



# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 6, 2012

Back to School!



## Back to School Night

Wednesday, September 12, 2012, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at KAS



## Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

The first week of school has ended in fine fashion and as our enrollment continues to grow, we once more welcome new families and friends into our school community. For me personally it is always a pleasure to chat with people each morning as the school day begins and an even greater pleasure to tour our classrooms and see our fabulous teaching staff and students interacting.

We are truly fortunate to have such a talented group of teachers in our school. I would like to give a special mention to our new teachers who despite adapting themselves to a new country, a new culture, new food and everything else that comes from living in a different part of the world, have acquitted themselves exceptionally well as members of our teaching staff. It is hard enough simply to live in a new country, but adjusting to a new work environment has its own challenges and so kudos goes out to this group. Obviously the same sentiments apply to our new students who are also busy making friends, adapting to life at KAS and getting on with the process of making learning an everyday part of life.

Next week we will be hosting our Back to School Night on Wednesday the 12th of September. As always this will be a chance for parents to drop by the school, meet with teachers and learn more about the program that we offer here at KAS that is specific to their children. These days are always well patronized and are once more an opportunity for us to come together as a community, to share our hopes, goals and aspirations. I look forward to seeing you there. It pleases me greatly to be reporting on the wonderful start that we are having this year and I am sure you are already hearing about this from your children on a daily basis.

As always have a great weekend!

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

Dear Parents and Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all our new teachers and students to KAS. I would also like to welcome all returning teachers and students back to KAS.

We have had an excellent start to the new school year. The first day of school started with a whole school assembly in which Mr. Hughes welcomed everyone to Khartoum American School and introduced all the teachers and staff. The rest of the day was an activity day where all students were put into teams and had to compete against each other in different activities. These groups were mixed with students from elementary, middle and high school.

On the second day of the school year, students were introduced to their courses. Teachers outlined their course descriptions, homework practices and general expectations. Students and teachers had the chance to get to know each other and really build that feeling of community, which we are all proud of at KAS and what makes our school so special. This week we are following our normal schedule and students have all settled down in their classes.

At Khartoum American School, we are proud to say that we have started the implementation of our One On One Computer Program. Our high school students have received their laptops, which they are now using in their classes. We are very happy that our students will be equipped with the necessary skills needed for college life and their future in the world of work. Middle school students will be receiving their laptops in the coming weeks.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at school. Please feel free to drop in and have coffee with us every Thursday morning at 7:15 am Back to School Night will be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2012, from 6.30 - 8:00 pm.

Best wishes to all for a successful year!



# WELCOME to Turtle Class



A new year has just started, bringing along excitement and challenges in the many daily interactions between our children and us teachers. We are very proud of what our class has achieved in such a short period of time. All the children have settled in and are making friendships.

Between the children and the teachers we number 11 nationalities, which will make our class environment rich and diverse. Some of the children know each other from last year, and the new ones have readily become part of our community.

## How did we become Turtle Class?

We thought the idea of the class was a good way to enhance group spirit and promote a sense of belonging to the class. We discussed it with the children and tested their knowledge about sea creatures. We proceeded to vote and the turtle was chosen by half of the class. In the school premises we have tortoises so the children immediately made a connection with them.

One morning we brought some food and went to visit our cousins' tortoises. There was a lot of excitement and investigation going on as many children were comparing shapes and counting how many animals they could see. Back to class the children drew on a turtle shaped paper, selecting their favorite color, both for the paper and for the markers. Those pieces are now displayed on the board outside our classroom, thus enhancing the children's sense of ownership and belonging to the school environment.

During last week we had a great time dancing to music, where the children expressed their body movements using ribbons of different colors. The children have been exploring the many opportunities that our classroom environment provides for them to express their creativity. Some children were engaged in pretend play. Hamoodi was saying that his Mum is a doctor and he was acting like one. Dania provided the props to support the pretend play episode bringing to the carpet a baby to be checked. Through pretend play young children make sense of the world and develop their own understanding of reality.

