



# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, February 8, 2018



## SUDAN DAYS FESTIVAL AT KAS



# Superintendent's Message

## Teacher Recruitment for 2018-19

I have been in the U.S. for the past two weeks recruiting new teachers for the next school year. I believe this is one of the most important responsibilities for the Superintendent of a school. In an upcoming E News article I will inform parents about the teachers leaving KAS and give biographical information about new hired staff.

## School Administration This Year and Next Year

This year I am serving as the Elementary Principal as well as the Superintendent. We will have a new Elementary Principal to work with Susan Boutros, Mona Hassan, Dina Shalash, and Nicole Stacey as the Academic Administrative team next year. Parents who have questions or concerns about students in Pre-school to Grade 5 should see me if you want to discuss issues.

## 2018-19 School Calendar

Both the full year detailed 2018-19 calendar and the one page calendar are listed on the KAS website for all to see. Our website is [www.krtams.org](http://www.krtams.org).

## Information Technology Update

The KAS school board has approved over \$170,000.00 to upgrade our IT infrastructure and includes the purchase of new computers that will allow us to test students on new computers by accessing protected websites instead of server hosting at KAS. The updated equipment and better transmission lines will help everyone have better and faster access to information. The infrastructure construction will begin as soon as school ends at the end of May and will be finished before the start of the next school year.

## Parent Seminar - February 15, 2018

Next Thursday, Mr. Douglas Dvorak and I will give a presentation on the characteristics of a quality international school. We will focus on trends that are changing international schools and the benefits of having an international staff.

**Steve Alexander**  
KAS Superintendent

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

PTA Valentine's Day  
**Bake Sale**  
*Share the love... Help make this world a better place*

- Thursday, February 15**
- Quad Area**
- Lunch Time**

Proceeds from the PTA bake sale will go towards helping a child in need.

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[www.krtams.org](http://www.krtams.org)



# SUDAN DAYS FESTIVAL

Dear Parents and Friends,

It was wonderful seeing so many of you during Sudan Days this year. Our students and parents shared with us that the attractions and displays that were added during this year's Sudan Days were very entertaining, as well as educationally valuable.

During the first two days, an educational element was added to Sudan days in the shape of the four regions of Sudan; North, South, East and West were represented. Students learned about the traditions, as the four huts displayed the foods and handicrafts from those regions. All middle and high school students participated in an activity where they were challenged to identify major cities in Sudan. Our Sudan Days' team cleverly created a River Nile, which flows through the four regions. This exercise was very

informative and a lot of fun for both students and teachers alike. Last Friday, was our Sudan Days Festival. Our parents and friends, as well as our students had the opportunity to experience the traditions and the rich culture of Sudan. We all enjoyed the music, food and activities. The souk had a wide variety of stalls that showcased a wide array of handmade and unique Sudanese products.

I would like to thank the Sudan Days Committee and all the faculty members who worked so hard to make Sudan Days such a success.

Continue enjoying the local culture and traditions of Sudan.

**Susan Boutros**

Middle & High School Principal





## Let them Wonder!

### LOOKING FOR RECIPES

#### BEFORE



#### AFTER



*“Cell phones, mobile e-mail, and all the other cool and slick gadgets can cause massive losses in our creative output and overall productivity.”*

Robin S. Sharma

This quote has made me think deeply about the way we learn, about the world and everything surrounding us. We used to wonder about things around us and we asked questions that would lead to knowledge.

When I was a child, I remember that I used to go with my dad whenever he would go to buy groceries. I liked going with him to the butcher shop because I had a chance to see inside the sheep and then ask questions about the different parts of the animal.

During my childhood, kids used to learn by real life experiences. For example when we saw worms we asked many questions about how worms live and what they eat? And when we have the answers for those questions we started our own exploration journey by digging deeper. Kids used to try to find a microscope or magnifier glass to see real worms eating a leaf or any type of plants. They would sneak and try to dig in the grass to find how worms make holes in the ground to help the plants grow. We tried to find answers for many such questions. The best thing was just having them wonder about something.

Nowadays, kids learn a lot of things through the Internet. They know that they can find whatever they want to know online. They don't think how to learn about something in different, alternative, more practical ways. Those ways definitely will require some creativity, motivation and maybe need a lot more effort.

It is true that technology has made our lives easier in many different ways, but I think it is taking away a lot of possibilities for creativity and productiv-

ity that would help in encouraging critical thinking through real life experiences. We need to make our kids wonder about the environment surrounding them and encourage active learners, not going to Google for every little thing. We need to make them ready to face tomorrow's issues by helping them to see themselves in a global context that build and develop citizens with awareness of their world and the many issues and challenges they will have to face. They must discuss issues such as global warming, the economy, politics, unity and diversity. Big questions that will affect their future; questions that can't be searched through Google!

Bellow are some links for ideas of outdoors activities that parents may check:

<http://www.pinterest.com/binspiredmama/outdoor-play-ideas-for-kids/>

<http://tipsaholic.com/>

<http://www.kidspot.com.au/kids-activities-and-games/fun-outdoor-activities-for-kids+9.htm>

<http://fun.familyeducation.com/play/outdoor-activities/33394.html>

Egbal Mohamed  
Technology Coordinator

### Saying of the Week

**To knock the Daylights** out of somebody would be to put them on the receiving end of a pretty impressive beating. In days gone by 'daylights' was slang for a person's eyes. In early bare-knuckle boxing parlance, to darken a fighter's daylights would mean to give him a black eye, and to beat the daylights out of him meant both eyes were so badly swollen he could no longer see.

Minette van der Bij  
High School English Department