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news from the trunk

Thursday, April 30, 2020



**ONLINE LEARNING: ENGAGING STUDENTS,
ENGAGING FAMILIES**

Superintendent's Message

Dear KAS Community,

Ramadan Kareem to those celebrating. I sincerely wish you and your families are healthy and well.

I wanted to share with you that at KAS we are already thinking about how we can reopen campus in a safe manner for 2020-21 school year; putting all community members' health at the center of all decisions.

Of course we will be following the recommendations of the Ministry of Health. In the same way that KAS had a protocol for closing the campus in the case of COVID 19 coming to Sudan we are now working on a protocol for reopening campus. I will share this with all community members once completed.

I am also in regular conversations with Heads of School throughout the world who are facing the same questions and concerns about safety as schools reopen. KAS is fortunate to be able to learn from schools in those countries where classes are gradually open. Copenhagen International School and Western Academy Beijing being two examples.

I would like to thank the KAS community again for your support during this time of distance and online learning.

Best wishes,

Bridget Davies
KAS Superintendent
bdavies@krtams.org

A MESSAGE FROM GRADE 4

We, in 4th grade are doing valuable efforts coping smoothly the transition to Distance learning. It's a relief for us as teachers to see how students are implementing problem solving skills that they've learned to adapt and overcome the recent challenges. Despite the virtuality 4th graders are still keeping their essence; loud and proud!



Establishing a learning routine on classe365 and help students to be familiar with, is our first priority. The attendance post meant to be a significant social time for the students with their peers, some academic contents and a lot of fun! You could hear their own voices if you listen attentively, Mr.Caldwell's daily morning message videos deliver quality information and guideline into good study habits. To do list post is a visual reminder to organize and walk them through their learning plan for the day. Mr.Caldwell Daily Whereby meetings provide a space for 4th graders to ask questions ,share concerns or just chat to someone they trust.



Although we are using an asynchronous schedule, we are highly recommending students to login during teachers office hours in order to get instance feedback for their enquiries and to allocate our resources the best. Students are responsible for their own learning, parents can be actively involved by providing time and space for your child to do school work.



Parents, We can do it! Despite the power cuts, internet issue, survival challenges in Khartoum in this uncertain time. Sympathetically, we are in this together. Stay positive! Make sure that you have done your very best you can and there is always something more to do.

Stay Safe,

Heba Shaheen
Grade 4 teaching Assistant

A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

As we approach the end of the year, we have put much thought into how we are going to report student learning to give parents a clear vision of the child's learning growth and development in the dynamic learning environment that has been provided to us this year. Our goal is to provide a complete written narrative of each student. Using a narrative evaluation system is not a new idea in providing documentation of a learner's growth.

There are three major ways in which schools deliver learning growth reports.

The first is the traditional method. In this method the student receives a letter grade that correlates with a percentage such as 90% or higher is an A. If a student receives 80% to 89% they receive a B. Based on the letter grade the student is allowed to pass the course. This is a method that is used in many high schools and middle schools.

At Khartoum American School Elementary we have been using standards based assessment. We use grade level standards and outcomes to assess student achievement towards accomplishing those outcomes. For each subject there are several standards, that, when used with a scale to show proficiency towards each of those skills or standards, helps paint a good picture of that student. Many times a standards based assessment report will also include a small narrative that should complete the picture of the learner.

Due to the circumstances surrounding the end of the year, we are going to use a narrative evaluation system for the second semester report cards. Our distance learning program has allowed us to continue providing quality learning experiences but many adaptations have been made to the curriculum to meet the needs of learners. By using a

narrative to report on learning, teachers will be able to provide a quality report of students' learning abilities that will allow parents understand their child's strengths and areas in need of development. It will also allow the next teacher to pick up on individual students needs. We will be using the narrative evaluation for the end of this year and plan to return to standards based assessment when we return to campus based schooling.

Jeremy Albright
Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Saying of the Week

When someone **Steals Your Thunder** they are taking credit for something that you should properly be credited for. The phrase was in regular use by 1900, especially by jealous politicians claiming their brilliant and original ideas had been stolen by another. The expression was coined in the early 1700s by the playwright and critic John Dennis, who discovered the sound of thunder could be reproduced to great effect by pummeling large tin sheets backstage at the Drury Lane Theatre in London. At a time when sound effects were virtually unheard of, his idea considerably added to the drama and drew much attention. His play, on the other hand, did not attract attention and was replaced by 'Macbeth' in a matter of weeks. Shortly afterwards the embittered Dennis saw a performance of 'Macbeth' and was furious to hear his thunder being reproduced without his permission. Writing a review the following day, he raged, "See what rascals they are. They will not run my play and now they've stolen my thunder."

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department

Online Learning: Engaging Students, Engaging Families

Our Grade 2 students at KAS moved from traditional classroom-based learning to online learning overnight. After some initial bumps and bruises, they have settled into their online learning routines at home and are demonstrating great initiative, creativity and a love of learning.

As part of our Discovery unit "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Save Our Planet", the Grade 2 students learned about Earth Day. After reading and responding to various texts, they embarked on planning their own Earth Day activities for their families. This included an initial brainstorm, writing instructions on how their activity would run, participating in the activity they designed with their families and reflecting on their successes and goals for next time.

Some of the activities the Grade 2 students planned included using recycled materials to create something new, planting saplings for fruit trees to feed others, picking up trash and decorating garbage cans with an Earth positive message.

It is a privilege to work with the next generation of sustainability-minded leaders being developed and nurtured at Khartoum American School. These young minds bring light to a time when many are focused on darkness.

Trish Phyll
Grade 2 Teacher



Marya made bookmarks with her family to educate others about Earth Day



Abby working on watering her worm farm with her dad.