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News from the trunk!

Thursday, September 30th, 2021

LET'S BRING BACK SCHOOL SPIRIT!

FALL BREAK: OCTOBER 8 - OCTOBER 16

Reminder - please complete the survey about your children's travel plans for Fall Break:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CBRFJL8>

Those who complete the survey and arrive on campus Sunday October 17th are eligible for rapid testing in lieu of quarantine.

Please donate money to breast cancer hospitals in Sudan. Donation boxes will be placed in the library and cafeteria!

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY

SUNDAY OCTOBER 3 WEAR PINK

STUCO PRESENTS

ICE CREAM DAY!

THIS SUNDAY!

CAFETERIA/QUAD
12:35 PM

Student council will now be having an Ice Cream Day every last Thursday of the month!



Letter from the Superintendent –

Bridget Davies

Dear KAS Community,

At KAS we believe every member of the school community is always learning. As faculty members we include ourselves in this.

Improving teachers and assistants' knowledge, skills and understandings will definitely lead to greater student learning. That's why at KAS the pandemic has not stopped our teachers being engaged in Professional Development.

We are fortunate to be working with expert American trainers, Pathways to Inclusive Education, who have experience at the American Embassy School Delhi and American School Dubai.

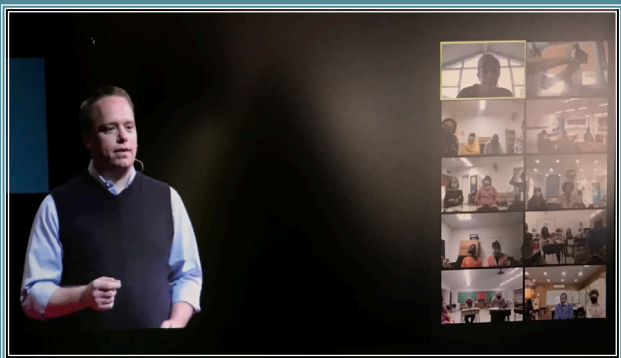
Our skilled Teaching Assistants have already received in depth training on behavior interventions and are now undergoing further professional development to allow them to support all students with improving their reading and literacy. These skills will quickly have a huge impact on student learning.

All faculty members are also receiving monthly professional development titled 'Designing Learning for All: Elevating Our Practice'. At KAS we know we already deliver a very good education for all students; we are undertaking this training to move that practice to great.

Besides this, many faculty members undertake their own professional learning during the summer vacation – sometimes for fun and sometimes to use in the classroom.

What are you learning this weekend?

Best wishes,
Bridget Davies



Letter from the Principal –

Susan Boutros

Dear Parents,

Each school year in the fall and spring, students in grades 2 to 11 take the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) tests. This Fall our MAP assessment session started on Sunday, September 19, 2021 and will end next week. These tests help our KAS teachers to determine your child's instructional level and measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year in the areas of reading, mathematics and language usage.

The purpose of MAP testing is to determine what the student knows and is ready to learn next. MAP is a computer adaptive test—which means every student gets a unique set of test questions based on their responses to previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. Although the tests are not timed, it usually takes students about an hour to complete each test. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

Students receive an individual score, called a RIT score. A RIT score is a different type of measure than a typical test that provides a percentage correct. Instead, the RIT score is an equal interval scale, like feet and inches, which is independent of grade level. Teachers will be able to see your child's RIT score progress from test to test, and year to year. MAP tests do not influence your child's grades and are not reflected in the report cards.

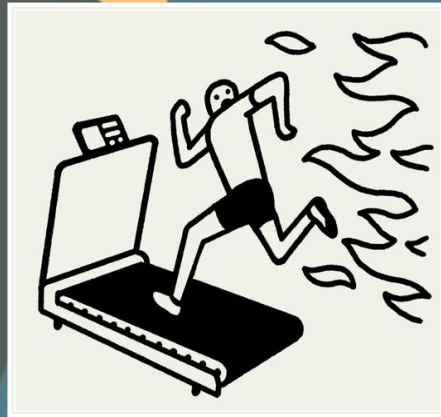
Individual growth goals are developed for each student based on his/her achievement. This model of assessment is based on individual growth, rather reaching the same benchmark for each student. These tests are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth and skill development. They let teachers know where a student's strengths is and if help is needed in any specific areas. Thank you for your continued support of your child's learning.

Have a great weekend!

Susan Boutros
Principal

Saying of the week

On The Treadmill relates to Victorian hard labor. The great writer Oscar Wilde was subjected to this during his prison sentence in the late 1800s. Today it is used to describe exhausting, never-ending work that is usually without even acknowledgement. In Wilde's day a treadmill was a primitive version of modern-day step machines found in every gym or fitness centre. It was a row of evenly spaced wooden planks joined at each end by a large round cog. Poor Wilde and his fellow convicts were forced to walk the treadmill all day long, akin to walking up and endless staircase but without actually leaving the bottom step. As the playwright himself said at the time, "If this is the way the Queen treats her prisoners, she doesn't deserve to have any." Needless to say none of his clothes still fitted when he eventually left Reading Goal, and today, in fitness centers, people pay to do it.



