



# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016



## Families and Friends Had A Great Time At the PTA Picnic, Thank you PTA!



Don't miss our last **Superintendent's Parent Information Seminar** for the 2015-2016 school year on **Thursday, April 14 from 8:30-9:15am** in the Library.

Bring your friends from KAS and from outside of KAS. The title of the Seminar is

**'The 21st Century Digital Native-**

**How Parents Can Help Their Child With The Proper Use of Technology'.**

The presentation will be by Mrs. Egbal Mohamed, our Information Technology Computer Studies Teacher.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The PTA Picnic was a huge success. Congratulations to our great and caring PTA. Judging from reports from the children, parents, and from the KAS staff, the picnic was a fun time for everyone that will be remembered for a long time. It ended at 10pm!

This past week, the Elementary School children were treated to a performance by Melanie Gall. Melanie is an accomplished opera singer and dramatist from Canada. Her one-person show, 'Opera Mouse', combined puppetry with her operatic singing. Her magnificent voice could be heard across the campus. Her manner with the children was excellent. She involved them in the performance, and she answered their many questions at the end of the show. Our thanks to Melanie and to the Canadian Embassy for bringing her to Sudan and to KAS.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend Quarter 3 Parent-Teacher Conferences. Our teaching staff was pleased that so many parents attended. Your support is always appreciated!

Congratulations to Mrs. Juliane Rothan-Centers who organized the Middle School & Grade 9 Science Fair. Students worked hard to prepare for the Fair. The results were excellent. Their projects tackled pressing problems and issues facing the world today. It was evident that the students took their preparation for the Fair seriously. Well done MS & G9 science students and congratulations!

Congratulations to the students who received recognition at the Middle/High School 4Cs Awards Assembly on Wednesday. As you know, periodically throughout the year students are recognized for their efforts and achievements in the KAS 4Cs of Character, Curriculum, Community, and Citizenship. We are proud of all of our students as they progress in the development of the 4Cs.

**Don't miss our last Superintendent's Parent Information Seminar for the 2015-2016 school year on Thursday, April 14 from 8:30-9:15am in the Library. Bring your friends from KAS and from outside of KAS. The title of the Seminar is, 'The 21st Century Digital Native-How Parents Can Help Their Child With The Proper Use of Technology'. The presentation will be by Mrs. Egbal Mohamed, our Information Technology Computer Studies teacher. The Superintendent's Parent Information Seminars will continue during the next school year. The attendance this year has been excellent. Thank you!**

I wish you a pleasant weekend with your family.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Rob Beck**  
Superintendent

## PTA Picnic a Success!

One thing I have noticed about living in Khartoum is that people take their picnics seriously around here. No, really.

This is serious business. You'll see what I mean. Normal parties will have only one piñata but at Friday's Picnic the PTA went all out and constructed multiple piñatas!

The kids didn't struggle too much with hitting the massive glittery boxes. The reward was a shower of candy and they loved it! Topped with great music, tasty food and good company, the KAS community enjoyed a joy-filled day.

Thank you for all the hard work and efforts by the PTA for planning, organizing, and creating such a great family day for our community!



**Hanro van der Merwe**  
Athletic Director

Dear Parents and Community Members,

At our staff professional development day on March 13th I gave a presentation to my colleagues entitled "How to talk so students will listen, and listen so students will talk." Unfortunately the time we had together that morning permitted me only to scratch the surface of this important topic, which is, after all, one of foundation stones of all we do with our students. With excellent communication skills all our teaching will be enhanced, and without these skills even our best efforts to convey ideas and skills to our students will fall short of what they could be.

The issue of effective communication with children, that builds self-esteem rather than tears it down, has been a topic dear to me for many years. This interest began when a parent of one of my second grade students in 1989 gave me the book, "Teacher and Child" by Haim Ginott. I figured that this parent gave me this book because 1. she felt that my communication skills could be improved, and 2. she felt that there was some hope for me! I am very grateful to have received this book, because it set me on a course of development that continues to this day.

Up until that point I communicated with my students and my own children (who were quite young then) much as everyone else around me communicated, at least as far as I could tell. I had no idea that there was a kind of "science" of effective communication, and this skill could be learned. My communication habits were pretty deeply ingrained, and it took me years of training and practice to be able to speak with students in an effective way. Of course I, like others, sometimes revert back to my old patterns of communication, for instance if I'm in a hurry. However, I can usually tell when this has happened because of the response of the student(s) I'm communicating with. There is a definite difference in the response of someone to respectful and effective communication as opposed to disrespectful and ineffective communication.

