

news

news from the trunk

Thursday, April 28th 2016



KAS SWIMMERS WIN BIG!



KAS Annual General Parent Meeting and Board Elections May 5, 2016:

The annual General Meeting of the KAS parents will take place at 6 PM at KAS. At that time you will be able to vote for two open board seats.

If you wish to run for the board, please send a cover letter and CV to Mrs. Mona Hassan (mhassan@krtams.org), KAS Business Manager, by 3 PM on May 4.

Following the General Meeting will be The Spring Play, **School's Out-Hello Summer!** We hope to see everyone at the annual general meeting and the play.

KAS closed for break. Reopens Tuesday, May 3

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On the back page of today's E News you will see a picture of the 'Marshmallow Spaghetti Tower Challenge'. This was a fun event that brought teams of high school and elementary school students (grades kg, 1 and 2) together for a school spirit and team building exercise. The idea of the Challenge was to build a tower using limited pieces of tape and several strands of uncooked spaghetti. That sounds simple enough. The catch was that each team had a very limited time (18 minutes) to do this. And here was the real catch...The fragile spaghetti tower had to be strong enough to support a marshmallow on top! The winning group was the one that built the tallest tower without it collapsing from the weight of the marshmallow. Thank you Ms. Dina Shalash for organizing the Challenge! Which team do you think won the challenge? (after reading this message you will find the answer)

Why in the world would a world-class international school such as KAS engage in such an activity? It is important to know that the event was carefully planned, and that the childrens' teachers also participated in the Challenge. It was all about coming together as the KAS Family of students and teachers to share in building school spirit. It was a time when our young students, our older students and our faculty had an opportunity to share in the mutual excitement and fun of a challenging activity. And that builds school spirit. Research teaches us that school spirit contributes to the overall sense of well being of students and staff.

Another recent event created by the students in the secondary school was a fun sports competition with the faculty. As in the case of the Marshmallow Spaghetti Tower Challenge, students and faculty came away with an even deeper appreciation of our great school. It is no surprise that our students and our faculty love KAS!

Did you guess who won the 'Marshmallow Spaghetti Tower Challenge'? If you guessed the team of KG, grade 1 and grade 2 students you were right! But in the end everyone and all teams were KAS winners...

I wish you a pleasant long weekend break.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Beck
Superintendent

Congratulations KAS Swim Team!

The KAS swim team enjoyed a great day of racing at the KICS Swim Meet last Tuesday April 19, 2016. The team consisted of nine swimmers who swam some strong times at the KICS pool.



50 m Backstroke

The girls 11 and under event saw a win with Mina Shimizu claiming victory in 53.75 ahead of the KICS duo of Leila and Elise. In the boys 14 and under race saw Yuga Shimizu (44.65) going a stellar one claiming victory for KAS.

50 m Breaststroke

Mina Shimizu from KAS was in a class of her own in the 11 and under event for girls when she produced a classy 52.28 to demolish the field with a scintillating performance. The minor placing's were secured by Muhammed Hadra (1:18.04) Mina's brother Yuga showed a clean set of heels in claiming a double for the KAS team when he stormed to victory posting a 44.84 well ahead of KICS' Abu (46.19) and David (49.28) Divya Ghetia had a fair time of (55.67) in 5th place.

50 m Freestyle

KAS' Mina raced to gold in the girls 11 and under age group in a time of 43.37 getting only better as the afternoon sun set over Khartoum. In the boys 11 and under Muhammed Hadra had a thrilling battle for the minor placing's just edging Mark from KICS out in 50.00 for the third place, and Ibrahim Omer (1:10.59) in 5th place.

The boys event was another hotly contested affair, much to the crowds delight. It was KAS' Yuga in the 14 and under age group (35.02) claiming the bragging rights ahead of Akram (37.91) from KICS.

Anzel van der Merwe looked impressive in the girls 14 and under age group claiming victory in 41.19. Hazim Gamil after some difficulties in the 200 m race managed to scrape home in 8th place in 45.01. Tawfeeg Hadra (3:57.02) in the 14 and under boys group churned a good third place in the 200 m freestyle.

100 m Freestyle

Yula Maruyama in the 14 and under Girls group raced to a fast time 1:24.01 improving on her personal best time.

