

# news

news from the trunk

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mathematics



Science



Technology



English



Social Studies



Exceeding Standards

**Elementary Sports Day**

Thursday, February 9, 2012



## Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

In all schools a lot of work goes on “behind the scenes” to ensure that the quality of education is maintained and that constant reflection takes place in order to continually improve. Over the past few weeks a major emphasis has been placed on reviewing our Language Arts (English) as well as our Mathematics curriculums. Obviously, these are two major components of any school program and it is imperative that we stay up to date with current trends in these areas and that we standardize our curriculum with other schools worldwide.

As an American school we align ourselves with a set of American standards called the AERO Standards (AERO is an acronym for American Education Reaches Out). These standards were developed by American teachers working in international schools, in conjunction with the United States State Department’s Office of Overseas Schools. Prior to their development, American schools generally selected standards from one of the fifty states, but with the development of the AERO Standards schools such as ours can now follow strong benchmarks while also taking into consideration the diversity of our school community.

For parents who are interested in viewing these standards they can be accessed at the AERO website: [www.projectaero.org](http://www.projectaero.org). By viewing these, parents can get a clearer picture of the types of material that will be presented throughout the year and the benchmarks that we are striving towards with each individual student. While these standards present typical expectations of our classes in general we often go further in terms of developing alternative benchmarks for our gifted and talented students to aspire to.

Part of the review process has been looking at where and how we implement these standards, and of course how can we improve upon the strong program that we already have in place, in terms of achieving these standards. This is a slow process but the value that this has towards increasing our students’ performances is immense.

Over the years we have built up a wonderful reputation which is reflected in our strong growth and the positive feedback that we regularly receive. While we quite often leave the fabulous work that we do “behind the scenes,” it is sometimes nice to remind our community that we are always striving towards excellence.

As always have a great weekend.

## Letter from the Elementary School Principal Ben Voborsky

Khartoum American School provides the best possible education Sudan has to offer and we are always improving. We have a curriculum review cycle in place where every year certain subjects are looked at school-wide. Last year, we conducted the Social Studies review. This year Math and Language Arts have been the focus of the K-12 curriculum review.

Teachers continue to analyze what they are doing in their classrooms. We use the Understanding by Design Framework and teachers continually refine their units of work. The Understanding by Design process starts off with establishing the desired results in terms of student learning. This encompasses one or more AERO (American Education Reaches Out) standards, the goal of what students will understand, and the essential questions that will drive student learning. After articulating what our students will learn, we focus on how we will measure that learning. We gather assessment evidence through performance tasks and other forms of assessments (oral and written tests, reports, project, etc.). From there we move onto devising the learning plan and finally daily units of instructions. Teachers then take these units of work and sit with each other to vertically align our curriculum. Starting from Kindergarten and continuing to Grade 12, teachers sit together and make sure that students are being exposed to all types of content and that the students finish a grade with a minimum set of skills to be prepared for the next grade level. Units at certain grade levels are overhauled, new units created, and some units excluded until there is an alignment of academic progression from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

This is a tremendous amount of work. Math and Language Arts teachers focused on curriculum during the last professional development day and still needed more time. “Highly professional teachers never forget that schools are not institutions run for the convenience of the adults who work in them; instead, the purpose of schools is to educate students” (Danielson, 2007). The teachers came together last Saturday, giving up one day of their weekend, to continue focusing on our curriculum and being able to resource it effectively.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers whose day goes well beyond 3pm when the teacher-run After School Activity Program ends and meetings begin. I want to thank all teachers whose job descriptions include taking home planning and marking at night and on the weekends. This amount of dedication demonstrates how teachers at Khartoum American School are driven to provide your student the best education possible.



# BONJOUR!

## Moi J'adore le Français

Grades 3 and 4 are currently finishing off the unit "Bon Appetit." This is also being done with Level 1 in the Middle and High Schools. The students of Grades 3 & 4 really enjoyed the picnic activity in the school's garden, which included listening to and reading a short story about a picnic. There was also a mini dialogue activity to practice our French. The next unit for grades 3 & 4 will be "Chez moi" (My Home). In this unit the students will learn how to describe our house/apartment and our room. Please try always to encourage our children to tell you what they learned in French class and to practice any vocabulary words or verb with you. With Grade 5 our current unit is "Au restaurant" (At the Restaurant), practicing how to order some common foods and beverages. Next week we will continue with this unit and practice how to ask for the prices.



## The Geometry of Proving a Point Focus on Writing in HS English

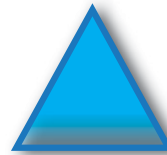
Students in Ms. Kelley's English classes are sharpening their pencils and tackling one of the most challenging topics in their high school careers – the academic essay. We are using a cross-curricular approach to learning about the essay: Geometry! Here's how it works:



= Introduction. This includes a general overview of the topic, a preview of main points, and a clear thesis statement, which is the answer to the question. See how the introduction moves from broad to narrow? Just like the triangle.



= Body Paragraphs. These begin with a supporting point, proving the thesis statement, an explanation with evidence and a topic sentence, which gets us ready for the next paragraph.



= Conclusion: The conclusion tells the readers everything they need to know about the paper – what we said, why we said it, and why it matters! Narrow to broad, just like the introduction.

Ask the high school to teach you about the geometry of proving a point – you may just learn something about writing AND about math!

