

# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, October 4, 2012



Keeping in the loop

**Parent Teacher Conferences**

Wednesday, October 17, at KAS



## Letter from the Superintendent, Mr. Greg Hughes

Every year we review the way we do things here at KAS in an attempt to continually improve. In recent years we have been communicating with parents and students online using our Moodle web pages. This year, however, we are moving to two new forms of online communication, which we think will both improve the amount of information that we share with parents and allow greater online access throughout our community.

In the Elementary school students have been working with Edmodo, which in essence is an educational version of Facebook. Unlike Facebook it is much safer and more secure, but has many of the fantastic features that Facebook has to offer. Students can submit work online, answer questions, complete surveys and generally interact with the teacher and classmates in a unique online environment. By having our students work with this medium we are exposing them to a vast array of technological skills, which will hopefully prepare them for a bright, technological future.

For families with students in the Middle and High School we are using Engrade, which is very similar to Moodle in that teachers can post work, assignments, and basically offer all of the information that we did previously. However, Engrade offers a much more comprehensive way of posting grades online. It's a program that makes it possible for families to check grades, share the challenge of making sure work is done in a timely and appropriate manner and last, but not least, celebrate student performance and success. Families will have access to information at the click of a mouse with a user friendly system that will help parents track their child's progress and allow them to take a keener interest in their overall schooling.

These two initiatives are examples of how we are moving KAS even further into the technological age, and we are confident that parents will see their children riding this exciting wave of technology for many years to come. If anyone is in need of assistance in terms of using or accessing these programs please contact either of the Principals, Mr. Voborsky or Mrs. Boutros.

As always, have a great weekend.



Positions Available at KAS  
for School Year 2012/2013:

- Elementary ESL Teacher
- Special Education Teacher

Please send a covering letter  
and CV to [ghughes@krtams.org](mailto:ghughes@krtams.org)

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

Dear Parents and Friends,

Progress reports are going to be sent home today.

Progress reports are generally sent out for students whose work does not meet average expectations. They are usually sent home halfway through the quarter, a few weeks before report cards go out. They are narrative in nature and help explain to students and parents what the issue is as well as provide concrete steps for addressing the issue. Progress reports are intended to help students and parents realize that there is a concern, while at the same time giving students a chance to improve before the main report cards. Progress reports can also be sent for students who are doing exceptionally well in classes.

If your son/daughter gets a progress report you will be asked to sign it and return it to the teacher within three days. Please discuss the progress report card with your child. Read the progress report together and encourage your son/daughter to talk about their school performance as well as concerns. Please help your child develop a plan of action with goals for improvement. Review your student's work regularly, and check Engrade for assignments, quizzes and tests and pay special attention to grades that go along with them.

You are always welcome to call us if you have any questions or concerns about your student's progress report.

## Match of the Week

Wednesday 3rd of October saw a basketball face-off between the seniors and the Faculty at KAS. The teachers got lucky and beat the students by only one point. The whole game was led by the teachers, and despite fierce opposition from the seniors, came through in the end to win a thrilling match. It was very exciting with the crowd really getting behind both teams. It was an eagerly anticipated event which certainly lived up to expectations. Judging by the excitement generated, both teams and their supporters are ready for a rematch.



## Resolve

I have kicked off all of my English classes so far this year with poems. This includes poetry from a publication entitled, Naming the World, A Year of Poems and Lessons by Nancie Atwell, and a selection of poetry from none other than Tupac Shakur, as well as some other classic and well known works.

During these first few weeks of school my Language Arts 9 students and my ESL students have read poetry that makes us laugh, makes us cry, but above all makes us think. In many ways this poetry encapsulates what these students are going through right now, at what is a crucial stage in their lives. Grade 9 read and commented on William Stafford's famous poem, "The Dream of Now". This poem reminds us about the importance of resolve and determination, themes, which we are also addressing while reading our novella, The Old Man and the Sea. It talks about the power that every one of us has housed inside. It speaks about the importance of kindling that fire and strength from time to time in order to keep us going through the difficult times. In this context, resolve means determination and perseverance and the will to go on when times get tough and things get rough.

Mr. Michael

## The Dolphins

This year our energetic elementary students embarked on a marvelous adventure.

Yes, Elementary is in the swimming pool!

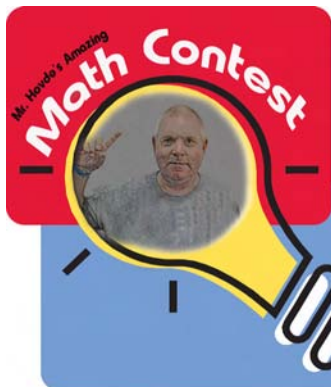
From Kindergarten to Fifth grade we are all following Ye Shiwen's steps to glory. Ye Shiwen is the 16 year old Chinese prodigy who won a gold medal in the 400 meters individual medley at the London Olympics this year. She also went on to make it a double gold by winning the 200 meters individual medley. What made her 400 meters gold so special was that she sliced 5 seconds off the world record. With our brave students' enthusiasm, we are taking breath-taking steps and making great progress with our swimming and hopefully following in Ye Shiwen's footsteps.

