

TRUNK NEWS

news from the trunk

Thursday, February 27, 2014

For a Better School!

For Happy Students!



**Life Long Learning:
Teachers learn too!**

Student Make-Up Day: April 5, 2014



Letter from the Superintendent, Mr. Steven Alexander

KAS After School Activity Program - We would like to expand the offerings we have for our After School Activity Program beyond the offerings of our staff. At present there are many extra areas and duties our staff are working on such as curriculum development and after school help programs. The best way to expand what is on offer is to bring in parents and outside specialists to offer programs. Some parents are already doing this. If you have an area of expertise in an activity that you would like to commit one afternoon a week or if you know of someone who would like to offer an activity, please contact me to set up an interview. I can be contacted by phone at 091 235 2165 or email at salexander@krtams.org. Thank you.

Staff Professional Development at KAS - One of the most important elements for all staff members in developing their career and improving their performance is professional development. It is well known at international schools that one of the most important issues that attracts quality teachers to a school is the opportunity for professional development. An excellent professional development plan includes professional development for all areas of staff. This year, including the summer break, the following staff members have received or will receive professional development. Next year we plan to greatly increase professional development opportunities at KAS.

- Jocelyn Burwash - attended a conference in Dubai on Curriculum development and shared her learning with the staff including several useful websites.
- Leena Salih - attended a conference in Dubai on Learning Center practices and shared her learning with the staff.
- Minette Van Der Bijl - will be attending a workshop on English as a Second Language in the Mainstream in Hong Kong in March. She will be trained to teach this program to all staff which will become part of our professional development program next year. The philosophy of this program is based on the belief that all teachers are ESL teachers. Minette will set up courses in this program for the staff next year. All staff will also receive special materials for teaching ESL and a certificate when they complete the course.
- Katee Ross - will attend a conference for Guidance Counselors this summer in the U.S. to learn about up to date practices for college admissions and it will include visiting several U.S. universities.
- Rhona Bhuyan - will attend an Advanced Placement training course this summer in the U.S. for teaching World History.
- Khalid Abdeltam - will attend an Advanced Placement training course this summer in the U.S. for teaching Physics.
- Security Guard Training - The Regional Security Office of the U.S. Embassy is now giving professional training to our security guards.

Steve Alexander

Letter from the Middle and High School Principal, Susan Boutros

Dear Parents,

Our students in Gr. 3 to Gr. 12 who are involved in the one-to-one laptop program are engaged in different learning activities using their laptops.

Our outstanding IT team and excellent teachers are seeking opportunities to further improve the use of technology to engage and enhance the educational opportunities and outcomes for students, ensuring children are prepared for future success.

We would love to work with all the parents to ensure the students understand and learn about the use of technology responsibly and safely.

Here are some tips for helping your children make better use of their laptop:

- Make a plan for using the computer. Schedule computer times and web site choices in advance, just as you would other activities.
- Set time limits. Use a timer to limit your child's total screen time. This includes time watching TV, playing computer games and surfing the Internet. When the timer goes off, your child's time is up, no exceptions.
- Set family guidelines for appropriate content. Help children and teens choose web sites and video games that are appropriate for their ages. Check the content ratings and parental advisories. Use these ratings to decide whether the web site or game is suitable for your child.
- Be clear and consistent with your family's rules. If you do not approve of your child's choice, explain why and help to choose something more appropriate.
- Ask your child to use their laptop in a common area where you can see the computer screen.
- Whenever possible, use the computer with your child and talk about what he or she sees, hears and reads. You can help him or her learn to use the computer safely and responsibly.
- Help your child with their schoolwork by checking Engrade and Edmodo. You can also help your student get ready for the next school day by ensuring that they charge their laptops and submit all their assignments on time.

We look forward to your support for the one-to-one laptop program in general and for guiding your students in using this powerful tool in an appropriate way.

3rd Grade

Grade 3 is a class of very diverse talents. When we work on our math there are always some students who understand straight away and some who need to work that little bit harder. I have always enjoyed using students as assistants when explaining new concepts. This helps consolidate knowledge, increase collegiality and, of course, helps me with my classroom management.

Recently we started our unit on fractions. For the very first time I was faced with a classroom full of students who could not grasp the concept of what I was explaining. We used manipulatives, I explained using real world situations, we attacked it on the computer ... still I looked out to a sea of blank faces.

Eventually of course they did come around and within a matter of days we were looking at equivalent fractions, finding the value of fractions of big numbers, even beginning to add fractions.

