

# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, October 31, 2019



**Parent Teacher Conferences at KAS**

## Superintendent's Message

Dear KAS Community,

Firstly I would like to thank you for attending yesterday's Parent-Teacher Conferences in such great numbers. I would welcome any feedback on the use of Sign Up Genius to schedule appointments. The intention was to reduce waiting time for parents and to make the experience more efficient.

Secondly I would like to inform you of the dates of the board meetings this year:

- November 6
- December 11
- February 5
- March 11
- May 6

KAS' school board is made up of parents elected at the Annual General Meeting. The US Embassy also appoints one board member. As Superintendent, I am an ex-officio, non-voting, member of the board.

Kind regards,

**Bridget Davies**  
KAS Superintendent

## Transport Survey



During the last academic year, a transport survey was sent out to parents to gauge interest in a bus service. I would like to share the results of that survey:

- 29 families responded to the survey
- 82% of these families were interested in a bus service
- 50% of those who responded would be willing to pay for a bus service

## To our Lovely Kindergarteners



On the 21st of August you became a kindergartner. Some of you may be excited to move up from pre-K. Some of you might be scared if this is your first year at KAS.

What you all need to know is that kindergarten is a special time in your life and you will learn so, so much. We will start from the basics: the ABC's, how to blend, how to expand our knowledge in discovery, how to read and do some cool math.

Surprisingly, those are not the most important things we wish to teach you this year.

The most important things are friendship, kindness, compassion, sharing, empathy, independence, teamwork, honesty, courage, creativity, adventure, problem solving, and much more.

Here's to a wonderful year filled with learning and laughter!



**Safaa Abusabaa**  
Kindergarten Teaching Assistant

## Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

It was great seeing so many of you at our Parent-Teacher Conferences on Wednesday, October 30th.

Although Parent-Teacher Conferences are sometimes dreaded by children, these parent-teacher meetings have a very important role in enhancing a child's academic performance and experience at school.

These meetings help parents understand what their child is experiencing and learning at school, and what they can do to support them. If your child is having trouble, Parent-Teacher Conferences also give you and the teacher time to plan how you can both help them best.

Parent-Teacher Conferences open a communication channel between parents, teachers and students, which is crucial in strengthening a child's education. It is a well-known fact that parents play an active role in their child's education and can further encourage and influence their child to do well in school.

I hope that you have found our Parent-Teacher Conferences as enjoyable and productive as we did.

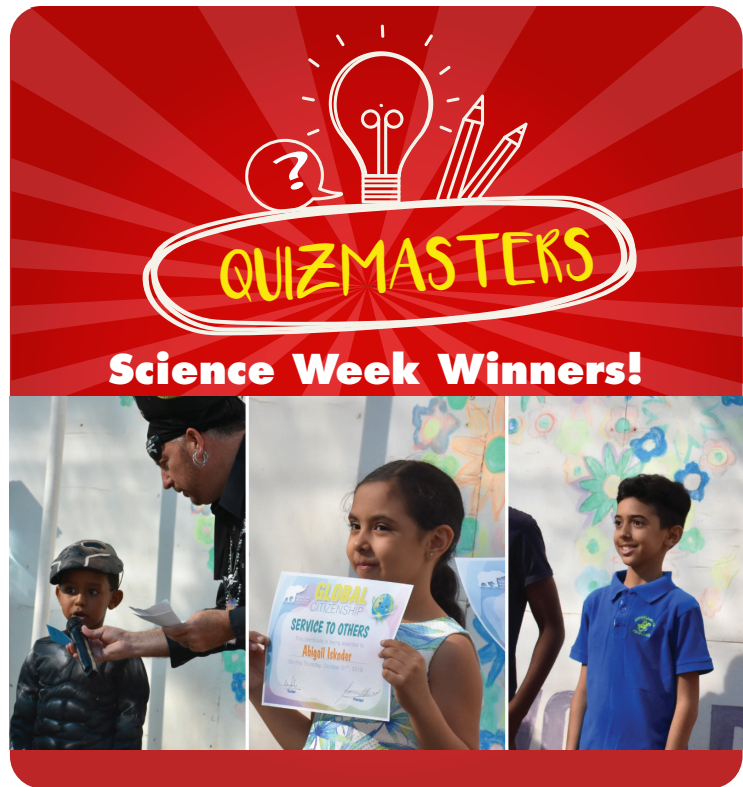
Have a great weekend!

