



# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, March 6, 2014



## Spring Break

from Thursday, March 7 to Saturday, March 15, 2014



## Letter from the Superintendent, Mr. Steven Alexander

One of the important benefits Khartoum American School comes with our association with the United States Embassy. Through the embassy we receive support from the United States Department of Overseas Schools in Washington, D.C. The U.S. embassy is presently providing us with valuable training for our security personnel. This helps ensure that we are prudent and careful about the security of your children and all who come to our school. As an American and Superintendent of KAS, I am grateful for this help. The U.S. provides many other necessary items that help keep our school safe for your children. Providing security is an on-going issue and we have meetings with the security experts from the U.S. embassy to review and upgrade our security on a regular basis. The new drop-bars at the drive in entrance and exit are other examples of improved security. In the near future we will be putting in place an identification badge system and improved vehicle identification. While I believe KAS is a safe and secure school, it is our intention to always review and improve are security whenever possible.

Several groups of students in both the secondary and elementary schools have been learning about good and responsible environmental practices. They are putting their learning into practice by improving our awareness and practice of environmental responsibility. One of the ways we will be changing to help with this is by reducing our use of paper anywhere we can. It is important that we make the transition to using less paper. To this effect we will now only send our weekly newsletter and class letters to parents by email and we will also post them on our website. We ask that you please support our efforts in this change.

I hope all of you in our community have a relaxing and restful school break and wish you safe journeys if you are traveling.

Steve Alexander



Students & Parents,  
Mark your calendars!

On March 26th, KAS will be hosting its First Annual Career Fair from 6-7:30pm, during parent teacher conferences. Also, on Saturday, April 5th, students will be traveling to the Grand Holiday Villa to attend KAS' First Annual College Fair. More details will be sent home soon.

These two fairs are great opportunities for middle and high school students to be exposed to a variety of majors, careers, and colleges. Prior to the fairs, students will be engaging in a variety of workshops to get them thinking about what their interests are, what they might want to study in college, and what career field they would like to pursue.

Volunteer professionals will be able to answer questions regarding their career field during the Career Fair on March 26th. In order to spark some more interest, here are some of the careers that will be represented:

- Anthropology
- Architecture
- Biological & Biomedical Sciences
- Business Management & Administration
- Computer & Information Sciences
- Communications & Journalism
- Economics
- Finance & Accounting
- Forensic Science, Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice
- Health Sciences
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Information Technology
- International Relations
- Marketing
- Political Science
- Public Relations
- Visual & Performing Arts

Volunteer alumni will be available to answer questions about their experiences on the campuses of the following colleges & universities at our College Fair on April 5th:

Middlebury College	University of Denver
Temple University	University of Idaho
Boston University	University of Iowa
City University	University of Kent
Duke University	University of Keele
Durham University	University of New Mexico
George Mason University	University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)
Georgetown University	University of Oxford
Harvard University	University of Teesside
Michigan State University	University of Texas at Austin
Northeastern Illinois University	University of Vermont
Northeastern University	University of Washington
Princeton University	University of Wisconsin (Madison)
St. Olaf College	University of California (Santa Barbara)
Triton Community College	
University of Alberta	
University of Chicago	

Students and parents are encouraged to attend and participate. More details of each event will be sent home soon. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

## GRADE 4 Planet Earth

### Overview of Activities

This was a very exciting unit for the children in grade four as they explored the constant transformation of the physical earth. The dynamic nature of planet earth is always a very interesting study.



Sara and Youssef hard at work on their structure.



Mohanad and Yabsera concentrating hard.



Aayaan, Neeka, and Yousra can be seen here testing structures that will last during Earthquakes.



We're ready to test the structures. Youssef is kindly lending a hand.

### Rocks Rock Harder!



Finally, we had Mrs. Rosanne Marchesich from FAOSD in to tell us more about the role they play during a natural disaster and how thousands of farmers are being helped to restore their livelihood. We learned about how important it is to ask the right questions to determine the help that is needed in the right area.

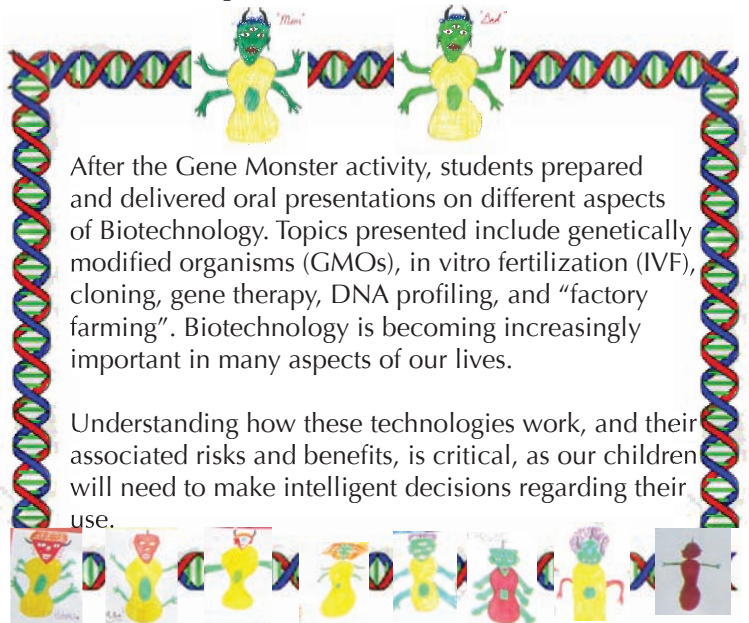
## Gene Monster



Our Grade 10 Biology class is studying Genetics and Biotechnology. Recently, students engaged in an activity called "Gene Monster". We started with two genetically identical parent monsters. Each student flipped tokens to

simulate how specific genes combine when two parents produce an offspring. Each student recorded the genome produced, and then drew a picture of the gene monster that would be produced by that unique combination of genes.

