



# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 15, 2011



**USING OUR RESOURCES!**

**P T A Family Picnic**

Friday, September 23th, 2011 from 4 pm to 7 pm





## A Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

One of the best things about working in an international school is being part of a professional learning community and drawing upon the wealth of experience that exists amongst our many talented staff members. Incorporating all of their knowledge and drawing upon their expertise is all a part of building an effective team. This year our teachers have really spent a lot of time getting to know each other and have come to an understanding as to how we can best service the needs students of Khartoum American School.

One of our most esteemed and respected staff members is of course, Mr. Dave, the lead teacher in our Pre-school program. He has been actively supporting our Early Childhood parents by offering evening talks whereby he broaches a range of topics aimed at helping parents to understand the latest in brain research and the impact that that has on raising a small child. Mr. Dave easily combines his many years of experience with an abundance of research to provide fun, engaging, and informative sessions that are enjoyed by all.

The Early Childhood program has flourished immensely under his guidance over the past years, so much so, that this year we have added an additional Pre-school class. As families continue to join the school there is a chance that even with three classes we may be oversubscribed in the near future. For those people unfamiliar with our Early Childhood program it is truly student centered, it caters for individual differences, and importantly it allows children to grow, explore and enjoy their education. Needless to say students in the program can be easily identified by their wide smiles and their inquiring minds.

Mr. Dave is not only a valued member of our school community, but his reputation is such that he has been asked to present material to international school teachers at the Annual Teachers Conference in Nairobi, Kenya in October. I am confident that as he takes his place amongst the other experts in the field of international education, he will also make us proud in terms of raising the profile of our school.

Mr. Dave consistently shows a dedication to his profession. The fact that he is so open to sharing his knowledge and experience, both within our community and with other educators, highlights his commitment to the field of education and truly makes him a special individual at our school. Please continue to be on the lookout for his schedule of talks in the coming issues of E-news. Even though Mr. Dave draws upon his background as an Early Childhood educator I would encourage all parents with an interest in education to drop in on his next talk as the material that he presents is stimulating to parents who have children of any age.

Have a great weekend.

## Letter from Susan Boutros, Middle School and High School Principal

Dear Parents,

As I walk around the school and visit classes, it gives me great pleasure to see that all the students are engaged and excited about learning. It also makes me very happy to see all the wonderful activities that take place after school and during break and lunch. We indeed have a very unique school.

At Khartoum American School we recognize that parents involvement is vital to the success of our school and we value the contribution that the parents make towards the school. This morning was our first Parent Teacher Association meeting of the school year. It was a big success and many parents shared some great ideas. I am sure that the PTA will make this year a most positive and memorable experience, both for ourselves as parents or teachers and also for our students.

The IT committee and the grade 9 core teachers have been working very hard to implement the One-On-One Computer Program. Yesterday, there was a meeting for parents and students to introduce the program. The students are very excited and looking forward to receiving their laptops on Sunday, September 18.

We believe in an open communication between school and home. Please do not hesitate to call us or come to see us if you have any questions.



## Message from the Music Department

### Elementary Music Classes

For the past three weeks, the elementary music classes have been learning exciting concepts.

Kindergarten class is learning action songs and songs with the letter B sound.

First grade and second grade students are identifying line and space notes.

Third grade is learning techniques in good singing as they continue to learn to play patterns on musical instruments.

Fourth grade is enjoying the recorder class and can already play 6 short pieces using notes B, A and G.

The fifth grade class art illustrations and creative writing on how music started.

They are also learning to sing with harmony and nice vocal projection. All students come ready for music and make it FUN and COOL!



## Message from the History Department

### Experiencing History Firsthand: Roundtables on the Arab Spring and the Secession of South Sudan

Being in Sudan at this point in time offers a unique vantage point from which to examine the momentous events sweeping through the Middle East and Africa – including, of course, Sudan itself. Students in both my Modern Middle East and African Studies courses had the opportunity to grapple with some of these historic events in public roundtable discussions/debates in late August.

The focus of the Modern Middle East project was the so-called Arab Spring and the current state of the revolutions that have swept through the Arab world. Students - representing Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain – explored the causes of the various revolutions and compared the different outcomes. They tried to answer questions such as “why did the revolution in Tunisia prove successful, while Syria remains mired in bloody conflict?” They ended their discussion with some predictions on where the Arab World would be in a year.

The African Studies students tackled the thorny issue of international relations between Sudan and South Sudan, giving special attention to the problems surrounding the oil industry. They formed three teams, one representing the northern government, another the south, and the last serving as a mediating group from China (one of the biggest consumers of Sudanese Oil). Over a two-day stretch, the two governments tried to reach an agreement on how to manage their relations regarding oil (including fees and revenue sharing). Predictably, it was no easy task to reach an agreement both sides could agree on.

In both projects, students got a chance to dig deeply into the major current events of the day. By trying to examine the situations from the perspectives of those involved, they were able to develop a more nuanced understanding of the Arab revolutions and the secession of South Sudan. I am confident that their participation in the roundtables will help the students better appreciate the historic period through which they are living!

James Kessler







MR. HOVDE'S  
AMAZING



Thanks to all students who turned in an answer. This week we continue with the **Math Contest**. You know the rules, find the Math problem, solve it, turn it in the box and become **Winner** for the week!!!

Here are the **winners** from last week:

- Preet, Grade 1
- Ben, Grade 2
- Asher, Grade 3
- Rajveer, Grade 4
- Bane, Grade 5 and
- Tala, Grade 8.



### Message from the School Nurse

# Do NOT touch the Tzone!

mucous membranes of your eyes, nose or mouth

### The 4 principles of Hand Awareness

1. **WASH** your hands when they are dirty and **BEFORE** eating
2. **DO NOT** cough into your hands
3. **DO NOT** sneeze into your hands
4. Above all, **DO NOT** put your fingers into your eyes, nose or mouth

Elementary School Math problem:

**Grade 1:** Count the stars. How many are there? Use the count on strategy to solve  $8+5$ .



**Grade 2:** Identify the pattern and fill in the blanks to continue it. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade 3:** List ten different names for 18.

**Grade 4:** Which of the following is a right angle? What is its measure?



**Grade 5:** Write a 3-digit number that is divisible by 6 and 9.

Middle School Math problem:

Popcorn in a box costs \$1.20. If the popcorn costs exactly one dollar more than the box, how much does the box cost?

High School Math problem:

Diagonals are interior lines that connect the vertices of regular geometric shapes. A triangle has three vertices and no diagonals. A square has four vertices and two diagonals. A pentagon has five vertices and five diagonals. Can you create a formula for predicting how many diagonals a regular geometric shape with 6 sides? 10 sides? n sides?



Circle one:

High School      Middle School      Elementary School

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Solutions from the last week:** Grade 1: IIII IIII, Grade 2: 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, Grade 3: 11.50 SDG, Grade 4: d, trapezoid, Grade 5: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 14, 21, 42, Middle School: 8, High School: 45.