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news from the trunk

Thursday, December 17th 2015



"WARM HEARTS, WARM BODIES" Clothing and Donations Drive A SUCCESS!



School closes on Thursday at 11 AM December 17 for the Winter Holiday Recess-The children return on Monday, January 11.



Language and culture

Dear Parents and Guardians,

And so we have come to the end of an exciting semester of learning. Congratulations to you, to the children, and to the staff of KAS!

The children, their teachers, their principals, and our support staff have worked hard together over the first semester to support each child as she/he continued on their journey of life-long learning. All KAS stakeholders, including you, have truly lived up to the mission of KAS.

Our KAS Mission - Khartoum American School provides an outstanding learning environment to promote an open, inclusive, and student centered program. We are devoted to fostering educational growth and development for our internationally diverse student body."

We thank you for collaborating and partnering with us on behalf of all the children at KAS. It is comforting and important to know that you and we are carrying out **Our KAS Mission** together.

The KAS staff and I wish you and your family a wonderful and well deserved winter break. We look forward to seeing you and the children on January 11 when school reopens for the second semester.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Beck
Superintendent

Culture is fundamentally related to language. Understanding the nature of the relationship between language and culture is central to the process of learning another language.

To achieve that balance, the students learned the vocabulary of the various celebrations such as Noël, Mardi Gras as well as knowledge about the French cuisine. This will give the students the ability to develop their language capabilities.

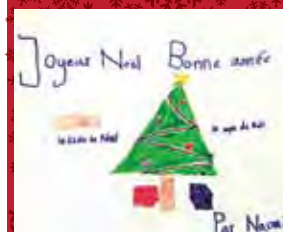
Here are a few of the students' favorite French phrases they had learned:

Salut, Je m'appelle Yuga, J'ai douze ans, Je suis Japonais. J'habite khartoum, je suis à l'école American et parle français et anglais. Joyeux Noël!

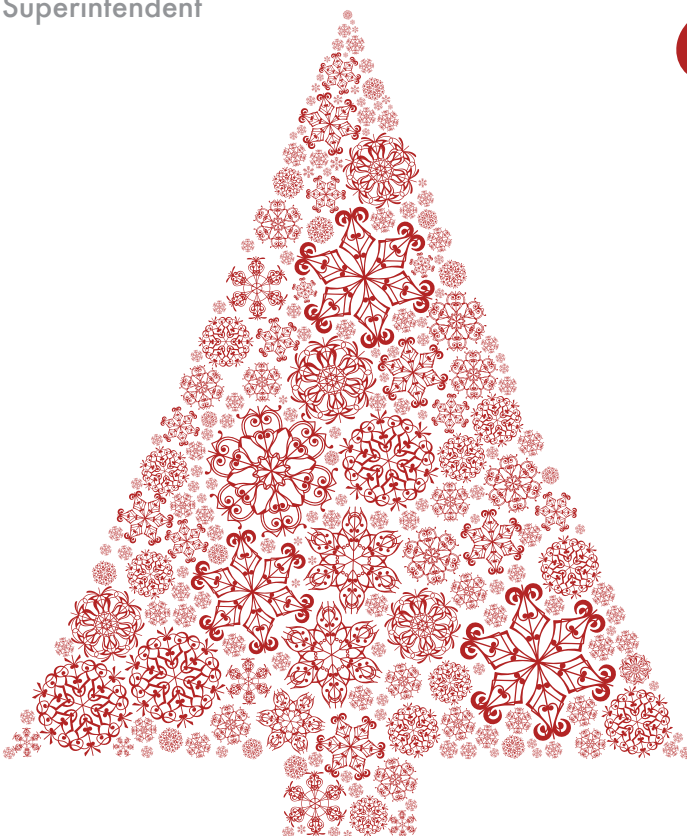
Bonjour, Je m'appelle Max. J'ai douze ans et je suis Canadien. J'aime crepe et une glasse. J'adore Khartoum et je parle anglais et français. Au revoir! Joyeux Noël!

