

NEWS FROM THE TRUNK

Thursday, March 5, 2015



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
RESPECT
WINNERS!

KAS

SPRING BREAK 8 - 16 MARCH - HAVE A GREAT BREAK!



Letter from the Superintendent, Dr. Robert Beck

Dear Parents,

Congratulations and Thank You to the PTA who organized a barbecue lunch for the children and staff last week. You are great PTA, and so was the lunch! You make us feel 'at home' at KAS. Thank you!

A KAS College Fair was recently held for our students. It took place at the US Embassy. I wish to thank the US Embassy for hosting the Fair. And I wish to thank all the volunteers (faculty, embassy staff, outside representatives from local universities) for representing their universities and colleges. I especially wish to thank Katee Ross, KAS HS/MS Counselor, for organizing the College Fair. Notable was the wide representation of competitive universities (US, Canadian, Sudanese, British, and more). The students asked questions about student life, about major areas of study, about living and attending school in a foreign country, and about costs and how to finance their college education (i.e., college scholarships and loans). They spent over two hours interviewing the representatives.

The College Fair, and the recent Career Fair held at the KAS campus, are examples of important and meaningful 'out-of-class' experiences that our students participate in during the school year. Last week I mentioned the sports program as another example of a quality extracurricular program that advances learning. I have also mentioned other activities, such as participation in school dramas, as learning and growth promoting experiences students are fortunate to have during the school year. I made the point that the combining of quality out-of-class activities with quality in-class instruction contributes to our signature as a top international school that offers a comprehensive educational experience for all students. Our in-class and out-of-class programs reinforce our goal of building the 4 Cs of: Character, Community, Citizenship and Curriculum (inquiry-based learning).

As we move forward in the months to come, we will continue to provide quality age and grade appropriate in-class and out-of-class experiences for our students. These experiences reinforce the KAS mission of "...fostering the educational growth and envelopment of our internationally diverse student body".

I wish you a pleasant spring break. Classes resume on Tuesday, March 17 at the regular start hour of 8:15.

Help KAS Achieve Its Strategic Goals!

The school community is invited to join a KAS Strategic Goal Action Team to help draft the strategy and work plan for implementing each of the the school's four strategic goals. The teams will meet starting in late March. At that time we will also discuss roles and expectations.

Strategic Goals Action Teams are needed for each of the following goals and priorities:

- School Uniqueness and Identity (including the school's Guiding Principles)
- Special Needs, English as a Second Language, and Gifted Students

Letter from the Early Childhood Center & Elementary School Principal, Phil Centers

Dear Parents, Teachers, and Community Members,
Within a few hours of writing my article on "differentiation" (differentiated instruction) for last week's E-news, the following notice for professional training arrived in my email inbox: "Digital Differentiation: The Future of Education -- Developing a transformative educational experience that drives academic achievement requires districts to shift their focus onto the student as an individual. Many administrators believe each student needs the opportunity to be surrounded by a differentiated learning environment tailored to the specific needs, desires, and learning style of that student. Student learning preferences and new technology are driving the future of education. Student uniqueness is continuing to expedite the need for differentiated instruction in the classroom."

The timing of receiving this notice is not so strange; it simply confirms that differentiation is "in the air" so to speak, being talked about and explored in educational circles everywhere. This is because educators know or are coming to realize how crucial the practice of differentiation is for student success and satisfaction. And what this training notice suggests is true: advancements in technology are allowing us to differentiate our instruction in ways not possible before. It behooves us to take advantage of every opportunity technology offers us to increase student learning and well-being through differentiation as well as other best practices.

Khartoum American School recognizes the importance of using cutting-edge technology to enhance our students' experience and success. The KAS Board has committed to making 21st Technology a major focus of our strategic plan for the next four years. Our amazing IT team is continuously bringing in new technology to help our teachers, most recently the introduction of an "e-beam" projector in the computer lab, which will be rolled out to each section (MS, HS and ES) soon. Next month KAS will be implementing the MAPS (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment system to all students, 3rd through 10th grades, which is a leading digital differentiation assessment tool. It is exciting to be part of these innovations in education. But we also recognize that technology is not a replacement for excellent instruction from outstanding teachers, which research consistently confirms is the single most important factor in the success of students in school. Here at KAS we strive to find the right balance in bringing together all of the factors needed to create "an outstanding learning environment to promote an open, inclusive, and student-centered program".

