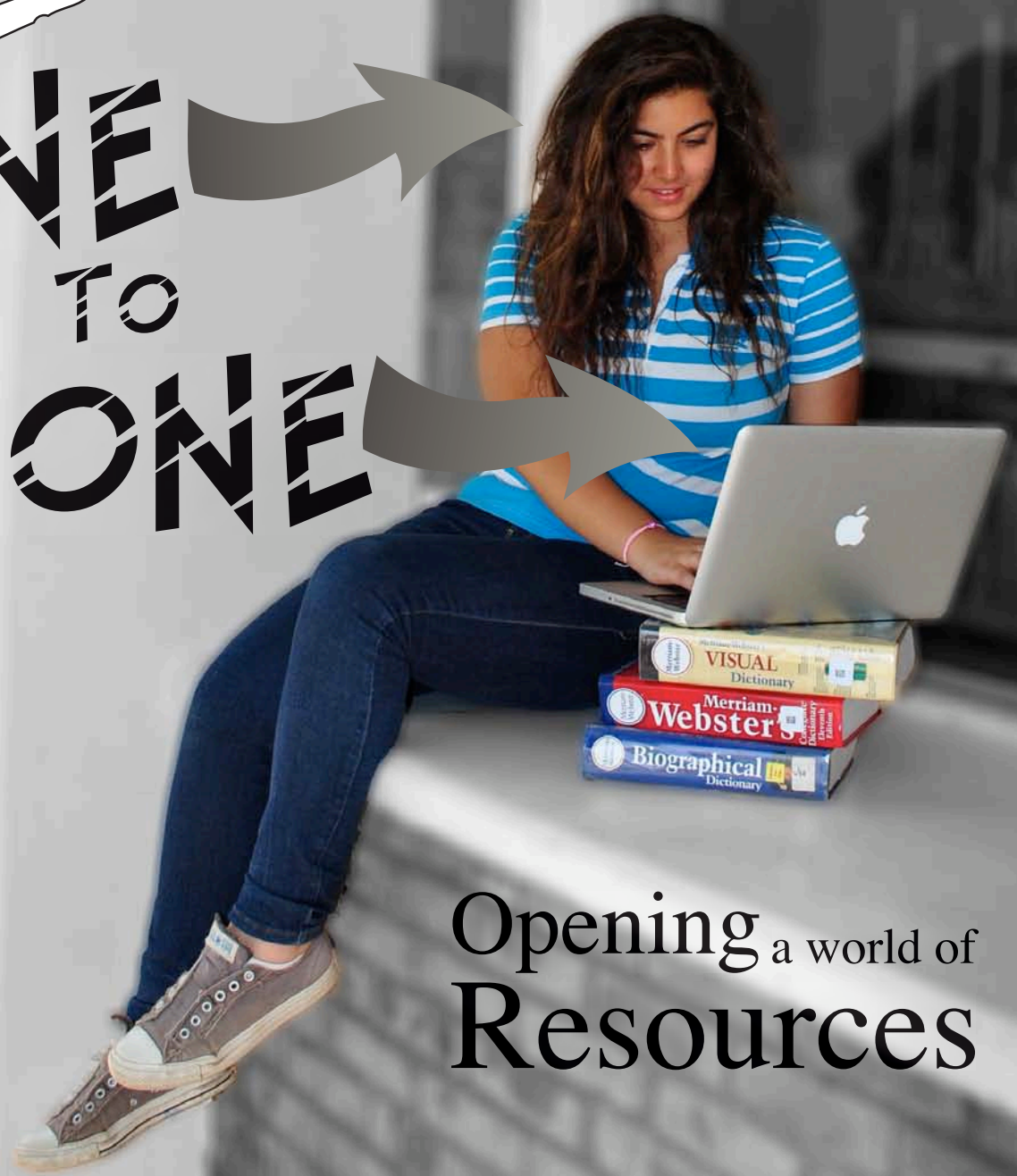


news

news from the trunk

Thursday, April 19, 2012

ONE 
TO
ONE 



Opening a world of
Resources

Science Fair

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 from 7:00 PM at KAS

Book Sale

Sunday, April 22 to Thursday, April 26, 2012 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM



Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

Here at Khartoum American School we regularly set major goals and this year a major emphasis was placed on upgrading our school facilities. While the final touches are still underway in terms of finishing off our long awaited swimming pool, the covered court, our new classroom block, and our change rooms, our refurbished playgrounds are just a few examples of how we have successfully met and exceeded this goal.