Minette van der Bijl
HS EAL Teacher

Sleep & School

Sleep has beneficial effects on health, emotions, memory and academic potential. However, inadequate sleep can have a negative impact on a student's well-being, decision making and attention, all of which are necessary for success in school. Primary school and the beginning of secondary school have been identified as important times to influence and establish healthy habits in children. As sleep has a vital impact on student health and performance, it is important to encourage good bedtime habits for children during the school period.

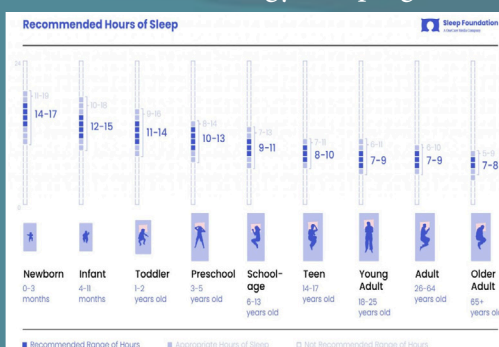
Sleep problems hinder students' ability to perform at school. It is estimated that between 20% and 40% of young children have sleep problems and that half of young people aged 14 to 18 suffer from severe sleep deprivation. In addition, almost 13% of adolescents suffer from severe insomnia. Loss of sleep on weekdays, combined with poor bedtime habits on weekends, causes difficulties that manifest themselves at school during the week.

Reduced sleep time can interfere with students' ability to concentrate for long periods of time and retain what they learn in class. Research shows that children who sleep less are more likely to have difficulties with verbal creativity, problem solving, and behavior inhibition. Sleep deprivation also results in lower grades. One study showed that a quarter of students had a drop in grades due to sleepiness. The consequences for academic performance are obvious.

According to a survey published in 2019, 43% of parents underestimate their child's need for sleep.

Sleep is essential to your child's development. So encourage children to go to sleep at a reasonable time. It's not normal to find messages posted by a MS student at 1:00 am on Schoology. Sleeping well has only advantages, while its opposite is a source of problems at school.

Yves Lecointe
French Teacher



~The Garden of Books~

“...the brain is like a muscle, and if you don’t exercise it by reading and doing creative stuff, it’ll get weak and mushy.”
- from Jeff Kinney

Reading is an essential life skill. It’s said books have the power to change the world. Books have the power to change you too!

Reading for pleasure is very important for children. It helps them improve different language skills, and build important life skills (empathy, resilience, communication).

In Middle School Language Arts classes, every month students pick a book to read, and present a book review to the whole class. We call it “The Garden of Books”.

This month the 6th graders did a great job with their presentations. Here are some of the students’ reflections on their own learning experience.

“I like the presentation because it was fun.” Sara

“I like the idea of the garden of books. It allows you to read and have good presentation.” Joshua

“I loved that I could see my classmates review “on the books.” Momin O.

“I loved reading my novel Mud city and I liked the setting.” Dibya

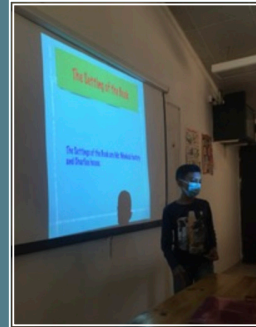
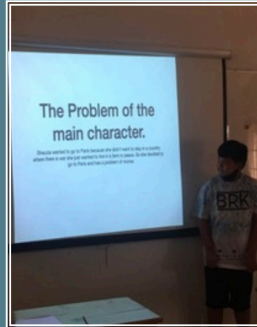
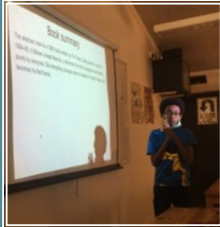
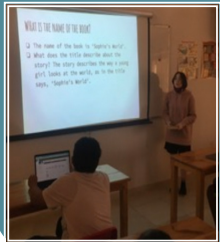
“I liked the idea of talking about the book, and it felt really fun to write the presentation.” Ahmed Y.

“I really liked how people presented and that I got to read ‘Dog Man’ again.” Mugtaba

“I really liked how I presented and how the audience listened.” David

“I like that you found Sophie’s World interesting and you thought the philosophy was really fascinating. I also enjoyed making the project. I haven’t done a book report/presentation in quite a long time so it made me happy.” Helmi

Sally Boktor
MS Language Arts Teacher



STUCO Enews Section

Last Tuesday the student council held its first meeting and put forth a new mission statement: “Let’s Bring Back School Spirit!”. As a result of the dramatic events and uncertainty in the past few years (the pandemic and the revolution) KAS students have lost their school spirit, their sense of community, and passion. The student council’s top priority this year is to fix that; to bring back school spirit, and to revive our passion and drive for school. This year’s new student council has already begun achieving that. The basketball tournament last week united students from all grades in a fierce and historic competition against teachers. I’d like to take this opportunity to remind you that the student council will be hosting an **Ice Cream Day** on **Sunday October 3rd** and it’s my pleasure to announce that the student council will now be having an Ice Cream Day every last Thursday of the month! On **Sunday October 3rd** we will have **Breast Cancer Awareness Day**, where students are encouraged to wear pink, and donate money to breast cancer hospitals in Sudan. Donation boxes will be placed in the library and cafeteria. I want to thank every parent, student and teacher who is showing a tremendous effort to promote and participate in KAS spirit. Have a wonderful weekend!

-- Student Council Publicist, Jonathan Fargalla