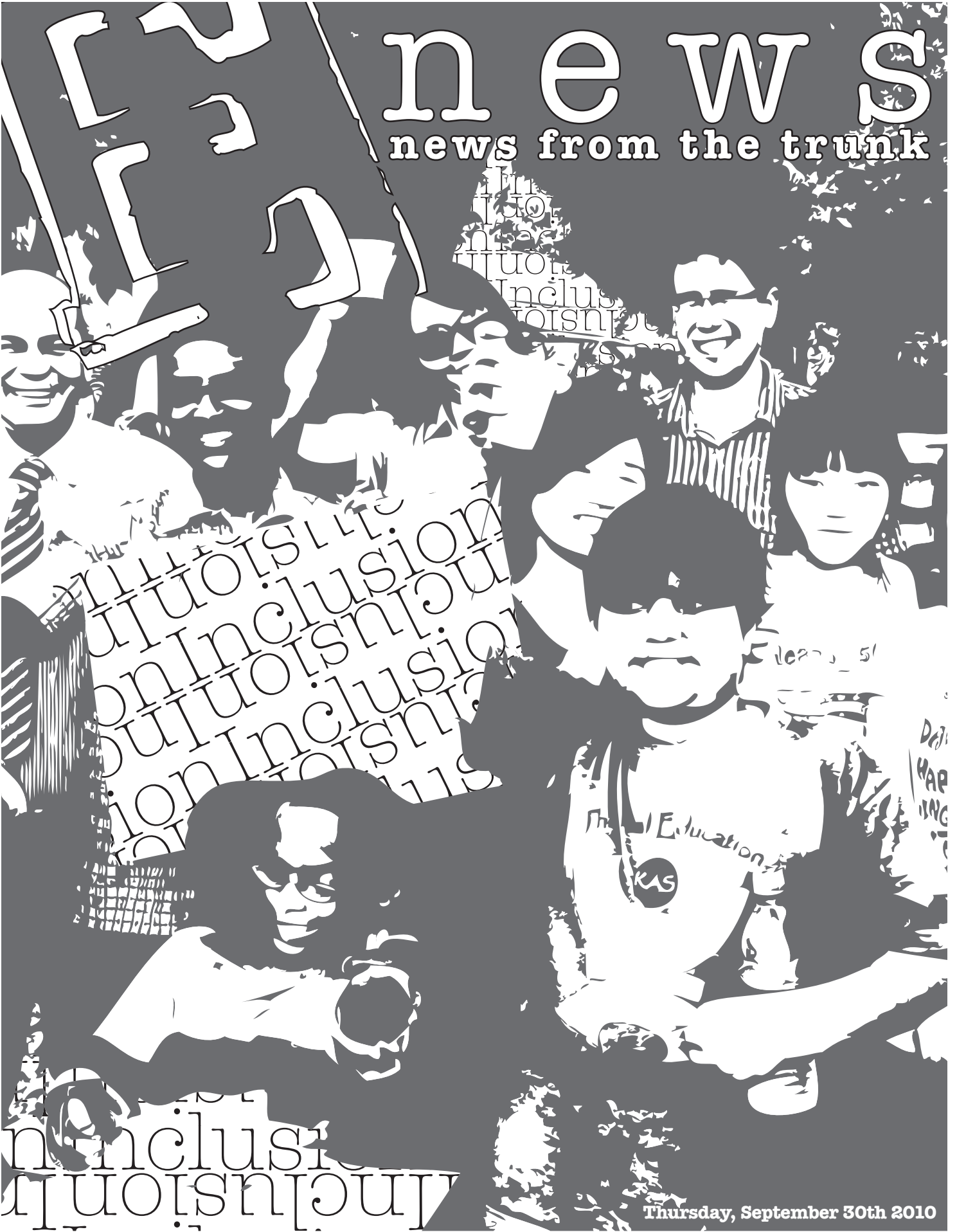


# news

news from the trunk



Thursday, September 30th 2010

## A Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

One of the many special things about Khartoum American School is the way in which we embrace all members of our community. Our community consists of people from all over the world, from different races, and religions all living harmoniously together in one happy entity. Our school embraces the fact that we are so diverse and in fact celebrates this in our everyday teaching. We also take the concept of acceptance and inclusion further than most international schools by admitting children with special needs, and giving these students a place in our community also.

One of the highlights of my week is catching up with one of our Grade 10 boys, Mohamed, who is a student with cerebral palsy. Mohamed is good student, but more importantly he is a really nice young man and while his impairment precludes him from playing sports and other physical activities he is always a great person to share a joke with or to discuss any multitude of current affairs events.

Mohamed's big love is American football and he is a fanatical supporter of the Washington Redskins. Earlier in the year we decided to extend Mohamed's passion to others and got a group together to help him celebrate each and every Redskins win. Sure enough the Redskins won their first match of the season and the first ever "Redskins Tail Gate Party" (a tailgate party is a group of fans who get together before or after the match) was launched. Students gathered together with Mohamed, shared a drink and recapped all the highlights of the match.

