

# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016



## MACBETH - A GREAT SUCCESS! Congratulations Student Actors



Superintendent's Parent Information Seminar -  
"STUDY SKILLS: A Key To Success That PARENTS Can Help Turn"

David Lauchmen presenter

Thursday, March 17, 8:30-9:15 AM, KAS Library

School closed for Spring Break from March 4th reopens March 14th for students

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been a special "week of winning" for the children and staff of KAS.

Our student athletes and their coaches are to be congratulated. They should be very proud that they achieved at the highest levels at the KAS, Unity, Nile Valley, KICS joint track and field sports meet (these schools make up the ***Khartoum International Schools Sports Conference - KISSC***). Not only did several of our students take first place, but they also set league records! Please see the details of the meet and the records that were set in the Sports section of today's E News. Congratulations to our Athletic Director, **Hanro Van der Merwe**, and to all the coaches and students on this great achievement!

This week was the student performance of Macbeth. Our talented student actors carried out wonderful performances on both nights of the play. They worked for many many weeks to prepare for the play as actors and as stage support staff. I am sure that Shakespeare would have also been very pleased! I congratulate all the actors, the students who helped back stage; and, I congratulate their teacher and director, Mr. Michael Metcalf. It was a fun and enjoyable evening of theater at KAS!

And earlier this week I was fortunate to attend a "Role Models" assembly in which middle school students were awarded certificates and prizes for completing their role model projects (individuals who have been or are important role models for them). I was honored to be at the assembly with all the Middle School students and their teachers. Congratulations Middle School Students.

Celebrations and successes happen every day at KAS in the classroom, at special assemblies, and at events. Whether participating in individual or group sports, acting in a play, or watching others receive recognition for their hard work, KAS is a school where effort and achievement are acknowledged and appreciated.

KAS IS THE PLACE TO BE!

***I wish you a pleasant Spring Break. School will reopen for the children on Monday, March 14.***

Sincerely,

**Dr. Rob Beck**  
Superintendent

IT IS WITH THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY THAT KAS SENDS ITS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF TARIQ KHALAFALLAH ON HIS PASSING.

## Good-bye, Elementary School

This year the 5th-grade students have been going through a transition process as they mentally adapt to becoming middle school students rather than elementary school students. This has included tears and grins, frustration and exhilaration, changing and refining friendships, plus a growth in their academic habits.

Now when the students are given instructions, some of them start immediately while others wait to see what their classmates are doing. This awareness of peers is new as they move from a self-defined world into one where others' actions are important to them, beyond how it affects them. They start to measure themselves against their peers to see if they "fit in." This is a natural part of development as they seek to define a social environment in which they feel comfortable. Friends matter greatly even though they may change by the hour.

Academically, the students have begun to realize that learning takes work. Since this is a change, their initial reaction is the same as most people's: resistance. However, after understanding that they CAN succeed, interest in stretching themselves grows. They've also seen what they can do when they work together: the class garden behind the classroom is a beautiful class project, and the students worked together to create the opening scene of the Spring Musical, which is something to look forward to seeing in May!

Recently, the 5th-grade students have created goals for themselves to improve their academic skills. These have varied from reading each night for half-an-hour, practicing math facts, to starting a journal or writing stories in their free time. The acceptance that homework time is to allow them to practice their skills and solidify their knowledge is slowly taking hold.

So where are they now? Three months shy of the end of 5th grade, but well on their way.

## Hello, Middle School!

**Anne Scott**  
Grade 5 Teacher



Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

On Sunday and Monday evenings this week the KAS community was treated to a thrilling performance of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, which Mr. Metcalf and the KAS MS/HS Players called, "The Scottish Play" because of its setting in Scotland. *Macbeth*, or *The Scottish Play*, is the disturbing story of a man and woman (*Macbeth* and his wife) who, shall we say, go over to the "dark side" in a major way through their ambition for power, and find that they wish they had made a better choice. This is one of Shakespeare's darkest and most disturbing depictions of deranged human choice, and takes its place among the greatest of his "tragedies" along with *Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *King Lear*.

It was my good fortune 30 years ago to take a Shakespeare course with Francis Edmonds, founder of Emerson College in England. Edmonds explained something about Shakespeare (and perhaps drama in general) that has stuck with me all these years, namely that when we speak of tragedies in the Shakespearean sense, we mean that people are not able to find one another, they are not able to connect and fulfill their purpose together, which only collaboratively can be filled. In other words, tragedy for Shakespeare means that people "miss one another," which is indeed a tragedy. *Macbeth* is a profound story of people "missing" the connections they have.