- 21st Century Information Technology
- Planning Facilities

The establishment of KAS Strategic Action Teams is a continuation of a Strategic Planning process that began at a weekend workshop done in the first semester facilitated by John Ritter, a strategic planning consultant. At the workshop teachers, parents, board members, students, support staff, and administrators identified the four above mentioned goals and priorities. If you have an interest or expertise in any of the four goals and priorities, please join one of the KASA Strategic Goals Action Teams. You can do that by emailing strategic.goals@krtams.org. Thank you!

2ND GRADERS SAY THE DARNDDEST THINGS

RECORDED BY CHELSEA MEYER

Ms. Meyer, are there ceiling sheep?
Um....what?
You know, like if they have ones on the floor, are there ones for the ceiling?
What on Earth are you talking about? Aren't you working on a math problem right now?
Yeah. It says (points and reads problem out loud), 'Estimate what would be the best weight of a floor lamp.'
Sooooooo...what do you think a floor lamp is?
A sheep...right? If there are sheep for the floor, are the ones for the sky? Would those ones be lighter?
Are you thinking of 'lamb?' Like: I-a-m-B? A baby sheep? A LAMP is something for a house that gives light.
Ooooooooooooooh. Yep. Yep. Yep. Those words be tricky Ms. Meyer.

In our class we're working on explaining our answers thoroughly. The word "because" is important because it's followed by the reason you know the answer is right. During one guided reading session, we read a book about a magic coat. Many of the "reasons" for the answers to the comprehension questions were, "because the coat is magic." I must of offhandedly said something along the lines of "magic" being kind of an interesting reason because it can really be used for anything because it's magical and can make anything happen. One student decided that he was really going to take advantage of that mention because his next response paper (on a completely different book and topic) looked like this.

Q: Why did the author write this book?
A: Because magic.
Q: How are broccoli and oranges similar?
A: They're healthy because magic.
Q: How do you know that these foods are healthy?
A: Because magic.
Q: Is the book fiction or non-fiction?
A: It's non-fiction and I know because magic.
Q: What was one fact you found most interesting? Why?
A: Avocados are good for you. Because magic.

I had a student who was extremely agitated during a guided reading activity for the book "Blackbeard the Pirate." She couldn't concentrate and seemed to be having some sort of internal conflict. I gave her some time, but she couldn't seem to get over whatever was bothering her so finally I asked her if there was something on her mind.

"I just can't figure out," she said slowly, "how Blackbeard's mum and dad knew that he was going to have a black beard. How would they know when he was a baby that he was going to look like that when he got older? They named him Blackbeard, but what if he had a brown beard instead? Or no beard? They're lucky he turned out to be a pirate and that his name was the same as his hair color."

A student wrote down "6" for the answer to a math story problem. "How did you get 6?" I asked, "You have to explain to me how you got the answer. Show me where the 6 came from. Otherwise I might think you just copied it off of [kid who sits next to him]'s paper."

I came back 3 minutes later to check, expecting an equation, but instead read the following underneath his answer: "I got 6 because I used my brain. That's how I get all answers. Ms. Meyer tells us to use our brains and I used my brain. I used my brain really hard and I got 6. How do I get 6? My brain. It was my brain. Not [kid who sits next to me]'s brain. My brain is better than his brain. I got 6."
I've never seen this 2nd grader write this much for a math answer. Also, next to his explanation there was a picture of a brain with a 6 on top of it.

