



# news

news from the trunk

Sunday, October 31st, 2010

# Halloween Costume Party!

Thursday, October 28th 2010



## A Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

One of the most often asked questions of American schools based overseas is, "Just how American are you?"

This is a valid question when you look at the diversity of our school population and the general makeup of our school community. Although we pride ourselves on being truly international, we have a wonderful curriculum that utilizes the best of American educational practice while also incorporating the latest research. We comply to an American set of standards, namely the AERO standards, which are internationally renowned and ensure that our students are typically learning at the same rate as their peers worldwide, and importantly our school is accredited through the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, an American, accrediting body that works all over the world to ensure that the schools they accredit are meeting the highest standards. In terms of our teaching staff, a very high percentage of our teachers are from the USA and they are not only experienced and well qualified, having studied in American universities, but they are also certified by their respective states to teach their specific subject.

We are strongly affiliated with our friends at the US embassy and their help and support has been invaluable over the years in terms of logistics, but also in terms of the help they give us with security through the office of the Regional Security Officer. The US Ambassador also has a representative from the Embassy who serves on our School Board.

While we revel in the fact that we have this "duality" of being American in nature and at the same being very international, it does pose some logistical problems such as scheduling our School Calendar. If we were to celebrate all of the American holidays as well as the various religious and other holidays celebrated in Sudan we would be missing a large portion of our school year. We do work hard to find compromises in this area but where possible we also look to celebrate and enjoy many of the typical events of any American school, and so on this note we will be having a special day this Sunday where we will be having our Halloween and Costume Day celebrations.

Halloween is very much a secular event nowadays and really allows people to dress up in costumes and enjoy each other's company in a unique way. Here at KAS we will be following this tradition by encouraging students to get into

the spirit of day and come dressed as their favorite character. While typically the theme is to be spooky, any costume will do as long it gets students to feel part of the day. With so much going on in school at the present, including tonight's International Potluck Dinner, we will be making this year's Halloween celebration quite low key with a small Halloween Parade scheduled for last period on Sunday, and a few other small events scheduled by class teachers throughout the day.

Nonetheless, Halloween and Costume Day will be a fun activity for all of us, but also a reminder that our school is a fantastic American school, a fact that we should all be proud of.

### Parade of Nations

The KAS International Potluck Dinner is just around the corner (Thursday, October 28th, 2010). It's that time of the year where we celebrate and highlight the diversity of our community.

For families who are new to KAS, the Parade of Nations is held right at the beginning of the International Potluck Dinner. Our students come on stage to showcase their countries' national costumes and their flags. We gather together as a community and put forward our best features.

### New After School Activities Program Begins

A new After School Activities Program (ASAP) will begin on Sunday, October 31, and run until Wednesday, December 15. Signup sheets are being sent home today. We have a good but limited selection of activities this term. It is important that students get their signup sheets turned into the office right away. This will be a short term but there will be some very good activities. Don't be disappointed. Get signed up without delay.

We are always willing to have parents offer to provide an activity. Please contact Mr. Dave if you are interested in helping provide a wide variety of activities for our school. We have a good community with a lot of people who have a wide range of experiences. Let's work together for even better educational opportunities for your children.

### Help Your Child Learn Better Presentation

The presentation by Mr. Dave Zakem will have an easy to understand background on current knowledge about the brain and how learning happens. Information will be presented to assist parents in providing for better learning their children. Areas to be covered include: providing an enriching



environment, technology and learning, successful learning, the role of the brain in teen behavior, better understanding of ways to guide children, and what to look for in a meaningful learning experience. There will be several informational handouts and articles. The presentation is repeated on two days, Monday, (November 8) and Tuesday (November 9) at 7:30 pm. Everyone interested in children and learning is welcome. There is no charge. Childcare is not available.

## PTA Plants Trees at KAS

Last Saturday, students and their families planted 17 saplings on the KAS campus. The PTA, assisted by members of the elementary student council (ESC), sponsored the tree planting effort to support the school's "Campaign for a Greener Khartoum" and to further beautify the KAS campus. Students, even kindergarteners, carried tiny trees from the greenhouse, dug holes, planted the trees, carefully filled in around them and helped water the young trees in. There were lots of smiles (and probably some blisters!) as everybody found out how hard KAS gardeners work every day.

Afterwards, the happy participants cleaned and cooled off under the sprinklers and ate their picnics. The PTA sold home-made pancakes, popcorn and cakes which were enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone who turned out for this event which will benefit future generations of KAS students.

Stay tuned for PTA's next event!

Thanks for your support & participation,

The PTA and Elementary Student Council

## What can I do to help my child succeed in school?

- Create a home environment that encourages learning and schoolwork. Establish a daily family routine and set specific time for homework, chores, bedtime, and family activities.
- Show your child that the skills she is learning in school are an important part of the things she will do as an adult. Let her see you reading books, newspapers and computer screens; writing reports, letters, e-mails and lists; using math to figure change or to measure for new carpeting; and doing things that require thought and effort.

- Make sure that your home has lots of reading materials that are appropriate for your child. Keep books, magazines and newspapers in the house. You can find many good books and magazines for your child at yard or library sales. Books make good gifts.

- Encourage your child to use the library. The librarian is willing to help!

- Limit TV viewing to no more than one hour on a school night. Be aware of the shows your child likes to watch and discuss his choices with him. The same goes for video games.

- Help you child to use the Internet properly and effectively.

- Encourage your child to be responsible and to work independently. Taking responsibility and working independently are important qualities for school success.

- Show an interest in what your child does in school. Support his special interests by attending school plays, musical events, science fairs or sporting events.

- Offer praise and encouragement for achievement and improvement.

## Wanted

Substitute Teachers  
Part-time French Teacher

Please submit your curriculum vitae by email to [kas@krtams.org](mailto:kas@krtams.org). We will only accept applications by email.

### Dates to Remember

December 17, 2010 - January 15, 2011	Winter Break
Sunday, October 31st, 2010	Halloween Party

### Parent Teacher Association Events Schedule

October	Tree planting day
November	Parent Dance
December	Auction
March	Garage Sale
April	Nile trip

Specific dates to be announced

For more information please contact [pta@krtams.org](mailto:pta@krtams.org)



# School International Potluck Dinner

featuring **KAS has Talent**  
 Thursday, October 28th, 2010 at 7pm

**Admission**  
**Adult 15 SDG**  
**Child 10 SDG**

Tickets available at Khartoum American School  
 Please call +249.15.577.0105, +249.15.577.0107 or email us at [kas@krtams.org](mailto:kas@krtams.org) for more information.

**Please bring a main dish and dessert or salad to share.**

- Groups of 4 = 1 main dish + a salad or dessert.
- Groups of 10 = 2 main dishes and 1 salad or dessert.
- Groups of 15 = 3 main dishes and 1 salad or dessert.

**Vertical Text:**  
 American  
 Khartoum  
 Khartoum

Artwork by Grade 2 (from left to right) | Zoe, Hazim, Yahya, Hamadelnil, Yasmine, Elbashir, Shahd, Brooktawit, Eimen, Arjun, Nada, Adam, Ashir, Ruba



Photos and design by Mr. Brodie | Please email [kas@krtams.org](mailto:kas@krtams.org) to receive a digital copy of Enews and more information, subject: newsletter.