



# n e w s

news from the trunk

Thursday, April 23, 2020



EST. 1957

*Let's ensure their well being*



**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,

As usual I write wishing your family safety and health now and always.

Normally KAS students take MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) tests twice per year; once in the fall and once in the spring. Teachers and administrators use the information from these assessments to make personalized targets for students and plan effective lessons and activities. MAP tests are not used to decide promotion to the next grade level.

KAS, along with the large majority of international and American schools around the world, will not be conducting MAP tests this spring. The testing conditions are not secure and the internet connection (with a VPN) is not stable enough for this to be effective.

Please know that teachers are continuing to assess students; this may look different than MAP and classroom assessment and at the same time it is still happening. Likewise when I see students' work on Seesaw and interactions on Classe it is heartening to note the positive relationships that persist.

Can I remind you to complete the survey about reenrolment for 2020-21 school year. As we are unable to send the paper copy as normal this electronic version is a substitute.

Best wishes,

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

## TIPS ON HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

Dear Parents,

I hope this newsletter find you well and sound.

In accordance with the current situation, I have been working on identifying key practices for successful home and online learning during coronavirus closure. The main point is to provide the EAL students with something positive that will ease the burden on you.

Talk to your child-It is important to talk to your children. Chatting regularly with your children is crucial in building a wide and varied vocabulary, and confidence with a range of sentence structures. These are necessary to be successful in reading and writing.

Take the opportunity and teach your children about the current situation and different ways to avoid COVID-19. Use high frequency words such as: virus, pandemic, self-quarantine, hand-washing, wearing a mask, avoid people, don't touch things, alcohol spray, don't touch your face, listen to WHO advice etc.

Also, listen to your child as he/she is constructing sentences and ordering their thoughts about different topics. The language they use while putting together ideas are skills that they will mainly learn from books they are reading.

In addition, read in front of your child. When your child sees you enjoying newspapers, books, and magazines, they will soon follow your example.

Alternatively, have a family reading time. That's it, allocate half an hour every weekend and read with your child. For example, read a recipe together; check the quantity of ingredients and preparation time. This will be a great time for social discussion.

Moreover, encourage your child to write letters or send emails. For instance, they can write thank you letters or letters of awareness about the pandemic. These letters can be for family members or friends. In such activity reading and writing go hand in hand.

Finally, praise your child. This is very important because reading and writing at home can be hard work, and children need all the encouragement they can get. After all, they are doing the best they can.

Please check these websites for different language activities:

<http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/english/english.htm>

<https://www.readworks.org>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Stay safe,

**Salma Saeed**  
EAL Teacher

# Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

I hope that you have had a relaxing long weekend. I am sure that it was very much needed after all the hard work with online learning.

During this time of online learning, communication is more important than ever. Effective student-teacher communication will definitely have a positively impact on students' academic performance and well being.

Here are some simple tips for students for effective communication during Online Learning:

## 1. Be an Engaged Online Student

Your teachers are here to inform, support, guide, mentor, develop and challenge you throughout your course. When you receive feedback from your teacher, please understand that it is provided solely for your benefit and learning.

Ask yourself:

1. Am I teachable?
2. Am I willing and ready to learn?
3. Am I willing to accept feedback, recommendations and correction?
4. Am I willing to make the necessary changes to ensure my academic success?

You must be able to answer "yes" to every question above in order for your teachers to be able to provide help, mentoring, coaching and encouragement.

## 2. Don't Hesitate to Ask Your Teacher Questions

When you have questions about any aspect of your course, I encourage you to contact your teacher sooner rather than later. Teachers welcome questions and appreciate students who take a proactive approach to their studies. Please remember that teachers want to hear from you!

## 3. Be Open to Other Forms of Communication

Remember, too, that while Classe is our learning management system

and emails are a convenient mode of online communication, Whereby meetings offer opportunities for more personal and efficient interaction. Arrange meetings with your teachers when you need more detailed clarification or guidance.