The set up in our classroom provides many opportunities for all children to select their own engagement. All tables and classroom corners have ample space devoted to a chosen activity. After observing the dynamics that took place in the first days of school, we have created a daily schedule that seems to work really well for all the children. Getting used to routines helps the young children to settle in and enjoy their time in class by knowing what is expected of them and what the rhythm of the morning is. We thank all the parents for bringing their children to school on time, so that they start their day together.

## Turtle Class Daily Schedule

7-7:45 am Children arrive, settle in and have breakfast  
7:45-8:15 am Outdoor Play 1  
8:15-8:30 am Toilet and Refreshments  
8:30-8:45 am Morning Meeting  
8:45-9:15 am Planned Activity



9:15-9:30 am Snack  
9:30-10:30 am Outdoor Play 2  
10:30-10:40 am Toilet and Refreshments  
10:40-11:20 am Free Play  
11:20-11:25 am Clean Up  
11:25-11:40 am Storytelling Songs Bye Bye  
11:40-11:45 am Pack bags ready for home  
11:45-12:00 pm Time to go home



We are looking forward to Back to School Night on September 12, when we will meet all the parents who are willing to participate. We will present our program for this school year and we will be eager to have some feedback from you about how your children are settling in.

The Turtle Class Team  
Ms Ivana, Ms Hope and Ms Yodit



## KAS Technology News



We are very pleased to announce that the implementation of the One-to-One laptop program has finally started. All the high school students have received their laptops this week and are very excited and eager to experience the positive change that is going to happen in the learning process.

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) indicated that simple knowledge of technology is no longer enough.

Students of this generation are required to be able to use technology to analyze, learn, and explore. Digital age skills are essential for preparing students to work, live, and contribute to their communities.

At KAS teachers are now preparing, becoming familiar and more importantly thinking about how they are going to create and fashion their curricula and teaching methodologies in conjunction with the technology standards that students need to be equipped with by the time they finish their high school careers. These standards are outlined under six categories:

- Creativity and Innovation
- Communication and Collaboration
- Research and Information Fluency
- Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making
- Digital Citizenship
- Technology Operation and Concepts.

As a teacher of the 21st century, I feel privileged to be part of the frontline of this new and very exciting program. I personally believe that we as teachers are pioneers of a movement that is completely altering the face of education. From the outset and initial excitement it appears that technology integration at K.A.S. will be smoothly included in most of the lessons. It's early days, but already the High School learning environment seems to have changed. It's clear that students are much more motivated, engaged and inspired to learn and succeed because they're working on their laptops. Hopefully, in a very short time students will be more responsible, accountable and hold ownership over their own learning processes.

We are all very excited and have great expectations for this program, which will undoubtedly enhance and enrich the learning environment in our school.

By: Ms. Egbal



## Day Planner

It's hard to believe we've already been in session a full week. Hopefully, this week, you've seen your child coming home with a filled in planner. From grades two to twelve, all students are expected to write in their planners. The school has provided every student with a planner. In the front is some handy information, including a student handbook. This is followed by a daily calendar. This year, I'm so pleased, the days are already dated. Parents, please read through the first pages of the planner with your sons/daughters. Help them understand those pages, by providing examples, and reinforce the importance of them by talking about school each day. Parents, please also, check the planner daily. If your children have not written something beside every subject, please have them do so at home, so that they get into the habit of bringing the planner to you, complete. Each section should have a subject name next to it, and in the space students may write what they did in class, i.e. discussed the properties of water" and what the homework is, i.e. Homework: read page 23, or Homework: none—even if there is no homework assignment, this should be recorded. Parents, please sign the planner each day, and use it to write encouraging comments regarding your child's progress. This will motivate your sons and daughters to share their planner and their day with you. Please feel free to also write clarifying questions or notes to your child's classroom teacher, but be sure to remind your child to show the note to the teacher. Daily, careful attention to this organizational tool, will make your children more confident, calm, successful learners. It will also ensure that the planner is always with your child and does not get lost. If, by chance a planner is lost, replacement planners must be purchased from the school for 30 SDG.

