have a great weekend!

**Susan Boutros**

Middle & High School Principal

## Middle & High School Student Council Leadership Retreat

The MS and HS Student Councils gathered together on Saturday for a Leadership Retreat. The first hour was spent on icebreaker and trust-building activities and by the end of the session students were laughing and sharing their ideas for the year. The next session focused on building leadership skills and through discussion and role-play the councils came up with some valuable characteristics that they will strive to embody as student-leaders this year. Here are some examples:

- Trustworthy
- Communicative
- Cooperative
- Motivational
- Punctual
- Organized
- Empathetic

Students used the final session to decide upon a structure for their new organizations and put forth some ideas for the year. Please congratulate these students on a successful retreat and wish them luck in their roles as student-leaders!

### **Middle School Students:**

#### **Grade 6:**

Mohamed Osman  
Reeda Elmaghrahi  
Assad Burrell  
Yousra Ali Karar

#### **Grade 7:**

Elli Riziq  
Himanshu Mallik

#### **Grade 8:**

Haneen Elmahdi  
Lina Fadl

### **High School Students:**

#### **President:**

Samir Elgadal - Grade 12

#### **Vice President:**

Omnia Alzein - Grade 12

#### **Secretary:**

Talha Kayani - Grade 12

#### **Treasurer:**

Omar Moustafa - Grade 11

#### **Publicist:**

Sumaya Elmahdi - Grade 11

#### **Grade 12 Class Representative:**

Mohamed Ibrahim Ibrahim

#### **Grade 11 Class Representative:**

Omar Moustafa

#### **Grade 10 Class Representative:**

Fawzia Omer

#### **Grade 9 Class Representative:**

Tawfeeq Hadra



**Dina Shalash**

Social Studies Teacher and Curriculum Coordinator



## Wrong Answers? Great Learning!

Dear Parents,

It is my pleasure to have the chance to work with your children through the EAL program. I hope that they will soon show sound progress in all English language domains. They are learning speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through interesting activities in a positive and safe learning environment.

Here I would like to share with you some activities that your children are successfully working on at the moment.



Kindergarten and grade 1

My students are learning early phonics and alphabet works. They also started to learn new sight words and can read CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words in simple books.



Grade 2 and 3

The students are exploring more about sound patterns and sight words. They are reading grade-appropriate passages and related questions to develop their skills of comprehending what they are reading. A great emphasis is put on teaching spelling of high-frequency words with regular spelling patterns, academic words, and grade level appropriate vocabulary.

Students have been very enthusiastic about their weekly spelling test!



Grade 4 and 5

This group is working on, fluency reading, spelling rules and patterns as well as writing skills. Currently they are focusing on:

- Main ideas within the paragraph
- Topic, supporting, and closing sentences

- Variety of sentence structure
- Vocabulary development
- Imagery

My students take great pride in their work and I'm happy with the progress they're showing.

Here are some tips for you to support your children:

- Set aside a time every day for reading a book together and talking about it afterwards.
- Encourage your child to read what she/he writes out loud
- Ask your child to help you read a recipe before cooking, read a map while you drive, or read instructions for putting something together.
- Don't be afraid to use your native language. Talk with your child about what she is learning, and ask her to explain new concepts to make sure she understands them.
- When it comes to homework, have a routine. Establishing a good study routine at home can make a significant difference in your child's learning.
- Stay connected and collaborate with teachers. By staying informed, you can keep up to date on your child's linguistic, academic, and social progress in school.

I look forward to having a wonderful school year with both you and your children.

Sincerely,

**Salma Saeed**  
Elementary ESL Teacher

### Saying of the Week

**Thick As Thieves** is a term used to imply two or more people are on very close, friendly terms with each other, often with a common purpose. It stems from a French phrase 'like thieves at a fair', which describes groups of villains working in close collusion, which then hopped the Channel during the Norman Conquest in 1066. In England the saying was first used by author Thomas Hook in his novel *The Parson's Daughter*, which was published in 1833. Contrary to popular belief, the phrase 'thick as thieves' is not a reference to the intellect of those residing at Her Majesty's Pleasure.

**Minette van der Bijl**  
High School English Department