

SUDAN DAYS A GREAT SUCCESS!









YOU ARE INVITED TO THE **SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT SEMINAR**-

"Tips for Parents on Building Positive Study Skills for Children", presented by Ms. Nicole Stacey
Thursday, February 16, 8:30am, KAS Library. Bring your friends from KAS or from outside of
KAS!

Superintendent's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I again want to thank and congratulate Mrs. Susan Boutros, HS/MS Principal, and the Sudan Days Committee, for organizing last week's Sudan Days event.

Repeatedly over the last week, staff and students have commented on the success of this year's Sudan Days event. The event not only celebrated the richness of Sudan's culture but it also, in my opinion, celebrated the richness of our KAS school culture. The coming together of young and not so young (we adults!) in the spirit of cooperation and cultural celebration is evident at events such as Sudan Days. There are 30 nationalities represented in our student population, and 10 nationalities are represented in our faculty population. These facts underscore how truly international our school community is. When such a diverse group of students and adults come together to enjoy celebrating the host country, it highlights how easy it can be for people of all ages and backgrounds to share in the common pursuit of friendshiop, cooperation and collaboration.

KAS supports the building of a sense of 'community'. Indeed, Community is one of school's 4 Cs (Character, Curriculum, Community and Citizenship). The following is written as a part of the definition of the C of Community: "...Our community is a partnership of stakeholders who are actively engaged in the school and collectively shape its direction and ethos".

I hope you enjoyed Sudan Days. We are indeed fortunate to be a part of such a diverse and caring community of students and adults.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob BeckSuperintendent

KAS Art Students Made The Headlines!



Last year the Dean of college of Fine and Applied Arts was the guest of honor in the opening of our annual art exhibition. The Dean was impressed with our rich art program, which in his opinion is very advanced. Thanks go the administration that is very supportive and is aware that art is an essential learning tool. I can proudly say that our Art department at KAS is one of the best in Sudan especially after our art students made the headlines in one of the local art newspapers after the art exhibition.

Our Visual Learning program: Drawing, sculpting with clay and threading beads on a string all develop visual-spatial skills, which are more important than ever. Even toddlers know how to operate a smart phone or tablet, which means that even before they can read, kids are taking in visual information. This information consists of cues that we get from pictures or three-dimensional objects from digital media, books and television.

"Parents need to be aware that children learn a lot more from graphic sources now than in the past," says Dr. Kerry Freedman, Head of Art and Design Education at Northern Illinois University. "Children need to know more about the world than just what they can learn through text and numbers. Art education teaches students how to interpret, criticize, and use visual information, and how to make choices based on it." Knowledge about the visual arts, such as graphic symbolism, is especially important in helping kids become smart consumers and navigate a world filled with marketing logos.

We are looking forward to end the year with another successful art event.!





Maie Hassan Art Teacher

A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Clearly we are living in an exciting and anxious time in history. It is as if civilization has been frozen in a familiar fixed pattern for at least our living memory, and this solidness is now thawing out very rapidly! Every day brings new tests to our sense of what is right and decent in the world. How are we to navigate this situation, particularly in our work with the children and young adults of KAS?

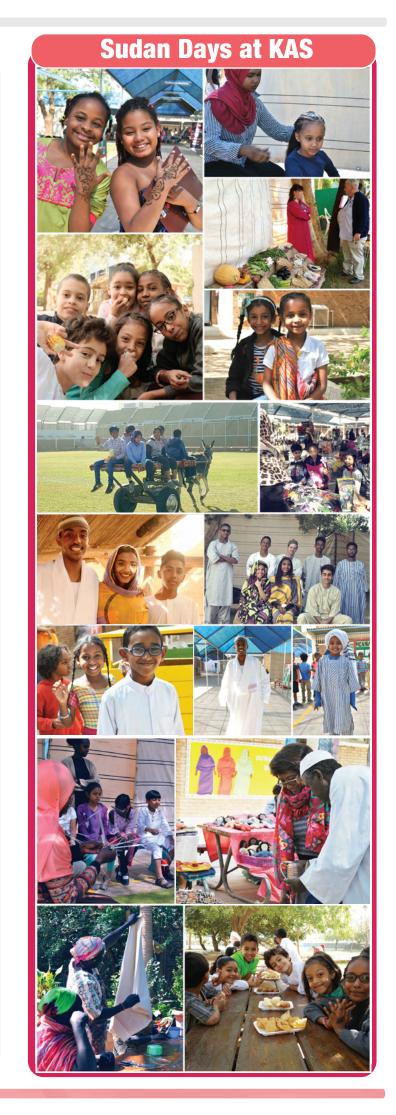
The first thing we can do is offer a sense of perspective to the young people in our charge who are becoming aware of world events. While the rapid transformations in societies are leading us to wonder what the future holds, we do well to remember that every time has had its unique challenges. Imagine how difficult it was to stay healthy in the centuries before our understanding of medicine and human well-being matured to its current state. On the one hand, human beings in earlier times were much more robust than modern human beings in many ways, able to be out in the elements and to exert sheer physical strength in ways that we would be hard-pressed to replicate today. But their life expectancy was also much shorter than ours due to a lack of knowledge about hygiene, etc. So our modern lifestyle is a kind of trade off: we have longer lives and more knowledge of how to live fully, but in the bargain we have given up a certain connection to the earth that earlier generations had.

