

# NEWS

news from the trunk

Thursday, August 21, 2014

## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



## Back to School Night

Nursery through 12 parents, Wed, Aug. 27, 2014, from 6:30-8:30pm at KAS





## Letter from the Superintendent, Dr. Robert Beck

Dear Parents,

The staff of KAS and I welcome you to the new school year!

I am pleased to report that the children and their teachers are now back into the productive routine of a regular schedule of classes. The children are settling in nicely. As I walk around the campus, visit classrooms and speak with students, I am impressed by how happy they are to be at KAS. Importantly, they are involved in the serious business of day-to-day learning. In the near future you will be receiving news about our after school activities program.

In order to improve safety, when you or your driver drop off the children in the morning, I urge all drivers to pull as far forward as possible in the front drop off area before the door of the car is opened. In this way there will be less traffic back up and it will be safer for everyone. I thank you for following the directions of our security officers as they request that you move your car forward; and, I thank you for your patience and support in doing this. Please also be reminded to place the KAS car security sticker on the upper right side of your front window. Stickers are available in the Administration Office.

On Wednesday, **August 27 from 6:30-8:30 PM** we will hold our annual **KAS BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT**. This is an important event and opportunity for you to meet your child's classroom teachers and specialist teachers. They will explain their classroom program of studies to you. **WE URGE ALL PARENTS TO ATTEND BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT.**

We will be continuing the tradition of having a coffee hour for KAS parents every Thursday from 7:15-8:15 AM in the open assembly area behind the administrative office. This is an excellent opportunity to meet other parents and to enjoy presentations by students.

Please stop by to say hello if you are on the campus. I look forward to meeting you and to working closely with you on behalf of our great students!

Have a pleasant evening and weekend.

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

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

I would like to welcome you to the 2014- 2015 School Year at Khartoum American School. I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break. We have had an excellent start to the new school year. It has been wonderful to see everyone again and I am pleased to say that all the students have settled very well into their new classes.

Our new teachers have been in Sudan for nearly three weeks now. They are already referring to Sudan as their home. They have now joined our returning faculty and together have formed an exceptional team.

I know I speak for everyone at Khartoum American School when I say that we are here to ensure that all our students have an exciting and productive school year and to help each of our students reach their full potential.

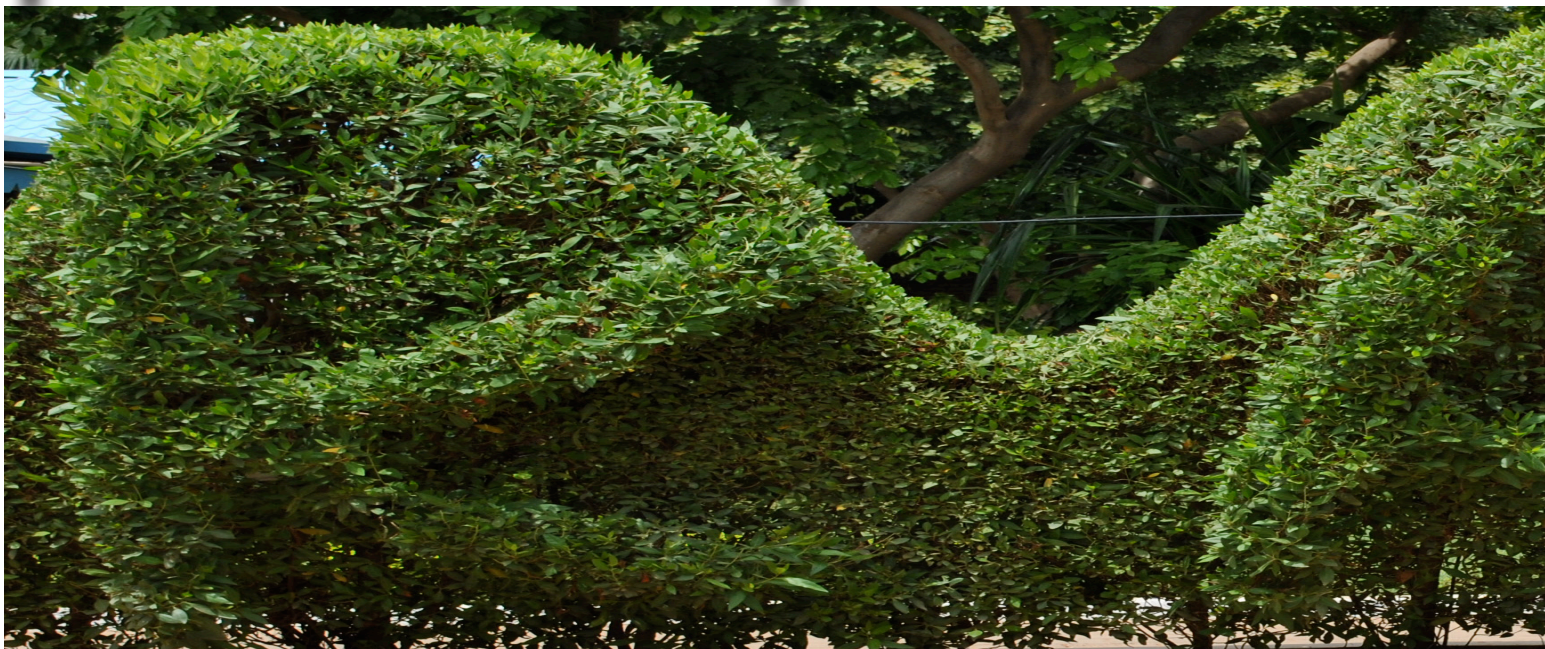
Please know that our doors will always be open to our community. Feel free to call upon us if you should have any questions or concerns. You may also visit our website for updated information throughout the year. We know and understand that communication is the key to a successful year.