Ms. Kelley



The Learning Center was full of commotion last week. On Monday morning, we got the news that Ms. Shalash had a big, beautiful, baby girl! We are so happy for her! Ms. Shalash is doing well and looking great. Baby Lana is being showered with attention and is adorable. Mommy, Daddy and little princess are all together in Iowa braving the cold. We are happy for them and can't wait for them to come here.



Brook



Malak

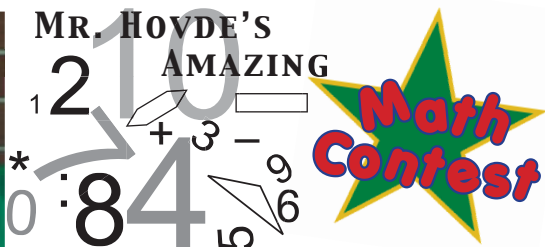


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MR. HOVDE'S  
AMAZING



## KAS Sport

Last week was the end of the regular season for soccer. This week, all the teams are getting ready for the Khartoum Cup. This tournament, which is an 11-a-side format for the boys and 7-a-side for the girls, is held at KICS. It is a separate event from the season. This means there was a random draw held to place the teams into their spots.

The U14 Boys drew Nile Valley for the preliminary game. This means that NVA will be coming to KAS on Thursday, February 9th at 3:00pm for the first game of the 2012 Khartoum Cup. The rest of the boys' games will be held at KICS on Tuesday, February 13th. All the girls' teams will play the next day at KICS. Good luck everyone!

## The Khartoum Cup

Here is some information from KICS about the Khartoum Cup. The dates for the Khartoum Cup are as follows:

- U14 and U19 boys – February 14, from 3 to 7 PM
- U14 and U19 girls – February 15, from 3 to 6 PM

Please be aware that these times are approximate only. Finish times may be later or earlier. An overview of the tournament is as follows:

- 1 referee per game.
- Burgers will be on sale for 5.00 SDG each. There is a limited number
- Water will be supplied
- Points will be awarded as follows; 3 = win; 1 = draw; 0 = loss
- Games will be 12 minute halves with 3 minute half time breaks
- Games will start according to the clock, not when you are ready so your team(s) must be organized
- The field is full size and teams are 11 aside. Girls' games are 7-aside small pitch
- The tournament is a knock out for the boys and U14 girls. The U19 girls will be a round robin - the team with the most points at the end will be the overall winner.
- Should teams finish on the same points the following system will be used to decide finalists in the following order; head to head results; goal difference; total goals scored. If teams are still tied after looking at head to head, goal difference and goals scored, there will be a coin toss. Mr. Chris (KICS) will employ his expertise should the results come down to a tie
- Trophies will be awarded at the prize giving ceremony scheduled for 7 PM, or earlier.

### Winners:

Kindergarten - Leke  
 Ashu - Grade 1,  
 Syahmi - Grade 2,  
 Amsyar - Grade 3,  
 Rafiza - Grade 4,  
 Omar - Grade 5, Ayman, Jamal and Ahmed - Middle School  
 and Fu Xianli - High School.



Elementary School Math problem:

**Kindergarten:** Complete the pattern: ♥ ♥ ♦ ♥ ♥ ♦ — — —

**Grade 1:** Math Riddle: How many letters are in the alphabet?

**Grade 2:** How much is one dozen? If Ms Iris bought 1 dozen eggs and 5 were cracked, how many does she have left?

**Grade 3:** There are 7 stacks of coins, and 5 coins in each stack. How many coins are there in all? If the coins are dimes, how much money would you have?

**Grade 4:** Write 5 in the tens place. Find 1/2 of 24. Subtract 4. Write the answer in the hundreds place. Add 7 to the digit in the tens place. Divide by 2. Write the answer in the thousands place. In the ones place, write an even number greater than 2 that has not been used yet. What is the number?

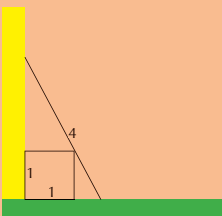
**Grade 5:** Write the number that has 1 in the ones place, a digit that is equal to  $1^2$  in the ten-millions place, a digit in the hundred-thousands place that is triple the digit in the millions place, a digit in the billions place that is the same as the digit in the place 1,000 times greater than the hundreds place, 6 in the hundredths place, a digit in the millions place that is 1/10 of 30, and 2 in all of the remaining places

Middle School Math problem:

Given the numbers 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 place addition and plus signs between the digits to make a problem with the answer of 100.

High School Math problem:

In the picture on the right, you see a ladder with a length of four meters, placed against a wall. The ladder touches the box of one by one meter, which is standing against the wall. At what height does the top of the ladder touch the wall?



**Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

**Grade 1:** Answers will vary **Grade 2:** c **Grade 3:** 5 dogs ( $5 \times 4 = 20$  legs) and 5 kids ( $5 \times 2 = 10$  legs) **Grade 4:** 0.05 meters **Grade 5:** 8,534,383,332.36

**Middle School:**  $(10-4 \times 2) \times 7$  **High School:**  $8.385 \times 10^{15}$  bacteria.

Circle one:

X High School      Middle School      Elementary School

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ X



# Cricket

Camp comes to KAS!!!

This Friday, February 10, 2012, from 9:30 AM. Students and Parents are welcome to attend.