

news

news from the trunk

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Working Together

Professional Development
No School for Students Thursday, April 25, 2013 at KAS



Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

This week I had the pleasure of visiting our high school, Creative Environments class, who have prepared some presentations aimed at improving the area between the school's library and the computer lab. Obviously it was wonderful to see these students being so community minded and hoping to give something back to their school by the way of creative suggestions. It was also gratifying to see the forethought that they had put into their ideas along with the problem solving skills required to manage the logistics associated with such a project.

While the school has embarked on a massive campaign in recent years to improve our school environment there are still a few remaining areas that need work. The ideas presented by this group were pragmatic, cost effective and had a creative flair that will really make the area stand out once it is completed. The collective vision of this group is to make a quiet space that attracts people to an area on our campus away from the hustle and bustle of regular school life.

Their presentations were made to both the school's administrative team and also to the facilities committee of the school board. It was obvious from the feedback that I received that both groups were impressed. While the projects themselves were exceptional, the confidence, salesmanship and enthusiasm on display from our students really hit home with the adult audience.

I personally walked away from my meeting with this class extremely motivated to see this project through to fruition and I am sure that the end result will be amazing. I can also say that I have no doubt that this group of young people have some wonderful talents that extend well beyond their creative streaks and I am also looking forward to seeing what the futures holds for them once they graduate from KAS.

As always have a wonderful weekend, and please remember no school tomorrow for students.

Letter from the Elementary School Principal, Ben Voborsky

Continued professional development at KAS. The first professional development day of the school year focused on technology and its continued impact on learning at KAS. Our student's access to technology has never been greater and has grown exponentially since my arrival four years ago. As a school community, we identified the need to develop 21st century skills in our students and our teachers and it has been something we have embraced.

The second professional development day brought accreditation committee's together to reflect on putting KAS into context, looking back on the recommendations left by the visiting accreditation team five years ago, what we have accomplished since then, setting action plans for next year, and discussions surrounding what the next five years will bring. Getting this accreditation conversation started now and the accreditation report completed for the arrival of the visiting accreditation team in December 2013 is one step in a transition process.

Tomorrow is the final professional development day of the year and with a large number of staff departing this year, another step of the transition process will occur. For us leaving, there is a lot to prepare for and document to ensure a smooth hand over and the ability to sustain our current level of programming. For those staying, there is also a lot to prepare for and document as assignments will change and as professional educators, we are always focused on constant improvement and what we can do better. The returning staff will be using all of this combined effort to orient the new teachers and this new 2013-2014 KAS team will be prepared to ensure the continued growth and development of KAS.



TURTLE CLASS

Passionate About Food

Food is definitely a major subject in our class. Every time we sit down together and share snacks, there is an opportunity to smell, taste, and exchange information about what students have in their boxes. We talk about healthy foods and the importance of water in every day's diet. In November we planted pumpkin seeds and watched the plants grow under our care. Last week we have planted eggplant seeds and are now checking every day for the first sign of growth. We also like to prepare our own food. We have already made cookies and cakes and we are now specializing in pizza, everyone's favorite. Such engagement enhances children's skills and development in all curricular areas. Not only do they have fun while improving their fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination, they also share space and equipment with everyone else, patiently taking turns and respecting their friends' contributions. It's a great opportunity to practice our younger learners' social skills. While cooking, both Language and Mathematics are utilized, when learning new terms, following the steps of the recipe, counting, and measuring.



And when finally the smell of baking pizza fills the classroom, our mouths are watering from the expectation of the delicious treat!



Creative Environments

By, Ms. Jamie

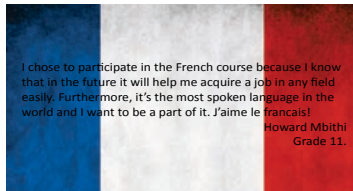
Proud, Impressed, Inspired, and Excited... These are the words that come to mind, when I think of the work done by the students in Creative Environments this semester. These wonderful students are Alex (G12), Lourdes (G12), Noon (G11), Yousif (G12), Lamease (G11), Mira (G12), and Luther (G11).

The Creative Environments class has been redesigning the rocky area in front of the Library and Kindergarten room, which we call the Stone Garden. Currently the area does not have a real purpose and we would like to make it into a place that builds community and sparks creativity of all who interact with it. In order to prepare for this endeavor, the students were first introduced to the study of creativity. They learned that creativity has been researched for over 60 years and that it is a quality that everyone has in some shape or form. They then explored how environments affect communities. The students considered the Stone Garden and its potential of becoming a space that could bring the diverse KAS community together. They would like to make it a place for socializing, studying, learning, reading, and relaxing. During these activities, they hope the new environment will inspire people in creative ways. Although, we had hoped to complete the reconstruction of the Stone Garden before the end of the school year, it seems that it will extend into the summer or possibly the beginning of next year. However, the most difficult part of the work has been completed and that is the design aspect. The Creative Environments students have produced amazing designs and proposals for ideas of what they believe the Stone Garden should be transformed into. They presented their plans to the Administrators, the Facilities Committee, and to a few teachers. Their ideas were received well and we hope to begin the process soon. For more information on this project and what the students have learned, please visit our class blog at <http://creativeenvironmentskas.blogspot.com/>

BONJOUR!

