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news from the trunk

Thursday, September 12, 2019



**CHARACTER OF THE MONTH:
CONNECTED THROUGH EMPATHY**

A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Dear KAS Community,

Well the 2019-2020 school year is off and running. We have already had a field day, back to school night and a school-wide assembly that featured Wadda Hatim, a social activist for reform in Sudan, who shared songs of the revolution with us. Before we know it we will pass many more milestones for the year. As we hit our stride and rhythm of the year, we need to make sure that some basic protocols and procedures are followed to limit interruptions in the classrooms and to ensure quality education and educational events are able to take place.

The first thing that we need to make sure is taking place is during the morning drop off. If you wish to walk your student to the door or on campus you need to make sure that you stop by the security gate and receive a visitor's pass to recognize that you are a guest on campus. This is for the safety and security of the students. We also want to encourage you to drop your students off at the quad area and not follow them all the way to classroom, as this is the time when we start our morning routines and procedures that can affect students' learning for the entire day. Interruptions at the beginning of the day disrupt the routine of the teachers and the students. If you wish to talk to a teacher, you need to schedule an appointment with them. This will allow the teacher to prepare for all students in the classroom and will also allow the teacher to focus their attention on your needs rather than trying to prepare for a class and observe students, while also having a conversation with you. Although we know that you have the best interest of your child at heart, the teachers are thinking about all the students at this time of the day.

To also help keep our rhythm and stride at KAS, and to

ensure that students are getting the most out of their time here at campus, the following policy needs to be observed. For the elementary students, the time for changing language classes is now complete. We will not be transferring students from one language to another until the new semester. Once we return from our winter break we will allow a one-week timetable to make that change. When there are students transferring in and out of classes it becomes difficult for students to get the most out of the class. Teachers have leveled the students according to abilities and have placed them in groups to work with their peers. There needs to be consistency with in the classroom for all students to learn.

Our curriculum does not stop at 2:45 pm, and we have many learning opportunities that happen after school during our after school activities program. To make sure that all students have the opportunity to participate fully and benefit from these activities a cutoff date needs to be followed. We are now in week two of our after-school clubs and there will be no more adding or moving of students from club to club. As we move forward we will continue to follow our cutoff date and will not be moving students or adding once clubs have begun. Make sure to check your emails and follow registration guidelines for the next 6 week session that will begin on October 27th.

By following these protocols we will be able to hit our stride and encounter quality learning experiences throughout the year. We have many more new and old activities that will be happening here. Before you know it we will be having our end of the year musical, Sudan Days, and graduation.

Jeremy Albright

Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

WHAT IS COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS?

Khartoum American School recognizes the importance of college and career readiness. A "college-ready" student is defined as an academically prepared student who is ready for postsecondary education.

What is the role of the counselor?

The National Office for School Counselor Advocacy has identified eight components of college and career readiness, yet only six of these components should be applied to the elementary setting:

- **College Aspiration:** Nurture confidence in students to aspire to college by maintaining high expectations and conveying the conviction that all students can succeed in college.
- **Academic Planning for College and Career Readiness:** Encourage students to participate in rigorous academic programs by increasing rigor within your own classroom. Help students realize they are capable of achieving greater academic goals than they set for themselves.
- **Enrichment and Extracurricular Engagement:** Provide and encourage students to participate in enrichment and extracurricular activities that offer participation and leadership options to all students.
- **College and Career Exploration and Selection Process:** Promote a college-going culture where students are encouraged to aim high. They should also begin writing processes that help them develop college application skills such as writing personal statements.
- **College and Career Assessment:** When students complete an standardized assessment, take the time to share the results with them. Help students become more self-aware of their achievement and take a personal interest in their growth.
- **College Affordability Planning:** Begin financial literacy at an early age. Integrate lessons about basic finance, wealth and money management into math curriculum.

Allison Mallory
MS/HS Counselor



ANNOUNCEMENTS

KAS Pool is now **open**.



Entertainment Guaranteed!
Wednesday, Sept 18th
Gates open at 4:45pm
Film shows at 5:00pm
"The Commons Clubroom"

Saying of the Week

The **Final Straw** is a small insignificant event producing a situation that is intolerable overall. The earlier citation of the phrase in English is found in The Edinburgh Advertiser (May 1816) in a discussion on a tax on soap which would have made life very difficult for the poor of Scotland. Some sources claim the origin is an Oriental proverb that 'it is the last straw that overloads the camel.' In the 17th and 18th centuries the expression in England used to be 'the last feather that breaks the horse's back' but Charles Dickens used the proverb in his novel Dombey And Son in 1848. It caught on so successfully that it is the 'last straws' and not the 'last feathers' we talk about today.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department

You Can Make a Difference

Deforestation is one of the major environmental problems of our time. It is the permanent destruction of forests to free land for other usage. Deforestation can lead to the acceleration of climate change, the loss of countless species, and can greatly affect the indigenous populations that call it home. Any increase in deforestation worldwide will speed up global warming and climate change.

The Amazon Rainforest is the world's largest tropical rainforest. It covers over 5.5 million square kilometers and is nearly four times the size of Alaska. The Amazon has an incredibly rich ecosystem. It is home to around 40,000 plant species, 1,300 bird species, 3,000 types of fish, 430 mammals, and 2.5 million different insects. In addition to 400- 500 indigenous tribes (National Geographic).

The Amazon is a vast sink for storing carbon dioxide and a key element of any plan to restrain climate change. Any increase in the Amazon's deforestation will speed up global warming as well as damage an important refuge for biodiversity. "The Amazon forest holds something like 90 billion tons of carbon, and if that ends up in the atmosphere it's not a good thing," says Thomas Lovejoy, senior fellow at the United Nations Foundation and professor of environmental science at George Mason University.

The most recent fires in the Amazon broke out in early August this year. Fires are burning in the Amazon as well as in other forest ecosystems in the region and around the world. Most of the international attention has been focused on Brazil, because it contains about 60 percent of the Amazon rainforest.

Dry season as well as cattle ranching, palm oil and soy plantations for animal feed, in addition to agricultural operations such as slash and burn are the main cause of fires.

Think of the Amazon fires as a wakeup call to humanity to safeguard our planet.

Deforestation is a very complex problem. While there are no simple or seemingly magical solutions to end deforestation there are several approaches to help save our planet by promoting more sustainable choices.

- Plant trees
- Eat less beef
- Reduce water consumption
- Minimize paper use
- Purchase recycled products
- Recycle and reuse as much as possible
- Look for energy efficient sources and products
- Look for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification on wood and wood products
- Make sustainable food choices
- Use  , a free search engine that plants trees every time you search
- Educate your friends, family, and community about how our everyday actions can impact our world (Social media is a great tool)

Take action to a deforestation- free future

YOU can make a difference

Marieta Attalla
Grade 5 Teaching Assistant