news

News from the trunk!

Sunday, February 20th, 2022

VALENTINES DAY CELEBRATIONS

Khartoum American School

Letter from the Principal –Susan Boutros

Dear KAS Community,

As I walk around the school, whether visiting classes or observing students during break, or as they come to school at the beginning of day or leave school at the end of the day, I can't help noticing how truly international Khartoum American School is.

The main reason behind this is the focus that our school has on creating a diverse and multicultural environment on campus. At KAS we understand that in diversity there is beauty and strength. Students educated in diverse settings perform better academically and have greater professional success than peers from more homogeneous learning environments. Of course, the advantages of a multicultural education extend far beyond the classroom and professional life. Students that come from diverse racial or ethnic backgrounds are more tolerant, open-minded, and have a greater understanding of different cultures.

Internationalism and Global Citizenship is imbedded in our curriculum as well as in our school life. There are many exciting learning opportunities and events happening at KAS to promote our diversity and internationalism. On Tuesday, March 1st, we will be celebrating our host country, Sudan, by having a Sudan Day celebration and on Wednesday, March 2nd, we will be celebrating our diversity by having an International Day. More details will be shared with you soon.

Wishing you a lovely weekend!

Susan Boutros
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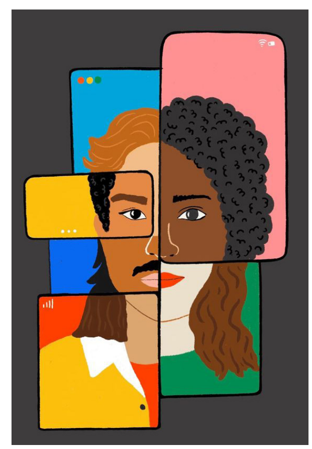

Saying

If something is sure to be a success it is **In The Bag**. This idiom has become widely accepted thanks to the old New York Giants (now San Francisco Giants) baseball team. It began as a superstition. In 1916 the Giants had a run of 26 consecutive wins. A bag filled with 72 extra baseballs would be put on the playing field at the beginning of each game. These balls were used to replace any that were hit into the seats or any that became too dirty. The Giants, during this crazy winning streak, fell under the impression that if they were in the lead during the ninth (last) inning, carrying the ball bag off the field would ensure their win because, according to the team, they had captured the game in the bag (Britannica).

Happy Valentine’s Day KAS Community

LOVE, **LOVE**, AND **MORE** LOVE

The largest most powerful **love** begins at home, before we begin searching for it, craving it and talking about it in the outside world. It is nurtured in the family through our awesome parents and interaction with our siblings. We love our family because they love and accept everything about us. Love and affection reigns over our homes.

LOVE is king!

Love is a fascinating and beautiful mystery. Once it gushes and spreads into our social life, we love our friendships, role models, teachers, our country, and communities.

Our gorgeous brains are responsible for this magical emotion we call **LOVE**. Specific chemicals such as serotonin, oxytocin, phenethylamine and dopamine play a major role in our experiences and behaviors associated with **LOVE**. They make us alert, energetic and protected.

Here are some of the ways **LOVE** at home benefits and structures us as we develop into **LOVABLE** adults:

- You gain confidence and a high sense of self-esteem.
- You learn conflict resolution skills.
- You learn about communication and social interactions.
- You have good physical health (thanks to home-cooked healthy meals, regular exercise and play, and early bedtimes).
- You become more resilient and adaptable as you and your family surmount challenges.
- You feel like you have support when you need it.
- You feel a sense of stability and predictability based on routine.
- You don’t have to do anything to earn family love. You have it unconditionally—just for being born.
- Your childhood experiences and growth are seen in a positive light.

May this **Valentine’s Day** enhance your gratitude and fill your hearts with overflowing **LOVE**

Love you KAS

Layla Saad
MS/HS Teacher

Ethan Kim
2022.02.17

Research on Government Intervention on Cryptocurrency

With the rapid ascent of the cryptocurrency market in the past decade, new opportunities for individuals and businesses alike have also arisen. The advancement of the blockchain, in particular, has expedited the implementation of cryptocurrencies, its encrypted and decentralized P2P (peer-to-peer) system providing both heightened security and transparency. Evidently, these two factors are imperative in monetary exchange, for the former can dissuade the manipulation of records on previous exchanges, and the latter can monitor nebulous trading (Farnaghi & Mansourian 2) which led to the 2008 Global Financial Crisis. However, the cryptocurrency's rise to prominence has been a major source of concern for governments around the globe as the blockchain's decentralization makes it difficult for them to regulate monetary activities, and has the potential to greatly diminish the role and impact of their fiscal and monetary policies. In response, numerous governments, including the United States and China, have decided to impose restrictions on cryptocurrencies and going further, propose alternatives of their own.

