



news

news from the trunk

Thursday, March 22, 2012

MOM

Happy Mothers' Day



Spring Break

From Friday, April 6, 2012, to Monday, April 16, 2012



Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

In this week's newsletter we pay tribute to all of the Moms here at Khartoum American School in our special Mother's Day edition.

Needless to say, our mothers are the pillars of our school and the massive contributions that they make on a day to day basis are immeasurable. From getting children ready for school, packing lunches, checking up on homework and many of the other parenting jobs that fit into the "Mom Job Description" we thank you. Extra thanks also goes out to those special groups of mothers who go above and beyond the regular duties and support the school in a number of other ways. Specifically, I am thinking of our mothers who are teachers, those mothers who volunteer their time to help out in the library and with our ASAP program, and the wonderful group of mothers who also make up the core of our PTA. Being a mother is a fulltime job in itself and so these groups have my utmost admiration.

On that note it seems appropriate to report on the progress of our swimming pool. I know the really hot weather is just around the corner and so it gives me great pleasure to announce that the pool should be completed in only a few short weeks. Already the tiles are in place, and much of the work left to be done involves adding some final touches. For our mothers, we are planning a special "Ladies Day" once a week so that they can enjoy some privacy while also sharing the company of other ladies. Obviously, as the grand opening approaches we will be passing on a lot more details about this and other aspects of the pool.

Of course, it would be remiss of me not to also mention all of the hard work done by the Fathers of the school but I am sure that we can pass on these accolades in a future "Father's Day" issue.

So once more to all of our mothers, a big thank you.

As always have a wonderful weekend.



Letter from the Elementary Principal, Ben Voborsky

Last week's newsletter highlighted KAS's continued commitment to the Campaign for a Greener Khartoum. KAS was introduced to Hareef, the Camel, a recycling mascot. In conjunction with the DAL group, KAS will place recycling bins around our campus to assist in the recycling of plastic bottles.

On Monday, February 19, I was lucky enough to join our Grade 1 and Grade 2 classes on their field trip to the Coca Cola Factory and we experienced the factory's recycling efforts firsthand. We enjoyed a brief tour of the factory followed by a demonstration of how they are recycling and then reusing plastic crates. It was great to see our students watching the life cycle of a crate and making the reduce, reuse, recycle connection. There is growing awareness and sense of corporate responsibility in Sudan and KAS continues to help create that awareness. I would like to thank Kobus and those at DAL group who opened up their facility to our students and provide them a great experience.

If you see one of our Grade 1 or Grade 2 students around school, please ask them about their field trip!



Study Skills

At the Learning Center we spend a lot of time talking about study skills. The excerpts from the article below make some practical suggestions.

Parents of school going children normally complain that they are unable to make their kids sit down and study. This becomes even harder when it is time for exams or when there is an assigned project to be completed. Many children are not motivated enough and some have a very short attention span that does not let them focus on what they are reading.

The important thing is to set a study routine. The normal perception is that material comforts do not have any affect on a child's motivation to get down to study. This is not true. A straight back chair and a study table are better at promoting concentration than studying on a reclining sofa or on a bed which is more likely to invite sleep. Distractions like video games can also prevent the mind from engaging in concentration. Help your child in organizing study material well before he sits down to study. Give him a goal that he should try to achieve within the hour. Heavy meals are liable to make the child lethargic and lazy. Feed your child with nutritious but light meals like juices, milk, fruits, and cheese at regular intervals rather than at one go.

By Tess Thompson

(Source: <http://www.nativeremedies.com/articles/>)

French in HS and MS

In French we are focusing on our goal, which is to speak the language and to practice as much as we can. Having different levels in class makes it challenging to meet students' needs. On the other hand it is useful, as the advanced level students review while the beginners practice the basics of the language and vice versa. The students learn through media, watching an episode of each lesson, reading and listening to the presentation of the students from different levels and other different learning experiences. I am really proud of all my students and their effort in class. For further practice, students are encouraged to make use of the activities on grammar and listening exercises that are on Moodle.

