



# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, January 19, 2017



## WELCOME BACK KAS!



## TEACHERS AT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome Back to the 2nd Semester. This will be an action-packed semester of learning and activities. As you know we are still in our 'celebration' year. 2016-2017 marks the 60th Anniversary of our great school!

Over the many years that KAS has provided a quality educational experience for its students, there have been many staff who have been fortunate to also have had a top quality professional experience at KAS. The faculty respect and love the students of KAS. Our students are wonderful. Our parents are supportive and appreciative of the efforts of our staff. And our staff have a unique and productive working relationship with their colleagues who come from all over the world. At present there are 10 nationalities represented on our faculty. The opportunity to work with a highly diverse population of students, supportive parents and top quality teachers has created a school climate characterized by a "joy of teaching".

Additional reasons why our faculty enjoy working at KAS are the professional development opportunities made available to them. As professional educators, they want to advance in their understanding of best practice techniques of teaching and learning. The KAS School Board has been generous in funding faculty professional development activities. The recent 2 day workshop at KAS by Mr. Brian May, a specialist in the interpretation of the Measures of Academic Progress Test (MAPS) that we administer at KAS, is an example of a top quality professional development experience. Mr. May came from the US. It was an excellent workshop that will ultimately benefit the children. We thank Mr. May for coming to us, and we thank our School Board for yet again providing support for this type of quality professional development experience.

I wish you an enjoyable second semester.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Rob Beck**  
Superintendent

## 'Guided Reading' Grade 4

Guided reading and small group instruction are the cornerstone of our reading program in the 4th grade. We have a nice long block of uninterrupted time in the morning. This time is devoted to small group instruction and guided reading lessons during which I support the students in using various reading strategies as they read aloud to their peers.

Groups are organized by level and are by nature fluid. This means that students can move between the groups as progress is made or deficiencies are detected. I meet with each student every morning for at least 18 minutes.

The groups each revolve around different aspects of reading including spelling, independent reading and assessment, grammar and handwriting, journal writing and guided reading. The students have learned to move from station to station in a clockwise fashion, reducing transition time to less than a minute, maximizing learning time. The feedback from the students is that they love the reading groups. They say it breaks up the time and they get special attention from the teachers.

**Alissandra Butzbach**  
Grade 4 Teacher

## SAYING OF THE WEEK

**At Full Blast** is associated with something going at full speed or operating at the maximum limit. Back during the Industrial Revolution foundries would use a huge blast furnace for the smelting of iron. When the foundry was at the limit of its production it would be regarded as 'operating at full blast'.

**Minette van der Bijl**  
High School English Department



## A Message from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Welcome Back to School! I hope that you have all enjoyed the Winter Break and I also hope that you have had a wonderful time with family and friends throughout the holiday. It is great to see the students back at school.

The second semester has started on a very positive note. The students have all settled quickly back into the routine of school and we are all looking forward to the exciting activities and learning opportunities planned for the semester ahead. High School students have already started their new elective courses and seem to be very enthusiastic about them. Our MUN students are preparing for their MUN conference. Fifteen high school students will be going to Qatar as part of our first ever THIMUN Qatar Conference.

Preparations for Sudan Days are in full swing. The Sudan Days Committee has decided that because of the 60th anniversary, all celebrations at KAS will be more festive this year, including Sudan Days. In previous years we have had activities on Tuesday and Wednesday, and an afternoon activity on Thursday. This year Sudan Days will be on Wednesday, Feb 1st and Thursday, Feb 2nd. Our third day will be on Friday, Feb 3rd and will be a Sudan Days Festival (3pm-8pm) open to the community.

Report cards will be sent home with your child on Thursday, January 26, 2017. You are all invited to our 4Cs Awards Assembly for Middle and High School on Monday, January 30th at 8:00am in the Quad. Please come and celebrate with our students their success.

With best wishes for a successful second semester and a very happy 2017!

**Susan Boutros**  
Middle & High School Principal

## Libray Puzzle!

### NEW YEAR'S



FIREWORKS  
FRIENDS  
HATS  
JANUARY  
KISS  
MEMORIES  
MIDNIGHT  
CALENDAR  
CANDLES  
CELEBRATION  
CONFETTI  
COUNTDOWN  
FAMILY  
FATHER TIME  
NOISEMAKERS  
PARADE  
PARTY  
RESOLUTION  
TIMES SQUARE  
TOAST  
TRADITIONS

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**Shireen Shiber**  
Librarian

## Elementary Assembly Masters This Week's Winners



Daniel Samaan  
**Grade 4**

Adrian Bambang  
**Grade 4**

Amro Omer Abdasalam  
**Grade 4**

Hala Eltigani  
**Grade 2**

Kalkidan Moges  
**Kindergarten**

Talia Elmubarak  
**Kindergarten**

## University Exploration and Career Readiness

Happy New Year KAS family! As you may know, every spring the counselor at KAS leads a course for every 11th grade student called "College & Career Prep". For those of you with 11th graders, you will be receiving MANY e-mails from me over the next 5 months. For those with younger children, this article is for you!

How do we know which university will be the best for our child? How can we ensure that they will find the right career and get a job that they will be happy with? What steps do we need to do to even get started!?! For students from US curriculum schools like ours, the path to university readiness really takes off in 11th grade. 9th and 10th grade are for focusing on building a strong academic foundation and ensuring study habits are being developed to support academic endeavors. Students in 11th grade move to the next level of preparation by taking college level classes called "Advanced Placement" (AP) here at our school. AP classes show the student is prepared to successfully engage with the most challenging curricula available (compare the average AP pass rate of 50% with the IB diploma attainment rate of 80%).

In the spring of 11th grade our students will take the SAT, an international standardized exam built to demonstrate college readiness. The standards of this assessment are directly linked to the academic standards set by the AERO curriculum used here at KAS as well. In short, when parents

ask, "How do we prepare our child for the SAT?" the answer is, "By enrolling them at KAS, you already have given them the best tools to prepare!"

Throughout 11th grade, and building on counseling lessons delivered in 9th and 10th grades, students refine their perceptions of how they have developed as young adults, what abilities are strongest, and what values drive them to achieve their best work. After answering these questions through multiple educational measures and inventories we are able to guide a conversation about what type of university and academic program best suits each individual student's abilities and goals. Similarly, we know that in each of our lifetimes we will have many, many jobs, and will most likely even have more than one career! For this reason, our focus is on those "transferable skills" that are crucial to today's ever-changing workforce and economic necessities: collaboration, communication, global perspective, and adaptability, and analytical thinking.

Finally, we are planning a Career Fair at KAS for this spring and would LOVE to invite you as our community members to come share your experiences as professionals with our students! If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about our Career Exploration fair, please e-mail me at [ddworak@krtams.org](mailto:ddworak@krtams.org). We'd love to see you there!

**Douglas Dworak**  
Middle & High School Counselor

## A part of KAS teaching staff in the school year 1995-1996

