

# n e w s

news from the trunk

Thursday, December 19, 2013

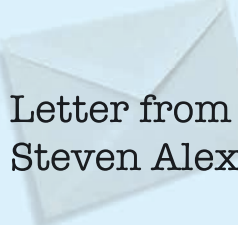
# HAPPY HOLIDAYS




## WINTER BREAK

From Friday, December 20, 2013 to Saturday, January 11, 2014





## Letter from the Superintendent, Steven Alexander



Dear KAS Community,

I want to wish everyone at KAS a relaxing and deserved school break. I will be at school until the 22nd of December and back in school on January 3. Please feel free to drop by if you like.

Every day I learn more and understand more about KAS and our special school. I truly feel the family atmosphere that I was told by everyone before I arrived. It speaks well of our school.

I would like to share with you some items I will be working on during the second half of the year.


- Putting our written curriculum on the school website. Teachers have been working on writing and updating the curriculum and we will put this into an accessible format for parents and potential families to read.
- Hiring staff for next year. I will be interviewing both local candidates and ex-patriot candidates for the 6 positions we need to hire for next year. I will be attending the University of Northern Iowa teacher recruiting fair at the end of January to speak with interested teachers. I hope to have this finished by mid February and will introduce new staff in the newsletter when the hiring process is completed.
- Upgrading the website to provide more information to use it as a good source of marketing for KAS.
- Visiting companies, embassies, and agencies to make sure they have up to date information about our school and liaise with potential new families moving to Khartoum.

Steve Alexander

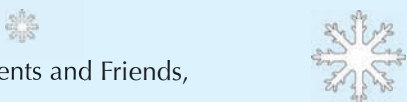


### Announcement!

Change in Elementary Assemblies  
Starting with the second semester we will only have elementary assemblies on Thursday mornings. Students should go straight away to their classrooms when they arrive at school from Sunday through Wednesday.



## Letter from the Middle & High School Principal, Susan Boutros



Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

We have made it to the end of a very busy and successful semester. When I look back, I can't help thinking about how many things that have happened this semester. In spite of how busy we all were and the challenges that we faced, it was indeed an exceptionally successful semester.

There has been so much going on in the last couple of weeks. The International Potluck Dinner was probably the most impressive event at KAS. High School students are very happy to have finished with their exams. Middle School students were busy finishing their work and wrapping up the semester.

We had an assembly for Elementary and Middle School this morning to celebrate the "Holiday Cheer". The excitement of the holiday season could be felt in the air. Middle school had a fun day after lunch today with some team building activities. Everyone seems to be excited and ready to end the semester on a high note.

I take this opportunity to thank all our staff, students and parents for their many contributions this semester. I wish you all a joyful, restful and peaceful holiday season with your family and friends.

Enjoy this special time of the festivities!



# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Parents,

As you all know, due to unrest in Khartoum last October and the closure of the school as per a decision made by the Ministry of Education a total of eight school days were lost. Here is how we, at Khartoum American School, plan to make up those missed school days.

We have 2 days built into our school calendar for Parent-Teacher Conferences and another 3 days built into our calendar for Professional Development days for teachers. The Parent-Teacher Conferences days and Professional Development days were supposed to be held during the day and students would have had no classes on that day. It has been recommended by the teachers and approved by the board that we will make up **5 school days** by scheduling the Parent-Teacher Conferences during evenings and the Professional Development Days for teachers on Saturdays. We will make up the 3 remaining school days that were missed as follows:

- The half days at the end of every semester will become a whole school day. We will make up another **1 day** by doing this.
- We will have school for students on 2 Saturdays. We will let you know as soon as we set the dates for those **2 days**.

Kindly be assured that all the above decisions were made with the students' best interest in mind. Thanks for your understanding and support.

Susan Boutros  
MS/HS Principal

## News from the Preschool Class

The Butterfly class has been learning about weather this week. The cooler winter temperatures in Khartoum have given us the perfect opportunity to explore many topics about wintertime. Every day we have learned new words to describe the weather. Many children expressed their surprise and excitement by exclaiming; "It is cold out", or "I'm so cold". The students learned about winter clothing and can describe hats, scarves, gloves and coats. The children enjoyed creating winter themed arts and crafts. They assembled paper snowmen and designed beautiful winter capes using paper trees and snowflakes.

We would like to wish you Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year too!

Preschool team, Ms. Haska & Ms. Sawasan

## Who wrote the Birthday Song?????

By: Ms. Egbal Mohamed

Without doubt, the issue of Digital Citizenship has become one of the most important issues that teachers and parents need to address, in terms of educating the children of the 21st century. The future of this generation will depend so much on communication skills through technology, so it is incumbent upon them that they become proficient in using a variety of different online sources. Nowadays, students assume that everything available in the digital world is accessible and meant to be shared with the rest of the world for FREE. This of course is not true, as the idea of Intellectual Property Rights has taken on a whole new meaning in the digital world.

During this quarter, I had the pleasure of introducing the topic of digital citizenship to grade 8 students. We started by reviewing the 9 rules of digital citizenship. Then we focused more on copyright and responsibilities as a part of digital rights and the responsibilities rule. Students learned about the most popular song in the world "the Birthday Song". I told them frankly that the song is licensed, and if anyone wants to use it in a commercial way in a movie, TV show, or music production, they must obtain a license. Of course, that was shocking news for all of them. The song "Happy Birthday" must be one of the most widely used and familiar songs in the world.

