

news

news from the trunk

Thursday, December 13, 2012

KASS STUDENTS ADVENTURES IN MEROE

Early Dismissal for All Students

Thursday, December 20, 2012 at 11:00 pm



Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

Prior to my arrival in Khartoum in 2010, I had a short visit to Paris and to my surprise I found that the world famous museum the Louvre, had an exhibition on display highlighting artifacts from the Kushite kingdom. For those historians among us you know that the Kushite kingdom was a once powerful empire that extended from the present day city of Meroe in Sudan and included a large proportion of modern day Egypt.

The Kushites or Meroites as they are sometimes referred, existed at the time of the Ptolemic Empire in northern Egypt and the two great civilizations (along with the Romans who had annexed the Ptolemies) often engaged in border incursions and other hostilities before eventually becoming trading partners.

For me it was a real treat to see first hand the remnants of a once mighty power, and to wonder as to their incredible rise onto the world stage and their eventual downfall. The empire once flourished and the artifacts that I witnessed showed a refined culture and society that valued both art and beauty.

This weekend several of our students will be visiting the Meroe district and as such will be seeing the remaining pyramids that exist in this region. Though smaller than their counterparts in Cairo and Luxor, the pyramids are a stark reminder of the closeness of the two civilizations and also the way in which their rivalry influenced the two cultures respectively. While the artifacts that I saw in Paris may not be on display throughout this trip, I hope that this excursion will be thought provoking for all and our Sudanese students in particular can feel pride in knowing their ancestors have left an enduring legacy.

As always have a great weekend.



Letter from the Elementary School Principal, Ben Voborsky

The KAS faculty dedicated last Sunday to enhancing our Professional Learning Community. This planned day of collaboration was a huge success. The faculty reflected on the goals they set for the year, what progress has been made, and refocused in order to meet and exceed our goals. Teachers shared newly implemented Internet resources that have measurably improved student achievement. They also delved deeper into Edmodo, Engrade, Turnitin, Tumblebooks, IXL, and Everyday Math online, just to name a few.

The positive parent feedback on how KAS is extending learning at home and connecting home and school has been amazing. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for supporting learning at home and assisting our students in becoming more accountable and self-motivated for their learning. Empowering students and motivating them is the key to success. KAS actively pursues a sense of community characterized by students who are cooperative, communicative, productive, and responsible.

As the weather changes and more and more students are getting sick, I encourage you to not send your unhealthy student to school. Please note that if your student has a fever, is vomiting, or is affecting learning around them due to illness that they will be sent home by the nurse. Thanks again for being a positive influence on your student's education and the student-centered educational environment that we at KAS foster for our internationally diverse student body.

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A" reads 20 minutes each day	Student "B" reads 5 minutes each day	Student "C" reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year



By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

In Arabic Class...

In Arabic class, we have been working in groups to make picture stories. Our picture story was about grade 7 Olympics. In our story, we used many describing words in Arabic to describe the people swimming in the pool. Then, each group talked about its drawings and pictures. It was fun talking about that.

Tawfeeq Hadra, Grade 4



The two Arabic classes have come together and worked on an interesting project - a picture story. After we had an example of a comic story, we are asked to design our own stories. We worked in pairs to accomplish that project. We picked a topic, made the pictures and finally wrote the dialogue that took place between the characters in the story. It has been so fun to work out that assignment and to work as a team. Arabic is one of my favorite classes. It is very fun and very awesome. I like it because we always do different things. I also like the movies we watch in Arabic.

Fawzid, Grade 5

Miracles Sudan Awareness Day

Last Saturday, Miracles Sudan held an Awareness Day whereby companies, institutions and organizations that support this wonderful idea came together. For the uninitiated, Jane Anne's Farm/Miracles Sudan is a riding center for disabled Sudanese children. Through a program called Hippotherapy, disabled children get the physiotherapy they so badly need and the social stimulus to go with it. It also provides a lifeline for parents who also need support and help. It was wonderful to see members of the KAS Community Service Team, representatives of the KAS PTA and KAS parents supporting this day.

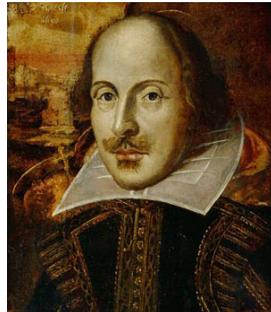


Over the past couple of years KAS has forged strong links with Miracles Sudan through Community Service Learning and the PTA. Our students have done some excellent volunteer work at the farm, including preparing and painting an old van to use as a storeroom and landscaping an area which has been transformed into a beautiful garden that everyone can enjoy. Some of our students have actually ridden the horses while supporting the disabled kids in front of them. This can be a very humbling but also very gratifying experience.

Anyone who would like to do some volunteer work at the farm can speak to Mr. Michael-Community Service or Ms. Haska-PTA. Alternatively, you can check out the Miracles Sudan website where you will find contact numbers.

Mr. Michael -Community Service Learning
Ms. Haska- PTA

Shakespeare-Why Bother?

