



News

news from the trunk
Thursday, December 16th 2010

Happy Holidays

Winter Break

Friday, December 17th, 2010 through Saturday January 15th, 2010
School resumes Sunday, January 16th, 2010



Merry Christmas and

A Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

With our winter vacation now upon us and our first semester of school complete it is appropriate to recap on some of the highlights of the first half of this school year.

On Tuesday we held our first Association Meeting of the year and those present were given an insight into the progress made on the school goals that were outlined at our Open House in August. Without going into the same detail we were pleased to report on outstanding progress in the areas of safety and security, curriculum development, the development of Moodle, community interaction, facilities, and the formation of our Parent Teacher Association. The treasurer also commented at the meeting that the school finances were in good shape and that this year will give a solid foundation upon which we can build.

While these global objectives well on the way to completion, there are many fine achievements that took place throughout our school that need special mention. On the academic side of the school our students consistently worked towards finding success and that the students were enjoying their learning on a daily basis. For us it is not only what they learn but how they learn best, and it is always a pleasure to see our teachers challenging our students using an inquiry based program that asks student to engage in their work and to search for answers rather than simply memorize and repeat facts. In our elementary assemblies it has been a pleasure to watch some of the work presented by our students and the way in which these have been received by their peers truly made us a learning community.

Our sporting teams excelled on the court with the standout achievement being the undefeated champions of our Varsity Basketball Team. This team represented our school with pride and took the court each and every game with a fantastic attitude and a wonderful sense of fair play. Our other basketball teams also acquitted themselves well and made sure that our school will continue to carry on our strong tradition in this area.

Continued in next column....

Continued from previous column....

Several events have taken place this year which have further enhanced our school spirit and I am sure that most people will agree that our International Pot Luck Dinner/Talent Show was an absolutely marvelous event that was enjoyed by all.

I know that many of our families are travelling and I would like to wish them, "bon voyage" and to those of choosing to stay in Khartoum I hope that you continue to enjoy the wonderful hospitality of the Sudanese people and return rested and ready to leap into semester two.

To all our families, teachers, students and staff, Merry Christmas and have a great vacation!

How can I encourage my child to read at home?

Helping children become and remain readers is the single most important thing that parents and families can do to help their children succeed in school and in life.

- Read aloud to your child often. Start reading to your child when she is a baby and keep reading as they grow up. As you read, talk with your child. Encourage her to ask questions and talk about the story. Ask her to predict what will come next.
- Encourage your child to read on her own. Children who spend at least 30 minutes a day reading for fun develop the skills to be better readers at school.
- Set aside a quiet time for family reading. Some families even enjoy reading aloud to each other, with each family member choosing a book, story, poem or article to read to the others.
- Visit the library often. Begin making weekly trips to the library when your child is very young. See that your child gets her own library card as soon as possible.
- Buy a children's dictionary and start the "let's look it up" habit.
- Make writing materials, such as crayons, pencils and paper, available.



Wish a Happy New Year

- Ask family members and friends to consider giving your child books and magazine subscriptions as gifts for birthdays or other special occasions. Set aside a special place for your child to keep her own library books.
- Get help for your child if she has a reading problem. If you think that your child needs extra help, ask her teachers about the Learning Center.
- If you are uncomfortable with your reading ability, look for family or adult reading programs in your community. Friends and relatives also can read to your child!

Keep active over the break

Don't turn into a couch potato while you are away from school. Get out and do something each day for at least 30 minutes. Below are some ideas to keep active and fit over the break:

Take a walk, play with friends, go swimming, surprise your parents and do house or yard work, ride a bike, dance around your room, do body weight exercises learned from PE, stretch, run around the house, or whatever you like to get you moving each day and have **Fun!** See you next year!

11 and Under Soccer News

Going into the mid-season break, the 11&U KAS team is currently in 1st place. Way to go team! After the break, the team will play in two more mini-tournaments before the finals. Keep up the good efforts.

You Child "Can" Read Over Break!

Do you want your child to read during vacation, but don't have enough books? Access books from a school database! Students can read books online.

All elementary students (except grade 1) have logged onto kaslibrary.org. They should go to the Tumblebooks icon on the left side of the library Moodle screen. They know the Tumblebooks username and password so they should be able to access books and non-violent games.



Dates to Remember

Friday, December 17th, 2010 through Saturday January 15th, 2010	Winter Break
Sunday, January 16th, 2010	School Resumes
February 11, 2011 PTA and Elementary Student Council Dance	Social Under the Stars



Winter Break

Friday, December 17th, 2010 through Saturday January 15th, 2010