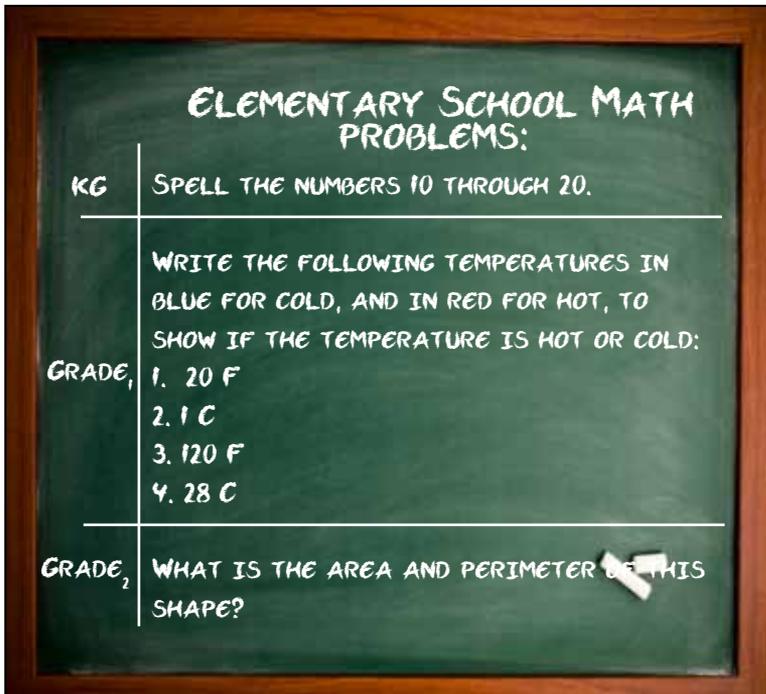
Chelsea Meyer
2nd Grade Teacher

PTA BARBECUE LUNCHEON THANK YOU PTA



English Saying

The phrase **As Sure As Eggs Is Eggs** is used to describe absolute certainty about something. In fact, it is a simple misquote which has passed into common usage. In formal logic and mathematics the formula 'x is x' is used to describe complete certainty. It is unclear how or when 'x is x' became 'eggs is eggs' but it is known Charles Dickens used the phrase '**eggs is eggs**' in *The Pickwick Papers*, published in 1837. Maybe Dickens was joking, or playing on words, or possibly it was a simple mistake that proved amusing enough to be left unchanged.



Dear Parents,
Welcome to the KAS Aquatics Center Spring-Summer 2015 Season! KAS Aquatics offers many levels of swimming lessons with a Sudanese/Canadian and South African twist and we believe it will be fun-filled and cool all summer long! For a complete list of available swim instructional programming please refer to the schedules to suit our student and parent community.

<http://www.krtams.org/home/links/KAS%20Athletics%20Swim%20Squads%20S1%20link.pdf>

All swimmers are encouraged to invest in a pair of goggles, and a good appropriate swimsuit.

Please keep an eye out for our **KAS Swim Squads** Summer Series 2015, starting on Sunday, March 28 2015

See you next to the poolside this summer!!

Super Quote of the Week

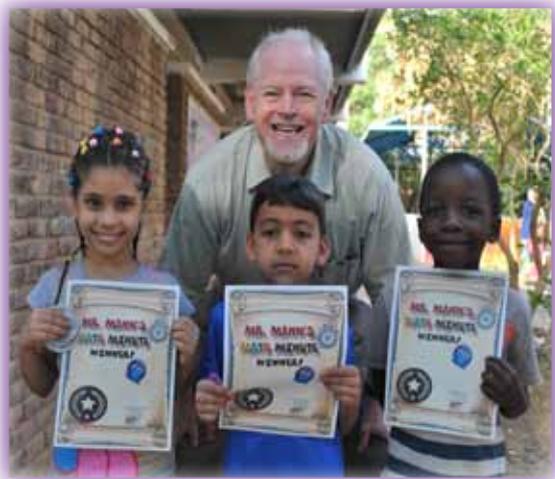
Your child's success or lack of success in sports does not indicate what kind of parent you are.

But having an athlete who is coachable, respectful, a great teammate, mentally tough, resilient and tries his or her best IS a direct reflection of your parenting!

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Track and Field

KAS Athletics will send ten athletes to compete on Thursday, March 5th 2015 at the Army Stadium, Amarat Street 61 against athletes from KICS. We wish these athletes all the best and look forward to some good results from them. More information after the Spring Break!



WINNERS!

- KG: James
- G1: Daniel
- G2: Joyce

The schedule for the KAS Swim Squads is:

On Sunday, March 22, 2015 the Senior Squad (Grade 5- Grade 12) Coach AISheriff will be next to the pool to assist these swimmers with their strokes.

To be eligible for the Senior Squad, swimmers must meet the times criteria and commit to a minimum of 3 to 4 sessions a week.

On Monday, March 23, 2015 we will have the Development Squad (KG-Grade 2) splashing and dashing in the water with coach Sara.

Development Squad requires the development of all four strokes over 25m and to increase the range of aquatic skills in preparation for the next level, while preparing the swimmer to progress to our Junior Squads.

On Wednesday, March 24, 2015 the Junior Squad (Grade 3 to Grade 8) will have their first training session swimming like fish They will have completed Development Squad.

The aim for the Junior Squad is to increase their training commitment throughout the year, as well as competing regularly at appropriate galas. These swimmers will be asked to come on Sunday as to increase their training times.

Note:

As the swimmer improves he/she can be invited to join Senior Squad.

Hanro van der Merwe
Athletic Director



Elementary Rebus

Elementary



Faculty Rebus

Faculty



Middle & High Rebus

Middle/High



Last week's WINNERS are!

Faculty: Salma Khalid

Last week's Answers are!

Elem: Cool Story, Bro
MSHS: College Readiness
Faculty: Nile Cruise