One of my professional goals is that the ECC & ES staff cultivate effective communication with each other and with our students. I am proud of all that we've accomplished in this regard, and at the same time we've probably just scratched the surface, because this is a lifelong learning challenge. I look forward to continuing our development of good communication with each other and with our students. I believe we notice the difference when good communication is taking place!

**Phil Centers**  
Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

## Our KAS Journalists

Middle School students at KAS take a writing lab class one quarter per year. Last quarter the writing lab students began to create a newsletter. We prepared for this venture by examining various online and printed forms of the news and discussing what makes a newsworthy article. We also read online news articles from [www.twentribune.com](http://www.twentribune.com) and completed summaries and reflections on them. Then the students brainstormed ideas about what to include in our newsletter and chose assignments. They wrote about soccer matches, Sudan Days, a fundraiser for an upcoming Grade 8 trip to Uganda, the Macbeth play, and how video games are good for people. The students also included some puzzles. They collaborated on some assignments, conducted interviews, and edited their writing. Our very talented Mr. Hussien Artoli designed the first newsletter while Jeremie Saint-Cyr (Grade 7) did the graphics for the second one (with some final editing by Mr. Hussien). Ms. Dina Shalash, Mr. Hanro van der Merwe, Ms. Sara Abugarga and Mr. Michael Metcalf graciously agreed to be interviewed.



Congratulations to these students on a job well done!

- Amina Alzein, Grade 7**
- Hazim Gamil, Grade 7**
- Divya Ghetia, Grade 8**
- Youssef Moustafa, Grade 6**
- Jeremie Saint-Cyr Brou, Grade 7**
- Yuga Shimizu, grade 6**
- Anzel van der Merwe, Grade 8**
- Akash Yadav, grade 6**

We have a new and bigger cohort of journalists this quarter and plan to publish two more newsletters. I'm excited to see what ideas this group has!

**Pamela Kennedy**  
Student Support Services



# Making a Difference

Many are afraid that tackling climate change is going to be too costly. But increasingly, studies are showing action will not just be cheaper than inaction, but could actually result in economic, environmental and even health benefits, while improving sustainability. This means that if large numbers of people started behaving differently, many small changes can have truly big effects.

Here are some easy ways to make a contribution:

- **Wearing a seatbelt is known to reduce serious injuries and deaths by about half.**
- **Refrain from making impulse purchases. When we purchase more unnecessary items we spend our money wastefully and create more waste for the earth.**
- **Politicians not listening? Be the change you want to see! Look at the major environmental challenges in your local community and rather than waiting for the elected leaders to listen to your concerns, make a difference by doing it yourself. For example, organize a monthly cleanup operation with like-minded people, which will not only benefit the neighborhood but also allow the participants to get some exercise.**
- **Build a community garden to provide produce for your neighborhood. At KAS we have built multiple garden beds as an example of how this can be done.**
- **It may sound obvious, but in our stressful and fast-paced lives it's easy to forget how important small acts of kindness really are. Being nice costs nothing and is probably the most important thing of all we can do, every single day.**

These examples are only small illustrations of how each one of us can become more resilient by making choices that improve our health, protect our environment and build a financial safety net, and how simple approaches can make that more fun and sustainable.

Sources: [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org),  
[www.weforum.org](http://www.weforum.org), [www.trueactivist.com](http://www.trueactivist.com)

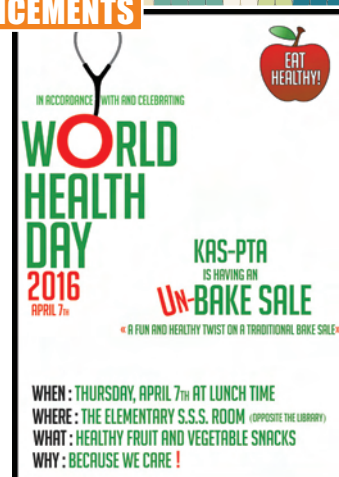
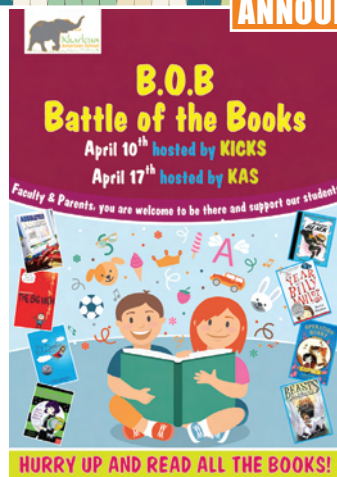
**Nickolas Urkow**  
P.E. Teacher

## Math & Riddle Masters This Week's Winners



David Samaan  
Grade 2

Malik Mirghani  
Kindergarten



## 2016 Science Fair a KAS

