

news

news from the trunk
Thursday, November 29, 2012

KAS at THIMUN - Singapore



Professional Development at KAS

Sunday, December 9, 2012, No School for Students

See you tonight at
International
Potluck Dinner!

Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

Each year we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our MUN students as they return from the annual THIMUN Conference in Singapore. This year is no different with wonderful reports coming back regarding our students' participation in this event, both from the viewpoint of the students excelling in the event and in general as ambassadors of our school.

For those people who are unfamiliar with MUN it is a simulation of the United Nations whereby students take on the identities of members in the diplomatic corps and then follow the rules and regulations stipulated by the United Nations to propose positive changes and to debate global issues from their assigned country's perspective. The fact that we are an international school means that our children are exposed more to international politics than students in their home country and hence this exercise is extremely pertinent. Further articles in the newsletter will elaborate more in terms of detail.

On an unrelated issue the big day has finally arrived and the finishing touches are underway for our International Potluck Dinner. Hundreds of tickets have been sold both for entry and for the huge raffle. Also, the students have been practicing very hard to make sure that their performances are perfect and I am sure that everyone will enjoy the show.

Of course the main point of the evening is to celebrate the diversity that exists in our school and this will be on display with food, flags and fashion, there for all to see. This will be the third International Potluck Dinner for me and even as I write this article it is hard to contain my enthusiasm.

I look forward to seeing you all this evening and please have a safe and happy weekend.

Letter from the Elementary School Principal, Ben Voborsky

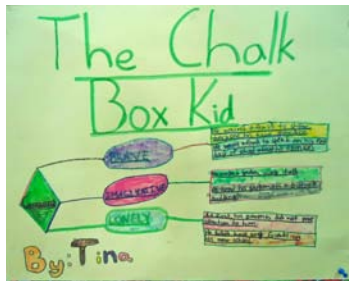
Khartoum American School is truly international. With 38 nationalities represented at KAS we will have an excellent parade of nations tonight at the International Potluck Dinner. The International Potluck Dinner is only one of the ways we celebrate the diversity that makes KAS special. This international spirit is reflected in more than just our internationally diverse student body and our multi-cultural celebrations. It is reflected in our curriculum, which the Council of International Schools and Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools praised KAS for in their most recent accreditation report. Internationalism is not only embedded in the elementary curriculum but school wide!

The Council of International Schools and Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools is finding out what we at KAS have known for a long time, that internationalism and 21st century skills are very important. One of the main themes underpinning the 8th Edition Standards for accreditation is internationalism. Internationalism is a key 21st century skill. We are developing students who have the ability to think critically, apply knowledge at high levels, and use technology to access, evaluate, and communicate information. With a world of knowledge at our fingertips, KAS students, parents, and teachers hold unprecedented opportunities for education, personal growth, and fulfillment. Our students are communicating globally, overcoming resource scarcity, and learning to resolve conflict and become competent problem solvers. The body of research is mounting and affirms that the instruction of and opportunity to practice 21st century skills are critical for success beyond the classroom and in life. KAS is keeping ahead of the curve!

Congratulations to our Model United Nations students, along with Ms. Wilson and Ms. Gurley, who just returned from a successful experience in Singapore. They positively represented KAS to the world and were continually highlighted as a strong delegation at the conference!

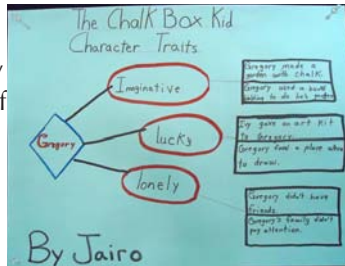


ELEMENTARY ESL GRADE 5



Grade 5 ESL students spent a couple of weeks reading a fictional novel, "The Chalk Box Kid." As they were reading, they learned how to apply character analysis, a reading strategy to help improve their comprehension. They analyzed the main character

of the book, Gregory, and they discussed the changes in his character throughout the book. They also learned new adjectives to describe a person's character traits, which supported their learning of adjectives in their language arts class. To sum up what they learned, they created a chart of 3 adjectives they chose that described Gregory and found evidence in the book that supported their reasoning. Well done, Grade 5 ESL!



Studying English

Again this year at KAS, many of the school workers are studying English. Almost 30 guards, cleaners, gardeners, and maintenance workers signed up for one of three classes: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. The teachers this year are Ivana Turchetto, Egbal Mohamed, Hope Kim, Eman Saadeldin, Alia Mahmoud, and Steve Merkel-Hess. The classes meet each Tuesday from 4-5 pm. This year 15 KAS students in grades 11 and 12 are volunteering to assist in teaching the ESL classes and they are receiving Community Service credit for doing so.

One of the teachers wrote about her experience: "During the ESL class enthusiasm and excitement fills the room from both the workers and the high school students who are helping us. Despite the fact that the class takes place after a long day, and by the time we start the class I feel very tired, the eagerness to learn English language that I see in the workers' eyes fills me with energy and makes me put forth my best effort to reach out to those workers' minds. The high school students are an amazing support during class. They come with a positive spirit and they bring a youthful energy to the class."

A teacher of the Beginner class wrote: "The workers are excited and afraid at the same time. Most of the class is over 40 years old, but they are determined and willing to do the work. We had five men the first night and now there are nine. It's not easy to do my best after a long teaching day, and it's the same for the workers. One thing that encourages me is the support from the high school students. They are patient and can repeat the lesson as many times as needed."

The workers are at various levels in learning and mastering English, but their perseverance and determination are obvious. Look for them reading materials in English and greet them and engage them in English conversation. One of the teachers commented: "I missed my calling and I shouldn't be teaching children. I should be teaching adults who are eager to learn and who know the opportunities available for those who master another language, especially English."



