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news from the trunk

Thursday, February 15, 2018



AUTHOR RASHA HAMID VISITING KAS

Superintendent's Message

What Makes A School International?

I want to share with parents information from our Parent Seminar today. The origins of International Schools date from 1924, but in the past 20 years the number has grown by thousands. With this exponential growth has come a change in the make up and purpose of most international schools.

The first international schools were set up to serve expat families living overseas that provided their children with a Western English education. Now most international schools are often filled with a majority of host country students seeking a Western education. This is true at KAS.

Student Growth: Before, Now, the Future

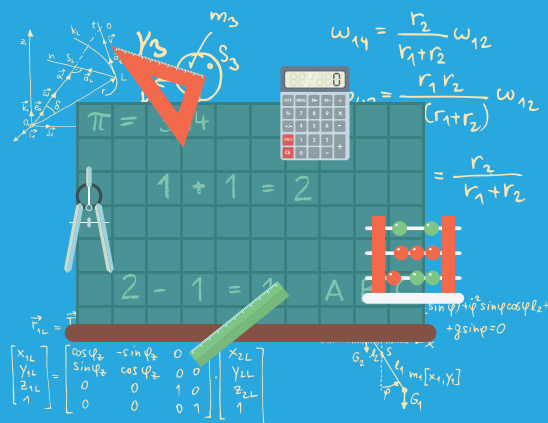
- In 2000 there were less than one million students attending about 2,500 international schools.
- As of December, 2016 there were 4.5 million students attending over 8,600 international schools in virtually every country of the world.
- It is expected that in 2021 there will be 6.3 million students at international schools.
- The largest growth areas are the UAE and China. Each country has over 550 schools.

Having a Western English Education is seen by many parents as desirable to help their children have better opportunities to attend high quality universities and better employment opportunities in the future. Most international schools now have the highest percentage of students from the host country. This is true at KAS.

Another change is the increasing international composition of a school's teaching staff. Having well-trained and experienced teachers from several countries is desirable. Schools that hire teachers from various countries increase the experience of internationalism to students. Next year we will be increasing the international composition of our teaching staff. We will soon finish hiring new teachers and we will share their biographical information with the KAS community.

Steve Alexander
KAS Superintendent

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP YOUR CHILD IN MATH AT KAS?



Did you know about IXL?

IXL is a subscription-based learning site for grades K-12.
www.ixl.com

KAS subscribes to this site yearly.

All of my students have an IXL Math account.

Exercises are assigned from IXL to accompany the lesson from topics being taught for each math unit.

IXL allows the students to practice math in an interactive way.

Extra credit can be obtained by doing IXL.

Our class goal is to:

Spend at least spend 1 hour on IXL every week

Answer 100 problems

Practice 5 skills

Reach a "Smart Score" of 70 on 3 skills.

Encourage your child to visit the IXL website. It is amazing what a difference it can make in your child's understanding of math concepts.

You as parents can also visit the site and log on as a guest.

You will be able to see your child's progress and which skills are lacking or need revisiting.

IXL offers interactive exercises not only in math, but Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Spanish as well.

In addition to IXL, homework help is offered in the library from 3:00-3:50 on Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays. A math teacher is available each day.

Get on board! Do not allow your child to be left behind.

Help your child reach his/her academic potential

Mattie Boyce
MS/HS Math Teacher

Letter from the Middle/High School Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

At KAS we love celebrating student achievement. On Wednesday, February 7, we had our first semester 4Cs Awards Assembly. Middle and high school students, parents and staff were here as we presented award certificates in the following categories, which align with the 4 C's of our Mission Statement:

Curriculum:

Golden Honor Roll - students received this award if they received all A's on their 1st Quarter report card.

Blue Honor Roll - students received this award if they received all A's and B's on their 1st Quarter report card.

Character/Citizenship/Community

Perfect Attendance - students received this award if they attended all days of school during the 1st Quarter.

Character Award - students received this award after being nominated by a teacher who feels the student has demonstrated good self-discipline, a positive self-image, and a strong sense of personal commitment and dedication to his/her own learning.

Citizenship Award- students received this award after being nominated by a teacher who feels the student has demonstrated the ability to reflect upon their own world and the world around them and is developing the skills required to make positive changes worldwide. Students who

earn this award have shown the ability to embrace the diversity present at Khartoum American School and celebrate the fact that it makes us a richer school community.

Community Award - students received this award after being nominated by a teacher who feels the student has demonstrated he/she is a cooperative, communicative, productive, and responsible young adult who views themselves and our school as integral parts of the global community.

Congratulations to all the students who received awards!

Susan Boutros

Middle & High School Principal



Cultivating Creativity

In order for a school's curriculum to be applicable, digestible and provocative to as many students as possible, educators need to start thinking outside of the box. There is a necessity for creativity to be practiced throughout all levels of education if long-term connections and concrete changes are to be made. If we as parents and educators are meant to arouse curiosity within the hearts of our children and students, we must search for how the content we present ties in with our students' lives.

In a TED talk titled "Do Schools Kill Creativity?", Sir Ken Robinson asserts that creativity is not some whimsical and unstructured talent that a few possess, but rather an imperative discipline that everyone has access to and must practice if we as individuals and a collective society are going to tackle our current problems and evolve into something greater. Robinson claims that creativity benefits from collaboration. Much like any discipline, creativity should not be seen as a solitary task, especially when one's creative pursuits might very well speak to and spur others into action.

Creativity can be fused into all subjects. Sam Kean, the author of "The Disappearing Spoon," creates a vivid and dramatic description of various elements of the periodic table. His full-bodied personification and identification with these building blocks of life remind me of my multi-faceted high school chemistry teacher, Mrs. Davis, who gave equal and unfettered devotion to the two dominant passions in her life: literature and the physical sciences. I shared her love of reading and discussing great written works, but initially found her intrigue with the chemistry to be foreign. But just as many great teachers practice in an effort to reach their students' interests, Mrs. Davis saw and recounted the stories and bridges that resided within her favored field of science, the bridges that reach through the seemingly banal textbooks, and envelop and unfold the mysteries of life. I recall her adoration and respect for the noble gases, as if they were great people who possessed admirable attributes.

She, like Kean, also used adjectives and colorful descriptions when she described elements. I remember thinking my teacher to be wonderfully quirky, but did not realize at the time that she was doing a great service by exercising and sharing the discipline of creativity in a discipline that most assume does not naturally lend itself to creativity.

When schools and educators fail to connect with students, most students will become resigned and detached from their education. Not many will pursue learning and academic growth through other avenues. Thus we aspire and endeavor to apply the discipline of creativity into our classrooms and homes. By finding the fascination and drama within various academic disciplines, we will be able to provide our students and children with a connection, and hopefully an unbridled curiosity that will steer their learning past the four walls of their homes and classrooms and into the wide world.

Miriam Easterling
Kindergarten Teacher

Saying of the Week

Down To The Wire is used to describe a contest, sporting or otherwise, where the outcome will not be determined until the very last. Before the days of televised horse racing, American and British racetracks would string a wire across the finishing line above the riders' heads. A steward would then be placed at a vantage point, looking down the line so that a winner could be more easily be established during neck-and-neck finishes. In 1889 the following appeared in *Scribers Magazine*: 'As the end of the stand was reached, Timarch worked up to Petrel, and the two raced down to the wire, cheered on by the applause of the spectators. They ended the first half mile of the race head and head, passing lapped together under the wire, and beginning in earnest the mile which was yet to be traversed.' The race had gone 'down to the wire' and the expression has been widely used since then.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department