

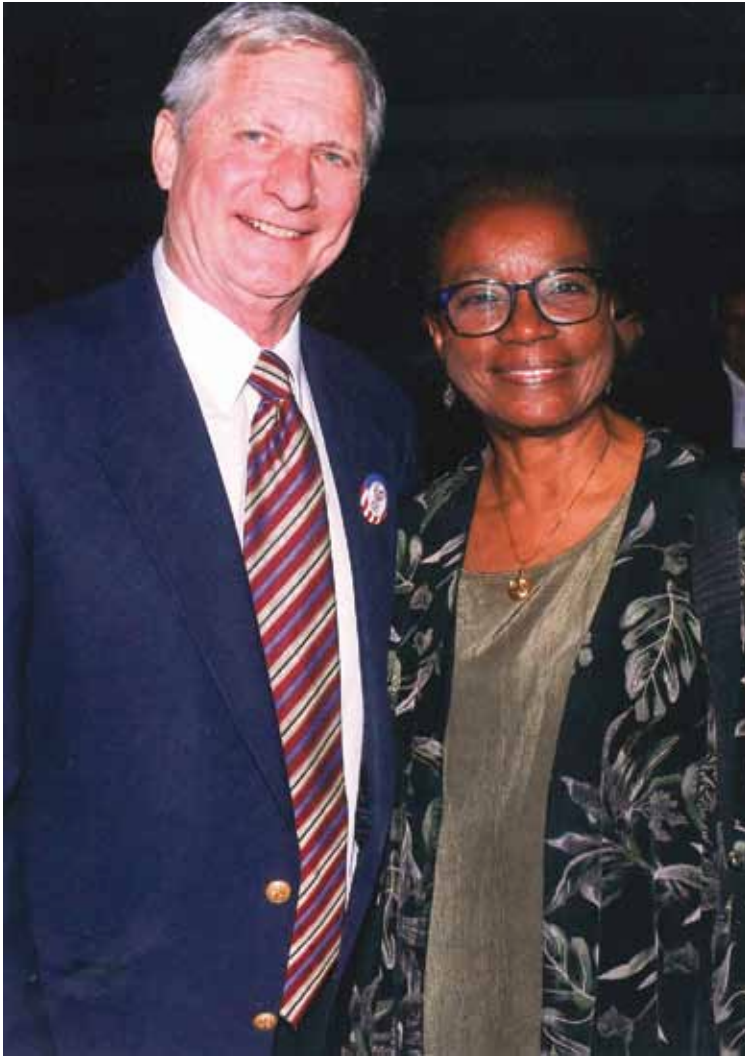


Pre-K: Goodbye Early Childhood - Hello Elementary



School closes on Monday, June 5 at 11:00 AM and Reopens Wednesday, August 9 at regular time at 7:45 AM

Grade 5 Shadow Day in Middle School



DEAR KAS PARENTS, GUARDIANS, STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY,

WE WISH TO THANK YOU.

IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE KAS FAMILY. THERE IS A SAYING THAT SAYS "IF YOU WISH TO GO FAST GO ALONE. IF YOU WISH TO GO FAR GO TOGETHER". WE HAVE HAD THE HONOR OF GOING TOGETHER WITH YOU ON THE PATH OF PROGRESS FOR THE CHILDREN. THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES!

SINCERELY,

Drs. ROBERT AND ANN BECK



Letter from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

In the February Enews three years ago, my wife, Ms. Juliane Rothan-Centers (KAS Grade 6-9 Science Teacher), and I introduced ourselves to the KAS school community. We wrote at that time that: we “both have deep roots in holistic education, and are committed to the well-being, healthy development, and success of children of all ages...We love working with students, parents, colleagues, board members, and the wider community to make education come alive for each and every student, so that each may realize his or her full potential.”

About myself I wrote: “What inspires me most in my work as principal is the opportunity for service I am presented across all aspects of the school’s operations, particularly in support of the students and teachers. I am a collaborative leader and enjoy working closely with my Superintendent, staff and students. I look forward with great enthusiasm to our fruitful work together in the years to come.”

I believe that it has been a fruitful time working together these last three years. So much has matured in the school in this short time, foremost of course the students, as well as the school campus, the culture of the school in general, and ourselves. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as ECC/ES Principal during this time. It is an experience I will always treasure.

There is a belief or theory among the Toltec Indians of Central America that the first event in a series of events acts as a pattern, a kind of blueprint, for all the events in that sequence to follow. For instance, the first experience one has of a new community like KAS may be seen as a general blueprint for the way one’s experience in general may well be in that community. I have been fascinated with this theory over the years, and have seen glimpses of this playing out in my life’s experience.

