

news

news from the trunk

Thursday, November 7, 2019

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL AT KAS



PLEASE NOTE: KAS closes on Sunday November 10 for the 'Prophet Mohamed's Birthday' and reopens on Monday, November 11.

Superintendent's Message

Dear KAS Community,

Time is passing quickly this school year. Therefore I am already starting to think about recruitment of expat teachers for the 2020-21 school year. Finding highly qualified and experienced teachers that are a good 'fit' for KAS is one of the most important parts of my job as Superintendent. This weekend I will be travelling to Dubai to attend a recruitment event with 85 other international schools from Asia, Middle East and Africa. This will give me the opportunity to interview potential teachers in person. Moreover, before making any contract decisions it is important to do due diligence in terms of reference and qualification checks.

I also wanted to share my philosophy about managing parent issues and complaints. Firstly, I would encourage parents to share with me, in whatever medium they feel most comfortable, their issues. I also believe a face-to-face meeting with the parent can be beneficial. A small number of parents have already raised with me issues they are facing at the school. I have found the open communication and meetings very beneficial in improving my understanding of the school and making plans for the future.

Some issues can and must be dealt with immediately – anything related to student safety and child protection will always be a priority for me personally and the school as a whole. Sometimes it may seem that issues parents have raised are not being improved upon; I want to assure you that is not the case. Equally, as a school I am prioritizing improving communication – when an issue is resolved we must share and celebrate this fact!

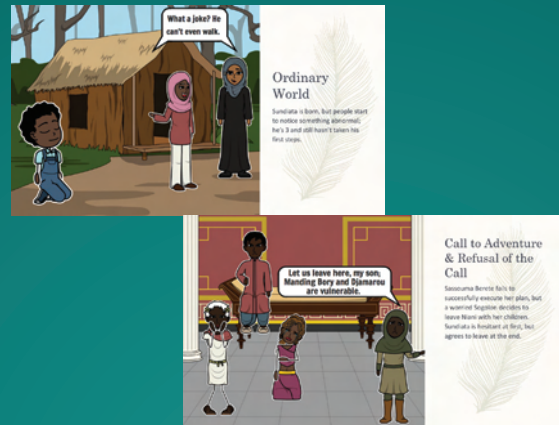
I am passionate about positive parent engagement at KAS and look forward to continued conversations with all of you.

Best wishes,

Bridget Davies
KAS Superintendent

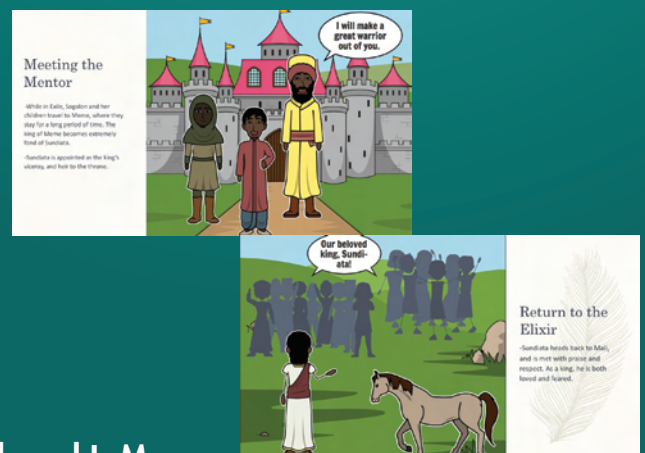
11th Grade Students Leading the Class

If you walked into African Literature two weeks ago, you would have seen the 11th grade students leading the class. Students gave 10-15 minute multi-media presentations on Joseph Campbell's theory of the "Hero's Journey" archetype and the 13th century Mali epic Sundiata. Yosif Sidahmed and Rayan Abuelgasim gave individual presentations, while Hamadelnil Hamadelnil, Ali Abdo, Elbashir Elbashir, and Omer Ali worked in one group, and Ahmed Elkedir, Amr Al-Awdi, Kareem Salah, Mahmoud Ali, and Mark George worked in another group.



Dividing the work equally, each group researched the Hero's Journey archetype and explained how the archetype applied to Sundiata. Students created PowerPoint presentations featuring visual, audio, and text elements, and everyone in class played a role in the presentations. Each group had a different take on how the Hero's Journey archetype applied to Sundiata, and everyone enjoyed discussing the merits of their divergent interpretations. Ahmed's group, Hamad's group, and Yosif each found heroic music to play during their presentations, which served to create an appropriate mood for a hero's journey, and Rayan created her own illustrations, which really impressed everyone.

I think everyone enjoyed working on the projects and giving the presentations. I know for a fact the teacher enjoyed them.



Edward LeMay
Language Arts Teacher

A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

In past articles I wrote about finding our stride and rhythm of the school year. It appears that we are in full stride and have found our rhythm. We have been busy at school with assemblies, progress reports, parent teacher conferences, and our Halloween carnival; to go along with our daily routines of math, reading, and homework assignments. It's important to make sure that we take time to relax, celebrate and enjoy special events as they come our way.

