



NEWS FROM THE TRUNK  
Thursday, April 9, 2015



## Open House

Don't miss the Early Childhood & Elementary School Open House, and Superintendent's Parent Seminar on computer use for young children, Thursday, April 16!

**KAS**

REMINDER-ECC/ES KAS PARENT OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY, APRIL 16 ( 8:30 AM-3:05 PM) -- AND PARENT SEMINAR ON COMPUTER USE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN--APRIL 16 8:30 AM (repeat seminar April 20, 7 PM)



*Letter from the Superintendent,  
Dr. Robert Beck*

**REMINDER-ECC/ES KAS PARENT  
OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY, APRIL  
16 ( 8:30 AM-3:05 PM) -- AND  
PARENT SEMINAR ON COMPUT-  
ER USE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN-  
-APRIL 16 8:30 AM (repeat semi-  
nar Monday, April 20 @ 7 PM)**



Dear Parents,

We are pleased to announce that on Thursday, April 16 at 8:15 AM and lasting until 3:05, we will be hosting an **'Early Childhood Center and Elementary School Parent Open House Day'**; and a **'Superintendent's Parent Seminar'**. The ECC/ES Open House is an opportunity for you to visit your child's classroom to enjoy watching your child and other children while they go through a day of instruction. Unlike Parent Conference Night and Back to School Night, **'Parent Open House Day'** will not be a time to talk with your child's teacher. Rather, Open House Day is an opportunity to enjoy watching instruction and a **'day-in-the-life'** of your child. Our teachers are pleased that you will be stopping by. I know your children will be excited to see you in their classrooms. You can drop in and out of any ECC and Elementary classrooms of your choosing throughout the day.

Also on April 16, and immediately following our morning assembly, there will be an information session for parents from 8:30-9:30 AM in the KAS Computer Lab. This **'Superintendent's Parent Seminar'** is titled: **"How To Prepare Young Digital Natives For The Future-Tips For Early Childhood and Elementary School Parents On Keeping Your Child Safe And Productive In The Use Of Technology"**. The presentation will be conducted by Mrs. Egbal Mohamed, KAS Computer Studies Teacher. A short video will also be shown at the presentation. At KAS we strive to promote responsible global citizenship by preparing students to be collaborative and responsible communicators. Our goal is to raise awareness of how parents can play a positive and supportive role in teaching their children to become responsible 21st century **'digital citizens'**. In addition to gathering information from the seminar presented by Mrs. Egbal, you will also be able to share ideas with other parents about this important topic.

If you are not able to attend the **April 16 Superintendent's Parent Seminar** titled: **"How to Prepare Young Digital Natives For The Future-Tips For Early Childhood and Elementary School Parents On Keeping Your Child Safe And Productive In The Use Of Technology"**, the same presentation by Mrs. Mohamed will be repeated at 7 PM Monday, April 20 in the KAS Computer Lab.

## **Congratulations KAS Students, Staff, and Parents**



KAS received the news this week that after an accreditation visit this February from the Council of International Schools and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, KAS has had its Accreditation (license) renewed until June 2018. Bravo KAS and thank you everyone for your support!

(See administration if you wish further information)



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

Dear Students, Parents and Friends,

This time of the year is a very stressful time for most senior students, both at KAS and all international schools around the world. College applications have been submitted and students are anxiously waiting to hear the results of whether or not they have been accepted. Most of our students have already been offered admission to numerous colleges and universities around the globe.

I would like to tell our students not to stress. All of those hours spent taking, and re-taking, the SATs and TOEFL, writing your personal statements and supplemental essays, asking for letters of recommendation, and filling out forms are now over and your hard work is going to be worth it.

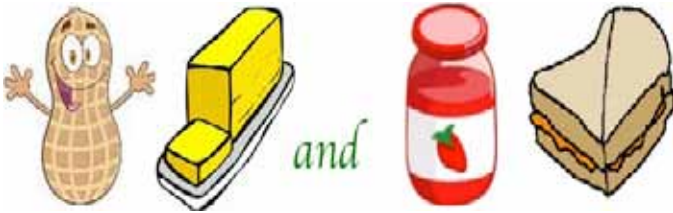
Students, the college you go to does not matter as much as what you do when you get there. Choose a college that is a good fit for you. "Prestige" is not as important as a "good fit". You might find that a highly ranked school is not the best place for you.