As shown in the second picture, an amazing variety of offspring will be produced, even when the parents are genetically identical. Students gained an appreciation of the fact that each person is a genetically unique individual, never seen before, and never to be seen again.



After the Gene Monster activity, students prepared and delivered oral presentations on different aspects of Biotechnology. Topics presented include genetically modified organisms (GMOs), in vitro fertilization (IVF), cloning, gene therapy, DNA profiling, and "factory farming". Biotechnology is becoming increasingly important in many aspects of our lives.

Understanding how these technologies work, and their associated risks and benefits, is critical, as our children will need to make intelligent decisions regarding their use.

### LETTIES'S RIDE



An amazing visitor dropped by KAS today. His name is Ron Rutland and his mission is to cycle the length of Africa. He aims to take in 48 countries in what is an inspirational feat of endurance. He started his journey approximately 8 months

ago from Cape Town, South Africa. His reason for doing it is quite simple, "because I wanted to see if I could do it"? Along the way he has been impressed by the generosity of all of the people he has encountered. Scary Moments! He said that the scariest moments were the times he ran out of water, particularly in desert areas. Ron is slowly but surely making his way to the London Rugby World Cup 2015, a proud South African crossing through every country on mainland Africa. As well as fulfilling his dream; this epic journey of 27 months and 43,000km will hopefully enthrall and inspire the hundreds of people that he will meet on the way. For more information about Ron and his incredible journey go to:

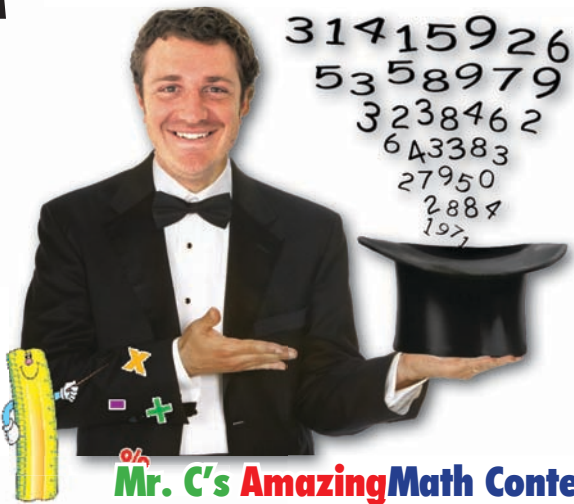
<http://fatkidonabike.com/>

## English Sayings...



**Lily Livered** is a term used for cowards, or cowardly behavior. The ancient Greeks had the custom of sacrificing an animal on the eve of each battle and the animal's liver was considered a major omen. If it was red and full of blood all the signs were positive but, if the liver was pale and lily-colored, it was thought to signify bad tidings. The Greeks also believed the liver of a cowardly person was pale and lily-colored.

# MR. C MATHEMAGICIAN



## Mr. C's Amazing Math Contest

### Elementary School Math problems:

**Kindergarten:** Count & circle the group that has the MOST.



**Grade 1:** Count up by 5's

20, 25, 30, \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade 2:**  $78 + 69 = ?$

**Grade 3:** Write three equivalent fractions for  $1/3$ .

**Grade 4:** Round the attendance figures in the tables to the nearest hundred thousand.

1999 Major League Baseball - attendance of Home Games for 5 teams		
1. Colorado Rockies	3,481,065	3,500,000
2. Baltimore Orioles	3,432,099	
3. Cleveland Indians	3,468,436	
4. Los Angeles Dodgers	3,098,042	
5. Atlanta Braves	3,284,901	

**Grade 5:** Mrs. Bloom baked a cake. She ate  $1/12$  of the cake and gave  $7/12$  of the cake to her neighbour. What fraction of the cake was left?

### Middle and High School Math problem:

Sven builds 3 legged stools and 4 legged tables. Last month he used 72 legs to build 3 more stools than tables. How many stools and how many tables did he build?



## Ross's Rebus

I am looking forward to see your answers!



Fatima (Grade 7)

### Elementary School Rebus



### Middle and High School Rebus



**Solutions from the last week: Elementary Schol:** Down with homework!;  
**Middle and High School:** Daydreaming during class;

## KAS SPORTS

### KAS Swim Squads

Development Squad is for our swimmers emerging from our PE program. The aims within the development Squad are to continue to develop and refine at least two of the four strokes and build fitness levels.

Students can progress to the Junior Squad. This squad is for swimmers in Grade 3 to Grade 8, aged 8 years to 15 years who have successfully completed Development Squad. Likewise, as the swimmer improves he/she can be invited to join Senior Squad.

Senior Squad (Grade 5 to Grade 12) All of these squads do require commitment and a minimum training period each week. Look out for details in our next newsletter. See you pool side this summer.

Hanro van der Merwe  
Athletic Director



### This Week's Winners

Ahmed (Pre-K), Hanien (KG), Hannah (G1), Shams (G2), Ibrahim (G3), Saba (G4), Mustafa (G5), Sakuntala (G8) and Bushra (G6).

**Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten:** Answers will vary; **Grade 1:** 58; **Grade 2:** Answers will vary; **Grade 3:** 49; **Grade 4:** 48; **Grade 5:** Possible Answer:  $2/4, 3/6, 4/8, 5/10, 6/12$ ; **Middle & High School:** 1;