



n e w s

news from the trunk

Thursday, April 16, 2020



PLEASE NOTE: KAS will be closed on **Sunday** and **Monday** for a long weekend in acknowledgement of **Easter**. We will reopen on **Tuesday April 21**



Home is their safe haven



STAY HOME



WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS



AVOID CROWDED PLACES



WEAR A MASK



PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

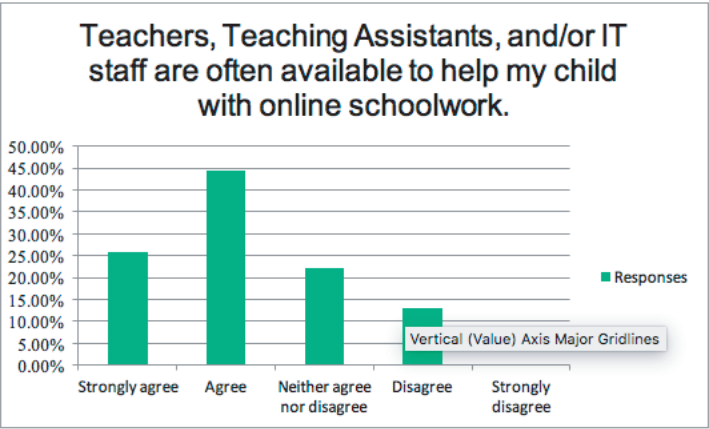
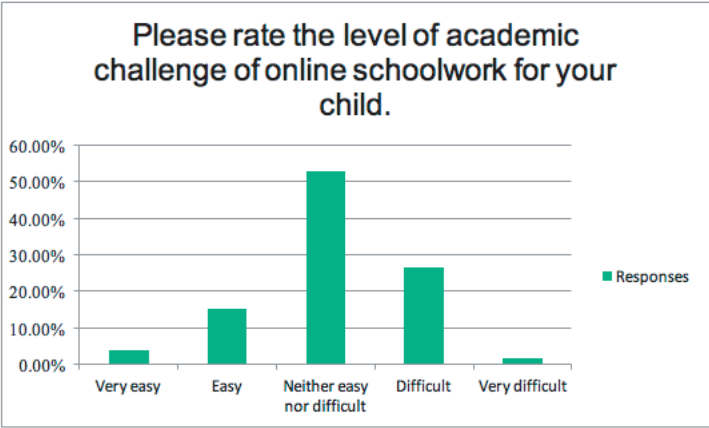
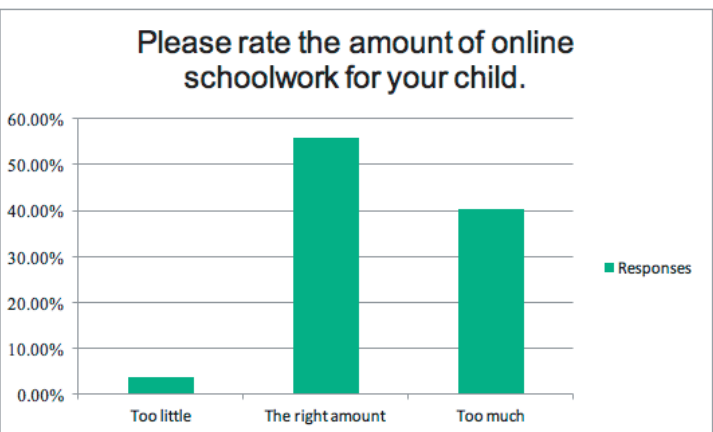
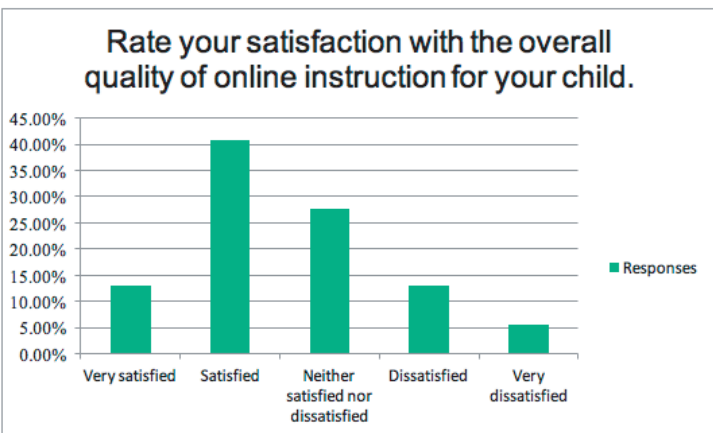
Superintendent's Message

Dear KAS Community,

I am writing to you from Kigali where we have been on lockdown for a number of weeks now. I am sending solidarity to everyone in Khartoum as you begin confinement on Saturday. Although it is difficult, I know by staying home we are all doing our part in keeping everyone safe.

I wanted to let you know that the board and I are continuing to monitor the local and international situation closely regarding the campus closure. We will meet again in the following weeks. We are very aware of students missing in person learning and also all the other things that make up our rich school community life. Nevertheless, our priority will continue to be health and safety for everyone.

I wanted to share some of the findings from our recent survey:



At KAS we have always been proud of the personal connections we forge with students and families; I am happy to note that this continues even during these difficult times.

We will send out another survey very soon and continue to welcome feedback on how we can improve our program. Now more than ever a positive partnership with parents is necessary – thank you for your support.

I remain available via email (bdavies@krtams.org) or telephone (+250 783442707 – this is my Rwandan number). Please do feel free to get in touch.