College is awesome but it is still months away. Right now you can take advantage of your awesome high school experiences. Enjoy spending time with your high school friends during lunch and whenever you can in between your studies, participate in the school's sport program and activities and enjoy the feeling of being home. You will miss all of this once you are in college.

I am sure that you will all join me in wishing our senior students the best of luck with the college selection process.



## Elementary Rebus



## Middle & High Rebus



## Faculty Rebus



Last week's WINNERS!

- KG: Ahmed
- G1: Taemin
- G2: Joy

**PLEASE NOTE:  
EASTER HOLIDAY ON  
SUNDAY, 12 & MONDAY, 13 APRIL**

## English saying

An **Ugly Duckling** is a gaunt and awkward child who grows up to be beautiful. This phrase comes from a fairy tale written by children's author Hans Christian Andersen. It tells the story of a duck that mistakenly nests a swan's egg. When the egg is hatched the startled mother duck cannot understand how she has produced such an awkward, ungainly child, which is notably different from the rest of her brood. The cygnet is ridiculed for its dull appearance and hides away in the tall reeds in shame. However, come the spring, the clumsy cygnet emerges from her hideaway having been transformed into a beautiful swan. Danny Kaye's song 'The Ugly Duckling', which was released in the 1950s, popularized the story all over the world.

Minette van der Bijl





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

Dear Parents, Teachers, and Community Members, As you know, here at Khartoum American School we genuinely value the visual and performing arts. In the Elementary School each student receives instruction in Music twice a week and in Art twice a week. All students also have the opportunity to participate in other artistic activities, such as dance and crafts, in our After School Activities Program, and to perform in small and major dramatic productions during the course of the year.

These periods of artistic instruction and experience may open doors to career-impacting opportunities as our students become adults. For instance, to be musically-literate undoubtedly allows one access to options not available to the musically non-literate, just as being language-literate and math-literate do. But regardless of whether our students become lifelong practitioners of a musical instrument and/or other artistic discipline, their artistic instruction and experiences in school are sure to enhance their total development as human beings, and are likely to improve their academic performance and achievement. This has been the finding of research into art instruction in school.

For more information on this important topic please take a look at "The Importance of Art in Child Development" by Grace Hwang Lynch at <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/music-arts/the-importance-of-art-in-child-development/>. In this article Ms. Lynch explores multiple aspects of the benefits of art instruction as this impacts motor skills, language development, decision making, visual learning, inventiveness, cultural awareness, and improved academic performance. There is a wealth of such articles and research findings accessible through an internet search.

Speaking of art opportunities for our students, we are looking forward to our next big dramatic production of the year, the musical "Aladdin," which will be performed on the evening of Tuesday, May 19th during the KAS annual general meeting. Our students are now practicing their musical and dance numbers and speaking parts in preparation for their performance in six weeks. Please mark May 19th on your calendars, and plan to join us for this special event. And if you would like to help with the production of "Aladdin," please contact the faculty coordinator of the event, our Music teacher Mrs. Didith Lanario ([dlanario@krtams.org](mailto:dlanario@krtams.org)).



## Parents of Generation X and Y... How do they deal with Digital Natives?

Most parents of 21st century children are either from Generation X (born between 1964-1980) or Generation Y (born between 1980-1990). These generations are somehow familiar with technology at different levels. Therefore, their kids are known as "Digital Natives". There are many questions about how do we deal with young kids age two up to twelve when it comes to the use of technology, questions such as:



- What websites and games can my kid use if he/she can't yet use a keyboard and mouse?
- Will my child be left behind if s/he doesn't use technology?
- What type of media is best for learning?
- Should I buy my preschooler an iPad?

if you are interested in learning more about these topics please join our information session, "How To Prepare Young Digital Natives For The Future" which will be held on Thursday, April 16 at 8:30 AM in the Computer Lab. This session, which is the first in the newly inaugurated Superintendent's Parent Seminar, will include tips for Early Childhood and Elementary School parents on keeping children safe and productive in the use of technology.

