

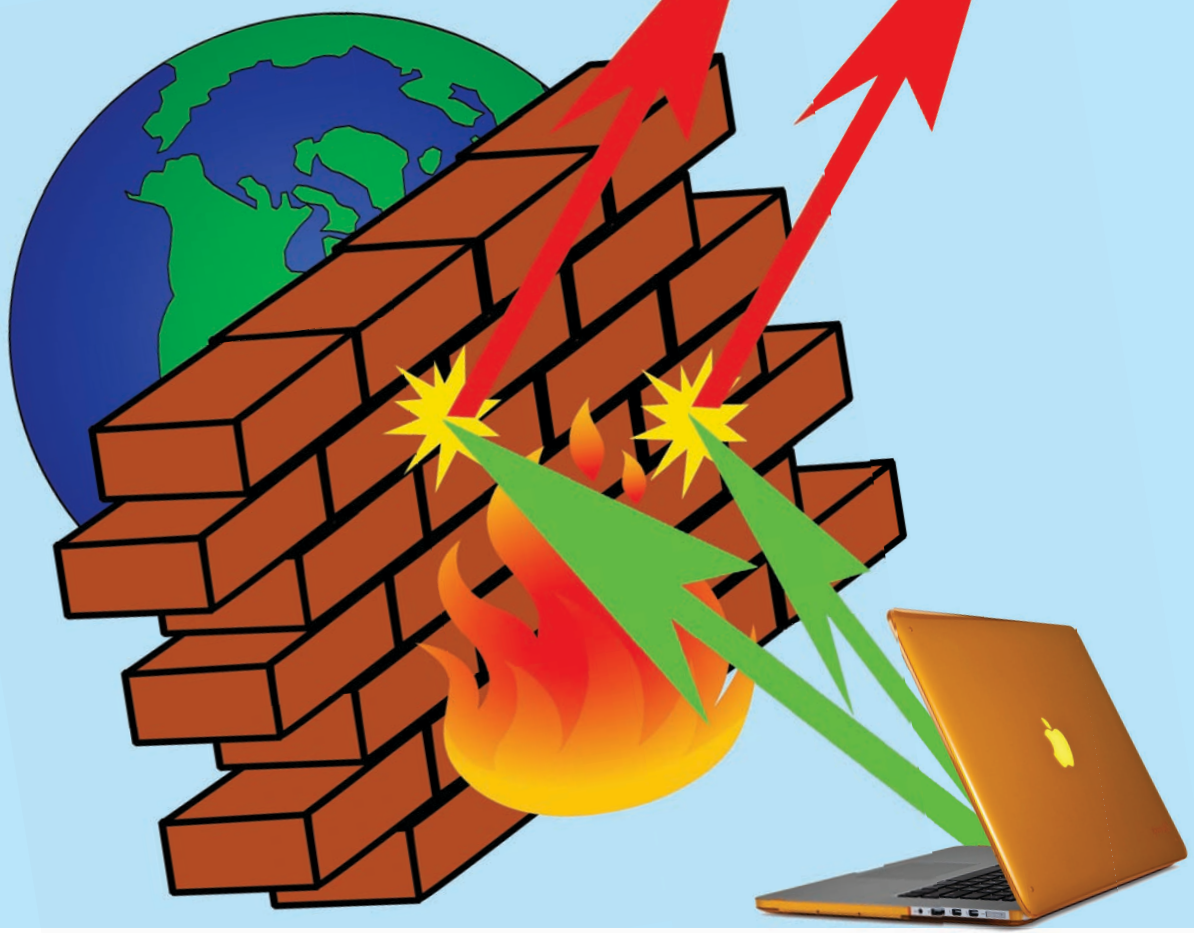
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news from the trunk

Thursday, May 1, 2014



KAS FIREWALL



Progress Reports Go Home

Thursday, May 1, 2014



Letter from the Superintendent, Mr. Steven Alexander

Student Access of Websites at School

Like many international schools KAS has adopted a one to one computer laptop program with the belief this will allow teachers and students to assist student learning by using a variety of resources through the computer. While in theory this is a sound and logical use of technology, in practice there can be serious problems that can be detrimental to students.

The reality is that students frequently access inappropriate websites. In order to control student access in school, many schools use filtering software via a firewall to control student website access. What is appropriate for students to access should be determined by the school's mission and core values. At KAS the school administration, school board and technology department have been reviewing our student website access for the past 5 months. We have revised our Acceptable User Policy (AUP) based on what we believe should be appropriate access at KAS. We have revised our policy and have shared this policy with the school staff to solicit their input. This policy will officially go into effect at the beginning of the next school year.

Along with revising the new policy we have purchased a new firewall for our system that will allow us to filter out access to students and staff during the school hours of inappropriate websites. We are testing the firewall now until the end of the school year to make sure it will do what we want it to do.

There are two categories that we are focusing on with regard to inappropriate access. The first is social media such as "Facebook", "Twitter", "YouTube", etc. We believe students should not be accessing social media sites during school time as it often distracts students from the work they need to do at school. The other category is pornography and related material sites. This we do for the obvious reason that students should not be accessing this at anytime.