J'aime mardi gras parce que la crepe à la classe de français. J'aime regarder le film aussi. I have been in classe de français pour cinq ans. Et aussi j'aime dire Joyeux Noël. Je suis cool Je parle français.

My Name is Mohammed I learnt a lot of things in French like Bonjour Mon Mes Ton Ta Tes La Les Semaine days of the week the numbers in French and e marks like è é and I sign t and c sign ç and lots of vocabulary like la livre la cahier and trousse and many many think like sur sous and dous and Joyeux ut noel



Maisa Sarhan
French Teacher



News From The Sports Department

Dear Parents and Community Members,

I have spoken several times about what a pleasure and privilege it is to be able to visit the Early Childhood Center and Elementary School classes on a regular basis. Short, informal visits to classes by the principal are known as “walk-throughs,” and allow me to know the students and teachers and their relationships in the most important way possible, in the classroom where learning is taking place. My visits also help me to confirm what’s being taught in each class, and to get a feeling for the “mood” of the class, whether this is positive and light, with lots of laughter and growth, or if there is some issue that the class is working through. I’m there to help with any issues that a class is working through. Working through issues is a natural part of the growth process.

As I have also said many times, we are extraordinarily fortunate to have high quality teachers in each of our classrooms at KAS. Every class that I visit is alive with learning. Every class has healthy relationships between students and teachers. This is indeed a great gift that we can never take for granted, and attests to the recruiting skills of our superintendents, and also perhaps a bit of luck that we are able to draw such fine teachers to Khartoum American School. Dr. Rob Beck will soon be flying overseas to recruit for our staff needs for the 2016-2017 school year and beyond.

My walk-throughs of the classes are just one part of the rigorous staff evaluation process we have developed at KAS which is called the “Teacher Professional Development and Evaluation Program,” or TPDEP. TPDEP is a process that is always taking place during the school year, a process that evaluates every member of the KAS staff who works with children. Our KAS TPDEP is based on certain core principles, among which are that the most essential criterion in determining teacher quality is the quality of student learning, and that the improvement of student learning requires continuous development of teaching practice. The establishment and maintaining of a high-quality teacher professional development and evaluation program consistently produces improved learning in students. It is a pleasure and privilege to work with the teachers in this important work of professional growth here at KAS.

Phil Centers

Elementary/Early Childhood Principal



Camping Grade 6

Our young middle school students enjoyed camping at school. They had to arrange their tents, food for the night and entertainment. Capture the lantern was a great hit and bonds amongst friends that will last for decades was formed during the camp. Thank you, Mr. Nick and Mrs. Jocelyn for letting the students experience the joys of sleeping under the stars.

Weight Room/Gym

Nickolas and I have received our Christmas presents early this year! We have new gym equipment that will enhance the P.E. and Athletic program exponentially. Already the students are crunching and curling their way to fitness. “Get Fit Never Quit” is a way of life and a philosophy that you have to embrace fully or not attempt at all.

To Run or not To Run

Over the festive season we tend to overindulge and this leaves us feeling not too happy with ourselves (Endomorphs) –so use the link provided that will give you some advice on how to curb the curves. http://runnersworld.runyourbuttoffbook.com/runyourbuttoffbook/so/index?keycode=245432&mktOfferId=RWD60547&product_code=121255&smartcode=193671000325500002631086110020151208

KICS Cross Country

“Real athletes run miles, not yards.” On Sunday nine of our Middle School students were invited to participate in KICS’ Cross Country. The students were asked to set personal goals- I am happy to report all of them set new personal best times over the 4km run. Abdalla Abbas came in the first place out of 50 runners in the competitive race. When you see Laura Wortman, Fawzia Omer, Zoltan Turchanyi, Divya Ghetia, Mark George, Tawfeeg Hadra, Abdalla Abbas, Anzel van der Merwe and Jayden Hoogdorp please make sure to congratulate them on achieving their personal goal to complete 4km.

