

News

news from the trunk

Thursday, March 7, 2013

PREPARING FOR STUDENT-LED PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at KAS



Spring Break

From Friday, March 22 to Sunday, March 31, 2013



Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

Next Wednesday we will once more be hosting our Student Led Conferences for Elementary and Middle School, and as always this event will not only be insightful but will also highlight your child's educational journey through their own eyes.

While our regular Parent Teacher Conferences are informative and give parents a solid understanding of our program and your child's progress, they lack the enthusiasm that is on display when students themselves are sharing their likes, dislikes, challenges and achievements with their parents. So please make sure to add to the experience by asking lots of questions of your child throughout the day and enjoy this wonderful experience.

On an unrelated issue the school calendar has been amended for this year. School will now conclude on June 6, 2013 and we hope that this change will allow families the opportunity to plan their holidays and enjoy a well deserved break.

Thank you to all the people who organized the PTA picnic last weekend it was yet again excellent in terms of bringing our community together.

As always have a great weekend.

Important Announcement

The school board has given final approval for changes to the remaining months of the 2012-13 school calendar. The final day of classes for students will now be Thursday, June 6, instead of Sunday, June 9.

Hopefully everyone will be able to take advantage of the extra days to enjoy an extended summer holiday!

Letter from the Elementary School Principal, Ben Voborsky

When I was a kid, I always worried about Parent Teacher Conferences. What would my parents say to embarrass me? What would my teacher say that I was really like at school? I would have to wait for my parents to get home and hope to get a play-by-play of what was said or I would pretend to be asleep, believing if I didn't hear anything it went well. These, of course, were the days before Edmodo and Engrade, venues for constant communication strengthening the home-school relationship. Also before Student-led Parent Teacher Conferences!

Now our students get all the information from the horse's mouth, so to speak. They are taking responsibility for their own learning. Teacher, student, and parents are all in the same room and our students share their learning and reflections on their learning. Our students share their achievements, their strengths, their needs, and what affected their achievement. Students are the focal point of the process and are ready for questions you may have.

KAS teachers have scheduled conference times for Nursery through Grade 5. All parents should have already received an invitation from your students for the conferences. If not, please check your student's bag or email your student's teacher; otherwise, a friendly conference reminder will be sent home on March 12th. Conferences will start in the grade level classroom and specialist teachers are available after that as well. What a positive experience for all this is lining up to be!

We look forward to you joining us on March 13th.

LES FRUITS ET LEGUMES!!

Bienvenue to the Grade 1 and 2 French Class, we have been learning about our fruits and vegetables for the past few weeks. The students created their own poems about one fruit or vegetable, they integrated words that we have used since the beginning of the year to create their amazing poems, such as big (grand), small (petit), the colors (rouge, orange, jaune) and if they like the fruit or vegetable (j'aime). They also worked on sounding out the word to try to spell them correctly. Below are samples of the students' work.



ESL Program at KAS

by Mr. Sanchez

Learning a new language involves not only acquiring vocabulary and isolated sentences. Here at KAS, the ESL program is a few steps ahead. The 7th and 8th graders recently held a heated debate about the S.E Hinton novel, *The Outsiders*. The participants presented their arguments, supported them with evidence, questioned the opposite team and vividly defended their viewpoints in front of a large audience. All in all, it turned out to be a great learning experience filled with memorable lessons for all involved. Special thanks to Haider, who acted as a moderator for a second consecutive year. Also, a big thank you to Mrs. Vianale and her grade 5 class for being a wonderful audience.



Learning Center Corner

What Is Your Child's Learning Style?

This semester, high school students had the option of enrolling in the Reading and Writing Skills for Success elective, also known as Skills. Skills provides students with reading, writing, speaking and listening strategies and techniques to enhance their learning and participation in their core courses. Students may also use the class to practice presentations.

Last week, grade 10 Biology students used Skills for this purpose and presented to their classmates, who provided them with feedback by grading such things as eye contact, voice speed, length of presentation, and their level of expertise. The group gained some constructive advice, which they used to polish their presentation. It was a pleasure to see their official presentation, and it was clear that their practice and extra attention to detail paid off. They spoke with confidence and earned a high mark for their work!

The article below is actually part of an article found at <http://www.schoolfamily.com/school-family-articles/article/826-what-is-your-childs-learning-style> with the same name as this article. If Learning Styles interest you, you may want to try a survey at <http://www.edutopia.org/multiple-intelligences-learning-styles-quiz>.

