



News

news from the trunk

Thursday, April 4, 2013

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ



KAS LIBRARY

Report Cards are Going Home Today



Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

One of the many highlights of this first week back was the International Children's Book Day held on April 2nd.

Part of the program for this day was a scheduled Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) Activity, where regular classes stopped and students simply read a book in celebration of this day.

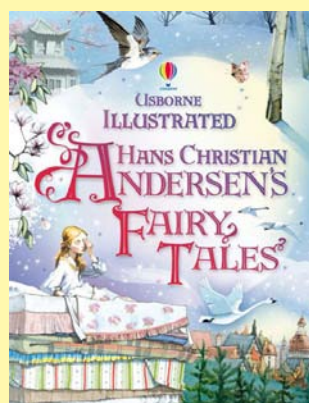
One of the focal points of the day was the promotion of African books written by African authors, and students were encouraged to read, explore and enjoy the wonderful literature that is produced in the many countries that make up this great continent.

Already our senior students are familiar with many of these works as our Grade 11 English class focuses exclusively on African literature. As our students live, breathe, and enjoy life in Africa we believe that it is important that they come away from their time in Africa with an appreciation of the culture and the diversity that exists in this part of the world. We trust too that they come away with an understanding of the problems and challenges that exist in Africa, with a hope that one day they may even be an important part of the solutions. For our local students our hope is that this program will also instill a pride within them knowing that great literary works are not just the domain of the West.

This year's Book Day had special significance in that the 2nd of April was also the birthday of Hans Christian Andersen the famous author who wrote many much loved children's books and his work also was highlighted throughout the day. On a sadder note last week saw the passing of the Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, considered by many to be the father of African literature. His famous book "Things Fall Apart" was a considered by many as an African classic.

As we celebrate Book Day, I am sure that many people here on the African continent will once more dust of their copies of this book and flick through the pages in remembrance.

As always have a great weekend.



Letter from the Middle and High School Principal, Susan Boutros

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you and your students back to school after a well-deserved break. I hope that you had a lovely spring break.

Quarter 3 report cards are going home today. Please spend some time going over the report card and discussing it with your student. Please remember to praise a good report card but also don't forget to talk openly about the courses your student did not do as well as expected on. You can help your student develop a plan of action with goals for improvement.

The fourth quarter and the last two months of the school year are usually very busy. The students are now back and have already started working hard and learning a lot of new things. Middle school students have already started preparing for the Science Fair that is scheduled to take place in May. A group of MUN students is currently attending an MUN conference in Istanbul, Turkey. High school students are busy preparing for their AP exams that are fast approaching.

I hope to see you many of in the coming weeks. Please drop by and have coffee with us every Thursday morning at 7:15. Remember that we are here to support you with your student's learning and that the teachers and I welcome anyone who wishes to talk to us about their student's progress or well-being. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see us.

Have a great weekend!



Position Available at KAS for school year 2012/2013:

- Teacher Assistant for Learning Center

Please send a cover letter and CV to ghughes@krtams.org

Grade 11 Tribute to Chinua Achebe

Algebra II at KAS

By Dakota Cronin

“Chinua Achebe changed a huge amount of these falsely believed ideas about Africa and its natives.”

Lamease

Though I had previous knowledge that Achebe was the harbinger of modern African literature, I never knew his impact on society was so great.

Things Fall Apart was only the start of Achebe’s marvelous career. It was interesting that the whole of Africa complied with, and passionately supported Achebe’s perspective of Africa.

Iris

He gave the outside world a brand new Africa, from Africans to the world, he replaced the points made by Westerners, and he seized back the African’s right of who they are. Overall, Achebe is one of the greatest African writers in the world, who opened a completely new door for others of Africa.

Susan Zhang

It is arguable that he was the first person who opened up African viewpoints to the Westerners. Achebe was also known to help other African writers also write novels about the African way of life and imperialism. Thus, Achebe was in some ways the father of modern African literature, paving and nurturing the way of African composition for future writers.

Iris

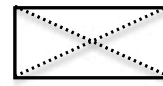
Last week for the high school E-News math questions I used a recent bonus question from my Algebra II class’s latest test. The question was as follows: BONUS: 5 POINTS EACH NO PARTIAL CREDIT (ALL OR NOTHING).

A diagonal is a line segment connecting two nonadjacent vertices of a polygon. For example, a rectangle has two diagonals, each connecting a pair of opposite corners. Let n equal the number of vertices and d equal the number of diagonals. Derive a formula that will predict d for any given n .

