



# E-Safety

Parents' Seminar Presented by Mr. Steve Alexander & Ms. Egbal Mohamed



## Superintendent's Message

From January 28 to January 30 we will welcome British author, Steve Skidmore to work with teachers and students at KAS.

Parents be sure to come on Tuesday morning, January 30 at 8:15 to our Library for Steve's presentation and book signing.

Steve Skidmore is an ex-teacher with many years teaching experience. Since leaving the classroom, he has undertaken hundreds of school and library visits across the world, so is able to offer a variety of sessions that are appropriate for students. Steve is always willing to be as flexible as possible to meet student interests and so make the visit an enjoyable and rewarding visit for all concerned. He has worked with his colleague, Steve Barlow, for many years, writing over 200 books and acting as series editor for several projects with major publishing houses. He has also written for TV and theatre.

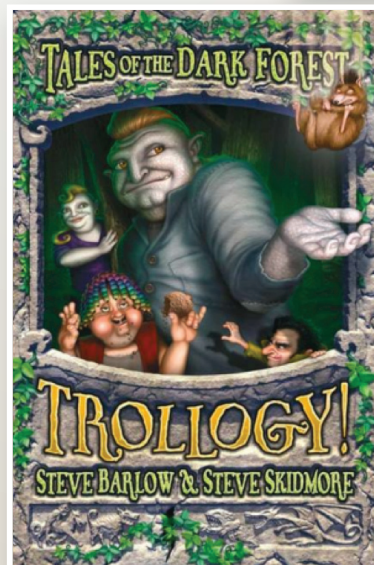
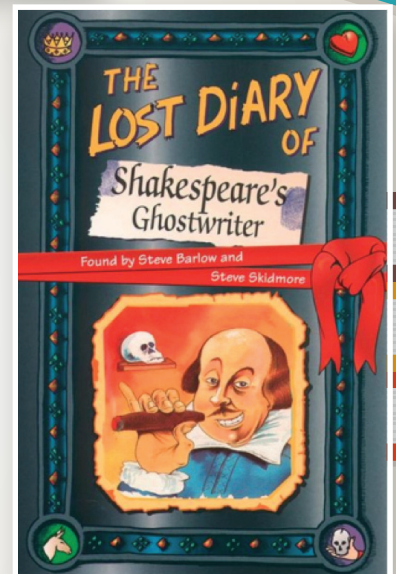
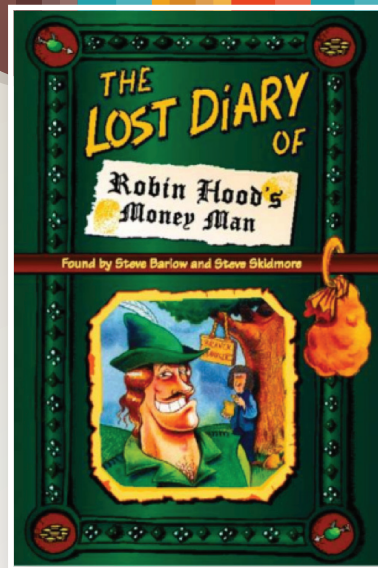
Steve was selected as one of the top 100 most influential and creative people working in the UK in 2016 in the Hospital Club top hundred awards. He was one of ten nominations in the publishing and writing section for his work on the groundbreaking NSS G Story App.

### **Review and Recommendation From a librarian:**

The kids haven't stopped talking about your performances, they were blown away! The teachers too haven't stopped talking about it! Thank you, will book you again as soon as we have the calendar fixed... My biggest compliment was wow that was the best presentation we have ever had in school, well done..... thank you!

**Steve Alexander**  
KAS Superintendent

## Works by Steve Skidmore



## Letter from the Middle and High School Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Happy New Year and Welcome Back to School!

We hope you have had a wonderful winter break with family and friends and we wishing you all a very happy and peaceful New Year.