50 m Butterfly

KAS' golden girl Mina demonstrated her versatility when she claimed the girls 11 and under title in the 50m butterfly event. Her time of 43.37 was well ahead of KICS' Leila (01:07.7). Yula won the girls 14 and under event with 47.71. The boys' event saw Yuga (46.71) in second place after a long afternoon in the pool.

100 m Butterfly

In the girls 14 and under Yula again struck gold with a fast 1:52.30 edging out KICS' Tamara (2:00.09).

Mr. Hanro asked Yuga and Yula what do they love about swimming:

1. I love the feeling I get when I float in the water.
2. Swimming makes me work hard towards my goals, and I get a great feeling
3. I love the freedom in the water.
4. Swimming has taught me dedication and commitment, and not to give up when it gets hard.



Hanro van der Merwe

Athletic Director



Dear Parents,

In every process that is engaged in by human beings on a regular basis, it is good to have some sort of feedback loop or mechanism to be able to determine how well the process is proceeding. In the system of education this feedback loop has two parts, assessment and reporting. We assess our students to see how well they are doing in learning all that we are teaching them, and then we report the results of these assessments to all relevant parties so they can use the information.

Teachers use the information reported about their students' progress to improve their instruction. Educational feedback is crucial to teachers to determine how effective their instruction is.

In order to determine how well students and other school stakeholders are doing, principals need to have a good feedback loop. Assessments of student progress are part of the set of good information that a principal uses to determine how the students are doing. This set also includes the principal's own observations and knowledge of the students, both in and outside of the classroom setting. The principal's observations supplement the teachers' assessments of their students.

Parents play a decisive role in the success of a school. The feedback they provide teachers and administrators about their child's experience of school, and their own, is essential to the healthy functioning of the school. A large part of the focus of our reporting about student progress is directed towards parents, in the form of conversations, email messages, conferences, progress reports, and report cards. The more that parents know about our educational process, and about how well it is proceeding, the more effective our process can be. Parents partnering with schools is understood to be a crucial component of the educational process.

We are approaching the end of the school year when student progress will be reported to parents in the form of report cards and the results of the MAP assessments. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have about the reporting of your child's progress in school. In addition, we invite parents at all times to share their feedback about their children's experience in school, and their own, with us so that we can continuously improve our educational process.

Phil Centers

Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Spaghetti and Marshmallow Towers

On Sunday the lower elementary students competed against high school students to build a spaghetti structure that could hold a marshmallow. The activity encouraged cooperation and tested students to be as creative as possible. The groups had 18 minutes to brainstorm and implement their design, and the winning team was a group of elementary students: Menna and Eleazar in Kindergarten, Samir and Ecenur in Grade 1 and David and Samantha in Grade 2! Congratulations! They will be enjoying a pizza lunch with Mrs. Salma Saeed on Thursday.



Dina Shalash
Middle & High School Social Studies Teacher

Music and Getting Ready for the Play

From the beginning of the month of March, the students applied skills in using proper singing techniques and making harmony. The music concept from Kindergarten class through 5th grade had an emphasis on Chorus, analyzing the parts of a song, naming musical instruments and learning to make notations. They also learned to make their own simple rhythmic accompaniments using classroom instruments and play with good tempo. Our elementary students have also worked very hard these past 2 months to prepare for our annual end of the year musical production.

This year's end of the year musical production will be shown on the 5th of May and has the title, "School's Out! Hello Summer!" The students learned traditional dances with me in music class and with Mr. Ghirmay during their dance classes. These are the countries to be represented in traditional dances: South Africa (Kindergarten), Dubai and China (First Graders), France (Second Graders), Tanzania (Third Graders), United States of America (Fourth Graders), Mexico (Fifth Graders) and Sudan (Middle School and High School students).

The students and their homeroom advisers have been working hard on their dances and planning out costumes. Dr. Anna Beck has assisted in directing. Some of the children posed for a photo shoot to give you an idea how beautiful this event's going to be. Mark your calendars and support Khartoum American School by watching our students perform on May 5th, Thursday at 7:00 pm. Let's enjoy an evening of diversity and internationalism through songs and dances. Further information will follow in the next weeks to come.



Didith Lanario
Music Teacher