Understanding how your child learns can reduce frustration and improve achievement.

by Emily Graham

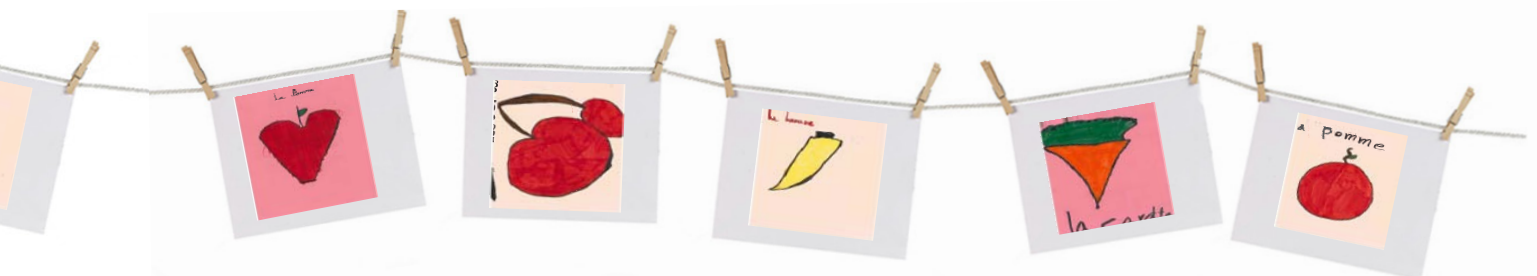
Educators have long been aware that learning is not one-size-fits-all. In a typical classroom, some kids process information best by hearing the teacher explain it, some learn by seeing what's on the chalkboard, and others learn through hands-on exercises. Colleges have increasingly begun teaching new students about learning styles so they can develop effective study habits. And many primary and secondary schools conduct surveys to give teachers insight into the learning styles of their students. Three basic learning styles are auditory, kinesthetic, and visual.

Auditory learners prefer listening to explanations over reading them and may like to study by reciting information aloud. This type of learner may want to have background music while studying, or they may be distracted by noises and need a quiet space to study.

Kinesthetic learners learn by doing and touching. They may have trouble sitting still while studying, and they are better able to understand information by writing it down or doing hands-on activities.

Visual learners process new information by reading, looking at graphics, or watching a demonstration. Children with this learning style can grasp information presented in a chart or graph, but they may grow impatient listening to an explanation. Most people use a combination of styles but have a clear preference for one. Understanding your child's learning style can reduce homework frustrations and make it easier for families to communicate.

Announcement:
Swim team sign up sheet available
on Sunday 10th of March.





Muli-KG, Shams-G1, Preet-G2, Youssef-G3, Solomon-G4, Abdelaziz-G5, Ali-G6, Haider-G8.

Elementary School Math problem:

Kindergarten: Draw a nickel. What is it worth?

Grade 1: How many slices will we get if we cut a pizza into:

- a) halves
- b) quarters
- c) thirds

Grade 2: Arlie harvested 12 bushels of corn and 19 bushels of tomatoes. How many bushels in all? _____ bushels.

Grade 3: There are 10 students in the class. If we have \$25, how much will each student get? (Don't forget that you can share cents too!)

Grade 4: Write seventy-eight hundredths as a decimal and a fraction.

Grade 5: Convert each fraction into a decimal and per cent: $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{2}{3}$.

Middle School Math problem:

A monkey ate $\frac{1}{3}$ of a pile of coconuts. Another monkey ate $\frac{1}{3}$ of the coconuts that remained. If there are now 12 coconuts, how many coconuts were there originally?

High School Math problem:

Completely factor $3X^2 + 13X^2 + 12X$

Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten: 10; Grade 1: 3; Grade 2: Answers will vary; Grade 3: 7; Grade 4: x; Grade 5: 9/21; Middle School: 1800, 1980; High School: X = 11;

Circle one: _____

High School Middle School Elementary School

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Answer: _____



Volleyball at KAS

The hard training has payed off. The U19 Girls volleyball team won for the fourth year in a row and has proved to be INVINCIBLE. The KAS Senior Boys Volleyball season has concluded with another series of wins this week. The Senior Boys Volleyball Team has won the league. This marks yet another undefeated season for the boys. Congratulations student athletes!!!

Field Trip Community Service Learning

On Wednesday morning, Community Service Learning class visited Cheshire Homes School and Rehabilitation Centre in Taif. Our class was invited to share in a celebration party and everyone had a great time. It was refreshing for all of us to get out into the local community and to meet some amazing people. Cheshire Homes is a one-classroom school that offers education, a social life and medical assistance to young handicapped people from all over Sudan. It is a charity organization that relies on funding from many different organizations. It has workshops that make orthopedic limbs and orthopedic shoes for handicapped people. The highlights of the visit were of course the warm Sudanese welcome that we received. Next was the zest and vitality generated by all those present despite their disabilities. A humbling experience, no doubt, but speaking on behalf of our group I can say that we returned to K.A.S. uplifted and positive with a strong desire to help Cheshire Homes in whichever way we can.



Has your teacher ever given you points for playing a video game? That is exactly what's happening in the ESL classroom this quarter! The grade 6 ESL students have been playing Trace Effects the 1st ESL video game created by the U.S

Department of State. It allows players to practice their English while exploring the American culture by completing mission and tasks. It is geared towards students of ages 12-16. If you are within this age range, and you love English and video games, try it today at: <http://traceeffects.com>.