My Cross Country Experience

By: Tawfeeg Hadra

KAS received an invite to attend a KICS cross country at Fenti Golf Club. We had nine runners who participated for KAS this year. When we arrived at the golf club, I felt a bit nervous because of a lot of people participating. It felt as if we were outnumbered 100 to 1. We chose to do the 4 km run. When we were about to start the race, I thought that I’d never make it because of the long route. When the marathon started, the place was crowded, and I couldn’t see where I was going. So when I saw some of the people slow down, it was my chance to go ahead. The race was long and tiring, but when I saw the finish line just ahead, I ran with all my might and came in 3rd amongst the KAS runners. This cross country was a memorable experience that I would want to repeat, and I hope they invite us again next year, and I hope that more people would volunteer next year.

Soccer/ Football 2015/2016

The season will kick off on January 29, 2016 with games being played here at KAS in the KISSC league.

Enjoy the winter break and if you travel, travel safe and spend quality time with your family until we see one another in the New Year!

Kind regards,

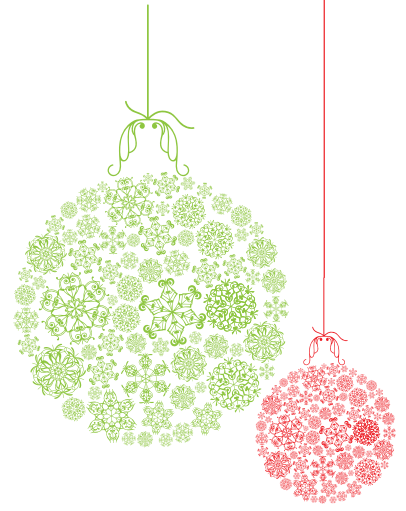
Hanro van der Merwe
Athletic Director



Saying of the week

A Dark Horse is something of an unknown quantity, perhaps somebody whose abilities are not yet fully known but soon will be. In the 16th century the phrase 'to keep something dark' meant keeping something quiet but Benjamin Disraeli created our phrase in his debut novel *The Young Duke*, published in 1831. (At that time Disraeli was only 27 years old and another 37 years away from being Prime Minister.) In his story he describes a horse race in which the two favourites are beaten to the finishing line by an unfancied third. Disraeli wrote, 'a dark horse which never had been thought of rushed past the grandstand in sweeping triumph.' It was common for owners to conceal the potential of their best new horses until the actual day of the race, and almost immediately, throughout the racing world, such animals became known as 'dark horses' regardless of their color.

Minette van der Bijl
English Department



WARM HEARTS, WARM BODIES DRIVE

We can officially say the 'Warm Bodies, Warm Hearts Clothing and Blanket Drive' was a success! Thanks to the KAS community's generous donations we were able to donate to several groups of people including:

- **Bags of clothing for 41 KAS workers who have children**
- **Clothing and diapers for the Khartoum 3 Mygoma Orphanage**
- **Clothing and blankets for the Al-Mustaqbal Boys and Girls Home**

We also received a generous amount of 2000 SDG in monetary donations. This allowed us to purchase 35 blankets and 29 sweaters. Some of the blankets were given to the Boys and Girls Home, but were mostly donated to families living in Azhari and Soba. We also handed out sweaters to children on the streets who were only wearing t-shirts.

A special congratulations to Grade 4 for donating 85 items! Grade 3 also donated many items - well done!

Thanks to everyone who supported this cause!

Have a great holiday!

The High School Community Service Club helped to pack up items and personally delivered items to the the orphanage and Boys and Girls Home.

Here are some reflections from Community Service co-presidents **Mariam El Sanousi** and **Hiba Salih**

"My experience was nothing short of amazing. I'm so happy I got to go out there and see people who are in need. Not only that, but I was able to do so with wonderful people. I look forward to continuing this service in the future" **Mariam El Sanousi**

"It was such an eye-opening experience to be able to visit both Mygoma and Al-Mustaqbal. There are people living out there dedicating their lives to helping others in need. I had a sudden urge to help others in need whether it be one person or many individuals. I aspire to become someone who can make a difference. Our Helping Hands Community Service Club now has a mission to visit these kids again!" **Hiba Salih**



Warm Hearts, Warm Bodies Participants