French as a foreign language is the second most frequently taught language in the world after English. It is spoken as an official language in 33 countries around the world and is the only language other than English spoken in five continents.

Therefore, French and English are two of the most common languages. French is one of the important languages that will give our students the most choices later in their studies or careers especially if their plan is to live and work in Francophone countries.



Bonjour,
Mon nom Muhanned
J'ai 13 ans
J'aime jouer au foot et au basket
French et amusement
Maintenant je sais tellement le français
J'espère que vous nous joignez

Bonjour je m'appelle Neema
je suis en classe six et je
choisis le français parce que
j'ai pensé ce serait amusant
à apprendre.

Neema Nakitare

C'est ma deuxième année
d'apprendre le français
et j'ai fait vraiment bien
jusqu'à maintenant.

Omar





Alan-KG, Lewan-G1, Ashu-G2, Neeka-G3, Noah-G4, Rafiza-G5, Ali-G6.



Responsibility

A student's development at school is often linked to the amount of responsibility he or she is given at home. In the nanny culture that we live in, it is so easy to miss opportunities for teaching responsibility. From the time our children can walk, they should be learning to put their own shoes on and to take them off. Of course they need assistance, but their hands and eyes should be as much a part of the process as those of the caregiver. Cleaning and dressing our children should be a parent chore, as cleaning and dressing are very intimate behaviors. These are the times when precious memories are built, important conversations are had, and responsibility can be learned, we should try not to lose these moments to a nanny.

By the time our children are three years old, they should be dressing themselves. Of course they will need help picking out matching outfits, and they might need help with finishing touches, but giving them the autonomy to choose their clothes and to dress themselves is very empowering and teaches our children to take care of themselves rather than wait to be taken care of. When they take too long and we hurry up and dress them ourselves so we can get out the door, we teach our children that if they take their time fulfilling their duties, we'll do the work for them – not a lesson we want to teach.

At this age our children should also have a say in what they eat. Given two healthy choices of food, they can decide – "Would you like apple or orange for snack?"

What we feed our children is very important. Their diets need protein, and healthy fats – from dairy products, meat, fish, beans and vegetables. They also need lots of vitamins and minerals from fruit and vegetables and beans. Cereals, rice and bread are also necessary but should come second to the other foods.

While we provide the healthy foods, our children must be feeding themselves. We must set specific eating times and spaces and certain behaviors must be expected. Sitting at the table for the duration of the meal or snack, chewing and swallowing carefully, paying attention to the eating process not to a television or too much talk should be among the expectations.

Most of all, we must lead by example. We must dress, eat, and talk with our children daily. We should talk about our responsibilities and theirs. We should all hold each other accountable to our responsibilities. These skills spill over into all aspects of life. The ability to interact well with others starts here. The ability to function in a classroom also starts here.

Elementary School Math problem:

Kindergarten: $4 + 5 =$

Grade 1: Ermina has 5 pennies, and 2 quarters. Adalia has 3 nickels, 1 quarter and 3 dimes. Who has more money? By how much?

Grade 2: My sister had 2 toys. 100 came. How many toys are there? I had 16 toys. One of them got lost. How many toys do I have?

Grade 3: Mrs Kirby wants to buy a book for \$5.81 and a pen for \$1.99. She has \$6.00. Does she have enough money? Explain and show your number model.

Grade 4: Jack and Jill were playing multiplication wrestling. Jack selected his 4 cards: 7, 8, 6, 2. Jill selected hers: 4, 9, 5, 1. Who won?

Grade 5: Nita and Tina planted seeds in a large seed tray. Nita used $\frac{7}{16}$ of the tray, and Tina used $\frac{5}{16}$ of the same tray. What part of the tray was left unplanted? Show work.

Middle School Math problem:

Counting pigs, hens, and cows in a farmyard picture, Stella counted 17 heads and 56 legs. How many hens were in the picture?

High School Math problem:

If forty random people are in a room what is the probability that at least two of them will have the same birthday?

Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten: 4; **Grade 1:** Answers will vary; **Grade 2:** 12; **Grade 3:** 1)173 2)50; **Grade 4:** $g=3, m=72$; **Grade 5:** $30\% \times \$60 = \$18, 20\% \times \$60 = \$12, \$18-\$12 = \text{Save } \$6.00$; **Middle School:** 100 miles; **High School:** 31,536,000 seconds;

KAS Swim-Team

If you love swimming and think you may make a difference in the swim team, you are already late to sign up. On the 1st and 8th of May at 15:30 we will celebrate our first external swimming competition. KICS will be our adversary and we are looking forward to have an amazing time. This will be a great opportunity to acquaintance ourselves with the basic swimming standards, evaluate our students and the swimming team's hard work. Hope to see you there!!

Circle one:

High School Middle School Elementary School

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Answer: _____