The blocking we are doing does not affect student access at home. We believe parents should be discussing appropriate website access with their children and relate it to family cultural practices and morals. We believe it is extremely important that parents do this and also regularly look at what their children are doing on computers at home.

We know that the Sudanese government blocks several websites, but most of us know that this can be circumvented by the use of a VPN account which can be purchased on the internet and used to access blocked websites. At KAS we are blocking VPN access to students and staff. During this month I will write more about this issue and address ways that parents can communicate with their children to help them understand the importance of acceptable use of their computers.

Steve Alexander

Letter from the Middle and High School Principal, Susan Boutros

Progress reports are going home today. Progress reports are only sent for those students who are doing exceptionally well or those who are not doing as well as expected.

The good news is that parents do not have to wait for progress reports, report cards or parent teacher conferences to know how their child is doing in school. You can now get all the information that you need through Engrade! Please make sure that you regularly check your student's Engrade for a current update on his/her progress. Engrade is the online grade book and class management tool that is used at Khartoum American School at the Middle and High School level. Engrade is used for all courses, for all grades and for multiple periods throughout the school year. Teachers are able to post and track class information that is accessible to students and parents, in one place. Students and parents can view grades, assignments and upcoming projects or events. The site is private, secure and easy to use. If you have a problem logging in to the Engrade website, please contact us.

Have a great weekend!

Annual General Meeting & Elementary School Musical

On Wednesday, May 14th beginning promptly at 7:00 pm, KAS will have its Annual General Meeting. The KAS School Board will present its annual report to the community and then hold elections for vacant school board positions for the 2014-15 school year. At this time we anticipate two vacancies on the school board. Any parent wishing to be on the ballot for the election should contact the Superintendent before May 7th and provide a short biography including why they would like to serve on the school board. School board positions are for two-year terms. Every parent is given a ballot to vote in the election, which will take place immediately after the annual report. Following the school board election, elementary students led by Mrs. Didith Lanario will perform the KAS annual Elementary Musical.



HEALTHY CHOICES!

Kindergarten has been working hard over the last few weeks on making healthy choices. We have been learning about the importance of living a healthy life style. We have learned what foods are good for us, and which foods are good to stay away from.

On Monday, the Grade 4 students organized a fantastic Health Carnival to encourage, motivate and support students in elementary on making healthy life style choices. Kindergarten greatly enjoyed all the activities and experienced, thanks to the 4th Graders, how much fun making Healthy Choices can really be!



Cassius cajoles Brutus in Grade 7



Grade 7 are currently proving that they are incredible Shakespearian actors. They have completed a unit entitled "the Language of Persuasion" and acted out the scene where Cassius

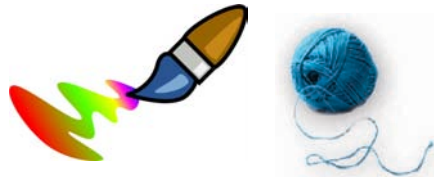
cajoles Brutus into becoming part of the conspiracy to assassinate Caesar. I was very impressed by the way in which the students embraced the role play and managed the difficult and archaic language. Using techniques from a Royal Shakespeare Company toolkit; I encouraged the students to use hand movements to get the message across. This worked very well and grade 7 rose to the challenge, well done! Next comes "Friends, Romans and Countrymen lend me your ears". Another challenge, which I'm sure they'll take because they seem to have a taste for it.

Michael Metcalf,
KAS LA Teacher

English Sayings...

Our **Salad Days** are the carefree periods of youth when mortgages, insurance and the tax man have yet to enter our minds. The weekend is for living, our partners still look forward to seeing us and the divorce court is a place for old people. The phrase is a simple one with a simple origin provided, once again, by Shakespeare. In 1606 the Bard wrote the play Antony And Cleopatra, which includes the line: 'They were my salad days. When I was green in judgment.'

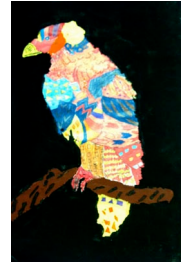
ART AT KAS



Jayden, Grade 6



Abdu, Grade 6



Anne-Murthe, Grade 6



Tina, Grade 6

Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures." Henry Ward Beecher

My art students did a wonderful job this year. They never fail to amaze me with their fantastic art projects. Students at KAS come from different countries with different traditions and rich cultures. Thus, they have managed to create impressive artwork, which expresses their being exposed to all the different cultures. They have been working hard to put together an art exhibition with the theme "Character, Community and Citizenship." They are seeking. They are striving. They are committed.

Keep an eye out for the announcement of the date and time of our art exhibition; we are looking forward to seeing you there!

Ayan, Grade 4



Shahmi, Grade 4

Yusif, Grade 4



Saba, Grade 4



Nita, Grade 6



Nita, Grade 6



Sara, Grade 4



Yusra, Grade 4

