



Thursday March 4, 2010

What's Up at KAS

Dear Friends:

In the best schools, failure is not a dirty word!

A few years back, we had a high school student who was expected, like all of his classmates, to participate in the annual Science Fair. So far, so good. The problem was that this particular student – we'll call him Ahmed for the sake of this article – was never particularly excited about science. The teacher at the time, sensing Ahmed's reluctance to work with "hard" science, suggested that he work on a project that would be connected to one of his true passions, Sudanese history.

So, Ahmed (not his real name) decided to investigate the process that ancient Sudanese civilizations used to produce iron ore. He read all that he could find; he made his way up to archeological sites to consult with archeologists on site; he interviewed professors of archeology in Khartoum; and finally, he built an exact model of the kind of oven that archeologists thought the ancient Sudanese used for smelting. This was going to be one very fine science fair project!

But.....as the Science Fair drew closer, Ahmed visited his science teacher in near panic. "I can't get it to work!" he said. This carefully constructed oven wasn't doing the job it was supposed to do. Ahmed thought his failure to extract the iron would mean he would fail his Science Fair project! After all, it was supposed to work!

What Ahmed had failed to realize was that he had discovered something that the archeologists have overlooked. All the theories the archeologists had concocted were disproven by Ahmed's tests! Ahmed's "failure" was, indeed, a success! Later, the archeologists hailed Ahmed's work as being a "significant contribution" to their own research.

If the teacher in this case had insisted on defining a successful science project as one which "worked" then Ahmed would have been doomed. But, in this case, the teacher was wise, indeed. First, he encouraged Ahmed to pursue his passion and, best of all, to define the terms of success in light of that passion, in this case archeology. He gave Ahmed the permission to pursue his passion and the permission to "fail" to produce a result that, in other terms, might have really been a failure.

That's good teaching and learning.....good education, indeed.

Sincerely,

*Phil Clinton*  
Superintendent

### Zakumi will visit KAS!.....

On Tuesday, March 9, Zakumi, the official mascot for the FIFA World Cup Tournament in South Africa, will be visiting KAS! We look forward to greeting him and invite parents and friends to see him that day.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**March 11: Human Chess tournament**  
**March 15, Monday: Parent-Teacher Conferences**  
**March 24, Wednesday: Early Dismissal (11:00AM)**  
**March 25 - April 5: Spring Break**  
**April 6: Back-to-School**



## LEARNING CENTER TIPS

### REMEMBER THAT COMMUNICATION IS A TWO WAY STREET

Often times, parents feel they are effectively communicating with their children but in actuality, they are not listening to what their children have to say. Therefore, when speaking to your child, use a technique called, "I'll talk and you listen and then you talk and I'll listen" as a first step in developing communication with your child. This way, both you and your child feel that you have communicated what you feel without interruption by the other.

### DON'T ATTACK WHEN COMMUNICATING YOUR FEELINGS

Avoid saying "You are...". Rather, state, "I'm upset with the behavior you showed." The focus becomes on the act, not on the individual.

### TEACH YOUR CHILD TO LABEL FEELINGS PROPERLY USE "CONNECTIVE DISCUSSION" WHENEVER POSSIBLE

For example, you may say, "It seems to me that you are feeling jealous over the attention your new baby brother is getting and that may be the reason for your behavior." At this point your child may have an easier time responding since the foundation and labels have been presented.

### REMEMBER THAT ALL BEHAVIOR HAS A TRIGGER

If parents can trace back children's responses to the source or trigger, they will have a very good chance of identifying the real problem. Remember, all behavior is a message.

### BE AWARE OF NONVERBAL MISINTERPRETATIONS

Children are very prone to nonverbal misinterpretations

### USE WRITTEN COMMUNICATION WHENEVER POSSIBLE TRY TO USE "DIRECT LOVE" AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE

Most effective are the three simple words, "I love you."

### MAKE YOURSELF AS APPROACHABLE AS POSSIBLE

The higher the approachability factor on the part of parents, the easier it is for children to express and show direct love back. As a parent, you may want to evaluate just how easy your child feels in approaching you with feelings or problems. It is important to ask yourself an honest question, "Am I approachable when my child wants to tell me something, especially if it is something negative?" If you are really not approachable because you get upset easily or yell, etc, you will need to make adjustments to the ways in which you respond. What you teach your child will often carry over to their future behaviors. In later life, your ability to be approachable may allow them to be able to direct forms of love in their own personal relationships.

**Please plan to attend:**

**PTA ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**Thursday - 18 March 2010  
7:15AM @ KAS**

## PE NEWS

### PE Reminders

#### **ALL Soccer players, please return your CLEAN uniforms ASAP!**

As the temperatures get higher, students in PE should remember to wear proper PE clothes (PE t-shirt, jogging pants or shorts, proper running shoes with socks, and bring a full reusable water bottle to class each day. Hat and sunglasses are optional but really help shade the head and eyes from the intense sunlight. Plus a clean and dry change of clothes after PE is always a nice way to continue your day.

### **Volleyball Season has started!**

Volleyball practices started for the U19 girls and boys teams at lunch on Mondays and Tuesdays. Next week the matches will begin with the first match against KICS at home on Tuesday and Wednesday for the boys and the girls respectively. Players need to be sure to get permission forms from Mrs. Paar if interested in playing for either the U14 or U19 boys or girls team this season. Practice times and dates are posted on the PE information board.

## ELEMENTARY SHOW

### **Grades 3&4 After School Activities Present:**

#### **The Garden Show: A musical play.**

**What happens when an Alien spaceship lands in a garden on Earth? Come and listen to this fun musical play and learn a little bit about gardening and why compost is so important!**

**One showtime only!**

**Monday, March 22 @ 7:30 am.  
The show will take place in the garden!**

## YEARBOOK PHOTOS

**Stop by the KAS Admin Office  
to order your child's Yearbook Photo.**

**Choose from several formats available**