The students have returned to school refreshed from their break. They are settling in well in their classes and are ready to learn. High school students are excited about their new electives for this semester and some of them are preparing for the THIMUN conference that will take place in Qatar next week. Elementary and Middle School students are excited to be back and are looking forward to reading week and to meeting our visiting author Mr. Steve Skidmore.

At KAS we are very invested in Professional Development and on Sunday, January 14th we were honored to have Mr. Brian May return for another inspiring and informative workshop with our teachers. Mr. May works with NWEA which stands for Northwest Evaluation Association. NWEA facilitates our MAP testing but their representatives work with teachers on many more strategies that can be used to improve student learning. We are excited to begin implementing these new strategies in the classroom to enhance our students' understanding!

Our students have indeed a lot to look forward to this month. The 4Cs Award Assemblies are coming up soon. Our Elementary School 4Cs Awards Assembly will take place on Thursday, January 25th and our Middle and High School 4Cs Awards Assembly will take place on Sunday, January 28th. Please join us to celebrate our students' success.

All our students are also looking forward to Sudan Days that will take place at the end of the month. Kindly be reminded that we will end our Sudan Days celebrations with a final open day on Saturday, February 3rd which is a required make up school day for all students.

Wishing you all a very successful second semester!

**Susan Boutros**  
Middle & High School Principal

A French proverb says that three things shows the quality of a leader: "to know, to be able and to want". We could extend this proverb to our students' learning. It is difficult for a student to show his or her charisma without demonstrating knowledge. This throws down a number of questions such as: is it possible to acquire knowledge without effort? And what supreme end reward inspires effort?

Learning isn't always fun and sometimes asserting a lot of effort can detract from the fun or pleasure aspect of learning. Taking on new learning challenges invariably forces you out of your usual comfort zone. However, when we move out of the familiar and experience success it makes us feel incredibly good. We feel a sense of gratification and satisfaction. Not because of the brilliant grade A, so bright that it seems to be hanging on our forehead. An A is nothing compared to the experience of acquiring self assurance by facing the challenge and overcoming.

Recently, during the lunch break, I saw one of my students, making a considerable effort to overcome her fear and shyness in order to flip her body around a climbing frame like other girls. To do this, she had to throw her head to the ground, and run the risk of seeing her hands not turning at the same time. Nevertheless, she trained and persevered under the eyes of her friends who cried "be confident, be confident!"

Isn't it wonderful to be confident and know how to dribble, or to know how to make the correct passes at football, or having the right move at the right time? To do so, each of us needs long training. The French, English, and Arabic languages need time spent on them. As my student learned, nothing is done without effort, but she kept going and succeeded. This is easy to say, but not always easy to do! All the teachers repeat it to their students. All mothers and fathers should instill it in their children too.

Imagine that desire powers a car. For example a Lamborghini, or a Ferrari. It takes a lot of power to drive such a beautiful car, two of the ten most powerful and most beautiful cars in the world. Now imagine that they have no motors!

Whoever wants to learn without real desire to learn, is just like this beautiful car. He or she does not have a real desire, no motor. Without desire we can not acquire anything. Desire is the real driving force. Nothing can resist it. This is why another French and surely international proverb is: "want is power". Not wanting, I repeat, is to walk without its driving force.

Desire? It's like being hungry. It's having the curiosity to learn about the world, and the other cultures, to compare them and embrace them. It is to want to move and to meet people who move in tune with ourselves. It's about having projects and not waiting for technology or television to provide us with a turn-key project.

Learning the French language is like anything new; it can be difficult. However, it's a great adventure. It isn't enough to have ability there must be the desire to drive the ability!

**Florence de Monza**  
French Teacher

# 5th Annual Spelling Bee at British Educational School

Dear Parents and Students,

I am delighted to announce that KAS has been invited to participate in the 5th annual spelling bee to be held at British Educational School. This competition has been growing steadily and more than twenty schools are expected to participate this year! The first round of competition will be held at BES on Saturday, February 17th at 5:00 pm for grades 3 to 6 and Sunday, February 18th at 5:00 pm for grades 7-10. Finals are tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 24th.