In this context, there were several events that occurred as Ms. J and I began at KAS that I might see indicating a pattern for what was to come. One was the ease with which we were hired by the Superintendent at that time, Steve Alexander. It was as if the decision for us to be part of the KAS family had already been made, and Steve was just making it official in our interviews. Then there was a personal event that caused Ms. J and I to arrive later than we had intended in Khartoum at the beginning of our tenure here. This could have been a real setback for us in that we had to miss the entire new hire orientation, but the way our delay was handled by the school was

superb, and we were able to make up all that we had missed that first week.

As our plane began its long descent into Khartoum upon our first arrival here, we encountered heavy rain, and as we were driven to our new apartment later that night (early that morning!) we saw that the streets were flooded. This abundance of water for the thirsty desert I could see as an indication of the abundance, like an oasis, of our experience with all the KAS family during our time here.

Finally there was my first meeting with the Academic Administrative Leadership Team (AALT), which had to take place within hours after we landed due to the late timing of our arrival in Khartoum. I was extremely tired during that meeting, but my colleagues, Drs. Rob and Ann Beck, and Susan Boutros, supported me while we addressed the urgent business on our agenda. Seen as a kind of blueprint, this first very positive experience with the AALT did translate into a pattern of our weekly AALT meetings over the years being a highlight of my experience at KAS. The four AALT members worked intensively for hours every week all three years to guide the school forward, and in so doing bonded in a way perhaps rarely experienced among working groups. The relationships that were forged between us are a highlight of my professional career.

Now it is time for me to say farewell to the KAS community. While Ms. Juliane will be staying at least another year at KAS to complete the good work she is engaged in, in developing the KAS Middle School and Grade 9 Science program, I have accepted a position as Administrator at the Woodland Charter School in the U.S. state of Oregon, where I’m scheduled to begin this summer. Woodland is a dynamic first through eighth grade learning community set amidst beautiful mountains in the Pacific Northwest. So I sadly leave the outer warmth of Sudan and the inner warmth of the African people to go to a much cooler, wetter climate, but also very verdant, and with wonderful new friends to join on the journey of life for a while!

Please do let me know if you will be in SW Oregon so we may possibly connect! I will be watching from afar with great interest in how the Khartoum American School community continues to develop and mature.

Best regards,

Phil Centers
Early Childhood Center & Elementary Principal

A French Teacher At Kas

Before joining KAS, I had no idea what an American school might be like. I imagined that we would be led by sturdy, slightly crazy U.S. football-type players, steel teeth as much as morale. I told myself that I would have to learn to greet my new colleagues by slapping myself on the back with lion's hands. I was on my guard. These worries fell quickly when I found myself in front of a family welcome in the middle of an extraordinary garden as in the song of mythical French artist Charles Trenet. This garden, which is known as the KAS campus, comes alive in the morning. On this verdant scene, while the sweepers chase the sand as if they were dancing, the teachers advance with tango steps, a cup boiling in their hands. The greetings in English and Arabic serve as music. Then the doors close on the classrooms, and the garden waits. This is the moment that students choose to enter the stage, with their bags on wheels, the mark of the pillow on the cheek, ready to leap on a ball, or, for girls, to knit braids on the head and exchange small secrets under the impassive gaze of turtles and cats. These silent extras have already taken place in this bucolic scene, under the coolness of the watering pipes, by the time the classes begin. Teachers share their bags of knowledge with students who are sometimes avid, sometimes recalcitrant, often distracted by a legitimate desire to play. At least that is what I have experienced in my French classes.

Today I know what an American school is. There is hard work in the joy, in the subtle attention of the children, and above all, with that politeness of heart which is called kindness. Here the development of each child is assured by everyone: Sudanese, American, French, and all nationalities present. We listen to the child, we understand him, and we help him. The goal is to help him reach the best place, not only in his own body but in society and in the school curriculum. In KAS, the student is a king or queen. I saw them walk at the beginning of the year, with a sad face and a beaten eye, to become solid children smiling and stirring. Sometimes too much! In my French-class I had to channel their ardor (not always for work), lower the sound of their enthusiasm, and cast anchor in their laughing eyes, to keep them in port like little boats. Now they raise the anchor. Some go to live their destiny: with all my heart I wish them good wind. Others only set sail for better return. KAS is a springboard but also a home port. You should know that Madame Florence, professor of French, Parisian and rooted in Sudan, wishes you the most beautiful of the life flights.

Florence de Monza
French Teacher

Elementary Assembly Masters

This Week's Winners



Phone
Yin
Grade 4

Uthman
Azhan
Grade 4

Rayan
Yajima
Grade 2

Geneina
Benton
Grade 2

SAYING OF THE WEEK

If we are **In Cahoots** we are planning an event in secrecy. An American term, it has developed from the French word 'cahute, meaning 'small hut'. The phrase was used by native Americans to describe the French settlers during the 17th century and has come to mean groups of people colluding with each other unseen in confined spaces.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department