

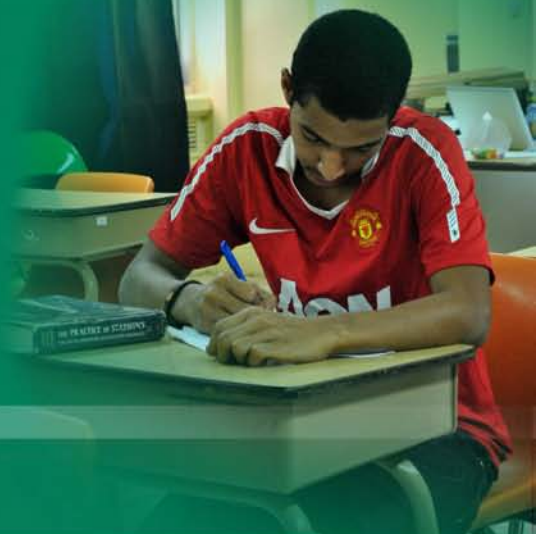
# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, January 17, 2013



# EXAM Week



## High School Exams

Monday, January 21, Tuesday, January 22 and Wednesday, January 23, 2013



## Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

Next week our high school students commence their semester exams and we wish them all the best as they complete their respective courses. The exams are an important part of our assessment process and the results of these exams will of course have a significant impact upon their final grades.

One of the beauties of the American education system is the fact that student progress is measured from Grade 9 through to Grade 12 in terms of their academic achievement. Universities and colleges will review a student's transcript that includes data relating to the entire four years that they were in high school and then make a consideration regarding admission based on work over this extended period of time. This means high stakes, however high pressure exams are not the overriding criteria for success but rather long sustained efforts of achievement.

While some students in other education systems thrive on taking these types of exams, other students succumb to nervousness leading them to presenting work that is below par. While our students will obviously be looking to do their best in the upcoming exam week, they are aware that the multiple assessments that they have taken leading up to these exams will also be a strong determinate in the final grades.

With the semester almost over it is always wonderful to see the final results of our students and the amazing growth that takes place in such a short period of time. Despite the fact that our high school exams are only one component of our assessment system our students are all very keen to do their best, and this attitude of course makes us all very proud.

As always have a great weekend.

## Letter from the Middle and High School Principal, Susan Boutros

Time has flown since the beginning of the school year! Now, halfway through the year, we are approaching the second semester. This time of the year is a very busy time for our high school students and their teachers. Many college applications are due in January, which means that our senior students have to submit all the applications this as soon as possible. High school students are also very busy working on final projects for some of their courses and studying for exams. High school exams are going to take place on January 21st to 23rd.

Here are some tips for studying for exams:

- Keep in mind that you want to be an **active** learner, not a passive one. The more you use and manipulate the information, the better you will understand it.
- **Do not wait until the night before an exam to study!** Of course, you should be regularly reviewing your notes, but the preparation still takes time.
- A good first step in preparation is to read through your notes a couple of times.
- **Highlight** major topics and subtopics, with the goal of generating an outline of your notes.
- Consider ways of dealing with the information other than those used in class. Some suggestions:
  - Use old worksheets and tests as study guides.
  - Make charts, diagrams and graphs.
  - Make lists.
  - If the subject matter includes structures, practice drawing those structures. Remember that a drawing is useless unless the important structures are labeled.
- One of the most universally effective ways to polish off your study activities is to prepare a **self test**. Challenge yourself as severely as you can.
- **Never, ever pull an "All-Nighter"** on the night before an exam.

On exam day:

- Try not to "cram" during every spare moment before an exam. This only leads to panic, and then to test anxiety.
- Be physically prepared.
- Get a good night's sleep.
- Eat Healthy!
- Bring necessary writing materials to the exam
- This may seem simple, but go to the bathroom just before the exam. Don't expect your teacher to let you leave the room during the test! You don't want to waste your time either!
- **Read the test instructions thoroughly.** Many students fail to answer all of the questions asked because of their carelessness.
- Begin immediately and answer the questions that you know first. Then, come back and answer the more difficult questions.
- Review and scan your work before submitting your exam. You can catch missed questions, unanswered essay questions, etc.

