



# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, December 12, 2019



## THE MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL TRIP TO MEROE



**PLEASE NOTE:** KAS closes for the 'Winter Break' on Thursday December 19, 11:00am (Early Dismissal). School reopens on Wednesday January 8.



## Superintendent's Message

Dear KAS Community,

As we near the winter vacation I would like to thank you for your support during my first semester as Superintendent at KAS. I have enjoyed getting to know you and your children during the five months since I arrived in Sudan, and I hope to deepen these relationships during the second half of the school year. Please always feel free to contact me via email (bdavies@krtams.org), in person or by telephone (+249 912352165). I will be travelling to the UK during the winter vacation but remain available via email.

I wanted to share with you a revised dress code. The purpose of the revisions are to provide clarity for all members of the community. As always at KAS our main priority is the safety of students – this is why we want to emphasize the wearing of shoes at all times. Please do let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

**Bridget Davies**  
KAS Superintendent  
[bdavies@krtams.org](mailto:bdavies@krtams.org)



### KAS UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 11:** Board Meeting

**December 12:** Cinderella - MS Performance

**December 14:** Junior Soccer and Senior Basketball at KICS

**December 19:** ECC/ES Holiday Assembly and 4Cs Awards and Early Dismissal

**December 19:** Winter Break

## DRESS CODE

KAS does not have a required uniform. Instead, our "dress code" is supported by research that shows that students feel safer, perform better academically, enjoy higher self-esteem and display greater respect for other cultures and their environments when they are dressed appropriately for a school setting. One goal of the school program is to teach discernment of dress and behavior, and by working together to ensure adherence to our dress code at KAS, parents, teachers and students will be serving the welfare of all members of our community. By emphasizing safety, neatness and consideration of others in dress and grooming, we as educators and learners can build self-esteem, sustain self-discipline, and help everyone focus on learning.

### Good Choices:

- Clean jeans or trousers/pants that fit.
- Shorts, skirts, or dresses that extend to the knee
- Athletic or casual shoes and sandals.
- A brimmed hat for the sun that can be removed in class
- When participating in play and sport suitable footwear must be worn at all time

### Unacceptable dress:

- Anything on the student or part of the student that distracts from the educational process.
- Slides, clogs and flip flops
- Headwear in class, apart from Hijab and religious attire
- Clothing and jewelry must not contain statements or insignia of questionable taste or that people from other cultures might find offensive (e.g. racist symbols, crude gestures, or offensive wording)
- Clothing that is too tight, too short, or too revealing.
- Sleeveless shirts that show undergarments or lots of bare skin.
- The shirt and pants must overlap: midriff should not be visible with normal posture and movement
- Ripped jeans



# Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents,

A very special workshop was held at KAS for our high school students on Tuesday, December 3 on the topic of Self Defense and Safe Behavior. The workshop was promoted by the Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil and sponsored by CTC Company.

The workshop was conducted by Mrs. Vanessa Matos, Director of Institute Vanessa Ribeiro. Mrs. Vanessa, a Brazilian professional, came to Sudan especially for the event. She has more than 20 years of experience in the area of self-defense and her institute has developed projects in the area of safe behavior with girls in the public schools of Brasilia.

The workshop, which was very interesting and educational, included both theoretical and practical portions. The workshop helped our students understand the different kinds of violence and taught them how to defend themselves against the main kinds of violence.

The safety and security of our students is our highest priority. A special thank you goes to the Embassy of Brazil and CTC Company for offering this valuable learning experience to our students.

Have a lovely weekend!

**Susan Boutros**  
Middle & High School Principal



# READING

“Think before you speak. Read before you think.” – Fran Lebowitz

Here at KAS we know that reading is a skill that is fundamental for the ability to navigate the modern world. It is not something that solely takes place between the pages of a written book, but rather in the everyday interactions that are experienced by most without conscious thought. Tasks such as going to the supermarket require the need to read labels, prices, ingredients and the receipt at the end of the excursion.

Depending on the students' age, there are different ways to teach reading. Young students often start by reading pictures. Looking at illustrations helps them to identify the characters, the setting and the meaning of the story. By examining the features of a character they can decipher their mood. Smiles and grins indicate happiness, an open mouth expresses shock and frowns demonstrate displeasure. The colors used add to the atmosphere of the setting. The protagonist will often wear bright colors while the antagonist will be garbed in dark drab tones.

As students develop their reading skills, they will move from reading pictures to reading words. After mastering the alphabet, they may start to decode words, sounding out the letter blends in order to phonetically put the word together. This process takes time and practice and without fluency, students will find focusing on comprehension more challenging. Their time and effort is concentrated exclusively on blending the letters together to form the word. Comprehension and punctuation is less vital during this process of decoding.

While students learn to become more fluent readers, read aloud is a fantastic way to promote comprehension. They can identify the characters, the sequence of events and can retell the story in their own words. Using the illustrations, they can gather information to increase their understanding. Read aloud can be done by anyone not just a teacher. Parents can read to their children, siblings can read together, and even classmates can share a book and read as a group.

With an increase in fluency and vocabulary, comprehension will also increase. Comprehension is not only the ability to recall the events in the passage but also the reason for the events. Why did it happen? What would be the consequences of that action? Students can then start to make predictions about what they think may happen next.

At KAS reading may be taught as a separate subject, but it is constantly reinforced throughout the day. Math will not always be presented as a simple equation but rather as a word problem. Science may involve an experiment that accurately needs to be read in order to be successfully demonstrated. Geography includes maps with map keys, countries and oceans.

Reading not only increases language skills, but it promotes imagination and problem solving. Exposure to a variety of text exposes students' to different cultures, ideas and concepts. Ignorance can cause difficulties later in life, but the more we widen the minds and thinking of students, the better prepared they are to navigate the wider world.

Without constantly working on developing reading skills, all aspects of students' education will be affected. Every teacher's aim is to prepare their students' to be self-sufficient and develop the skills to succeed into adulthood. Reading is essential for everyday life, whether that is going to the supermarket, attending university or working in a professional workplace.

“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.” – Margaret Fuller

**Erini Seif**  
Grade 3 Teaching Assistant

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

As we come to the end of the first semester, it is fascinating as a teacher to reflect on the amount of information the students acquire, from so many different classes.

In social studies this semester we have done some amazing work, but two of my favorite projects happened in 6th grade and African Culture.

The 6th graders are working on a cartoon that describes the events from the Spanish-American war, through World War I and into the Great Depression. The students are allowed to do it in any format they choose as long as it is their own work and explains the cause and effect between these events. Many of the students have decided to do stop motion, which gives them an opportunity to show off their artistic talent. I am looking forward to seeing these projects.

In African Culture the students have recently completed a tourism video for Sudan, showing all of the wonderful places to visit in our country. One of the places they were mandated to describe was Meroe, where, incidentally, the 7th grade visited last week.

As an addendum to the tourism video, my students are interviewing Sudanese staff about the revolution and life in Sudan, pre and post revolution.

All in all, it has been another wonderful semester here at KAS. Please don't forget high school exams are December 16-18.

I wish you all a wonderful winter break!

**James Dolecki**  
MS Social Studies Teacher

### Saying of the Week

If people are described as **On The Level** it means they are trustworthy and reliable. In the 14th century the Freemasons' membership was exclusively made up of skilled stone workers. A level base or platform for a building or other structure was the most important part of a whole building project. Because of that the 'level' used to ensure a flat foundation was the most important tool a Freemason had in his case, leading to a common phrase at the time describing anything, including a person as 'level' (true, honest and dependable).

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