The way that students can pick up a completely foreign concept and run with it, is so astounding. Their ability to gauge a concept with no point of comparison is quite thought provoking. Their ability to make you stop, think and learn is what is really humbling.

I am happy that I have found a career that constantly challenges my character, builds my patience and makes me laugh.

John Charrington
Grade 3 Teacher



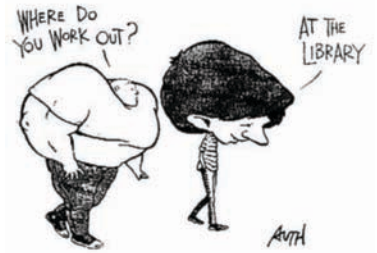
KAS Library

Your eyes are burning from staring at all those screens?
You're feeling empty and need peace of mind?

We've got the best solution ... dive into a book. In the KAS library we have been thinking about how we can expand and improve for the forthcoming year. To include more resources, have more variety as well as adding an international section. We would like to ask all the KAS community to contribute to this section. When you go on your summer vacation come back with a book in your language, a book about your country or about the culture in your homeland. We believe it would be an interesting section. Bring out your best! Join us, make an account and please encourage your children to checkout and return the books on time.

We are always happy to hear your suggestions and ideas.

Alia Mahmoud
KAS Librarian
amahmoud@krtams.org



English Sayings...

Telling a person to **Shake A Leg** means encouraging them to get on with a task. In recent centuries the phrase was well used in public school dormitories, prisons and other institutions where people sleeping in communal rooms would be ordered out of bed at dawn every day. The origin of the saying dates back to the time when civilian women were first allowed on board a ship. At that time the bosun's mate would traditionally rouse the sailors with the cry 'Shake a leg or a purser's stocking.' When a stocking-clad female leg appeared the lady was allowed to stay in her bunk until the men were all up and departed. This was an obvious attempt to preserve her modesty while dressing, but it would seem fair to suggest that a lady on board a ship full of 18th-century sailors may not have had much modesty left worth preserving.



Groups of high school and elementary students could be found all around campus on Sunday expressing their appreciation for loved ones by writing Thank You letters! It was incredible to see natural leaders emerge in high school and the elementary students were excited to collaborate with their older peers. All in all, it was a great success!



Mr. C's Amazing Math Contest

Elementary School Math problems:

Kindergarten: On a bar graph, put the following: 5 cats, 7 giraffes, 3 monkeys.

Grade 1: What number is 5 more than 53?

Grade 2: Draw two different polygons.

Grade 3: What is seven eighths (7/8) of 56?

Grade 4: A disbelieving crowd at the Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday witnessed the greatest one-day international of all as South Africa hit a world record 438 for 9 with one wicket and one ball to spare to beat Australia. How many 9's in 438?

Grade 5: Write 5 equivalent fractions for 1/2.

Middle and High School Math problem:

Solve: $6 \div 3 \times 0 + 1 - 7 \div 7 \times 7 \times 0 = ?$



This Week's Winners

Mohamed (Pre-K), Shatakshi (KG), Mishqa (G1), Youstra (G2), Lina (G3), Mohanad (G4), Amina (G5).

Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten: 2,3,5,7,8,11; **Grade 1:** Jeff 9, Jack 6, Jim 4; **Grade 2:** 47; **Grade 3:** 7536; **Grade 4:** 74; **Grade 5:** 3; **Middle & High School:** Half-Dollar;

Ross's Rebus

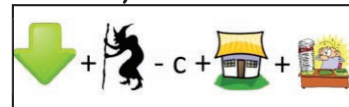
I am looking forward to see your answers!



Who won Ross's Rebus this week?

Serene (Grade 2)
Sakuntala (Grade 8)

Elementary School Rebus



Middle and High School Rebus



Solutions from the last week: Elementary School: Mac n' Cheese; **Middle and High School:** Send me to detention;

KAS SPORTS

The Role of Participation

Participation teaches that it is a privilege and an honor to represent one's school. Students learn to win without boasting and to lose without bitterness. Physical training and good health habits are essential to the athletes. Interscholastic competition is a fine way to encourage youngsters to enrich their education and expand their horizons. Plus, competition is fun!

"Participation helps people to discover their potential, to realise their talents and raise their self-esteem. In turn this can help them to question their boundaries and explore issues, voice aspirations, identify needs and facilitate their learning and personal development." Helen Chambers, Principal Officer, National Children's Bureau

Hanro van der Merwe
Athletic Director