

ES

news

News from the trunk!

Thursday, 11th February 2021

At KAS Safety comes first!



WELCOME
BACK TO
SEMESTER
TWO



Message from the Superintendent

Dear KAS Community,

2021 begins with many of the same challenges of the previous year. Although personally I give thanks for the work of scientists who give us hope for the end of this pandemic. As well as vaccinations, I have gratitude for the more information and knowledge we have about COVID-19. At KAS, we use this information to constantly improve our safety procedures.

Although we are often physically separated from each other at the moment; our actions are what keep each other and all members of our families safe. I look forward to the day when I can thank you in person for your support of the measures we are taking to stop the spread of COVID-19 within our community. Keeping your children at home when sick, following quarantine regulations, wearing a mask and supporting your children with distance learning are all such important actions. Thank you.

I am sure many of you saw and heard the inspiring words of Amanda Gorman, at the inauguration of Joseph Biden, 46th President of the United States of America. The final verse of her poem, The Hill We Climb, inspired me so I wanted to share it here:

In every known nook of our nation, in every corner called our country,
our people, diverse and beautiful, will emerge, battered and beautiful.
When day comes, we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid.
The new dawn blooms as we free it.
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.

Amanda Gorman, The Hill We Climb
Wishing you a safe February,

Bridget Davies
Superintendent



Amanda Gorman

Saying of the week



Murphy's Law is the theory that if anything can go wrong it probably will. This phrase began to be used in 1949 at the Edwards Air Force Base test centre in California. Captain Edward A Murphy was an enigneer working on Project MX981, which was a series of experiments to find out how much deceleration the human body can stand in a plane crash. One morning Murphy found a transducer had been wired up the wrong way and wasn't working. The young engineer fixed the problem and claimed of the technician responsible 'if there is ever a wrong way to do something, he will find it.' During the tests the project manager kept a list of theories, or 'laws' as he called them, and added Murphy's comment under the title 'Murphy's Law'. A little later Dr. John Paul Stapp, an Air Force doctor, was involved in similar deceleration experiments and gave a press conference to reveal his team's results. During the press session Dr. Stapp recorded that the project's excellent safety record was due to a firm belief in 'Murphy's Law', which was to try and foresee anything that could go wrong and avoid it happening by advanced planning. Over the following years aerospace manufacturers picked upon the phrase and used it widely in their advefrtising, leading to 'Murphy's Law' becoming used all over the English-speaking world.

Minette van der Bijl
MS/HS Curriculum coordinator



ART CLASS

The art program's instruction is based on reinforcing basic techniques and increasing the students' familiarity of the elements of art and principles of design. The projects deepen the students' understanding and appreciation of the world of art and continue developing their fine motor skills and cross-curricular knowledge. Students become more adroit in their use of the creative process to plan, organize and problem solve while creating their artwork. They also continue developing their ability of self-expression and craftsmanship within a variety of topics, materials, tools, and techniques. The foundation for our art program is built upon a framework for teaching, learning, and assessing at all grade levels using the AERO standards and performance indicators. Through a wide range of assessments, our curriculum encourages the consistent growth of critical thinking skills through problem solving based on everyday situations.

During the online classes students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.

Mai Hassan
ArtTeacher

Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents,

As we are now at the beginning of semester two, it never fails to surprise me how fast time flies in a school. I think that we will all agree that it has indeed been a very interesting school year.

We are extremely happy that the hybrid learning model that we have in place for our students has been such a great success. We believe that this plan, which involves a combination of in-person learning and online learning, has made our students even stronger. Our students are given the opportunity to be in school to receive direct instruction and immediate feedback from their teachers and also the opportunity to learn online through Schoology and Seesaw.

I would like to thank all of you for your partnership and collaboration over the past months. Despite the many challenges we have faced of not being able to go back to school as normal for long, you have worked with us to maintain teaching and learning at school and from a distance.

As parents you have given fantastic support to your children and the school community since the beginning of the school year. Thank you for supporting the learning from home. We understand how difficult it is to juggle your own work as well as support your own children with their schooling, and this is of course in addition to dealing with all of the normal challenges of life.

