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Snews from the trunk Thursday, November 3, 2011


Fid El Adha / Fall Break 2

# Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes 

Dear Parents,
As a small boy growing up in Australia, breakfast was generally limited to a bowl of cereal, vegemite on toast or toast with a slathering of the famous IXL jam. The company that produced this jam was legendary in that it produced the country's finest spreads, and also because the company's owner, Henry Jones, decided upon the brand's name which he derived from his personal motto; "I excel in everything that I do." The legend of this company was such that basically every school child in Australia could recount this story, and IXL became the catch cry for the nation to do its best in terms of reaching the highest standards.

So when word got to me this year that we were about to buy a product called IXL for our students to improve their mathematics, fond childhood memories came flooding back. The IXL math program is one that allows students to challenge themselves online with a series of math problems, at all levels with a broad cross section of topics. At present all students from Grade $1-5$ are working on IXL as a means of supplementing their regular math work and after the break we will be extending the program to the Middle School.

The beauty of this program is that it is online and students can access it anywhere where they can access the internet. It allows students to work at a level that suits their needs and is strongly aligned to our mathematics curriculum. The program is self paced so that strong students can obviously push ahead with harder work, while opportunities exist for all students to improve their mathematics skill and knowledge. Teachers can also assign extension activities using IXL, while also being able to track student progress both in terms of work completed and proficiency.

It makes me extremely pleased to see our school moving toward innovative programs such as this using technology, and in this year that has been earmarked as one where we focus on mathematics school wide it is gratifying to see us pushing hard towards fulfilling this commitment.

Please have a safe and enjoyable break and I look forward to see you all in a week's time.


Please check out the Enewsletter on our website to see these students' work in full. www.krtams.org


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## Letter from the Elementary School Principal Ben Voborsky

Ipad's have been engaging our elementary students all year long. The list of educational apps is endless and there is an app that benefits every one of our students. Apple says that currently every state in the U.S. has a K-12 iPad education pilot program or deployment in place. And more than 2,300 K-12 school districts in the United States are running iPad programs for students or faculty, among them New York City and Chicago. Here in Khartoum, we are up to date with the current research based trends in education.

Technology is not a choice in our world today; it is a necessity. With the amount of information available on the world wide web, an ipad or computer accesses the world in a whole new way and lets our students interact with the world. I hope everyone has a great November break. If you are traveling out of Khartoum, use technology to capture the moment and share it with others. If you are staying in Khartoum, use technology to document what is happening in Khartoum and to explore the world around you on the world wide web. Remember the KAS library web links, Moodle, and IXL are resources that our students and parents can use from anywhere!

Have a great vacation and send me a few photos! bvoborsky@krtams.org

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## Science Program at KAS

The Science program for all grades at KAS serves as a hands-on introduction to science education. The nature of science is used as a springboard for other topics including chemistry, biology, and physics. Grade seven science reinforces the scientific method and fosters active involvement in science through laboratory experiments and demonstrations. Essential questions for semester one include: How can the scientific method be used to investigate scientific phenomena? What makes a good science experiment? What is the mystery of electricity? What information can be learned and linked to our every day's life?


## Grade 1

Grade 1 students are exploring patterns in mathematics. We started this unit with an investigation of shape patterns. We will also explore number patterns which will help us with counting by $2 \mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{~s}, 5 \mathrm{~s}, 10 \mathrm{~s}$, will help us develop our understanding of odd and even numbers and will help us solve addition and subtraction sentences. We have talked about repetition and pattern units and have created our own patterns to share with you.


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Julia

## HLearning Center Corner

## Healthy Children

In past Enews issues the 40 Developmental Assets For Healthy Adolescents as published by the Search Institute were discussed. For those with younger children, the Search Institute has recently published a list of assets for 5 to 9 year olds, and another for 3 to 5 year olds. As mentioned in past issues, they also offer activities and ideas at their website for supporting these assets in your home and with your family. The Asset List for 5 to 9 year olds can be found at:
www.search-institute.org/system/files/40AssetsK-3.pdf
The Asset List for 3 to 5 year olds can be found at:
www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets/lists (download the one at the bottom of the list)
There is a general Asset list for children in Arabic which can also be accessed at:
www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets/lists (click on Arabic)
There are several other languages available as well at the above site. As discussed previously, these lists address the raising of well-rounded, healthy children. They are things we all know, but it's nice to have the reminders, and the support with ideas from the website.
Enjoy!

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The children in the Early Childhood Program, Nursery, Preschool and Kindergarten celebrated Halloween. This is a great opportunity for children to express their creativity and play various roles. Wearing masks and costumes gives children the chance to explore characters in stories or use their imagination to create their own ideas. Some children just enjoy the opportunity to get familiar with the Halloween holiday. Some children choose not to wear a costume or dress up in any way. They just enjoy the exposure to the experience and can still join in the activity and build up an experience for the next participatory holiday or activity. Everyone had a good experience of sharing and creativity.



## KAS Sport News

The basketball finals, are over! Our U18 boys and girls were both trying to come home with the 1 st place trophy. On Tuesday, November 1st, the KAS U18 boys played at KICS against a strong Unity team. However, our boys were able to play one of their best games yet. With a great effort on defense and rebounds on offense, they went on to beat Unity in convincing fashion, 42-24. Congratulations, boys. You're the champs!
On Wednesday, November 2nd, the U18 girls took on KICS. The first half was all KICS, but the girls rallied in the second half to bring the game to within one point. When it was all said and done, KAS had 7 and KICS had 8. This is the first time in a few years that the U18 girls have been in the final, so congratulations are in order to the whole team.
Our U14 boys and girls ended the season with a very similar record. They were both ranked 4th place this year. We all know that with hard work and effort, next year will be even better.
Now that the basketball season is over, we will focus our attention to the soccer season. It will begin on the week of November 20th. KAS will be fielding U19 boys and girls, U14 boys and girls, and the $11 \& U$ boys team. This season, let's make having fun and doing the best we can, our GGOOOAAALLL!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS to KAS U18 Basketball Team!


## Something fun to do over break!!

21st International Children's Painting Competition

The International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment is organized every year by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment (FGPE), Bayer and Nikon Corporation. It has been held since 1991 and has received more than 3 million entries from children in over 190 countries. The theme of the 21 st painting competition will be "Green Communities". If you are between the ages of 6 and 14, you may submit your entry to Ms. Jamie by January 12th. For more information about the entry requirements visit the KAS Elementary Art Moodle webpage and click on the link to the contest brochure: http://krtams.org/moodle/course/view.php?id=167

High School Middle School Elementary School

Name: $\qquad$ Grade: $\qquad$
Answer: $\qquad$

## Wanted: Pre-School Teacher Assistants

Please submit your curriculum vitae by email on: ghughes@krtams.org. We will only accept applications by email.


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