

n e w s

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 22nd 2016



Grade 3 Receives Their Laptops!



Superintendent's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

One of our schools's 'signatures' is our quality and rigorous curriculum of studies. Our curriculum of studies is the KAS "stated" curriculum. It includes subjects in: reading, mathematics, English Language development, science, social studies, writing, art, music, computer literacy, physical education and elective courses (such as psychology, and additional writing and social studies courses). Students in the Early Childhood Center, Elementary School, Middle School and High School are engaged every day in broadening their knowledge and understandings as a result of our stated curriculum. Every day they are deeply involved in the 'business and joy of classroom learning'.

In addition to the stated curriculum, KAS is also known for its excellent 'non-stated' curriculum. The non-stated curriculum is less visible. By the non-stated or less visible curriculum, I include the social and emotional skills and understandings learned as a result of being in a caring and nurturing school environment such as ours. One of those skills is empathy. Empathy is defined as "the ability to identify or understand another's situation or feelings...The ability to share feelings of another...It is a distinctly human capability..." Our teachers and principals take pride in helping children in the Early Childhood Center, Elementary School, Middle School and High School develop empathy.

At KAS students learn that to get along with and understand others, they need to empathize with them. Empathy does not mean that one necessarily agrees with what a person believes or how they behave. Rather, it means that they try to understand the motivation for why that person acts in certain ways or believes what they believe. In a sense, we are teaching the children to try to "get into the shoes" of the other person. Research shows that successful students and adults demonstrate high levels of empathy.

The combination of our 'stated' curriculum and our 'non-stated' curriculum forms a foundation for success and life-long learning.

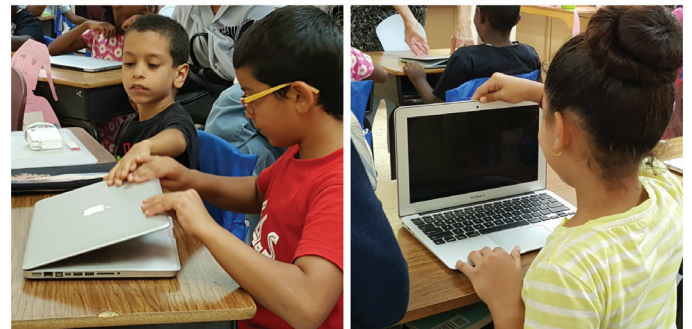
I wish you a pleasant weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Beck
Superintendent

Dr. Rob Beck
Superintendent

Grade 3 Receives Their Laptops



A Message from the Middle & High School Principal

Labels for Kids: Why We Shouldn't Label Our Children

Let's imagine the following situation. You are responsible for putting together an event, e.g. a dinner party. You are excited and you feel responsible for the task. You are also a little nervous about how it will all turn out.

One day, while you are working so hard sorting out the details, you walk into a room and overhear your co-event-planners muttering – “She’s so bossy” (or “He’s such a dictator”) before they suddenly realize you’re in the room and change the topic.

You are pretty sure they were talking about you.

What would your attitude be going forward? Would you be as excited about organizing the event as before? Would you have second thoughts about the way you are going about handling the responsibility?

Now let's flip that situation a bit... what if you had overheard — “She (or He) is so cool and really knows how to get things done”.

What would your attitude be now as you move ahead with the project?

Essentially “Bossy” and “Dictator” mean the same thing as “someone who is trying to get things done”. Yet, because of the negative connotation these labels have, they leave a sour taste in your mouth, and undermine your ability to stay enthusiastic about the project anymore.

Now let's look into our homes.

How many times in a day do we label our kids in not so flattering ways?

“Gosh, just look at you... you have got chocolate all over yourself! You are such a messy child!”

“Tom left a marker on the couch with the cap off! Look at that stain! What an irresponsible kid!”

“I was late to work again! Kate is so slow ... I wonder when that kid will learn the value of time!”

Some of these are not meant to be “labels” but they stick in the mind of the child who overheard it.

We don't intend to be mean. We don't intend to scar our children. And most often, we don't even realize we are doing it. Yet, it can have a huge impact on your child's behavior for the rest of the day, and if a label sticks, then possibly the rest of his/her life!

How we, as adults, behave with our kids depends on what labels we see them through. If we look at them through the lens of negative labels, our response to their actions is likely to be more critical. When we look at them through the lens of positive labels, we are in a better position to be their champion, their cheerleaders.

In short, what we say matters — not just what we say to our kids, but what we say about them to others and to ourselves. The labels we choose, either consciously or by default, can make a huge impact on how we as parents and how our kids perceive themselves.

Susan Boutros

Middle & High School Principal

DROP OFF, PICK UP, PARKING THANK YOU KAS COMMUNITY!

The systems of picking up students after school, and the dropping off students in the morning, are working much better this year.

Unfortunately, we still have a couple of children who are waiting here past the pick times of **3:05** or **4:05** (if they are in ASAP). And unfortunately there has been an incident of a driver blocking several parking spaces out front of the school gate by parking parallel to the school wall instead of parking perpendicular to the wall. This is a potential safety issue for the children. Perpendicular parking is safer. It allows more car spaces for parking. Please park only perpendicular not parallel to the school wall when you park outside of the school as a courtesy to other drivers and parents, and for increased safety for the children.

Overall things are improving! Thank you for your continued support in dropping off and picking up your child on time!

Our Beautiful Campus



The KAS campus is a jewel amongst campuses in Khartoum. School campuses are underestimated in their capacity to transform schools into inspirational and iconic centers for learning. The grounds, buildings and circulation should work together optimally, to allow the school to reach its full potential.

Beautiful school grounds are the heart of a school. Prospective parents and students often choose a school based on the impression the campus makes on them. The school campus must reflect core values, ideals and aspirations. As one of the greenest spaces in Khartoum the KAS campus definitely shouts the importance we give to environment and community in our curriculum. Not only the students, but the whole community enjoy the beauty of the KAS campus. Through our campus KAS reaches out to the community by offering adult sports every afternoon.

Learning is not limited to the classroom. In fact, most learning happens outside the classroom. Social interaction is a key component of non-academic, but vital education. Every part of a good campus must be considered to be a learning environment. Anything less is a missed opportunity. Not only does KAS create welcoming spaces with our open air, yet shaded basketball court and numerous trees around the kiosk, it also teaches children about nature with the tortoises we have on the campus. The welfare of the tortoises has inspired many a student to suggest changes to improve their habitat. If this awareness of animal welfare is carried into students' daily lives they will become good caretakers of nature.

The KAS school campus contributes on many levels to teaching students to act responsibly. Decisions that are made on campus have enormous ripple effects. Students are constantly reminded to clean up after themselves and students have been involved in gardening and have harvested vegetables that they have grown themselves. This emphasizes the importance of respect for the natural world and other people.

Every KAS member can be proud of our campus and what it offers to the learning environment.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department

Math & Riddle Masters

This Week's Winners



Ecenur Tekcam
Grade 2

Ali Al-Fatih
Kindergarten

Amena Talha
Kindergarten

Rayan Yajima
Grade 2



SAYING OF THE WEEK

To be *Batting On A Sticky Wicket* is to be faced with a difficult problem that requires great care to resolve successfully. It is a cricketing term alluding to the difficulty a batsman has playing on a wet and tricky wicket. These days a wicket is protected from the rain by covers quickly pulled over if the clouds burst overhead. But earlier cricketers often played on a wet surface and great care was needed. The West Indian team fell foul of a 'sticky wicket' at the Kensington Oval in 1935 and it was later reported that the 'West Indians have a remarkable record here having only lost once in 1935 on a sticky pitch.'

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department