Unlike online portals, whose limited numbers makes it so that they can be effectually regulated by the state, the sheer number of cryptocurrencies renders it nearly impossible to do so. Moreover, the lack of need for an intermediary (i.e. the state, or financial institutions related to the former) effectively eliminates any central presence in DeFi (decentralized finance) transactions. Nevertheless, it is also a corroborated fact that this relatively unregulated sector of the economy engenders significant risks of capital flight (Ju & Lu & Tu 445) and illicit activity (Foley & Karlsen & Putninš 1798), both of which have already taken place on numerous occasions. As such, while the lack of a centralized presence supplies privacy and security to some individuals and groups, it also equates to the Achilles' heel of the economy, susceptible to exploitation by others.

Another concern of governments in respect to cryptocurrency is the diminishing power of their fiscal and monetary policies, and their financial institutions. As stated above, the unregulated position of the industry, in which "laissez-faire" (leave alone) economics dictate transactions, may potentially blunt state-imposed capital controls. Typically utilized to prevent large scale flows which may disrupt the economy, capital controls restrict both the inflows and outflows of capital. Up to recent years, they have been employed as a tool against globalization, enabling governments to have significant influence over the economy. However, the advent and rapid ascension of the crypto industry have curtailed the rein governments' capital controls, and thus, their fiscal and monetary policies, had previously held on their economies, with capital being bypassed through an alternative route.

The first measure by which some governments aim to limit the influence of cryptocurrency on their economies is through conventional economic regulation. The strongest instance of regulation is found in the People's Republic of China (PRC), an authoritarian state operating in similar fashion with the "capitalist mode of production." Over the past four to five years, the People's Bank of China (PBoC) has proscribed the operation of both domestic and overseas cryptocurrency exchanges within the PRC, issued bans on "mining," and even proclaimed all such transactions within the PRC to be illegal, explicitly clamping down on the industry. Proposed rationales on such a course of actions substantially differ. While some claim that the PBoC's, and therefore, the Communist Party of China's (CCP), intentions were to maintain "regulatory consistency and conserve institutional resources" (Xie 491), others purport that the CCP perceived cryptocurrencies "as a threat to its sovereign digital-yuan" (John & Shen & Wilson). Both opinions roughly correspond to the rationales of other crypto-wary governments around the world. However, some governments, in particular that of China, have decided on developing an unconventional method of directly confronting cryptocurrency, in the form of a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

The CBDC is, in essence, a digital form of a nation's currency. CBDCs are projected to be issued by central banks, serve as a medium of exchange, a store of value, and a unit of account, be analogous to paper currencies, and to expedite the effects of their monetary policies. In addition to proposing an alternative confronting privately-issued cryptos, CBDCs seek to counter the inevitable degradation of paper money, preserve resources spent on the creation and maintenance of paper money, and to promote price stability (Bordo & Levin 2). Yet, CBDCs are expected to have several major drawbacks, such as increased possibility of bank runs during economic peril due to the rapid virtual availability of digital currencies, vulnerability to power outages and hacking, and excessive commercial bank competition (Koumbarakis & Saldapenna 8). The development of CBDCs are led by the PRC, the same country which so decisively and drastically cracked down on the usage of cryptocurrencies within its borders, followed by Russia and the United States, and numerous European nations, making cost-benefit analyses (CBA) of CBDCs.

To conclude, the cryptocurrency industry, regarded as revolutionary by some, in its DeFi mechanics and relatively unregulated state, and as a fraud by others, its value coming from perplexing backing, has triggered a gamut of reactions in national governments and central banks. In correspondence with the rising value of the crypto market, many governments have laid increasing numbers of regulations on it so as to avoid losing influence in guiding their nations' economic paths. Of those regimes, some attempt on developing new forms of official currencies, central bank digital currencies, to perhaps replace paper currencies. Even so, not all governments are aboard the notion of eschewing cryptocurrency. In fact, El Salvador has taken the step of making Bitcoin, the de facto medium of exchange in the crypto market, a legal tender,   citing many Salvadorians' inability to obtain "traditional financial services" (Hernandez). Likewise, numerous nations, in particular those with comparatively volatile and weak currencies, are in the process of considering this path, which may be just a start to the adoption of cryptocurrencies as fully-functioning currencies.

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