## 4. Don't be Afraid to Ask for Clarification

Should you ever have concerns about your schoolwork, grades or feedback, contact your teacher right away. Prompt communication will almost always resolve potential issues.

Please keep in mind, your teachers are here to help and support you. Please also remember that I am also accessible, approachable and eager to communicate with you. Please don't hesitate to contact me if needed. As a faculty, we strive to create an engaging online learning environment and our students' success is our top priority.

**Susan Boutros**  
Middle & High School Principal

## Saying of the Week

**Back To Square One** means back to the beginning. The origin of the phrase is easily traced to the 1930s when commentary on football matches began to be broadcast by the BBC. The BBC's schedule magazine, The Radio Times, devised a numbered grid system which they published enabling commentators to indicate to listeners exactly where the ball was on the pitch. Square one was the goalkeeper's area and whenever the ball was passed back to him, signalling the start of the forward movement of the team, play was referred to as being 'back to square one'.

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



# A MESSAGE FROM THE HS MATHEMATICS TEACHER

This week in Khartoum, and indeed in the world, a great crisis continued - the Corona virus. Teachers stuck all over the world, students struggling with the realities of living in Khartoum (lack of petrol, an airport closed so food shortages). None the less, everyone put in a valiant effort to continue with our curriculum. Students and teachers met on Whereby to discuss their work, but also their feelings and fears.

Online learning took on a whole new meaning. We looked forward to seeing our students again, and hopefully they us. In Mathematics, we relied heavily on Khan Academy, supplemented by Whereby meetings. The students rose to the challenges of electricity blackouts,

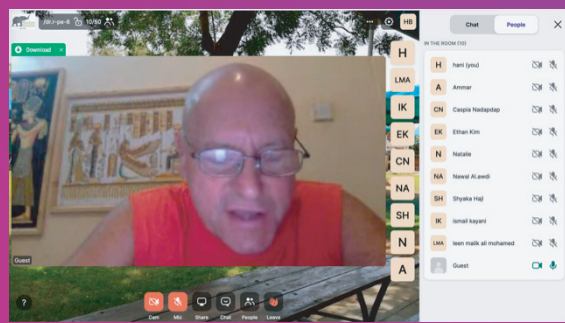
a new way of learning and diesel shortages in a wonderful way. My hope for the weeks ahead is a return to normalcy, a return to the classroom. As a teacher, you want to be able to interact with your students, see when they struggle and be able to help there and then. My prayer is that the virus gets beaten soon and we can all return to Khartoum.

Wishing you all the best from Istanbul,

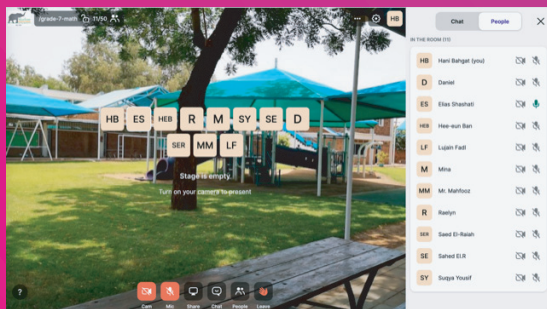
**Quazanne van der Bijl**  
HS Mathematics Teacher

## A VIEW INTO ONLINE LEARNING

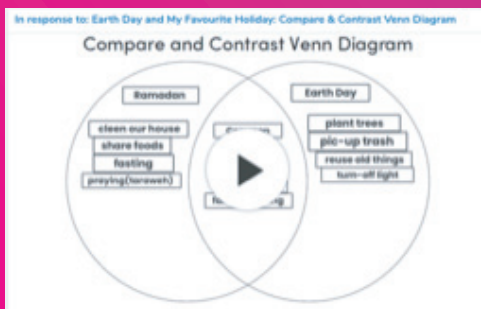
**Teachers connect via Whereby. We are all learners at the moment:**



**Middle School and High School classes continue via Whereby - connecting and learning from around the world**



**Science experiments and reflection on Ramadan and Earth Day on SeeSaw**



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