To bring a greater understanding of this; we created a very interesting activity around this concept and the song. Students worked in-groups creating their own version of a birthday song. Each group made its own lyrics and music for a birthday song. They spent time and worked really hard to be sure that no one from the other group stole their ideas or listened to their song before they finished it. They were very creative and the outcome was amazing. Most importantly, they used the Creative Commons Website to make a license for their work. The goal of the activity was to let them learn and comprehend why it is important to respect other people's work and understand the copyright rules.

Their creativity was beyond my expectations! The students were very engaged in the lesson and I'm sure the experience will stay with them for a long time.

In my opinion, nowadays students learn by real life connections and experiences; and the activity we implemented was a good example. They also did very well collaborating with each other and working in teams. Please take a look at the following examples of their lyrics:

Starlight shine bright  
its your big day tonight  
you are going to be  
older tonight  
you will get what ever  
you want!  
you will do what ever  
you wish  
no one will ever stop  
you!  
and you will be  
the HAPPIEST PERSON  
ALIVE!!!!

Happy birthday to you  
You might have the birthday flu  
Cause you look a little blue  
And a birthday you look  
like you went through  
I can only cure this flu  
By singing this song to you.

This is your day,  
This is my day.  
This is our day,  
Happy Birthday

Be Brave and Fight,  
With all your might,  
In Day and Night,  
This is your day,  
Happy birthday.

## English Sayings...

To be **Taken Aback** suggests someone has been taken truly by surprise and stopped in their tracks. 'Aback' is the nautical term for sudden wind change, in which the sails flatten against the mast. In some cases, out on the high seas, tall square-rigged ships may not only be slowed down by a sudden wind change, but also driven backwards by strong gusts. The phrase used in such circumstances is 'taken aback'.



Next quarter, we won't be having our daily assemblies. The Math Contest will not be going on Mondays. We will be drawing winners on Thursday morning. The boxes will be left out all week. You will have five days to get your entries in. So ... no more excuses! There will be a pizza party for the class that has the most entries at the end of each quarter.

## Mr. C's Amazing Math Contest

### Elementary School Math problems:

**Kindergarten:** Color any triangles that you see:



**Grade 1:** Complete the number series:  
 \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, 28, 29, 30, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, 33, \_\_\_\_.

**Grade 2:** What does  $15 + 10 - 5 + 10 - 5 = ?$

**Grade 3:** 0.6 is how many thousandths?

**Grade 4:** . If  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch on a map represents 40 miles, then  
 a.  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. represents \_\_\_\_ mi.  
 b.  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. represents \_\_\_\_ mi.

**Grade 5:** The fifth grade at KAS washed cars to raise money for a class trip. They raised \$632. If they charged \$8 for each car they washed, how many cars did they wash?

### Middle School Math problem:

Santa Claus is putting lights around 8 windows; each window is 3 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide and 5 feet long. How many feet of lights does he need so he can circumvent the windows with no extra lights remaining.?

### High School Math problem:

Daniel Burnham designed and built the 22-story Flatiron Building in New York City in 1902. The base of the building is a triangle bordered by three streets: Broadway, Fifth Avenue, and East Twenty-second Street. The Fifth Avenue side is 1 ft. shorter than twice the East Twenty Second Street side. The East Twenty-second Street side is 8 ft. shorter than half the Broadway side. The Broadway side is 190 ft. Find the two unknown side lengths.

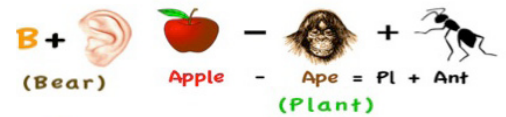
**Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten:** Second one; **Grade 1:** 8; **Grade 2:** 4:30; **Grade 3:** \$2.76; **Grade 4:** 8 thousandths; **Grade 5:** 13; **Middle School:** 200; **High School:**  $-5 < x < 6$  or  $(-5,6)$ ;



Coco (Pre-K), Danny (Kindergarten), Adrian (Grade 1), Reeda (Grade 2), Sara (Grade 3), Youssef (Grade 4), Hazim (Grade 5), Tina & Anne Myrthe (Grade 6).

## Ross's Rebus

Every week, starting next semester, we will be adding Rebus Puzzles to the newsletter. What are Rebus Puzzles? Look below at the examples and answers to understand how these work. When you think you have them solved, place your answers in the Rebus Box in the Learning Center. Two winners will be randomly selected each week, and winners will receive Kiosk Coupons. At the end of the semester, winners will be invited to a ... PIZZA PARTY!



## KAS SPORTS are stomping forward!

### KICS Tournament December 11th and 12th 2013

The soccer league for 2013 kicked off this past week at KICS. We were in high spirits, and also cold next to the touchline as the winter crept over the field. The support the boys gave the girls was heart warming on the chilly afternoon. Well done! The start to this very exciting season has been received with mixed results. The boys tried their best against their gigantic opponents. The girls on the other hand were successful.

#### RESULTS:

#### Boys Under 12

KICS vs. KAS 4-0

Nile Valley vs. KAS 7-0

Unity vs. KAS 5-0

#### Boys Under 15

KICS vs. KAS 4-0

KAS vs. Unity 1-0

#### Girls Under 15

KAS vs. KICS 0-0

KAS vs. Unity 3-0

KAS vs. NVS 1-0

#### Girls Under 18

KAS vs. KICS 3-0

KAS vs. Unity 7-0

#### Boys Under 18

KICS vs. KAS 5-1

Those who celebrate Christmas, Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all!

Hanro van der Merwe

