

# NEWS FROM THE TRUNK

Thursday, January 15 2015

Sports Day on December 18 2014  
**WOW!**





## Letter from the Superintendent, Dr. Robert Beck

Dear Parents,

It is my joy and pleasure to welcome you and the children back to KAS for the second semester. I wish you a Happy New Year!

One of our school's signatures is that KAS is "a caring and friendly school". That was most evident this past week as children and faculty returned to the campus. There were smiles all around. It was clear that the children and the faculty were so pleased to be back together. And, of course, the children were very happy to greet their classmates and friends. I like to meet the children and parents when they arrive in the morning. Students often stop to chat with me. In those conversations during the past week, several students mentioned how much they were looking forward to coming back to KAS for the second semester. I know they were not saying that just to please me. The same can be said of our staff who repeatedly said to me that the break was great and needed to "recharge one's batteries", but that it is good to be back with the children.

A school community characterized as a "happy" school community where children, and dedicated teachers, work hard but enjoy their days is a huge positive attribute. This is simply not the case at all schools. KAS for many many years has sustained its reputation as a place where excellent instruction is delivered to caring and friendly children by caring teachers. If the children feel at home and comfortable at KAS and in their classrooms, that is good news.

The second semester will again be a busy and productive time of learning; the children and the staff will be working hard to move to the next level of excellence. I hope to see you many times in the weeks and months to come. Enjoy the second semester!

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

Dear Parents, Students and friends,

Welcome Back to School! What a wonderful winter we have this year in Sudan. I hope that you have all enjoyed the Winter Break and I hope that you have had a wonderful time with your family and friends throughout the holiday. It is great to see the students back at school.

The second semester has started on a very positive note. The students have all settled quickly back into the routine of school and we are all looking forward to the exciting activities and learning opportunities planned for the semester ahead. High School students have already started their new elective courses and seem to be very enthusiastic about them.

I hope that you are enjoying the late start to the school day. Please make sure that your children are at school at 8:15 am. Report cards will be sent home with your child on Thursday, January 22, 2015. You are all invited to our 4Cs Awards Assembly for Middle and High School on Wednesday, January 28th at 7:25am in the Quad. Please come and celebrate with our students their success.

With best wishes for a successful semester and a happy 2015!

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

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

In my recent E-news articles I have been exploring the broad subject of "what we teach" our students. In my last article I suggested that, in order to provide ourselves a framework by which to organize a modern curriculum, so that we don't leave anything out that our students really should be exposed to, perhaps a "new" liberal arts framework might be a starting point. The old seven liberal arts framework was used in the western world for centuries, but since the Renaissance has not been suitable for educating modern human beings. Maybe a new liberal arts framework, with eight (or more) broad subject areas could help us bring order here. The eight broad subjects that came to my mind include: language arts (literacy and effective communication skills); the human story (history, anthropology, sociology, etc.); the human mind / spirit (psychology, philosophy, comparative religions, etc.); the arts; math; science; technology; and health and fitness.

One important reason we want to have some type of comprehensive framework of "what we teach" is of course so that we help students become "well-rounded" human beings, but this isn't the only reason. Equally important has to do with Howard Gardner's theory of "Multiple Intelligences," which proposes that human beings often have an "intelligence," or innate capacity, to master a complex realm of knowledge. Gardner originally proposed seven realms of knowledge, but this list has been expanded by him and others to include more realms. For instance, I have no gift to take a motor or other machine apart and put it back together. But some people do have that gift, which is often exhibited a quite a young age. An important reason to have a comprehensive framework for what we teach our students is so that we expose them to as many realms of intelligence as possible, so that they may have the opportunity to discover whether they are particularly gifted at one thing or another. Imagine the tragedy it would be if a person were gifted in one or more realms of intelligence but never knew that because they had never been exposed to these realms.