## PE Swim Classes

The school year is upon us-and so is the heat. Good thing we will be swimming next week! That's right, the PE classes will begin using the pool for at least one month of lessons. Here is some information you should know:

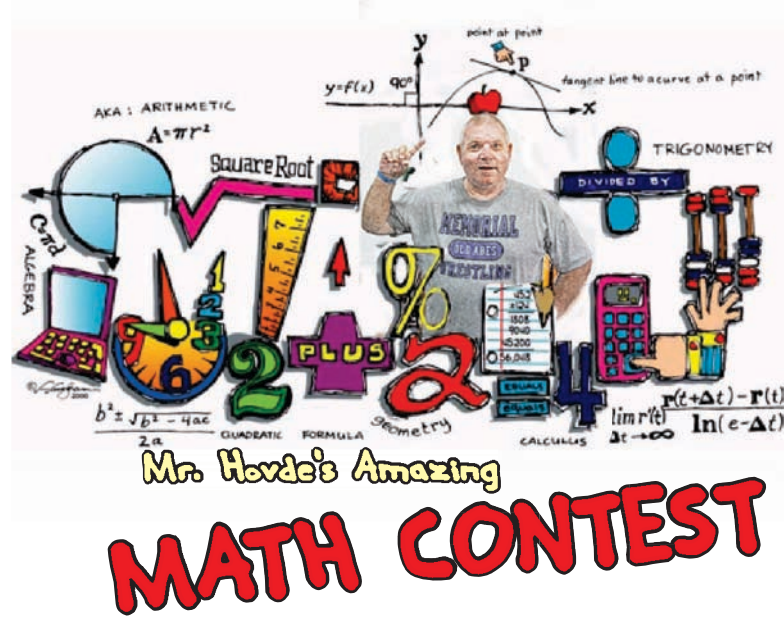
- The first classes start Sunday, September 9th.
- All students are required to return their permission form to be allowed into the pool area.
- Students should come prepared with: swim suit, water, sunscreen, towel, bag for wet clothes, flip flops or sandals, goggles (recommended).

## PE T-Shirts

We have placed an order for new PE T-shirts this year. There will be a new design and a new supplier based in Khartoum. With this said, we hope that the shirts will arrive quicker than expected. When they have arrived, you will be notified and encouraged to get your new KAS PE T-shirt!

## Basketball Season

The basketball season starts next week with the boys playing at Unity on Tuesday September 11th. The girls will be playing Unity at home on Wednesday September 12th against KICS. If you have not yet signed up to play on one of the basketball teams, please listen to the morning announcements to find out whom you should see. Of course, you could always ask Mr. Kirby to find out who your coach is.



**FIND** the Math Solution For your grade, **TURN** it in the box on Sunday morning and you have a chance to become the week's **WINNER!**

### Elementary School Math problem:

**Kindergarten:** Write down the numbers one to five.

**Grade 1:** Write down all the odd numbers up to 20. Underneath, write down all the even numbers up to 20.

**Grade 2:** How many numbers do you have if you count by 5s from 50 to 100?

**Grade 3:** What number am I?  
I am less than twenty.  
I am an odd number.  
You can find out what I am by taking half of fourteen, then adding five doubled to your answer.

**Grade 4:** Create your multi digit multiplication problem. Solve it using the lattice method. You must show your work.

**Grade 5:** On the farm there are 6 cows, 4 ducks, 12 chickens, 2 horses and 20 sheep. Write down the number of animal legs.

### Middle School Math problem:

Use each of the digits 1-9 once. Divide them into 3 groups, with each group having the same total.

### High School Math problem:

Simplify the expression and eliminate any negative exponents:  
$$\left(2x^4y^{-\frac{4}{5}}\right)^3 \left(8y^2\right)^{\frac{2}{3}}$$

Circle one:

High School      Middle School      Elementary School

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

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