Encouraging your child to enter a spelling bee competition can result in several benefits in addition to simply improving spelling:

#### Improved Grammar

Spelling bees do not merely involve rote learning of words. Rather, preparation for a bee is a comprehensive learning process that allows children to learn the definition, pronunciation, and roots of the word.

#### Enhancing Vocabulary

One valuable learning outcome of spelling bees is that children gain competency over vocabulary. This allows them to excel at reading and writing. The ability to understand more words helps children to become more literate which encourages reading an extensive range of material.

#### Competitive Spirit

Spelling bees allow individuals to compete in a supportive environment. The brain activity and excitement that result from mental competition are every bit as stimulating as a physical competition, which means that spelling bees can increase the adrenaline of both contestants and the audience. A friendly rivalry is created and students are encouraged to interact with fellow participants and cultivate friendships.

#### Greater Knowledge

Learning words can get students interested in tracing the origin of a word and its etymology. This information will greatly enhance the knowledge base of a child, even at a very young age, and motivate them to develop a keen interest in learning new words.

#### Cognitive Skills

Spelling bee competition allows children to develop a range of cognitive skills including the ability to handle pressure. The learning process accompanying the spelling bee is likely to enhance your child's memory and allow your child to develop better learning skills, which can prove to be highly beneficial during higher education.

#### Confidence

A child's confidence level is usually boosted after entering into such competitions. Win or lose, a spelling bee helps children gain the confidence they need to speak in public and accept their mistakes, while also getting the applause their hard work deserves.

In addition to these benefits, the prizes for each division are substantial and include airfare and accommodation for first place (destination to be determined), a laptop for second place and a tablet for third place. I look forward to our upcoming practice sessions and selection process, which will be used to determine who will represent KAS at this year's spelling bee. Please see the schedule below:

Thursday, Jan. 18: Practice Spelling Bee for all students (Library, 3:00-4:00 pm)

Thursday, Jan. 25: Practice Spelling Bee for all students (Library, 3:00-4:00 pm)

Thursday, Feb. 1: Practice Spelling Bee for all students (Library, 3:00-4:00 pm)

Thursday, Feb. 8: Formal Spelling Bee to select KAS representatives.

Thursday, Feb. 15: Final practice for selected students

\*Students must attend at least two of the three practice sessions in order to be eligible for the formal selection on February 8th.

\*\*Students will be taken to the pick-up area at 4:00 pm sharp after each practice.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Kind Regards,

**Jonathan Williams**  
MS EAL Teacher  
jwilliams@krtams.org



## SOCCER SEASON IS FINALLY HERE!

Practice will start on Sunday after homework help. During our season, practice days will be on Sundays and game days will be on Mondays and Wednesdays. We will send home the season schedule, once all of the participating schools have confirmed. Ms. Katie will coach the MS and HS girls. Mr. Dworak will coach the MS boys and Mr. Khalid will coach the HS boys. We look forward to a fantastic season and continued success from last year. GO KAS!

**Breyon Burrell**  
Athletic Director

### Saying of the Week

'**My Ears Are Burning**' is a remark made by a person to suggest they are being talked about by others at that moment. Quite often we experience a tingling or slight burning sensation in either ear and the superstitious Romans believed all such things were signals. 'It is acknowledged that the absent feel a presentiment of remarks about themselves by the ringing of their ears' (Naturalis Historia, AD 77). As the Romans also firmly believed everything on the left signified evil and on the right implied good, the theory was that the left ear burning suggested evil intent and the right ear praise. Sir Thomas Brown (1605 - 82) in his book *Extracts From Christian Morals* suggested guardian angels were responsible and they touched the right ear if the talk was favorable and the left if unfavorable.

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