Given all of these considerations, it can be said that the most important thing we can convey to our students through what we teach them is a passion for knowledge, an instilled quality that they are lifelong learners. If our students leave us having developed this passion and quality, then one could say that nothing can hold them back from their fulfilling their life's tasks. Even if they were not exposed during their school years to the realm(s) of intelligence that they are gifted in, their being lifelong learners will lead them to finding this intelligence. Even if the world changes dramatically in the next 10, 20, or 40 years, which it is sure to do, as lifelong learners they will always be seeking out new knowledge and will find ways to be capable of handling the changes that are coming to meet them.

This quality of fostering lifelong learners is why our students should have a say in the design of the curriculum that they will be learning under our tutelage, the question I ended my last article with. Research shows that the more meaningful (age-appropriate, etc.) input that students have in their curriculum, the more rewarding the curriculum is for them. This provides us with much food for thought as we strive to continuously improved the C of Curriculum at KAS.

# The Importance of Character

In the second grade classroom this year, along with all the main academic subjects, I have found that it is equally important to teach character traits. Of course, there are many different character traits that are good to emphasize and help build life skills, but I have found five that are particularly useful in academia with 7 and 8 year-olds: grit, zeal, self-control, preparedness, and kindness.

By making these character traits a priority in the classroom, students will therein, in theory, be able to perform their best in reading, writing, math, social studies, and science, as well as all the other specialty subjects!

Grit shows students stick-to-it-ness, or perseverance. As one of the second grade scholars says, "Grit means doing something the best that you can, even though it's hard and you might want to not do it."

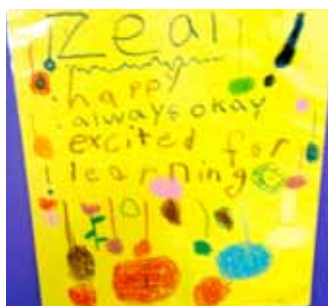
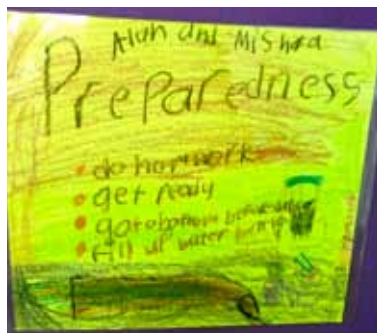
Zeal is enthusiasm and passion. This is important in the classroom because I want my students to be excited about what their learning! Even in a subject that they feel may be difficult or not their strength, one of my students says, "I have zeal for learning time on clocks, even though I am not that great at clocks, but if I am excited, it seems easier and I have more fun with the rest of the kids anyway."

Self-Control helps our class to work together as a team. "Why?" I ask my class. "Well," says one second grade scholar, "because if we didn't use our self-control things would just get crazy." Self-control helps put an order to things as well as gives students the discipline to show respect others in the class.

Preparedness helps students become aware of what they need to be doing ahead of time and helps keep everyone on track so we can be the most productive that we can be in the class! "It's just being ready," says one student, "if you're not ready, you won't be able to learn the stuff." Kindness is really essential in our classroom. I think this is the character trait that our class excels at much of the time in the classroom, the 2nd graders are always willing to help a friend, lend them a pencil, or share a snack, but this is something that they often struggle with on the playground or in between classes. As they get into the upper elementary years "bullies" can start to play a role in their lives. One of my goals as a teacher of these fine and wonderful students is to have them realize that, as one scholar says, "You just have to be nice and kind all the time always to everyone no matter who it is," so that bullying won't become a problem later on.

Once students are aware of character traits such as these, and have a good handle on their meaning and how to apply them into their academic work, I truly believe that their school performance will advance on a whole and they will have a healthy balance of character and academic skills to make them well-rounded scholars.

