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news

news from the trunk

Thursday, February 13, 2020



Sudan Days

AT KAS

Superintendent's Message

Dear KAS Community,

Tuesday February 11 was 'SaferInternet Day' (<https://www.saferinternetday.org/>). I think we would all acknowledge that the internet has improved our daily lives and opened up the world to us. At the same time the internet also opens up certain risks to its users, especially the most vulnerable ones such as children: privacy concerns, cyberbullying, disinformation, exposure to potentially harmful content and predatory behaviours.

At KAS we believe it is our responsibility to work alongside you as parents and your children to help them develop safe online behaviours. This morning at the parent seminar I shared some resources from Common Sense Media (<https://www.commonsensemedia.org>) that are very helpful.

I would like to share some best practices for using digital media with your children:

- Use media alongside your child.
- Know your own rules.
- Set expectations and rehearse.
- Connect media to real life.
- Talk about commercials and other advertising.
- Encourage creation as well as consumption.
- Talk about digital citizenship.
- Model the media behavior you want to see in your kids.

Best wishes,

Bridget Davies
KAS Superintendent
bdavies@krtams.org

Sudan Days



KAS UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 13:** Parent Seminar - Digital Citizenship
- February 15:** Junior Basketball and Senior Soccer at KICS
- February 19:** KASMUN
- February 25:** Board Meeting
- February 26:** Parent Teacher Conference
- February 27:** Grade 8 Ecology Trip to Uganda
- February 29:** Middle School Basketball (Boys at KICS, Girls at KAS)
- March 1:** Grade 8 Ecology Trip to Uganda
- March 7:** Junior Basketball & Senior Soccer at KICS

Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents,

It was amazing seeing so many of you during Sudan Days on Wednesday and Thursday and International Day on Friday.

It is a well-known fact that parent involvement is essential to the success of children. When parents are actively involved in their children's education and participate in school events and activities, students are more likely to have higher grades and test scores, attend school more regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school. Students need to have the home support to not only finish their assignments, but also develop a lifelong love of learning.

At KAS we strive to create a school climate and structure that support family involvement. We do our best to provide parents with multiple ways of communication with teachers and administration. Parents are always welcome to share hopes for and concerns about their children and then work together with us to set student goals.

The easiest and fastest way to communicate is through our online learning management system called Classe365. There is also an application that you can download on your smart phones and iPads. On Classe365, you will find all the information that you need about your child's studies, assignments, assessments, and school activities, as well as other events and happenings. If you do not have access to Clase365, please send us an email and we will send you your password and login information.

Please know that our doors are always open to our community. Feel free to call upon us if you have any questions or concerns. We always look forward to working with you and your child.

Have a great weekend!

Susan Boutros
Middle & High School Principal

Reading for Pleasure

How much do our students and children read outside of class? How many hours a week do they spend reading for pleasure? While we may not know the answers to these questions, they are important to ask.

Research shows that reading is strongly related to achievement. Reading is related to academic achievement, career growth, civic engagement, and mathematics achievement. Reading skills are transferable—students who read fiction become better at reading non-fiction and vice versa. While reading in school is important, reading for pleasure outside of school is also critical. On average, students who read for pleasure outside of class do better on standardized tests.

One of the most important things parents and schools can do for children is give them opportunities to read for pleasure outside of class—in the evenings, on weekends, on holidays, and over the summer. What children read is not as important as the act of reading; children should be allowed and encouraged to read novels, news articles, comic books, online discussions, and anything else of interest. Parents can talk to teachers and librarians to get ideas and resources for encouraging their children to read for pleasure outside of school.

KAS teachers are committed to giving students opportunities to improve their reading, and the KAS Library has hundreds of worthwhile books and other reading resources for students of all ages. Let's take advantage of these resources to make sure every child is reading!

Edward LeMay
Language Arts Teacher

Using Where We Are As a Tool for Learning

“Learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activity of learners.”

– John Holt



In Grade 2, we have been a hive of activity. We have been participating in a variety of learning experiences both in and outside our classroom, interacting with members of our local community.

As part of our math curriculum, we have been exploring addition and subtraction through measurement. This has given us the opportunity to take our learning outside and apply our skills to the world around us. There has been much conversation about when people might use different type of measurement tools in real life, “Do you think they use meter sticks when they build roads? I don’t think so because there must be a better tool to do that kind of measuring”, and to different careers where they might use these skills, “My dad says that if you are an engineer you need to be able to measure lots of different things”. These conversations are the evidence that our students are processing the concepts we are exploring and applying them in every day settings. Please continue to have these conversations with your children, they are a key element of their development as critical thinkers.

This week, we were also given the opportunity to interview some of our vendors from our Sudan Days souq. They gave us wonderful inside into the real word applications of the terms we have been working with including supply & demand, goods & services, surplus

& shortage. These concepts, which were initially explored in the classroom, came to life when the vendors were explaining how they apply to the businesses they run to take care of their families.

This is all excellent preparation for our end of unit project, the KAS Grade 2 Souq! We are looking forward to this event following our Grade 2 assembly on Thursday, March 5, 2020.



Patricia Phyll
Grade 2 Teacher

Saying of the Week

“Running amok” is commonly used to describe wild or erratic behavior, but the phrase actually began its life as a medical term. The saying was popularized in the 18th and 19th centuries, when European visitors to Malaysia learned of a peculiar mental affliction that caused otherwise normal tribesmen to go on brutal and seemingly random killing sprees. Amok—derived from the “Amuco,” a band of Javanese and Malay warriors who were known for their penchant for indiscriminate violence—was initially a source of morbid fascination for Westerners. Writing in 1772, the famed explorer Captain James Cook noted that “to run amok is to ... sally forth from the house, kill the person or persons supposed to have injured the Amock, and any other person that attempts to impede his passage.” Once thought to be the result of possession by evil spirits, the phenomenon later found its way into psychiatric manuals. It remains a diagnosable mental condition to this day.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department