Model United Nations (MUN) is an academic simulation of the United Nations that educates students about civics, current events and world issues, effective communication, globalization, and multilateral diplomacy. Students fill the roles of diplomats from a variety of world nations and debate potential solutions to real world problems. Through discussion and debate, students aim to create resolutions that will help create peace in the world.

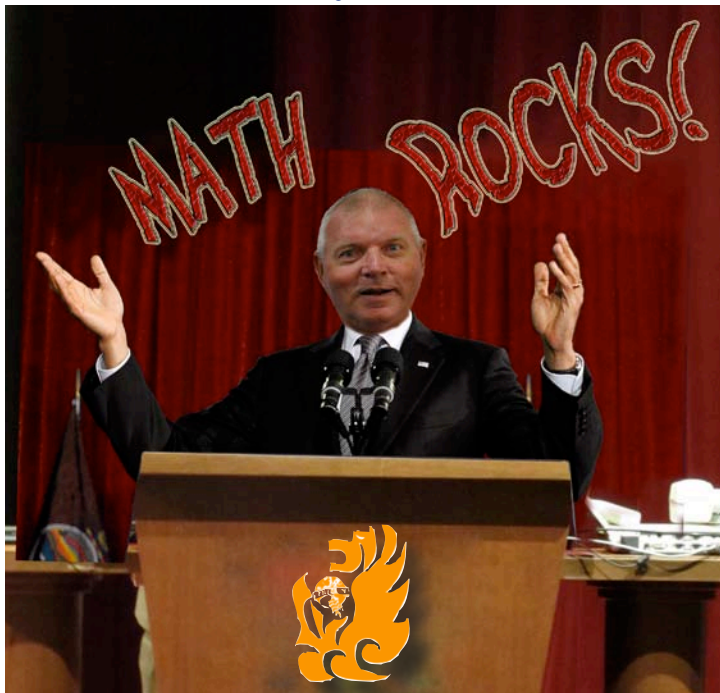
From November 17-24, nine KAS students traveled to Singapore to participate in the eighth annual THIMUN Singapore conference, one of the most prestigious MUN conferences in the world. Along with over 1200 students from schools around the globe, the KAS students spent four days discussing and analyzing current world issues ranging from piracy in Somalia to the prevention of religious violence to global cyber security.

This was KAS's fourth year participating in the conference, and once again, the KAS team members definitely made their presence known. Ambassadors Ali Elomarabi, representing Uganda, and Alex Gindi, representing Jamaica, delivered excellent speeches to the General Assembly, and all members of the KAS delegation were active and critical participants within their forums, giving strong speeches and asking pointed questions. The students put considerable time and effort into

preparing for the conference, and their hard work clearly paid off.

KAS was ably represented at the conference by the following students: Rida Chaudhary, Noon Elnefeidi, Ali Elomarabi, Alex Gindi, LJ Lee, Ji Hong Min, Sarah Saif Omer, Leticia Pereira, and Iris Son. Excellent work KAS!





Joy-KG, Nabil-G1, Preet-G2, Haanya-G3, Amina-G4, Malak-G5, Celeste-G6, Baalaj-G8.



Time For Kids

We recently found a great website www.timeforkids.com, which is basically Time magazine online, but with “kid friendly” content. This site is a great resource for students young and old. There are interesting slideshows on the photo and video page that might be easy enough for our very youngest students to access, and there are guides for eight different types of writing – i.e. biography, essay, etc. that could help anyone from grade 4 and up. There are news articles and slideshows about current events that our elementary, middle and high school students could access, and there are homework helpers, from flashcards to writing organizers.

Parents often worry about their children using their computer time well. This may be a great solution to that. Parents often ask for more academic practice at home. Browsing any part of this site would certainly be worthwhile in academic terms and spending computer time wisely. Parents and students often struggle to complete a variety of homework assignments. The homework help section of this site could possibly have the help needed. We encourage you to check it out.

Staff vs. Students

This week we had a faceoff between the MS students and the teachers. The MS students did a fantastic job. They stood up to the teachers and scored 5 goals! The end result wasn't very important since this game was to help the students prepare for their league games. What was important was their hard work.

Dear Parents, since we are in the soccer season, the KAS faculty would love to organize a soccer game between parents and teachers, so look out for information in the coming weeks. We will try to organize the event on a day most parents and teachers can and will participate.

Elementary School Math problem:

Kindergarten: Finish this pattern: 1, 2, 3, 3, 2, 1, 1, 2, 3, 3, 2, 1, _____, _____.

Grade 1: How many of your feet from is it from your kitchen to your bedroom? How many hands high is your bed?

Grade 2: What temperature does water boil? Answer in both Fahrenheit and Centigrade.

Grade 3: Before people had rulers to measure they used their bodies to help measure length. What is a fathom?

Grade 4: . “What’s my rule?”

RULE: ADD 13

In	Out
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57	

Grade 5: A negative number is a real number that is less than zero. Name 2 examples in real life when you use negative numbers?

Middle School Math problem:

What is the first number evenly divisible (no remainders or fractional parts) by the digits 1-9 and also by 10?

High School Math problem:

Two fair dice are rolled. What is the probability of rolling a sum of seven?

Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten: 2 2 1 1; **Grade 1:** 89c; **Grade 2:** Answers will vary; **Grade 3:** \$22; **Grade 4:** 527; **Grade 5:** 657; **Middle School:** 38; **High School:** If a system of two linear equations has no solution, graphically they two lines are parallel.

Circle one:

✂ High School Middle School Elementary School

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Answer: _____ ✂