I am looking forward to working with each of you this school year. Let's make it the best one ever!

## Letter from the Early Childhood Center & Elementary School Principal, Phil Centers

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Welcome to the start of our 2014-2015 school year at the Khartoum American School! Our school year has begun in a very positive way. We have a talented and dedicated staff working with a delightful student body on a beautiful campus with an inquiry-based curriculum – a perfect mix of ingredients for a wonderful educational journey of discovery, which students and teachers have embarked on with bold steps this first week of school.





I am your new Early Childhood Center & Elementary School Principal, and it will be my pleasure to serve you and your children this year. If we have not yet met, please feel free to find me on campus any day and introduce yourself to me. My office is across from the first grade classroom. You may also want to read my introduction of myself and my wife, Juliane Rothan-Centers (who teaches Science to KAS Grades 6, 7, 8 and 9), to the KAS community in the February 20, 2014 school newsletter. Juliane and I are very glad to be here, and we are excited about working with such a great educational team and amazing students. Being new in a community can help us see everything with fresh eyes, and there is so much to take in and learn here at KAS and in Khartoum. It may be interesting to share some of what I am seeing and learning with fresh eyes here at school.

## BREAKING NEWS

In the first Elementary School assembly of the year, Mr. Centers shared two fun challenges with the ES students: that he would take to lunch any ES student who beat him in a foot race, or who beat him in a game of chess. No student in all the schools Mr. Centers has served over the years has achieved either of these victories, but already this first week of school a KAS ES student has achieved victory over Mr. Centers in a foot race. An eyewitness to the event described it this way:

"A bunch of students in different grades challenged Mr. C to a race. He was dressed in his nice clothes and shoes, but didn't shy away from racing the students. Mr. C won every race. Man, he's fast for being, well, I'm not saying he's an old man or anything, but he's not young either! One boy in particular, Max (Brugma) in the 5th grade, came close to beating Mr. C twice. After that Mr. C said that he was done racing for the day. He was a little sweaty, and his hat had blown off his head in the last race, and his hair looked kind of messy, and maybe that's why he stopped racing. But then a 3rd grade girl, Serene (Elmusharaf), challenged him one more time. None of the other kids knew that he was going to run that last race or I bet they would have joined in. Anyway, I think Max had worn Mr. C out, because right at the end of his race with Serene she passed him by, and won! Way to go, Serene!!"

Mr. Centers knew that his undefeated status in running was in jeopardy in Africa, home of such famous runners, but he was surprised that it happened so quickly. But he is very proud of both Serene and Max and all the other great ES runners, and he quickly kept his promise of taking Serene to lunch to celebrate her stupendous victory. Now the question is, will any ES student be able to beat Mr. Centers at chess? We'll see!

For instance, it took me a little while to get clear about the arrangement of the KAS Early Childhood Center (ECC) & Elementary School (EC). Did you know that we have nine classes within the ECC and ES? Within the ECC we have three classes: Nursery is our 2-year-old children Preschool is our 3-year-old children PreK is our 4-year-old children Then we have six classes within the ES: Kindergarten (our 5-year-old children) and Grades 1 through 5. We are very fortunate that every class from Nursery through Grade 4 at KAS has a teaching assistant (TA), that every one of these TAs is extremely capable, and that every TA seems to be a great fit with the homeroom teacher they are working with. Such an arrangement greatly enhances your child's educational experience. It has been a joy to observe all the ECC and ES classes in action both in their classrooms and on the playground, and I'm looking forward to seeing the children blossom and thrive.





## MATH CONTEST INTRODUCTION

This Year we are back with new ideas, beside Mr. **C**, Mr. Mann will provide **M**ann's Math Minute.

On the back of the newsletter there will be a question posted for each grade in elementary, as well as one for middle school and one for high school. Answers must be handed in with the name of the student clearly printed by Sunday morning. There will be a box out the back of the office on the picnic table where you can leave your answers.

We would really encourage all students to do their best to get their questions in each week and be a part of raising the profile of math within the school. Please remember that it is programs like this that have helped us raise numeracy levels throughout the school.



## English Saying

A situation that is in the Lap Of The Gods is one where the outcome is unclear and cannot be influenced in any meaningful way. Early suggestions for the origin of this saying predictably pointed to the practice in many ancient cultures of leaving gifts with statues of gods in the hope of answered prayers. But Homer's Iliad probably holds the answer. In the story Patrocolos, a friend of Achilles, is killed by the Trojans who then intended to parade his severed head to demoralize their opponents. With the battle in the balance, and the outcome uncertain, Automedon declared, 'These things lie on the knees of the gods.' On hearing this Achilles returned and led an unexpected rout of the Trojans, confirming to all that the gods were well and truly on the side of the famous warrior.

# SCHOOL CALENDAR

## ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR 2014 - 2015

Aug 1 - 2	New Faculty Arrive
Aug 3 - 4	New Faculty Orientation
Aug 10 - 14	All Faculty Work Days
Aug 17 (Sun)	First Day Of School
Oct 3 - 11	Fall Break (Eid al Adha)
Oct 25	No School (Islamic New Year)
Nov 20	All Faculty Work Day (No School)
Dec 19 - Jan 10	Winter Break
March 8 - 16	Spring Break
March 15 - 16	All Faculty Work Day (No School)
Apr 5	Easter and Sham El Nasim
Apr 12 - 13	Coptic Easter
Jun 4	Last Day of School (Half Day)

**Total Student Days: 180**  
**7 Professional Development Days**  
 Subject to change as conditions may warrant

# POOL SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3pm - 9pm	3pm - 9pm	3pm - 9pm	3pm - 9pm	3 - 9pm	9am - 9pm	9am - 9pm
Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming		
Ladies Only	Families	Faculty Only	Families	Families		