



news

news from the trunk

Thursday, April 20, 2017



SHAKESPEARE AT KAS!



PTA "SUMMER SPLASH" Bake Sale
Thursday, April 27, quad area at Lunch Time

Back to the Basics!

Modern life can be overwhelming. In the age of technology we can easily find ourselves drowning in the deluge of media, with everything from well-meaning but conflicting articles on health, child-rearing, and world news all the way to biased advertorials and slanted pieces that make us question what we can trust and how we should live our lives. In the midst of this madness, we can draw ourselves back to the very basics of our education.

In 1986 Robert Fulghum published "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." This elementary axiom was embraced by the world with the book becoming a New York Times #1 best seller. Apart from the charming title, it is understandable as to why Fulghum's book became a beloved addition to many home libraries. We teach our youngest of children the most essential knowledge, that unfortunately can be pushed to the wayside as we mature and find ourselves caught up in the hustle bustle of daily life and responsibilities.



Children, especially young children, chase joy with everything they do, and they like to do many different things. Give some children a bit of free time or direct them toward a general activity and watch what they do. They are instant game-creators, story-tellers, junior gymnasts, and pint-sized actors and actresses. Fulghum reminds us to "Live a balanced life - learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some." There is joy to be had when we create space for both work and play everyday.

Children are generally eager to help out others and take great pleasure in being part of a team and part of a community. Fulghum states, "When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together."

Self-sufficiency can be such a point of pride for many that we can forget that we are at our best when we help each other and allow ourselves to be helped by others.



Children are naturally curious, ever-exploring and scrutinizing the world around them. A bird perching on the windowsill of a kindergarten class can distract the learners from whatever activity they were previously engaged in. Proclamations and queries like "That bird looks like the one in the story!" "What kind of bird is that?" "Did that bird make the nest behind the classroom?" and so forth fill the classroom. Fulghum asserts us to "Be aware of wonder." We have many moments in our day where instead of plowing forward with our work, we could take a moment and be aware of the tremendous and transient lives we lead on this beautiful and bewildering planet, and to go forth and ask the big and little questions.



Joy, service, and curiosity are some of the best traits humanity has to offer, and they are already naturally built into our youngest members. When the stresses of modern life can seem too overwhelming, we can simply revisit the fundamental life lessons that we learned when we were just small children: find balance in order to harvest joy, take delight in helping and being helped, and be aware of how fleeting and fantastic our very existence is.

Miriam Easterling
Kindergarten Teacher

A Message from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

Why read, study or perform Shakespeare plays is a question that besets and beguiles students, parents, and teachers? Many people have unhappy, painful memories of their encounters with Shakespeare at school but this is not the case for Mr. Michael and his students. In Mr. Michael's class, studying Shakespeare plays has turned into an amazing educational journey of exploration. The strategies, devices, and activities used in class are all tailored to ensure classes are active and enjoyable.



At the heart of these activities is the concept of ensemble. In which all of the student actors and support crew is considered as a whole. The most important thing is the united performance of the whole group where each part contributes to the success of the team. It's an all-inclusive approach that values each member of the group and recognizes that if one part doesn't work the whole performance may fail. In addition to this, the teacher has to adopt the role of facilitator, guiding the students, but fundamentally taking a backseat, allowing students to make decisions regarding language and performance as well as encouraging them to

take ownership and responsibility for the group performance.



Yesterday, 19th April, Middle and High School students and two students from Elementary School performed Scenes from Shakespeare. Short scenes accompanied by narration were performed alongside Grade 7's interpretation of A Midsummer Night's Dream. We were all enchanted by the students' engaging performance. Congratulations to Mr. Michael and his students on this exceptional performance.



Susan Boutros
Middle & High School Principal

AISA GLOBAL ISSUES SERVICE SUMMIT (GISS)



Four students from our Global Issues HS elective course at KAS traveled to Johannesburg earlier this month to present two class projects. These projects were based on this year's theme, Phambili, moving forward to face the challenges of the future, and the GISS conference aim of finding more sustainable solutions for problems. Both ideas became important guidelines for consideration in selecting projects after student research and discussion of current issues during our first semester of work in the Global Issues classroom.

Both projects selected stemmed from the local community at KAS. One, from Ms. Centers planned service trip to introduce 8th graders to the Batwa, an indigenous tribe of Uganda, displaced when moved from its natural habitat by conservation measures. The BATWA team worked on identifying other tribes around the world facing the same issue with a goal of bringing awareness to others on this global problem.

Our second team of students selected a project even closer to home in working to build a 'culture of service' with students from the primary grades at KAS. In the last two terms, HS students have offered community service to third through fifth grade students in ASAP. Their goal is to develop a Service Program at KAS with a commitment to developing more long-term projects and sustainable partnerships in the upper grades.

Overall, daily inspiration at the conference came from keynote speakers and changemakers focused on human rights, social entrepreneurship, animal rights, conservation, and the environment. The conference also allowed many opportunities for our students to develop international friendships from all over Africa. All activities provided students and teachers with ideas, tools, resources and support to return home and make positive changes in our own schools, communities and across the globe. Students will be headed to Kenya in January for the next GISS Conference in 2018.

Charlene Joyce
Nicole Stacey, Akram Esheikh, Dania Abuelgasim,
Nadeen Hassan, & Omar Abdelghani attended

Charlene Joyce
Middle & High School Social Studies



ANNOUNCEMENT

PTA "SUMMER SPLASH" Bake Sale
Please join us in the **Quad Area**
at **Lunch Time**
on **Thursday, April 27**

Elementary Assembly Masters This Week's Winner



Ahmed
Aydin
Grade 3

Aya
Ibrahim
Grade 3

Mugtaba
Elnoaman
Grade 1

SAYING OF THE WEEK

A **Washout** is a general failure where no trace of any effort has been made. This expression has its origin in the way the old tall ships passed messages to each other. Naval signals would be read and then chalked on to a slate before being passed to the correct authorities. Once the message had been received, the slate would be washed clean so that no traces of the message would be left other than in the correct hands. This was known as a 'washout' and it is easy to see how the phrase spread into wider use on land.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department