I would like to also thank our teaching staff who have continued to work exceptionally hard to ensure that the students are able to continue with their studies whether at school or at home. I hope that your son/daughter has continued to find accessing the work via Schoology to be straightforward and helpful.

Kindly note that Semester 1 report cards have been sent to you through Schoology. Parents, please make sure that you talk to your child about his/her report card. Throughout your conversation with your child about their report, remember to look for the positives: your child's strengths and the progress they're making. Please do talk about what might help them in areas they are doing well in, as well as those they are finding challenging. Help them set goals for themselves.

We are very mindful that these continue to be unsettling and difficult times for students, staff and parents. However, through working together so positively over these recent months we have demonstrated just how much can be achieved within such a caring and supportive community such as ours, and from this we should continue to draw much strength.

The school has also received a number of messages of thanks and support from so many of you over these past few weeks, and these are all received very gratefully. Thank you!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Susan Boutros
ECE Principal



Namibia a popular way to educate student teachers about the importance of parents, administration and teachers in a good educational system is the metaphor of a three legged iron pot; an

essential item in every Namibian kitchen. If one of the legs is missing or weak, the pot will fall over.

To extend the metaphor we should look at what is cooking in the pot. If inside the pot are beautiful classrooms, gifted students and limitless educational material but no curriculum, the education will be incomplete and most probably ineffective, just like a potentially delicious soup that lacks flavor if it is made with the choicest ingredients, but without salt. A curriculum is needed to pull all the elements of education together in an organized manner to enable each student to be a successful learner, a confident individual and a responsible citizen with the skills and attributes needed to flourish in an ever changing world.

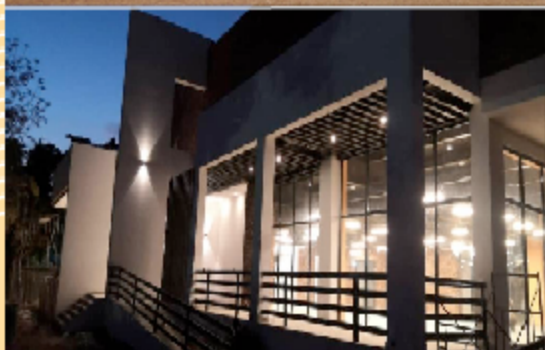
At KAS we are constantly working on updating our curriculum to ensure that our students receive the best possible education in an ever changing world. KAS wants to prepare students for an uncertain future where they will have to be independent, innovative thinkers as many will work in jobs that do not even exist today.

In short, for a good education all elements need to be present; parents, teachers and administration each has a very important role to play in ensuring that students can pick the fruits that the curriculum offers.



Minette van der Bijl
MS/HS Curriculum coordinator

OUR CAFETERIA IS FINALLY IN PLACE!



Message from SSSC

Dear Parents,

Thank you for the support you are providing your children to be successful in our blended learning program as we work to safely bring students back to campus. Student Support Services (SSS) staff are working alongside you to help all students be successful.

The Middle & High School (MSHS) and Elementary School (ES) counselors are working individually with students and providing classroom guidance via the Advisory program and with grade level teachers. We are helping students cope with the demands of blended learning and the potential stress of the "new normal" of the coronavirus pandemic. We are working to support faculty wellbeing, so that your children are working with teachers who are flourishing.

Students receiving EAL services meet with their EAL teachers each day they are on campus to receive instruction in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. In upper grades, the focus remains on decoding the language of academic tasks. Students are also able to make appointments for extra assistance with teachers, both online or in person on campus.

Learning Support (LS) staff are working with homeroom and subject teachers to support students with online tasks and classwork. All students in the ES LS program have classes with their LS staff each day they are on campus, as well as additionally scheduled online meetings arranged through the parents. For students across all division, SSS staff and subject teachers may provide additional support to students through scheduled sessions online or on campus. These sessions are coordinated by SSS staff on an individual basis.

Through the dedication of our teaching staff partnering with our parents, students at KAS are learning and growing in spite of chaotic conditions around us. If you have a concern about your child's learning, physical, or emotional health, please do contact any SSS staff or your child's teacher so that we may work together to improve learning and wellbeing.

Wishing you and your family health and happiness,

Nicole Stacey
Student Support Services Coordinator

