

# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, October 27, 2011



## Counting Down to the Potluck Dinner...

**Eid El Adha / Fall Break 2**

Friday, November 4, 2011 - Saturday, November 12, 2011



## Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

Last weekend, the school was quite a busy place as teachers completed their professional development training with the outside consultant, David Suarez, and the School Board met for a retreat with the governance trainer, John Ritter. Both of these events were exceptional and gave us a chance to focus on making the school a better place by reflecting upon our current practices and making positive changes for the future. With the school transforming so radically in terms of our new facilities, it is reasonable for people to wonder if time and effort is going into the multitude of other tasks that go into making the school so fantastic. Obviously these are two of the many examples of how we are definitely taking a holistic approach to our school development.

The professional development workshop for teachers focused on differentiation. David Suarez gave teachers a comprehensive look into how this process is being tackled at other schools around the world. He suggested numerous strategies aimed at dealing with a diverse group of learners within a class. While his ideas and insight were enlightening he also reaffirmed that we truly are on the right track in terms of meeting the needs of our student population.

The Board Retreat was also an exciting event as we recapped the principles of good governance and came to some common understandings as to the roles of the School Board and the administration. It was also a time to review our achievements of the past year and to acknowledge the contributions from many people in terms of making our progress a reality. Additionally, we concluded in setting priorities for the school year and our discussions focused around the areas of finances, our one-to-one computer program, teacher retention, health and safety, curriculum development and the completion of our facilities upgrade. From my perspective, I not only enjoy working with the School Board but also value the wonderful contribution that they make to the school, and for that, I am sure we are all extremely grateful.

As the day ticks by, sure that most people are already thinking about our International Potluck Dinner this evening. It will be a fantastic event, as it always is, and I am looking forward to sharing this special occasion with all of you.

I hope to see you all tonight. As always, have a great weekend.



## Letter from the Susan Boutros, Middle and High School Principal

It has been a very exciting week at Khartoum American School.

All the staff and students are really excited and preparing for the International Potluck Dinner this evening. Students have been practicing for what looks like the most wonderful and entertaining program ever. Others are discussing the different kinds of dishes that they will bring and yet others are wondering who will be the lucky winner of the airline tickets. I am looking forward to seeing many of you this evening.

Report cards went home yesterday. Please discuss the report card with your child. Read the report card together and encourage them to talk about their school performance as well as concerns. Make sure that you let your child know that you are proud of their good work and accomplishments, but at the same time, if your child does not do as well as expected talk openly about it. This might be a good time to develop a plan of action with goals for improvement. Report cards only come out a few times a year. Review your student's work regularly and pay special attention to grades and comments that go along with them. You are always welcome to call us if you have any questions or concerns about your child's report card.

I will be away next week. I will be going on an accreditation visit to the American International School of Lagos. I will be part of a Visiting Team for the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the Middle States Association (MSA) dual evaluation. I am sure that this will be a week of very hard work but I am also sure that this will be a very rewarding experience that will help me serve the Khartoum American School even better.

See you all this evening at the International Potluck Dinner!



## Why Ask Why??

Grade 5 students have been learning to use comprehension strategies to better understand what they read. Right now, they're focusing on "questioning." When readers ask questions about texts, they may not realize it, but they're actually showing what it is they do understand and helping themselves to think more deeply. Some questions that readers ask about texts require higher levels of thinking than others. The deeper the questions we ask, the deeper our thinking and understanding is about what we read. Eventually, successful readers learn to ask questions naturally as they read; at this stage, we are practicing this skill (both orally and in writing) so we can someday reach that goal. There are four types of questions we can ask about what we read, ranging from lower-level thinking to higher-level thinking questions: Right There, Think & Search, Author & Me, and On My Own. The students

have been using QAR Bookmarks to assist them in identifying and asking certain types of questions about their reading.

### QAR Bookmark

**Right there**  
(in the text)




Who is the main character?  
Where does the story take place?  
When does the story take place?  
What does Peter enjoy doing in his spare time?

**Think and search**  
(in the text)




What are effects of heavy rainfall on the plains?  
Tell me in your own words what Dr Brady was like?  
What is the problem in this story?  
Describe the character traits of Josie.  
What are three settings in the story?

**Author and me**  
(not in the text)



What do you predict will happen next?  
Why?  
What might have happened if Tom had not seen Mr Wilson's bike?  
Why do you think Ana's mother told her to stay away from the river?  
How would the story be different if it was told from the farmer's point of view?  
What are the big ideas or themes behind this story?  
How do you think Garry and Mary felt after they became lost in the forest?

**On my own**  
(not in the text)



Is it fair to ask children to do adult jobs?  
Would you agree that being aware of other people's feelings is important?  
Are there times when it is ok to lie?  
Do you think it is a good idea to spend large amounts of government money on conservation?  
In your opinion, was the wolf in the story justified in his actions?  
If you were ever in a position to decide on a new school rule would be, what would it be?