**Susan Boutros**  
Middle & High School Principal

### Saying of the Week

To call someone a **Berk** is generally regarded as a mildly humorous put-down without malice, but the origin of the phrase suggests it was very different to begin with. Berk derives from a simple piece of cockney rhyming slang where anybody referred to as a 'Berkshire Hunt' was on the receiving end of one of the most offensive uses of rhyming slang. 'Berkshire Hunt' was shortened to 'Berk' as a replacement for the original meaning, but these days, berk is not at all linked to its original meaning by those using it.

**Minette van der Bijl**  
High School English Department



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A MESSAGE FROM KAS LIBRARY

Checkout our new arrivals collection at the library for the 2019-2020 school year.

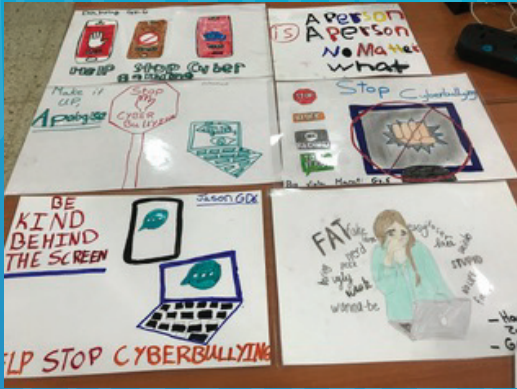
We have many new, exciting elementary and middle school book series, adult books, professional books, and many more.

We also have a new "Leveled Readers" section that is rich with story books, Disney books, biographies and science books that are easy reads.

Find new books for all the book lovers, right here at The KAS Library! A whole new range of latest trending fiction & non-fiction books have arrived!



# CYBERBULLYING... What Does It Mean?



Teaching middle school remains a challenging task for most teachers, regardless of tenure or temperament. Those between ages eleven and thirteen vary remarkably in their levels of maturity, as well as much else, and may only have their transition from childhood to adulthood in common with their classmates. One thing that concerns many educators around the globe is the issue of cyberbullying, specifically around middle school students.

Cyberbullying is the use of digital media such as cell phones and the Internet to harass and humiliate others. Cyberbullying is different from physical bullying, but in some ways it is worse because it can happen in any place, at any time. It usually takes a variety of forms, such as harassing or imitating someone, spreading rumors, or posting embarrassing information about someone online. This kind of bullying affects students and makes them feel humiliated and afraid.

At KAS, we teach the middle school students about cyberbullying and its effects. This year I had the chance to collaborate with Ms. Sally Boktor for the grade 6 writing class. Students wrote persuasive writing about bullying in general, and created posters about cyberbullying. Students were very enthusiastic about the topic and we had great discussions about it. Please check some of the attached signs to this article, which are also on display around the school

I want to take this opportunity to share some tips found at commonsensemedia.org that parents can use with their children at home to deter cyberbullying and prevent negativity online. Hopefully they will help you to recognize the warning signs of cyberbullying.

## What Families Can Do

You seem down. What's going on at school? Is anything upsetting happening online?

I'm here for you and so are your friends. Talk to me anytime.

Are there any teachers at school who have dealt with these kinds of situations before? I think you should tell one of them about what's been happening.

Bullies want attention, power, and status, which explain why they need to cause drama. I saw a news story about a teen who was bullied online. What would you do in that situation?

## Recognize context.

Cyberbullying is often not thought of as "cyberbullying" to the teens involved.

Even though an incident has a history, a story, and nuance, rather than referring it as "cyberbullying," try the words "digital cruelty," "abuse," or "being mean" online.

## Help teens understand when behavior crosses the line

Help your teen tune into his or her own feelings. If they feel emotionally or physically scared, it's time to get help.

## Encourage empathy

Help teens understand the detrimental impact of cyberbullying on people who are targeted, now and later in life. Encourage them to listen to targets and to become their allies.

## Be realistic.

Teens have their own social dynamics that often don't include parents, so helping them directly may be difficult. Encourage teens to find friends or other trusted adults to help them through the situation, even if it's not you. Websites are often slow to respond, if they respond at all, but reporting an incident to a website administrator can be an empowering step.

## Remember that your teen might be the bully

Teens can take different roles in cyberbullying at different times. A teen who is cyberbullied might turn around and cyberbully someone else to feel powerful again. Ask questions to understand what role or roles your teens are playing.

## Tell them to disengage

Encourage your teens to ignore and block the bully, and even log off the computer for a while. Point out that cyberbullies are often just looking for attention and status, so don't let them know that their efforts have worked. "

Reference:

<http://www.commonsensemedia.org/sites/default/files/uploads/pdfs/6-12-familytip-cyberbullying.pdf>



Egbal Mohamed  
Technology Coordinator