I wish all our high school students a lot of success with their exams.

### High School Exam Week Schedule - January 2013

|             | Monday,<br>January 21  | Tuesday,<br>January 22  | Wednesday,<br>January 23        |
|-------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 8:00-9:30   | Geometry 9<br>Business Math<br>Consumer Math<br>Modern History 10<br>Pre-Calculus 11<br>Physics 12 | Physical Science 9<br>Algebra II 10<br>Intermediate Algebra<br>African Studies 11<br>English 12 | Ancient History 9<br>Biology 10 |
| 10:00-11:30 | English 10<br>Chemistry 11<br>Comparative Govt. 12   | English 9<br>African Literature 11<br>Statistics 12<br>Calculus 12                              | (make-up exams)                 |

# Gardening Fun with the Dolphin class



In the Dolphin class we have been working hard in the garden growing our favorite vegetable - tomatoes. We have seen our tomato vines grow bigger and bigger, and each day we are on the lookout for some nice juicy tomatoes.

The students have been planning to exchange some tomatoes with the Turtle class for one of their pumpkins so that we can start a brand new unit on VEG-ETABLE SOUP.

While we have lots of good news to report some sad news is that Ji-Whan will be leaving us soon. He is the funniest guy in the class and we will all miss him so much. Good luck in your new school Ji-Whan!

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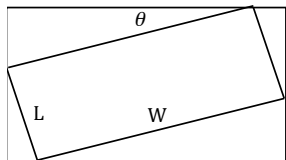
## LEARNING SCIENCE IS AN ACTIVE PROCESS

Students of grade 6 at KAS believe that learning science is personal and social. They believe that hands-on activities are not enough – they also must have “minds-on” experiences in which to explore open-ended questions. They describe objects and events by: asking questions, acquiring knowledge, and constructing explanations of natural phenomena, testing those explanations, and communicating their ideas to others. Sound is one of the most enjoyable topics during which the six graders use their laptops to search and experiment the nature of sound.

Generally in science, the students of grade 6 at KAS, experience a few concepts and principles and their applications in depth with the goal of internalizing and applying them throughout their lives.

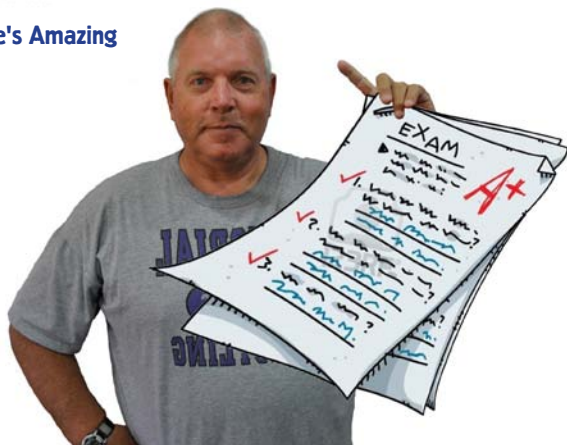


## AP Calculus at KAS



Over the last few years many positive changes have occurred to the mathematics program here at KAS. Lower grades now use IXL – an online problem bank, the upper school has the after school Math Help Center, and we have added many new classes to better serve the needs of our students. Just as we use the Learning Center and the Math Help Center to help students reach their full