As we move into the final part of the 2011/2012 school year, we are already looking ahead to next year and the major goal will be the introduction of our One-To-One Laptop Program. This program will propel our school and our students into the technological age and will effectively give our students the skills required to face the world of technology head-on with the expertise necessary to be a part of the modern workplace.

The advent of internet and the World Wide Web have changed the world exponentially and the more our students understand and work with these tools on a daily basis, the more they will expand their knowledge base and their access to the world beyond KAS.

As with any new program a process is needed to educate our community and answer the many questions that parents, teachers and students may have about it. In this newsletter we begin this process by answering some "frequently asked questions" and this will be added to in each consecutive newsletter.

We hope that you share our excitement and enthusiasm for this program and would be happy to hear more of your feedback in the coming weeks.

As always have a great weekend.

Letter from the Middle and High School Principal, Susan Boutros

Dear Parents and Friends,

I hope that you have all had a relaxing break with your family and friends. It is a very busy time of the year for all of our students and teachers since there is so much happening at Khartoum American School including;

- High school students are preparing for their Advanced Placement exams, which are going to take place in the first two weeks of May.
- Our annual KASMUN Conference will take place on April 26-28. The KASMUN opening ceremony will be on Thursday, April 26, starting at 7:00 PM in the quad. There will be refreshments following the ceremony in the Clinton's garden.
- Poetry week is going to take place during the week of April 22-26. The library has planned many engaging and fun poetry activities for students of all ages during this time. There will also be a Scholastic Book Sale everyday during this week.
- Science Fair will be held on the evening of Wednesday, April 25, 2012. Middle school and high school students have been working hard on their science fair projects.
- Our Environmental Science Class will share about KAS Going Green at the US Embassy on Earth Day this Sunday. There will also be an Earth Day Picnic at KAS on Saturday, April 28.
- There will be no school for students on Sunday, April 29. This is the last Teacher Professional Development Day of this school year. The focus will be on Technology in order to prepare for the One to One program next year.

I always look forward to school events, and I hope that I see many of you at these times.

Have a great weekend!

One –To-One Laptop Program - Frequently Asked Questions (Part 1)

What is the one-to-one laptop program?

The one-to-one laptop program is an initiative of the school whereby all students from Grades 3 – 12 will be issued a laptop computer at the start of the school year that will be used throughout their classes, at break times and can even be taken home for educational use after school, on weekends and holidays.

How will my child benefit from this program?

All students in these grades will be given the opportunity to learn valuable technology skills, and be able to connect to the World Wide Web in all of their classes without having to access computers in our library or computer labs. In essence, their access to educational resources will be limitless. By making computer use an everyday part of school life, students will develop the confidence and expertise required to be tech savvy global citizens, while all the time maintaining the valuable social development and character building programs that KAS is famous for.

Who will own the laptop?

Each student will receive a laptop which they will be responsible for in terms of appropriate usage and care. Each laptop will remain the property of the school while students are enrolled at KAS. However, once the student leaves KAS, ownership of the laptop will be transferred to them and they are free to take this with them.

What steps are being taken to make sure this program is successful?

KAS's has taken numerous steps to ensure that this program is successful. Upgrades are underway in terms of increasing our bandwidth, our network infrastructure and our technical support. Additionally teacher training is underway and steps have been made to increase our access to web based learning. Lessons learned from our pilot program this year with the Grade 9 class have also made us appreciate some of the finer points of running this program and we are confident that we can now conquer all of the small obstacles that we faced. On April 29, the school will also be having a Professional Development Day that will focus exclusively on technology, thus allowing our teachers further training in the use of computers in the classroom.

Loving Literature Circles

The Grade 5 students at KAS have been practicing the Literature Circle format in Reading. A Literature Circle is basically the same thing as a book club for adults. Students are given choices (i.e. books they will read and jobs they will complete as they read) which contribute to the investments that they have in their own learning, as well as their levels of engagement. The teacher serves as a facilitator, observer, listener, and sometimes fellow reader alongside the students. Through Literature Circles, an environment/structure that allows students to practice and develop the skills and strategies of successful readers is created.

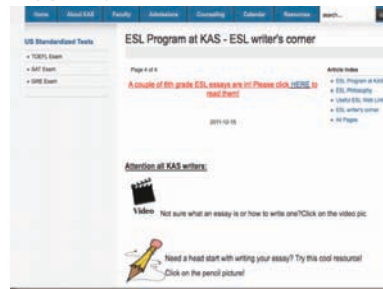
Students are placed strategically in flexible small groups. Each group reads a different book that was decided upon through book preview discussion (from a number of appropriate choices provided by the teacher). After they have been assigned a particular section of the book they chose, they decide who will complete which jobs while reading that section. The jobs are then completed independently. Students who finish their jobs before the rest of their group has completed theirs move on to other forms of reading response (including extension activities or "May Dos").