Stay safe at home,

Bridget Davies
 KAS Superintendent
bdavies@krtams.org

A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Dear Parents,

Another week of distance learning has come and gone. We are down to 5 ½ weeks left of school, which is 28 school days. It appears that the distance learning is becoming more routine for the students and they are starting to understand their expectations. If you as a parent need any kind of technical support please reach out and we will be happy to assist you with your needs from our informational technology department. If you need any kind of assistance in how to help your child during this time please don't hesitate to contact me, the teachers or the counseling department. There are many videos and webinars out there that can also help provide you with guidance.

Progress reports for the first half of the second semester are now available for viewing. They are located on Classe365 under attachments. I apologize for the delay in posting. Please take time to open them and take a look, if you have any questions about the progress of your child please contact the teacher.

This weekend will be a four day weekend. There will be no school from Friday until Monday. Teachers will be back online starting Tuesday April 21st. Please take this time to relax and enjoy some time with your family members without the stress of having online school.

Just as a reminder we are using Thursdays as a catch up day. Teachers are expecting all work that has been assigned during the week to be completed by the end of the day on Thursdays. Teachers are keeping track of assignment completion. 1st grade set the bar last week with a 91% completion rate. Encourage your children to complete all of their assignments. If students are falling behind parents will be contacted by the front office

Jeremy Albright
Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

A Field Trip to Khartoum Botanical Garden

Pre Kindergarten was learning about trees in the beginning of March so we went on a field trip to the Khartoum Botanical Garden, where we were able to explore, observe, compare and most importantly appreciate nature and trees.

We had fun and had a chance to bring different leaves, seeds and branches with us. We also had a picnic together, under the shade of a tree, which made us appreciate trees even more and be thankful to have them around! Here are some pictures of our trip...



Have a great weekend!

Vianca Trigo
Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

Distance Learning ...Could it be Easy!!

Distance learning has made us all find ourselves in a new way of learning with unavoidable challenges. We are all learning how to do things differently for a while. Across our school community, students, teachers, staff, and families, there is a wide range of levels of comfort with technology. Even very digitally-savvy young people may find themselves struggling with a distance learning environment. Many essential aspects of learning at KAS may not transfer quickly to online environments, and the whole community must adapt to a rapid and unexpected fit towards distance learning.

The important thing that all of us need to know is that "we are not alone in this."

I have been involved in many different discussions and webinars regarding online learning. Many educators are facing various challenges and working continuously in modifying, updating, and developing their distance learning, plans, and guidelines.

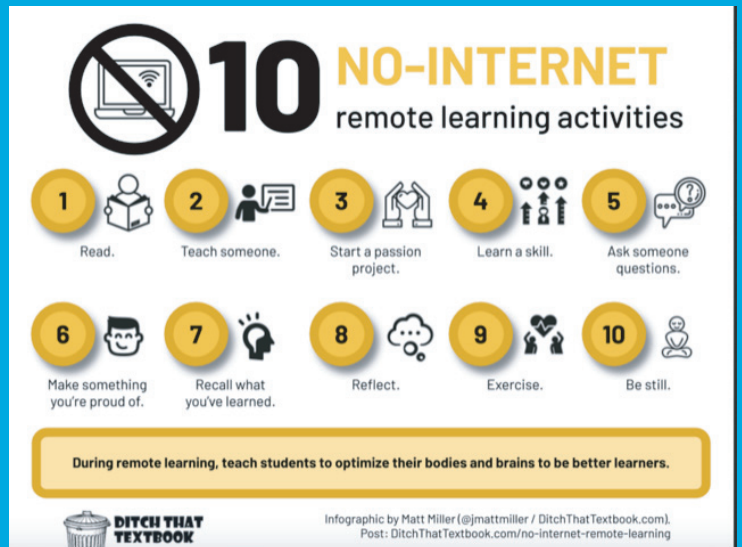
The main thing we can all agree on is that we need to take it easy and not stress ourselves and our children. We are all learning new things, and at the end of this experience, we will realize the learning was happening, and we will succeed. I want to share a few tips that may help in smoothing the whole process of distance learning at home.

Tips to ease your children distance learning:

- It is necessary to create flexible routines and set expectations with your child.
- Start your day by getting dressed and being ready like you are going to school. It will help students to feel that they are still at school and encourage them to be prepared for learning.
- Be sure to choose a spot at home that is quiet and private, so your child can focus on doing the work.
- Allow your children to own their learning. No one is expecting parents to do the teaching at home; instead, they should help their children in learning how to learn online. Please help them to figure out what the problem is and empower them to come up with the solution.
- All teachers at the school have set office hours for children so they can answer their questions or clarify instructions on how to do the work assigned to students. Please be sure that your child is keeping in touch with his/her teachers.
- Establish a routine for reflection every day. It will allow you to check with your child what challenges or problems they have faced and how they overcame them.
- Design time for physical or any off-screen activities. I'm attaching an

excellent infographic made by Matt Miller, for 10 No Internet Activities. Please check them and try to do some of them with your child.

These tips synthesize what schools around the world have been learning. This guidance can help us all make the best of new and sometimes unfamiliar distance learning environments. It can help you be ready for some of the more practical perspectives of learning from home



Egbal Mohamed
Technology Coordinator

Saying of the Week

If you ask somebody to **Put A Sock In It**, you are asking them to quieten down. In the early days of sound recording and radio broadcasting, the ability to control instrument volumes was severely limited, but orchestras and bands, the forerunners of the modern pop band, were in high demand. Usually the horn sections would drown out the wind instruments and strings in the enclosed studios. In an attempt to even the sound out, horn players muffled their instruments by literally stuffing a sock into the mouth of their instruments, bringing them down to the same sound level as the rest of the band.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department