Mohamed is one of the many students we have here at Khartoum American School who is being helped by our exceptional team in the Learning Center. The Learning Center provides in-class and after school support to a variety of students with a wide range of needs. Being an inclusive school, we ensure that differentiation takes place so that all children are treated as individuals and that they not only learn but they also are integrated into our regular school program.

Like all of our students, the children who we accept into Khartoum American School with additional needs enjoy the school, find success and more importantly they belong as very important people in our community.

## Learning Center Program

Khartoum American School is a school where students with learning differences are included in inclusive classrooms. Our lessons are geared so that everyone can be successful.

Inclusion, as we are using the term at Khartoum American School, is a vital philosophical commitment of a caring learning community to the education of a diverse group of children with unique learning styles.

The Learning Center is part of a school wide process. As inclusionary strategies and routine adaptation improves the overall level of growth for students with learning differences, including English Language Learners, it simultaneously boosts the achievement of the students without learning disabilities in those classrooms. The content that students with learning differences and English language learners miss during withdrawal sessions is not easily retrievable and sets up great barriers to "catching up" with the rest of the class. This is why we promote inclusion.

Khartoum American School Learning Center Staff are fully integrated into the mainstream program wherever possible and Khartoum American School recognizes all students as full participating members of its school community. Khartoum American School Learning Center uses a multi-disciplinary approach to maximize student learning.

Khartoum American School Supported Learning Center Philosophy:

- In student centered learning, it is important to work with the whole child (intellectually, socially, and emotionally) and to build on a student's strengths as well as to address areas of concern.
- Khartoum American School differentiates its program to meet the needs of individual students with learning differences. Through differentiation students build self-confidence and better prepare themselves to be lifelong learners by developing self-advocacy skills and by understanding their learning needs.
- The class teacher and the Learning Center consult and work collaboratively to ensure the best possible educational experience and environment for all students at Khartoum American School. An effective student support program requires a team approach and all team members share responsibility for the student's learning. Teams include students, parents, teachers, support personnel, and administrators.
- Provide parents with guidance, support, and to define a program for the individual student with learning needs.





## Three principles of learning:

1. Learning requires the active participation of the student.
2. Students learn in a variety of ways and at different rates.
3. Learning is both an individual and group process.

Khartoum American School's classrooms are diverse and inclusive by nature. Differentiation of instruction and assessment and the principles of *Understanding by Design* are practiced. Essentially, adaptations are best practices in teaching.

The Learning Center provides in-class support in all divisions at Khartoum American School.

## Learning Center Check-In Program

The Learning Center Check In Program is a program which supports student organization, ensuring that the student is prepared to go home and complete her/his work. At the end of every school day, from 2:00-2:15pm, students drop by the Learning Center to check in. The students individually review their assignment books with Learning Center personnel. Learning Center personnel are able to answer any questions that students have.

## Academic Support

Students are able to stay and work in the Learning Center until 3:00pm. This is a structured study time for all students and is available Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

The Math help center, supported by Mr. Cronin and Ms. Abdullah, is another after school study support group. The Math Help Center is open three days a week. It is available Sunday, Monday and Thursday from 2:10-3:00pm.

## Take The Stress and Worry Out of Raising Your Child

There will be a presentation and discussion by Mr. Dave Zakem, the Khartoum American School Early Childhood team leader. The presentation includes: guiding the use of TV and computers; food and eating issues; avoiding power struggles; when lying isn't lying; difficulties with friends and peers; setting and keeping reasonable limits; adolescents and teen issues; difficult but normal stages of development; and good toys, bad toys. The presentation will be repeated on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 12th and 13th at 7:30pm in Mr. Dave's preschool room. Everyone is welcome.

## Homecoming Dance

The student council has organized a homecoming dance for grades 9-12. The dance will take place Thursday, October 7th, 2010 from 7:30-11pm. Tickets are 10sdg and available for purchase from a student council member

## What is conjunctivitis?

Conjunctivitis is the inflammation of the conjunctiva, which is the thin outermost membrane of the eye and the inner surface of the eyelid. Conjunctivitis or "pink eye" is caused by viral as well as bacterial infections, but occurs mainly due to a viral infection. In certain cases, allergies caused by irritants and dryness can also lead to conjunctivitis. It is extremely contagious, and spreads through the sharing of contaminated objects.

## Symptoms of conjunctivitis

- Sensation of irritation in the eye, caused by foreign body.
- Redness and swelling of the corners of the eye and inner eye that causes heaviness in the eyes.
- Watering and discharge of mucous or a pus-like formation causes the lids to stick, especially after sleep.
- Sensitivity to light.
- Swelling of glands in front of the ears.
- Fever and common cold with throat pain (in case of some viral types).