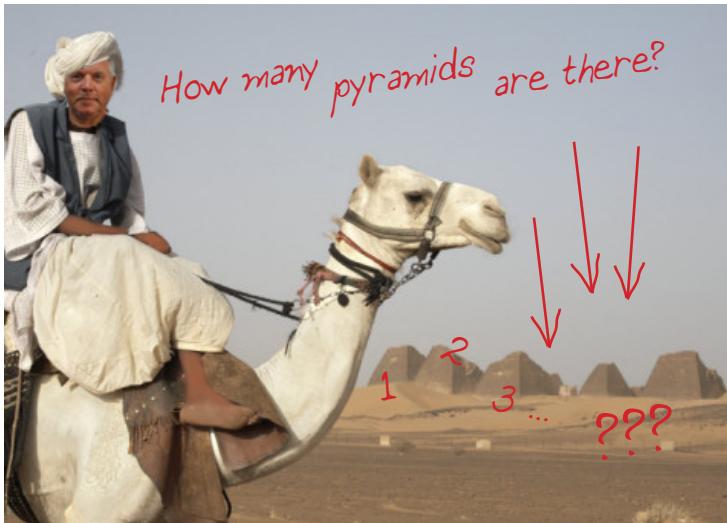


The work of William Shakespeare has a privileged place in our contemporary society. The Bard's plays are continuously adapted, updated and performed throughout the world. Macbeth has been set in Feudal Japan, Romeo and Juliet in a modern day Iraq and Julius Caesar lends itself quite appropriately to a boardroom management conflict. Nevertheless, parents and students always ask a most pertinent question: "Why study Shakespeare?" "What's the big deal?"

The language of Shakespeare's plays offers a tremendously rich language study and his works deal with issues that are as relevant and pervasive today as they were when he penned them. A Shakespeare play can take us through the whole range of the human condition: love, hate, anger, jealousy, lust, desire, ambition, deceit and treachery. One of his contemporaries, Ben Jonson, had the vision to say: "He was not of an age, but for all time". Being familiar with a Shakespeare play or plays is still looked upon as a sign of being literate and well educated. And some educators believe that it is fitting that children encounter a Shakespeare play in some shape form or fashion in grade 6 and study at least one more before they leave school.

What is surprising is that many of the clichés we use in our everyday lives are none other than Shakespearian creations. Turns of phrase that trip off our tongues all of the time are from the bard himself even though you may not know it. If you don't understand something and say, "It's all Greek to me" you are quoting Shakespeare. You may at some time have "refused to budge an inch" or had something "vanish into thin air". You may have called someone a "tower of strength" in times of trouble. I'm sure some teachers have used the phrase "I haven't slept a wink" at least once or twice over the past week. All of this is testimony to the fact that Shakespeare is closer to us than we think.

Shakespeare's language gives students the opportunity to get into character and improve their spoken language. Drama and acting can be a real confidence booster to the shy child who sometimes seizes it as an opportunity to get into character and release inhibitions. Last, but not least, Shakespeare plays are a great way to prepare children for public speaking. The language is not natural dialogue, but a series of speeches, therefore it is the ideal preparation ground to build public speaking skills and in turn build confidence.



Elementary School Math problem:

Kindergarten: Show what time you go to bed.



Grade 1: How many hundreds in the number 864? How many ones in the number 762? How many tens in the number 654?

Grade 2: What pattern did you use for your 2013 countdown chain?

Grade 3: The perimeter of a fence is 800 cm. Two sides measure 150 cm. Another side measures 300 cm. How long is the last side?

Grade 4: Name a number that is not prime number. Explain how you know it is not prime.

Grade 5: Find the landmarks for this set of numbers: 273, 280, 298, 254, 269, 317, 280, 309.

Maximum, Minimum, Range, Median.

Middle School Math problem:

Three colors of marbles are in a bag; red, blue, and green. How many must you take to be absolutely sure you would have 3 of the same color?

High School Math problem:

Simplify i^{103} .

Solutions from the last week: **Kindergarten:** Answers will vary; **Grade 1:** 12; **Grade 2:** 6:00; **Grade 3:** 4, 305 4, 315 4, 356 4, 546; **Grade 4:** Answers will vary; **Grade 5:** min. = 0; max. = 4; range = 4; mode = 2, 3 and 4; median = 2.5; **Middle School:** 630 ft; **High School:** The vertex is located at the point (-3, -17);

Circle one:	High School	Middle School	Elementary School
X	Name: _____	Grade: _____	X
Answer: _____			

Alan-KG, Nabil-G1, Muhammed Hidra-G2, Youssef-G3, Amina-G4, Zuhair-G5, Gioryl-G8.

Countdown

It's almost the end of the semester and people are eager for the holidays to arrive.

This week has started off with professional development, helping our teachers, who are already unique in their profession and among the best in the world, to improve even more by sharing and discussing their learned lessons and techniques. So this week won't be very sportive. Instead, just some points to make clear:

- The adult sports continue through this week and the next.
- There will be no more soccer games for our children until next year, starting on January 15, 2013.
- As there has been a very mild response we have decided to postpone the KAS faculty vs. parents soccer game until further notice.

PTA Bake Sale



The KAS PTA (Parent/Teacher Association) will have a Bake Sale on Wednesday, December 19, 2012. We need your delicious contributions to make this Wednesday a sweet success!

You can simply send your homemade treats with your child on the day of the Bake Sale. The treats may be dropped off at the kiosk. The Bake Sale will take place at KAS during lunchtime, from 11:31 am to 12:24 pm. All proceeds will go to the KAS PTA. If you would like to contribute, please contact us at pta@krtams.org.

Suggestions: Brownies, cookies, popcorn, pancakes, cakes, cupcakes, donuts, etc.