potential we also must find ways to push high achieving students. In the twelfth grade our AP Calculus AB class accomplishes this. This year I once again have the pleasure of teaching this class and have been very impressed with the work my students have done this year. AP Calculus AB is typically one of our smaller classes, as it requires a great deal of dedication and work. Students meet after school and on weekends to ensure the vast amount of material is covered in time to ensure they are adequately prepared for the AP exam in early May. What goes on in this class you might ask? This week we are working on applications of differentiation. In short, anything with a rate of change is encompassed by calculus. Allow me to illustrate this using a problem we encountered this week. Here we have a rectangle with width  $W$  and length  $L$  that is circumscribed by a larger rectangle. The question asked us to find the maximum area of the larger rectangle assuming that  $L$  and  $W$  were fixed values. By changing the value of the angle we change the dimension of the larger rectangle, which in turn changes its area. Such a problem seems dauntingly difficult. I imagine many readers are thinking to themselves, “There are no numbers!” Calculus provides us with a framework that allows us to solve this problem. If you are curious about the solution, find one of my students and ask for a hint.



# Learning Center Corner

## The Learning Center and the One to One Program

The Learning Center has benefitted greatly from all the new Apple computers on campus. There are so many tools all students can use to enhance their learning.

One very useful tool for all students is the speaking option. All of us learn in many ways. We learn by seeing, hearing, experiencing, practicing and more. The more modalities of learning we use, the more likely we are to learn and remember new information. It is one thing to read a text on the computer. It is another thing to hear the text read to us. By highlighting a text and pressing Option and Escape, one can get the computer to read the text out loud. (Make sure the computer volume is turned up). This is useful, because sometimes we can't read a word, but when we hear it, we recognize it, and if we are reading while listening, we will likely recognize the word the next time we see it in text. It is also useful because it is a second form of input. We not only read the information, but we also hear it.

Another very effective use of the speech option is to have the computer read back a piece of writing a student has created. When the computer reads the assignment back to the student, the student will notice spelling errors or incorrect word usage, or missing words more readily, because sometimes when we proofread, we miss the errors in our work.

The speech option is only one of many extremely helpful features of our new computers. We encourage you to check out the Word program on your computers and explore with the various templates and buttons available. Did you know that if you open the toolbox and go to the citations tab, you can fill in some basic information and the program will create a bibliography for you and will automatically bring up citations in the format of your choice – APA or MLA?

Have fun Exploring!!!!

## Back To School! Back to Reality!

Welcome back and Happy New Year! This year begins with an exciting addition to our soccer league. The under 12 teams for boys and girls will commence their competitions on the 17th of January. Our elementary children are working hard on new games that focus on their motor skills. From kindergarten to fifth grade the intrigue and anticipation among students as to what will be the next game of the week for physical education is worthy of it's own newspaper column. Maybe one day. It must be mentioned that our swimming pool's rehabilitation has nearly reached its end and will soon be available once again for KAS families.

Happy 2013, we hope Santa has brought lots of presents and although not a very white Christmas in Sudan the KAS team hopes you have spent the greatest Christmas holidays and wishes you the very best for the rest of the coming year.

### Last Week's Winners

Cameron-KG, Imnet-G1, Ashu-G2, Youssef-G3, Noah-G4, Anne-Myrthe-G5.



#### Elementary School Math problem:

**Kindergarten:** Look at the tree. Draw a taller tree. Draw the tallest tree.



**Grade 1:** Write five names for the number 25.

**Grade 2:** Find the temperature for two cities. Which is higher? By how much?

**Grade 3:** Find the perimeter of a rectangle with sides that measure 5cm and 3cm.

**Grade 4:**  $56 \div 7 = 8$ .

Circle the quotient, underline the divisor, draw a triangle on the dividend.

**Grade 5:** Share \$780 among 6 people. How much money will each person get?

#### Middle School Math problem:

Evaluate:  $12(5 - 6x) + 9x$  if  $x = 23$ . Show work.

#### High School Math problem:

What values of  $x$  satisfy the equation  $5 = |2x + 3|$  ?

**Solutions from the last week:** Kindergarten: **Grade 1:** They have the same amount of money; **Grade 2:** Bring a graph; **Grade 3:** 100; **Grade 4:** 7; **Grade 5:** 276; **Middle School:** 7 months; **High School:** \$263.89;

Circle one:

High School      Middle School      Elementary School

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

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