Chelsea Meyer



## ENGLISH EDUCATION

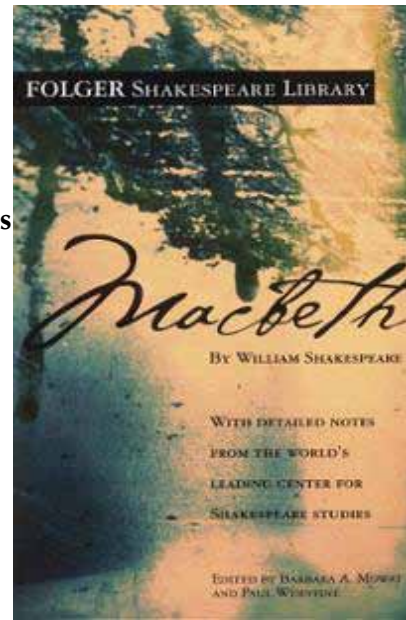
This semester the senior class will be rounding off their English education with the study of Macbeth. Here are some fun facts about the shortest and most action-packed of William Shakespeare's plays.

1. Some people think that mentioning the word Macbeth in a theater is considered as unlucky for the whole performance, and there is a rumor that the actor who played Lady Macbeth died after it's opening performance at the Rose Theatre.

2. Macbeth was a real king of Scotland, but most other historical details in the play are fairly inaccurate.

3. Macbeth is the most popular of Shakespeare's plays, as it is the most performed.

4. Macbeth is the only Shakespearian play in which the word "rhinoceros" appears.



Jocelyn Urkow

HS Language Arts and Model United Nations

## Words of Wisdom from William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare reporting from the Stadio San Siro, Milan, Italy

Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.

So begins the Prologue of Romeo and Juliet, two rival feuding families once again vent their hatred towards each other with yet another spate of violence. Recently a sports channel introduced the AC Milan, Internazionale Milan derby through the Prologue of Romeo and Juliet and it was very effective to say the least:

Two soccer teams, both alike in dignity,  
In Milan, where we set our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.

This game is often remembered more for the fighting than the football. It could also be described as a political affair as prominent politicians and businessmen have always had a stake in these rival clubs. Therefore, Shakespeare's prologue makes a very dramatic, and apt introduction to the game.

Michael Metcalf  
MS/HS Language Arts



# MR. C'S MATH MINUTE



# KAS SPORTS

## KAS Sports Day Team Results - Congratulations Teams!

The teams are as follows:

**Super Flash**  
total length: 16.75 m

**Lions**

14 m

**Wise Elders**

12.1 m

**Dinosaurs**

11 m

**Christmas**

14.1 m

**Super Stars**

16.2 m

**Cool Kids**

16.8 m

**Rock Stars**

12.3 m

**Unknown Waffles**

16.8 m

**Night Riders**

19.5 m



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MATH PROBLEMS:

KG SPELL THE NUMBERS 6 THROUGH 10.

GRADE<sub>1</sub> COUNT IN TENS TO 106 STARTING FROM 6

GRADE<sub>2</sub> WRITE A NUMBER SENTENCE. MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE A LABEL FOR YOUR ANSWER!

FARHAD AND ALAN ARE PLAYING MARBLES. FARHAD HAS 20 MARBLES. ALAN HAS 7 FEWER MARBLES THAN FARHAD. HOW MANY MARBLES DOES ALAN HAVE?



Thank-you everyone for your help and the event couldn't have been a better success.

Team RESPECT Poem:

Responsibility  
Endure  
Share  
Polite  
Encourage  
Caring  
Truth

Team RESPECT Poem:

Responsibility  
Expectations  
Surprising  
People  
Easy  
Community  
Trustworthy

Nickolas Urkow  
PE



Elementary Rebus

Middle & High Rebus



Faculty Rebus



## English Saying

The phrase Pull Your Finger Out is associated these days with encouraging someone to get a move on, or hurry up and complete a task more quickly. Like so many English phrases it has a military or naval origin. Loaded cannons would have gunpowder poured into a small ignition hole and held in place with a wooden plug. But in times of battle, when speed was of the essence, the powder would be pushed in and then held in place by a gun crewmember using his finger. Impatient artillerymen, anxious to fire their cannons at the enemy, would shout at the crewmember to 'pull his finger out' so that the gun could be fired. It has not been recorded how many digits were lost on the battlefields.

Minette van der Bijl  
High School ESL Teacher