When everyone has finished their jobs, the group comes together again to have a discussion. During the discussion, the students in the group share the responses they came up with while completing their jobs and conversation flows naturally from there. Grade 5 students peer-grade each other's responses as they are shared (on whether the response showed a Shallow, Middle, or Deep level of thinking). This process repeats, with alternating job assignments, until the book is completed. Literature Circles help to cultivate a love of reading in children that will ideally carry into their futures, making them life-long readers.

Message from the ESL

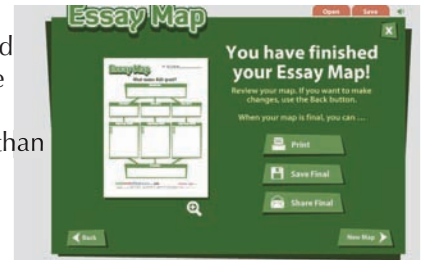
Did you know that...

...the ESL section of the website contains several resources to support your MS students in reading and writing?



...by clicking on the pictures left you can watch a video that reviews the basic aspects of essay writing. Clicking on the pencil will take you to an essay map to create an essay outline. Try it out!

...with the summer around the corner and the intense heat of Khartoum, what better way to spend time than reading?



The school website also contains a link to [tumblereadables](http://tumblereadables.com), which offers a wide selection of novels, teen readings, chapter books and early readings. There is something for everyone!

To access it, type in the username: **krtams** and the password: **login**. Not sure what websites are best to enable your child to learn while having fun? Click on "Useful ESL Web Links" to gain access to a wide selection of interactive and fun language- learning based links.



Tips to Keep Your Kids Fit and Healthy

While advances in medicine and general knowledge continue to improve our quality and length of life, major health issues continue to plague us. Today, the major health threats are not because of external enemies but result from our personal choices regarding nutrition and daily lifestyle. The followings are some recommendations to promote a healthy lifestyle for your children.

- Share a family meal together: Encourage kids to eat fruits, vegetables, fibers and other healthy foods, by modeling this behavior throughout the day and at the family meal.
- Make favorite dishes healthier. Try to prepare the food with less butter, sugar and other processed ingredients.
- Offer treats in moderation. Ice cream, cake, candy, and cookies should be limited to special occasions like birthday parties, holidays, amusement park trips, and other infrequent occurrences or celebrations. As alternatives, keep plenty of fruits like apples, bananas, grapes, and berries washed and easily accessible.
- Pack a lunch. Let your child help plan his or her weekly school lunch. Not only will you likely save money, the meal will be healthier, too. Some good options include cheese in a whole-wheat pita with cucumbers, yogurt, homemade soups in a thermos, hard-boiled eggs, apples, nuts, carrots and so on.
- Encourage your children to practice physical exercise. Try to play soccer, swim, bike or participate in other fun sports activities together. Exercises aids metabolism, tones muscle, and reduces stress.
- Set a good example. Your kids watch what you do. (<http://www.everydayhealth.com/family-health/back-to-school/tips-to-fight-childhood-obesity.aspx>)

Discussion Director

Your job is to develop a list of questions that your group might want to discuss about this part of the book and direct the discussion by asking each member for their input based on their current role.

Don't worry about the small details; your task is to help people talk over the "big ideas" in the reading and share their reactions. Usually the best discussion questions come from your own thoughts, feelings and concerns as you read, which you can list during or after your reading.



Literary Luminary

Your job is to locate a few special sections of the text that you think your group would like to read aloud. Choose passages that will help people remember some interesting, powerful, funny, puzzling, or important sections of the text.

You decide which pages or paragraphs are worth hearing, and then jot plans for how they should be shared. You can read the passages aloud yourself, or ask someone else to read them, then discuss them as a group.



Connector

Your job is to connect the contents of the reading selection to current or past real world events and experiences.

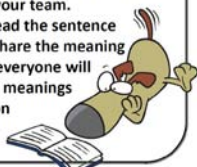
You will also connect the reading to other forms of literature, music, art and/or media.



Vocabulary Enricher

Your job is to find at least 2 new words from your reading assignment. You will look up the definition of each word and teach the words to your team.

To do this you will read the sentence from the book and share the meaning of the word. Then, everyone will write the words and meanings in their journals or on their worksheets.