Shakespeare's great comedies, on the other hand (of which there are also four—also known as the late comedies or the romances: *Pericles*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Cymbeline*, and *The Tempest*), are stories of people who ultimately "find" one another, who discover the amazing connections that fate or destiny has woven between them.

I applaud the fine KAS MS/HS Shakespearean Players who brought us the dark tale and tragedy of *Macbeth* this week, and I look forward to their next gift to the KAS community.

**Phil Centers**  
ECC/ES Principal

## NEWS FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Last Thursday, February 25, a group of student-athletes from KAS participated in the KICS Senior Athletics Championship. It is with great pleasure that I can announce these athletes did exceptionally well. The KAS students smashed four senior boys and girls' records on the day.

1. Anzel van der Merwe	7-9 Girls	2 <sup>nd</sup> in 100m, 2 <sup>nd</sup> in 200m 3 <sup>rd</sup> in Long Jump
2. Laura Wortman	7-9 Girls	3 <sup>rd</sup> in 100m, 1 <sup>st</sup> in 200m
3. Reem Satti	10-13 Girls	<b>New Record set for Javelin 20.35m</b>
4. Abdalla Abbas	7-9 Boys	1 <sup>st</sup> in 1500m, 3 <sup>rd</sup> in 800m
5. Jeremie Saint-Cyr Brou	7-9 Boys	4 <sup>th</sup> in 100m, 4 <sup>th</sup> in Long Jump
6. Tawfeeg Hadra	7-9 Boys	5 <sup>th</sup> in 800m
7. Divya Ghetia	7-9 Boys	1 <sup>st</sup> in 100m, 200m, and 400m
8. Talha Kayani	10-13 Boys	5 <sup>th</sup> in Javelin
9. Samhir El Gadal	10-13 Boys	6 <sup>th</sup> in Javelin
10. Mohammed Ibrahim (MI)	10-13 Boys	<b>New Record set for Shot Put 12.35m, 1<sup>st</sup> in 100m, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Long Jump 1<sup>st</sup> in 4x100m relay</b>
11. Gioryl Hoogdorp	10-13 Boys	<b>Also improved on the previous record set for 100m 11.77 2nd place. 1<sup>st</sup> in 4x100m relay</b>
12. Shehab Nourelhuda	10-13 Boys	<b>New record set for Javelin 32.87m 1<sup>st</sup> in 4x100m relay</b>
13. Baikun Liu	10-13 Boys	<b>New record set for 100m 11,75 1<sup>st</sup> in 4x100m relay</b>



  
**Hanro van der Merwe**  
Athletic Director



# Learning to Fly Defying gravity on the basketball court.

"Through the ages, one of humanity's greatest dreams has been to be able to fly, to cut the ties that bind us to the Earth and soar with the creatures of the sky. Myth and folk lore are filled with examples of those who have achieved this goal, and modern technology has given us the ability, using mechanical means, to glide among the clouds. But for most of us the ability to fly, on our own, still is but a dream. The closest many of us will ever come to shedding the ties that bind us to the ground is through sport. In those rare moments of peak performance, when all of the training and conditioning - and just flat-out good fortune - combine, we can shed gravity for a moment; we can fly.

Professional basketball is one of the sports that shows how close humans can come to flight. It is no coincidence that one of the greatest players of all time is known as "Air" Jordan. But it is not just the pros that can cut the cords that keep us stuck on the ground - just look at any schoolyard or neighborhood basketball court and you will see gravity-defying moves that show that Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation is, perhaps, not so universal after all."

**Marc Scott**  
MS/HS Math Teacher  
& Photographer



Owen McMullen hangs weightless in the air as he jump-shot arcs towards the basket



Sometimes, even when the body doesn't, the spirit soars as the hard-won point rolls into the basket



Another aspect of flight- The Art of Levitation



Jayden and the ball try defying gravity, and momentarily succeed.



The players fly down the court in a fast break

## SAYING OF THE WEEK

When you find a person **Three Sheets To The Wind** they are inebriated drunk and capable of very little. There are two suggested origins for this phrase. The first is that a windmill with only three sails (sheets) would rotate badly and wobble like a drunk. But the second is far more likely, especially as, like so many phrases, it has a nautical origin. The sails of a tall ship were controlled by rope (the rigging) and these ropes were - and still are - called 'sheets'. Two sheets controlled each sail and the story is that if one of the sheets wasn't properly handled, then the other three (of the two sails) would be 'to the wind'. The boat would then be blown about from side to side and not under full control.👉

**Minette van der Bijl**  
High School/Middle School English Department