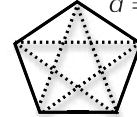
$$n = 3 \\ d = 0$$



$$n = 4 \\ d = 2$$



$$n = 5 \\ d = 5$$



I think this is a great bonus question because it asks students to apply concepts we have covered in class in a new way, a way they have never seen or thought of before. Part of the material covered on the test was combinations and this (and a little creativity) is all you need to derive the desired formula. Combinations count the number of ways you can arrange or choose r (some arbitrary number) objects from a set of n ($n \geq r$) objects. The trick is figuring out what combinations have to do with diagonals. The key is to realize that a diagonal is simply one way of choosing two vertices. That is, by connecting the opposite corners of a rectangle, we are also selecting those two vertices.

This is why math is important. It teaches us how to take ideas and bend them to fit the problem at hand or the environment we inhabit. I understand that many of my students will not use math above Algebra II in their daily adult lives. However, if they retain the ability to apply old ideas in new and interesting ways it was all more worth the effort.

It's getting warmer!

As the weather warms up, Kindergarten is looking forward to their weekly visits to the pool. There are many physical, social and physiological benefits to learning to swim. Kindergarten will be enjoying their Session 4 PE classes at the pool. This is what they had to say about it:

I love swimming! But we have to remember not to run around the pool because it is dangerous and you can hurt yourself.

Hannah: “I am happy! I like opening my eyes under water and swimming in the deep side.”

Daniel: “When I think about swimming, I think about having fun and learning to swim under water.”

Anna: “I love swimming!”

Mariam: “I want to learn to swim without my floaters!”

Mahmoud: “Swimming makes me very happy. I like jumping into the pool!”

Abeer: “I like swimming around in circles in the pool with my friends!”

Katya: “I am so excited I want to shout!”

I like to jump in the pool!

Swimming makes me smile! I like playing in the pool.





Cameron-KG, Lewan-G1, Neeka-G3, Amsyar-G4, Rafiza-G5.

Learning Center Corner

Elementary School Math problem:

Kindergarten: Circle the group that has *less*.



Grade 1: What is the difference between 20 and 17? Write the question and answer in the correct way.

Grade 2: Fill in the missing addends:

1. $4 + \underline{\quad} = 10$
2. $10 = 3 + \underline{\quad}$
3. $\underline{\quad} + 5 = 10$
4. $10 = \underline{\quad} + 1$
5. $8 + \underline{\quad} = 10$

Grade 3: Put these numbers in order from smallest to largest: 0.3, 0.03, 0.13, 0.31

Grade 4: What is one tenth of 200?

Grade 5: Arsema got 90% correct on her math test. If the test had 20 questions, how many did Arsema get correct? _____ questions. Please show work.

Middle School Math problem:

A dart board has rings numbered 39, 34, 24, 23, and 16. How can you score exactly 100 points?

High School Math problem:

If you invest \$1,500 into an account that has an average rate of return of 5% (compounded annually) when you are 16 years old, how much will be in the account when you are 35 years old?

Solutions from the last week: **Kindergarten:** Stars; **Grade 1:** tens column (3), ones column (2) and hundreds column (1); **Grade 2:** 30; **Grade 3:** 7, 089; **Grade 5:** 9 counters; **Middle School:** 6 days; **High School:** $d(n)=(n^2-3n)/2$;

Circle one:

✂ High School Middle School Elementary School

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Answer: _____ ✂

Preparing Your Child to be a Good Reader is One of the Greatest Gifts You Can Give as a Parent Part II

As promised, here are the remaining tips found in the article at <http://www.rd.com/advice/parenting/raising-a-reader/> Hopefully you all had a restful spring break, and hopefully some of you started some of the reading practices recommended as families. It's never too late to start.

It is great to see students back, with a fresh vigor for their work. What a difference rest makes!!!! I hope our families will maintain this rested state by keeping students to a schedule and ensuring that they are getting consistent, sufficient hours of sleep each night.

3. Good readers preview and summarize. As you begin a new book, spend a little time with the cover, ... Read the title, look at the illustration and ask your child what she thinks the book is about. Research shows that prediction triggers the deeper thinking that improves comprehension. Every few pages or so, ask your child to retell what's happened; ask what might happen next.

4. Good readers picture a story in the mind. Children who do this are better at remembering details and are much more interested in reading for pleasure. Encourage your child to notice a character's features or clothing, for example.

5. Good readers connect to what they're reading. Comments from you help create engaged readers: "This story reminds me of the time..." or "I wonder if that character..." Soon your child will be eager to make his or her own links.



The Spring Bake Sale was a huge success. It was so large that it lasted two days. The PTA and Creative Environments class are immensely grateful for the contributions of baked goods from Parents and Teachers. You have put smiles on our faces and we truly appreciate your generosity. THANK YOU!