This year we had our first Halloween carnival to help us celebrate our hard work through the first part of the year. The students came dressed up in unique costumes that allowed them to show their personalities. There was a wide range of costumes that ranged from princess to super-heroes. We had unique costumes such as a slice of pizza and a cloud. The students shared their costumes in a parade around school as they went trick or treating throughout the school.

After the parade the students converged on the quad and soccer field to participate in a variety of carnival games that were set up and run by the teachers and middle/high school students. The students participated in games such as the coke bottle ring toss, skeleton puzzle, ladder golf, and even a labyrinth to run through. During the carnival the 12th grade class set up a bake sale where they sold a variety of goodies for the students to eat. The student council sponsored our first haunted house, which I hear was very scary and was one of the top attractions of the carnival.

I want to thank the PTA for sponsoring the carnival game cake walk. The PTA dedicated their time and baking skills to supply the game with a variety of goodies to use as prizes for the game. Without their hard work the carnival would not have been as successful. The PTA is fundamental in helping school events happen. Thank you PTA.

This year we used a ticket system to participate in games and purchase food. The money raised from these tickets sales is being used to help schools that had been affected by flooding earlier this year. Thanks to the Khartoum American School community a large amount of funds were raised through this event that will have an impact on several schools, supporting KAS's dedication to Character, Citizenship and Community. Thanks to all that came out and supported our Halloween carnival. I hope everyone enjoyed the event.

Jeremy Albright

Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

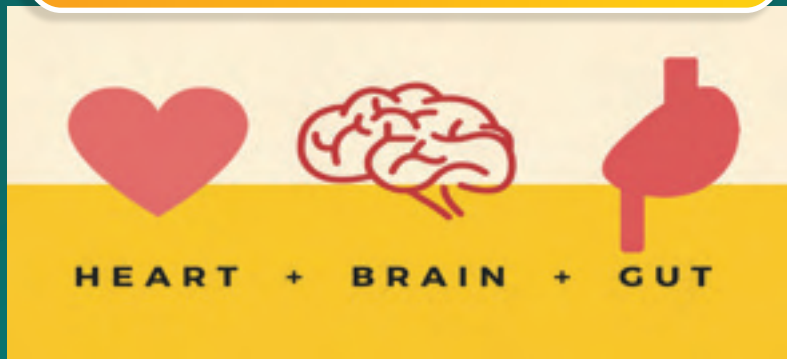
Halloween Carnival at KAS



KAS UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 4:** Prohpet's Birthday
- November 12 - 14:** Week Without Walls
- November 15:** Open Mic Night - 7:00 pm
- November 20:** Knowledge Bowl
- November 21:** Long Weekend
- November 23:** Junior Soccer and Senior Basketball
- November 28:** Gr. 7 and Gr. 11 Meroe trip
- November 28:** Parent Seminar

What's behind Learning? Three Minds!



Dear parents and teachers,

Today's seminar addressed all of us as human beings. When we adequately understand ourselves, we will be more capable and efficient when raising or teaching our children.

Groundbreaking research has discovered that we don't only have one brain! Actually, we have three: Head brain, heart brain, and gut brain.

Throughout the presentation, I explicitly explained aspects of the brain's physiology and its unbelievable memory capacity. Some of the points mentioned were the fact that the human body has 100 trillion cells and each cell has 2.4 km of double-stranded DNA tape. This tape works also as an organic memory device.

Thus, when we calculate this and convert it into kilometers, we find that each person has memory tape of the length of 204 billion kilometers. All of this is then multiplied by 3 • (103) because the DNA is a 3-dimensional structure.

This is equivalent to the distance between Earth and the sun 5.1 million times!

According to scientific experiments, it can be said that one brain can control another. In these experiments, the control was applied through a conductor (an electrical circuit).

However, in a learning context, the coherent relationships between the teacher and the student involve subtle energy that is delicate and can't be seen, and works here as a conductor.

Having said that, when the teacher creates a safe and comfortable environment for the student, the information can be transmitted to the student's brain in the same way.

Further in the presentation, I shared the latest scientific studies that

define the critical link between the heart and brain. These studies discovered that there is an intrinsic nervous system in the heart that allows a constant two-way dialog with the brain. In fact, the research shows that there are more neuro-pathways that run from the heart to the brain than from the brain to the heart!

Finally, I explained the notion of procrastination as the side effects of a significant reduction in the heart function as brain feeder.

Knowledge is Power

What is good for your heart is good for your brain. That's it. Understanding the unique relationship between your heart and brain, and making the right decisions to protect both of these vital organs throughout one's life, will be the topic of the next seminar.

Sincerely,

Salma Saeed
Elementary EAL Teacher

Saying of the Week

When something is In **The Offing** it is considered to be likely to happen, possibly imminently. The origin of this saying can be found on the high seas in the 17th century. 'Offing' was nautical slang for 'offshore' and a ship approaching a port or coastline, close enough to be seen from land, was considered to be 'in the offing'.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department