This month has been dedicated to familiarizing our elementary with the pool, and classifying them as swimmers. Thus we have formed groups according to their level in order to make our swim sessions more productive. This will make it possible for all of our students to learn and improve, and their will, more than our effort, has permitted us to advance to levels beyond our plans. Soon KAS Elementary will be the incubator for the best swimmers in the country, and who knows, probably the world!!!

During the coming month of October we will work towards making them better swimmers, capitalizing on their tremendous energy and emphasizing style and technique. There will be no one left behind in this great quest, we may never be dolphins, but we may swim like them! If you don't believe it, ask the elementary students and watch them in action, they are incredible!

Watch Out For The Dolphins!





## Take your chance!

We encourage all students to participate in the Math Contest.

Don't miss a chance to become this week's winner and get a wonderful prize!



### Learning and our Health

At the Learning Center, we recognize that increased success for students results from improved physical and mental health. At WebMD, one can find many short slide shows with written explanations regarding a variety of issues. This week, we draw your attention to the slide shows entitled...

- Brainfoods That Help You Concentrate:  
<http://www.webmd.com/add-adhd/slideshow-brain-foods-that-help-you-concentrat>  
 Top Concentration Killers:  
<http://www.webmd.com/add-adhd/ss/slideshow-top-concentration-killers>  
 Depression Overview Slideshow:  
<http://www.webmd.com/depression/ss/slideshow-depression-overview>

Take them with a grain of salt. They recommend caffeine and sugar for various reasons, but please be mindful of what you pack in your children's lunches and DO NOT pack caffeine or refined sugar. Proteins and whole grains will keep them full and thinking clearly. Thanks!

### Middle School PE Awards

The middle school students have been doing a very good job with their swimming lessons during the month of September. All of the students are aware of a monthly award that is given to one girl and one boy from grades 6, 7, and 8. The award is a way of recognizing students that demonstrate sportsmanship, give their best effort each day, come on time and prepared for class, and show a positive attitude to learning.

- A very big congratulations to the following award winners:
- Chol and Celeste , Grade 6
  - Hamada and Sakuntala, Grade 7
  - Hassabo, Grade 8



### Message from the PTA

The PTA is pleased to say that the Bake Sale was a great success last Thursday. The students enjoyed the yummy treats so much.

Thank you for your help and contributions! We are all looking forward to a wonderful school year here at KAS. Have a great weekend

### Come and Have Fun

We are encouraging all of our parents to come on over and try the soccer fields, the basketball court and the swimming pool. The days of the week are filled with activities to keep the heart pumping.

**Sunday:** We have Soccer and Volleyball. The pool is open, but only for the ladies.

**Monday:** Is Basketball and Swimming.

**Tuesday:** Is Ultimate Frisbee.

**Wednesday:** Is Rugby and Swimming

So come on over and enjoy our excellent facilities!



#### Winners:

- Anna-KG,  
 Hzkias-G1,  
 Muhammed-G2,  
 Adam-G3,  
 Mustajab-G4,  
 Kristina-G5  
 Celeste-G6  
 Omar-G6.

#### Elementary School Math problem:

- Kindergarten:** What number comes before number one? What number comes after number one?  
**Grade 1:** How many pennies in one dollar?  
**Grade 2:** Write a three digit number with an eight in the ten column.  
**Grade 3:** Apple juice costs \$0.35. Cookies cost \$0.40. How much will it cost to buy one apple juice and two cookies? If I have \$1.00, will I have enough to buy one juice and two cookies?  
**Grade 4:** What is the difference between concentric circles and non-concentric circles?  
**Grade 5:** Write a number story for the number sentence  $9 \text{ times } 4 = 36$ .

#### Middle School Math problem:

There are 24 fish in an aquarium. If  $\frac{1}{8}$  of them are tetras and  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the remaining fish are guppies, how many guppies are in the aquarium?

#### High School Math problem:

A wire 360 in. long is cut into two pieces. One piece is formed into a square and the other into a circle. If the two figures have the same area, what are the lengths of the two pieces of wire (to the nearest tenth of an inch)?

#### Solutions from the last week:

**Kindergarten:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20; **Grade 1:** 60, 12; **Grade 2:** 100; **Grade 3:** 16, 21; **Grade 4:** Answers will vary; **Grade 5:** Divisibility laws : Divisible by three if sum of its digits is divisible by three. Divisible by five if it ends in five or zero; **Middle School:**  $56 + 24 + 13 + 7$ ; **High School:**  $7! = 5040$  possible arrangements

Circle one: \_\_\_\_\_

High School      Middle School      Elementary School

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

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