Our last unit "How to order food and drinks in a restaurant or café and how to shop for clothes" was a great success. The students participated in a number of practical learning engagements and were able to apply the French language in different settings, both orally and in written form.



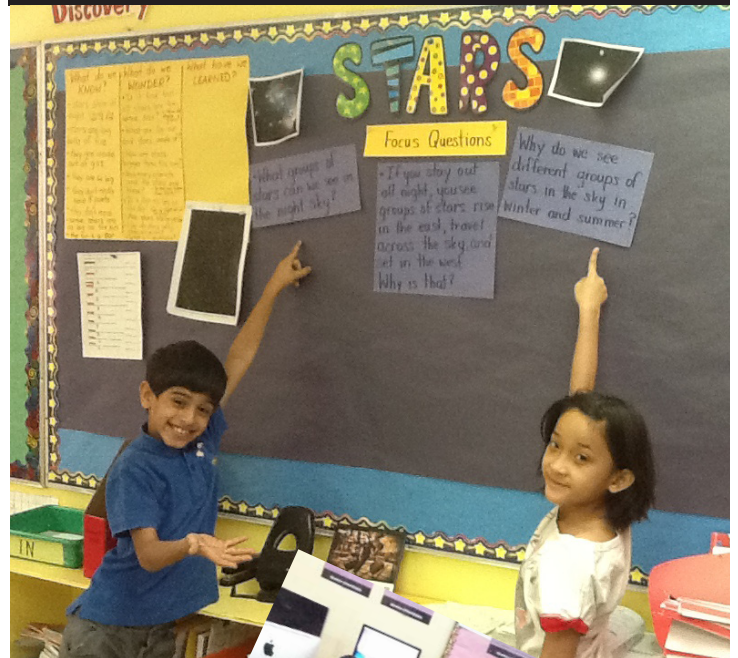
Discovery in Grade 3!

Why do stars seem to travel across the sky at night?
 Why do we see different groups of stars in the sky in winter and summer?
 What groups of stars can we see in the night sky?

These are some of the questions that we began to think about when we began our Discovery unit about Stars and Space.

Before we started the unit we knew that stars are made of gas. We knew that they don't really have 5 points, like we see in pictures sometimes. We knew that some stars are as big as the Sun. Our class started out knowing a lot of information about objects in the sky. However, there were still a lot of questions that we needed answers to! We wanted to know stories about the constellations, how to explain why it looks like stars move at night, and what happens to stars when their lifetime is over!

In Grade 3, we've been thinking a lot about stars and planets. We've been learning to use features of non-fiction to understand what we read. We've also been learning to research using the Internet and books. We've been keeping a Discovery Journal to show what we understand about stars. In Computer class, we've been using iMovie to put together a neat collection of what we've learned! We have found out so many interesting things, but there are always more questions to be answered!





Winners: Lewan - Kindergarten, Preet - Grade 1, Ayaan - Grade 2, Muhammad - Grade 3, Rafiza - Grade 4, Mohanad - Grade 5.

Elementary School Math problem:
Kindergarten: Count the stars. How many stars are there?
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Grade 1: Solve: $100+10$
Grade 2: Write the answer and show your answer using a multiplication array: 4×9
Grade 3: Answer A, B, or C for each of these questions (Hint – one letter will be used more than once):
 1. Which number is a little less than 4 million? ____
 2. Which number is about 1 million less than 3 million ____
 3. Which number is about half as much as 12 million? ____
 4. Which number is about twice as much as 1 million? ____
 A) 3,999,674 B) 2,010,437 C) 6,104,000
Grade 4: Circle the number that is closest to the product of 48 and 21: 10 100 1,000 10,000
Grade 5: Six friends shared a pizza. The pizza had eight slices total and each friend had exactly one slice. What fraction of the whole pizza was left over? Simplify the fraction.

Middle School Math problem:
 What is the ratio of the number of multiples of 4 between 1-49 to the number of multiples of 5 between 1-49?