## What to do? (Basic steps):

- Hand Washing (The advisory recommends that people wash their hands frequently).
- Avoid touching your eyes with your bare hands.
- Don't run your hand along staircase or escalator railings. These are fertile germ areas.
- Try and wipe knobs on doors of your home and office with a strong disinfectant at the start of each day.
- Be cautious of swimming because the virus can spread through water.
- Sleep on your right side: If conjunctivitis has affected only one eye, avoid sleeping on the unaffected side as mucous may trickle into the other eye, causing the infection to spread.
- After administering eye drops avoid touching your eyes too often.
- Stay at home if you are infected until the symptoms disappear and while you are on treatment.





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	

## Save the Date

**International Potluck Dinner | Thursday, October 28th, 2010 at 7pm**

## Campaign for a Greener Khartoum

For the past few weeks in Mixed Media Art class the students have been working with recycled materials to create art. They are using materials such as old magazines, plastic bottle caps, newspapers, and even cigarette butts. The most time-consuming project has been our recycled water bottle tree. We collected water bottles from campus for less than a week as an experiment to see how many our campus uses even though we have our green reusable bottles. We found that even during Ramadan we used at least three large garbage bags of plastic bottles a week. The students are constructing a visual statement by creating a silhouette of a tree filled with these plastic bottles to show how much we are consuming in plastic. Within the next week or two the tree will be displayed on campus for all to see.

## Disciplining Children

Responding to children's misbehavior can depend on so many factors: the child's age, the parent's tolerance level, the severity and duration of the misbehavior, to name a few.

In general, when it comes to disciplining young children, it's best to speak to the child eye to eye, with a low, firm voice and to keep your focus on the behavior, not the child. Clearly state that the behavior is not okay, then use natural consequences whenever possible. Natural consequences are not punishments. They are a means to instruct your child about the misbehavior and encourage appropriate behavior in the future. For example, if your child has thrown a toy, ask her to pick it up. If she's taken something from her sibling, ask her to return it. If she chooses not to comply, an age-appropriate time-out or other consequence should follow, despite tearful pleas. Consistency is the key to effective discipline, and giving in to a child's tears may inadvertently reinforce negative behavior. Remember to remain calm and try to keep your own emotions in check. Happy parenting!

## Wanted

Substitute Teachers | Teaching Assistants

Please submit your curriculum vitae by email to kas@krtams.org. We will only accept applications by email.

Photos and design by Mr. Brodie | Tree Illustration by M. Hamo

Please email kas@krtams.org to receive a digital copy of Enews and more information, subject: newsletter.

Current Student Sports at Khartoum American School	
Basketball	U11, U14 and U19 boys and U19 girls
Swim Team	boys and girls
Adult Sports Schedule at Khartoum American School	
Door opens at 5:30pm and games start around 6:00pm	
Sunday	Volleyball
Monday	Basketball
Tuesday	Ultimate Frisbee
Wednesday	Soccer and Touch Rugby

## Big Basketball week at Khartoum American School this week

The U14 boys basketball had two games at home, back to back. The first game was on Monday against the British International School. Your Khartoum American School (KAS) team was trailing the first three quarters, but in the fourth quarter rallied as a well-working team to win the game 17-11. Way to go team! On Tuesday the U14 team were up against Nile Valley Academy on the court. KAS trailed the entire game, but again made a big come back in the fourth quarter. Unfortunately the team could not pull out a win verses a very strong NVA squad and lost 23-14.

The U19 boys team came out on Tuesday to play the British Educational School on their home court. The slight delay in starting time did not hinder the KAS starting five as they came out strong in the first quarter with a score of 14-0 with 9 of those point coming from a red hot Hassan El-Nefeidi. The rest of the game KAS kept up their dominance on the court, especially in the fourth quarter, to win the game 49-23.

The U19 girls had their first home game of the season against the British Educational School. The girls came out a little hesitant in the first quarter, but soon found their groove in the second quarter behind Martha Ayad and her 12 points in the game. KAS never looked back as Lamease Phillips added 9 points and Iman El-Mahdi added 4 to the teams total. The final score of the game found KAS on top winning 25-5. Way to go team!

The U11 boys traveled again to KICS for a mini-tournament on Thursday.

Next week the basketball teams will take on Unity High School at home. The U19 boys will play on Tuesday at 3:15pm, the U14 boys will play on Tuesday after the U19 game at 4:15pm. The U19 girls will play on Wednesday at 3:10pm. Good luck teams! We hope to see you on the sidelines cheering on KAS.

The boys swim team will be competing next week on Monday, October 4th at KICS verses KICS, NVA, UHS, and BES. Coaches Ms. Keurvorst and Ms. Marsh are looking forward to an exciting meet for the boys. Here is your KAS boys swim team: Karim El-Sanousi, Hazim Gamil, Sami Al-Mubarak, Tony Wang, Hamada Gamil, Elia Ayad, Danial Ramzi, Taro Nakagaki, Ahmed El-Mahdi, Avinash Venugopal. **Go KAS!**

The girls swim meet is scheduled for October 18th at KICS.