This paradox manifests in countless examples. For instance, in the French Revolution new social forms emerged that are still active to this day, including the metric system and the first national civil registration system that includes birth, marriage, divorce, and death records. Yet at the same time chaos ruled the streets of Paris. And so history unfolds, birthing the good often through incredibly difficult circumstances for those alive at the time.

Along with reflecting to our students / children the perspective of past events, we want to share with all our children every day, from a genuine place in ourselves, how good it is to be alive and how many opportunities every day offers us to learn and love. As we do this, we will be equipping our children to face the unpredictable events approaching us in this time.

Phil Centers

Early Childhood Center & Elementary Principal



College and University Counseling at KAS

Many know that KAS sends its graduates to top universities in the US and around the world. While 1-1 advising and guidance alongside group lessons and counseling is nothing new at KAS, we are very excited to share the latest addition to the university counseling experience at KAS. We have been lucky this year to already welcome the American University of Beirut in Lebanon and Nottingham-Trent University in the UK to our campus in order to speak with our students about their respective institutions. Each school spoke about the strengths of its individual programs and unique approach to teaching and learning as well as matters of admission and finances. American University Beirut introduced the 11th grade students to the American university idea of majors, minors, and a broad well-rounded approach to education while Nottingham-Trent discussed its identity as one of the most diverse and internationally minded schools in England. Both Nottingham-Trent and American University Beirut spent time discussing admissions requirements and the differences in the application process for UK schools as well as American curriculum universities.



We are especially pleased to inform our community that there are more university recruiters headed to Khartoum American School to make personal visits and presentations with our students! Next on the docket is the University of British Columbia this week, rounding out the exposure our students receive to worldwide university systems. Later in the semester Khartoum American School will host the International University Alliance, which represents American universities such as the University of Kansas, Louisiana State University, University of South Carolina, University of the Pacific, as well as many others.



These in person visits from university recruiters mean that students have the opportunity to build relationships with university recruiters, that universities are seeing the value and strength of the educational outcomes from Khartoum American School, and that we are as a community continuing to strengthen our global outlook and academic rigor for our students as they enter an ever changing workplace and world. As always, please feel free to contact me as the secondary school counselor via e-mail at ddworak@krtams.org should you have any follow-up questions!

Douglas Dworak

Middle & High School Counselor



To go **Against The Grain** suggests something moving against the natural flow of events or feelings. For example, a wife, who hates football but will attend a Cup Final with her husband who loves the sport, might say, 'Well, even though it goes against the grain, I will go along.' It is a woodcutter's saying, in use since the 1600s. To work by cutting or carving along the grain of wood is notably easier than cutting across (or against) the grain. Working with the grain is considered smooth and easy; against it is hard and unnatural.

Minette van der Bijl High School English Department

A Message From The Arabic Language Students

We have enjoyed Arabic class a lot so far this 2nd semester. We have been learning about the Al-algamrai and Al-alshamsai, Shada, Mada, , and the Tanween. We have also learned a lot of new writing and reading skills. We have been reading stories then copying them to another paper and finding the Shada, Mada, , and the Tanween. We have also been reading stories and gaining more understanding of what the stories are talking about. Sometimes when we read a story we answer questions about the story on another piece of paper. Sometimes the teacher reads for us and we have to listen carefully so then we can answer the questions that will be asked soon. Since the 1to 1 laptop program started we started learning how to type Arabic stories on the MacBook Pro laptops using the Arabic keyboard.

Grade 3/4 Students