High School Math problem:
 If you make a \$1,500 investment with a rate of return of 4.5%, compounded annually, how much will you have after 10 years?

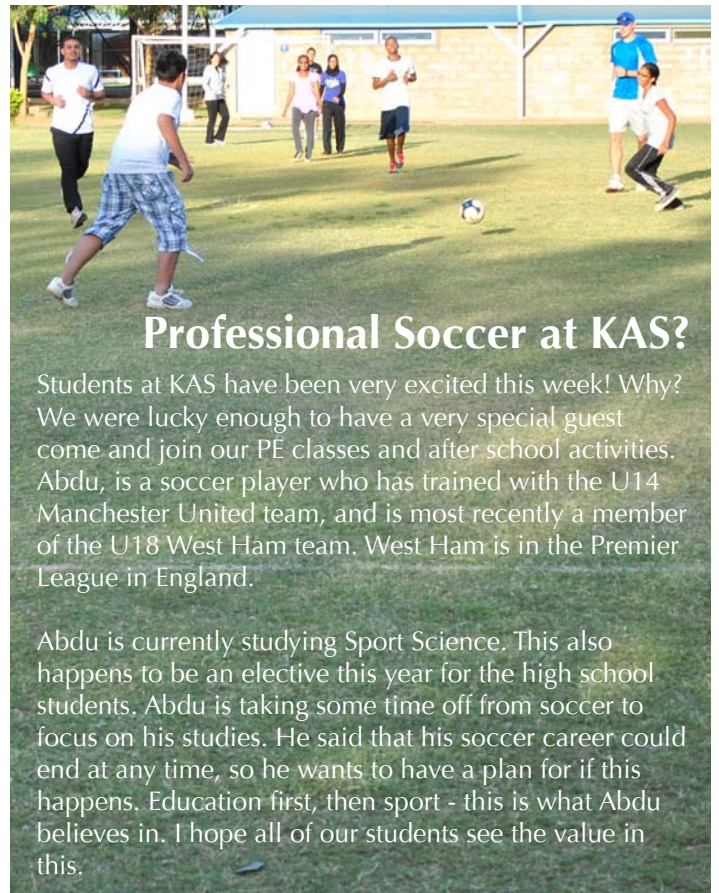
Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten: 7 fish; Grade 1: 6; Grade 2: 26 (must show work using correct method); Grade 3: You will reach 500 minutes on the 34th day.; Grade 4: 9,415 (must show work using correct method); Grade 5: 15 video games; Middle School: 27; High School: $x^{10}-10x^8y+40x^6y^2-80x^4y^3+80x^2y^4-32y^5$

Circle one:

High School Middle School Elementary School

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Answer: _____



Professional Soccer at KAS?

Students at KAS have been very excited this week! Why? We were lucky enough to have a very special guest come and join our PE classes and after school activities. Abdu, is a soccer player who has trained with the U14 Manchester United team, and is most recently a member of the U18 West Ham team. West Ham is in the Premier League in England.

Abdu is currently studying Sport Science. This also happens to be an elective this year for the high school students. Abdu is taking some time off from soccer to focus on his studies. He said that his soccer career could end at any time, so he wants to have a plan for if this happens. Education first, then sport - this is what Abdu believes in. I hope all of our students see the value in this.

KAS would like to say, thank you, to Abdu for visiting and volunteering at KAS. It is very much appreciated, and I know all of our students really enjoyed this experience.

Volleyball at KAS

The volleyball season is just around the corner! Next week, on Tuesday, March 27th, the boys will open up the season at KAS against all-comers. On Wednesday, March 28th, the girls' teams will do the same. This year, the volleyball season is much shorter. All teams will come together for a round robin style tournament every game day. The games will be up to 15, and best of three. The winning team will receive 3 points, while the losing team will get 1. After three weeks of the volleyball season, the winner will be determined by the total amount of points.

Good luck to all KAS volleyball teams!
 Go out there and represent KAS well!



Don't forget
MOVIE NIGHT
 tonight!

"HAPPY FEET 2"