Travel Tracker

In a book where characters move around a lot and the scenes change frequently, it is important for everyone in your group to know where things are happening and how the setting may have changed. Even if the scenery doesn't change much, the setting is still a very important part of the story.

Your job is to track where the action takes place. Describe each setting in detail, either in words or with a picture map that you can show and discuss with your group. Be sure to give the page numbers.



MR. HOVDE'S

TRAINING

MATH CONTEST



Winners:

Hzkias-KG,
Syahmi-G2,
Amsyar-G3,
Fawzia-G4,
Lance-MS,
Hussein-HS.

Elementary School Math problem:

Kindergarten: Solve: 8-2.

Grade 1: Solve the following addition problem (show your work): $10+10+10+70$.

Grade 2: Use the partial sums algorithm to solve the following addition problem: $82+16$. Please show how you solved your problem.

Grade 3: Write these numbers with decimals:

- a) five and sixty three hundredths
- b) twenty-one and six tenths
- c) three and forty hundredths
- d) one and twenty-three thousandths.

Grade 4: At the International Dinner at KAS, each of the tables seats 8 people. How many tables are needed to seat 500 people?

****HINT:** This is a division problem. Solve this problem by using multiples of 10.**

Grade 5: Fill in the blanks below correctly. (Example: $\frac{3}{4} = 0.75 = 75\%$)

- a. $\frac{1}{4} = 0.25 = __\%$
- b. $\frac{__}{__} = 0.5 = __\%$
- c. $\frac{__}{__} = ____ = 100\%$
- d. $\frac{4}{5} = ____ = ____%$

Middle School Math problem:

Two cars are traveling towards one another on the same road. One is traveling at a speed of 55 mph and the other is traveling at a speed of 45 mph. They are currently 2000 miles apart. How far apart will the cars be one hour before they meet?

High School Math problem:

Where is the function $y=1/(x^2+5x+6)$ undefined?

Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten: 5; Grade 1: 12 inches; 30 centimeters; Grade 2: 9; Grade 3: 0.08, 0.27, 0.8; Grade 4: 10^2 ; 10×10 ; 10 [10s]; Grade 5: 11/14; **Suzi = \$28; Marco = \$16**;
Middle School: Two 34's and two 16's; **High School:** 274.7

Circle one:

High School Middle School Elementary School

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Answer: _____

VOLLEYBALL



Well, the volleyball season came to a close yesterday at KICS with great results. The U14 girls started the day playing KICS outside in the heat. With a lot of accurate serves, KAS went on to win in two sets. During that game, the U19's were inside playing KICS. They had the same luck, beating KICS once again.

In the second round of games yesterday, the U19 girls played against Unity outside. The game went to three sets, but KAS never showed signs of letting up. This means the U19 girls' went undefeated this year to be the KISSC Champions! Congratulations, girls!

The U14 girls then faced off against the number one ranked, and undefeated, Unity. In a very dramatic 16-14 second set, KAS beat Unity for the first time this year. It was a great effort by all the players to pull off the victory. The official standings for the U14's are still to come, but it appears as though our KAS girls have clinched second place. Keep looking here for details next week.

With the scheduled sport seasons officially over, all players are asked to return their WASHED uniforms. Thank you.

Attention all ASAP soccer payers:

The temperature in Khartoum is approaching its seasonal peak. From this point on, please meet in Mr. Sanchez's room before soccer on Sundays. We will assess the current temperature and decide whether or not to have practice or to remain indoors. No worries...we will still have lots of fun! Don't forget your water!!

Next Week in the Art Room

Next Sunday there will be a special guest in the art room. Local Sudanese artist Suha Abbas Khalil will be joining the Grade 5 art class. They have been learning how to use acrylic paints and Ms. Suha will teach them some new techniques. She will also be showing us some of her artwork. Sunday is also the due date for the Association of International School's drawing contest mentioned in the last newsletter. So get those drawings in!

Poetry Week at KAS

April 22-26 is Poetry Spring Fling at Khartoum American School. Please check out our poetry quiz on the Library website. There are some other fun ways to participate.

- Students, Parents and Teachers write their poems on paper and post them in the library.
- Daily Poem: Every day a poem will be sent via e-mail. Start your day with poetry!
- There are lots of great poetry books and how to teach poetry books in the library. You may also check out online resources at Destiny Quest on the library website.



Positions Available at KAS for School Year 2012/2013:

- Kindergarten Teacher
- Arabic Teacher

Please send a covering letter and CV to ghughes@krtams.org