## The Water You Drink: A Trip to Safia Plant

On Monday, October 17, 2011, the Environmental Science class took a field trip to the DAL Group Company located in the industrial area of Khartoum North. The objective of the trip was to gain insight about bottled water purification at one of the water companies in Sudan. On our trip, we learned that the DAL group uses an extensive process to purify the raw water. The company uses four deep wells as a source instead of the Nile River. Water from the Nile is considered too expensive to treat as it is too turbid. First, water is stored in a large tank and then chlorinated. The water is then put through a sand filter to remove foreign bodies. The next step is using carbon filters to remove the chlorine and bad odors. Followed by Reverse Osmosis which is the latest technology used by the company to remove salt and other minerals. Finally, the water is treated by Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) to kill germs and make it safe for drinking. The Environmental Class was amazed by how the quality control was highly proficient and the system was extremely developed.

*By Environmental Class*







## Learning Center Corner

At the Learning Center you will often hear us encouraging students to read daily. Many of you parents have been encouraged by us, as well, to read daily with your children. I'm sure everyone has heard from a teacher at some point in his or her life how important it is to read. When we read, we often come across unfamiliar words. One of the skills we develop by reading regularly is the problem solving skill of using context clues to figure out what an unfamiliar word could mean. The more we do this, the more we develop the strength of our brains. The more we read and learn unfamiliar words, the larger our vocabulary becomes and the easier reading and writing become, therefore raising school performance.

At [www.fcrr.org/curriculum/PDF/G4-5/45VPartFour.pdf](http://www.fcrr.org/curriculum/PDF/G4-5/45VPartFour.pdf) you will find a very long document about reading and vocabulary, but if you skip down to page 40, you will find a page that can be printed, cut out, folded and reinforced, to make it into a bookmark. This can then mark the page in the book you are reading at home alone or together with a family member. It explains how to use context clues to understand unfamiliar words. READ, READ, READ! It's worth it!

### QAR - What kind of question is it?

<p><b>Right there</b></p> <p>The answer can be found right there in the text.</p> 	<p><b>Think and search</b></p> <p>The answer is in the text but it may not use the same language that is used in the question and you may have to look in different places to find it.</p> 
<p><b>Author and me</b></p> <p>The answer is not in the text. You need to use your own background knowledge and what the author has told you to come up with the answer.</p> 	<p><b>On my own</b></p> <p>The answer is not in the text. You need to use your own background knowledge. You could even answer the question without reading the text. The question must 'stand alone'.</p> 





MR. HOVDE'S  
AMAZING



Here are the **winners** from last week:  
Agib Grade 1, Adam Grade 2, Hamadelnil Grade 3, Anuka  
Grade 4, Omar Grade 5 and Ahmed Grade 8.  
Congratulations to all!!!

Elementary School Math problem:

**Grade 1:** 24, 23, \_\_, \_\_, \_\_, \_\_, \_\_  
Count back by 1s to complete the list of numbers.

**Grade 2:** 875  
a.) How many ones?  
b.) How many hundreds?  
c.) How many tens?

**Grade 3:** Use Partial-Sums to solve this problem. Show all of your work clearly.

$$\begin{array}{r} 462 \\ + 512 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

**Grade 4:** What is the value of X?  $2 * X = 6$

**Grade 5:** Subtract using the Partial-Differences method AND the Trade-First method. Show all of your work clearly.  
 $689,032.56 - 1,327.8$

Middle School Math problem:

Find 2 numbers that multiply together to get one million.  
No digit in either number can be zero.

High School Math problem:

Cars and vans will be used to transport students on a field trip. A van seats seven and a car seats five people. A group of 26 students has five chaperons. If each vehicle is full, how many cars and vans were used on the trip?

**Solutions from the last week:** **Grade 1:** 17 students, **Grade 2:** Answers will vary., **Grade 3:** \$72, **Grade 4:** Eight million forty two thousand one hundred seventy six, **Grade 5:** 51,105.402, **Middle School:** 6 cows, 16 ducks, **High School:** 20% less

Circle one:  
High School      Middle School      Elementary School  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## KAS Sport News

This was the last week of regular season basketball. The 11 and under boys will play their finals on Thursday, November 3rd. For the U14 and U18 age groups, the finals will be held at KICS. Tuesday, November 1st, will be the date for the boys' finals, and Wednesday, November 2nd, will be the girls' finals. KAS has a very good chance to come away with a first place win!

With the basketball season almost over, we will start looking ahead to the soccer season. Students can expect meetings to be called by their coaches, so listen carefully to the morning messages. The season does not start until we return from the Eid break. Be ready!

This is a reminder to KAS players of any sport, and their parents. You must arrange to be picked up from the games immediately after they finish, or be waiting when we return to KAS from another school. Too many times, students are waiting for a very long time at KAS after our games or practices. All parents or drivers need to be at KAS when the event is finished. This is not only a parental responsibility, but the player is also responsible to communicate to their parents or driver. If a player is waiting at KAS for a ride, they are in jeopardy of missing the next game, or losing their spot on the team. If everyone can follow this simple plan, we should have a very smooth sport season.

# PTA

## KAS Family Recipes



Dear KAS Family



We are still waiting for your yummy recipes!

Please keep them coming!!!

Be a part of the first KAS Family Cookbook

## Dates to Remember

Thursday, October 27, 2011  
from 07:00 pm

International  
Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, November 1, 2011 to  
Thursday, November 3, 2011

KAS Used Book  
Sale

Friday, November 4, 2011 to  
Saturday, November 12, 2011

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