

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Activities this past week 'off campus' have been educationally enjoyable learning experiences for our students. For example, our 8th grade class returned from their Science/Cultural Field Trip to Uganda. Thank you Mrs. Centers, KAS High School and Middle School Science Teacher, for organizing and chaperoning the trip. And thank you Mr. Owen McMullen, High School and Middle School Social Studies Teacher, for also being a chaperone. The students had several days of well organized activities including: jungle trips, meeting and interacting with local children, viewing wild samend

In our Pre-Kindergarten class we inquired, and learned a lot about trees and plants. The children see trees and all sort of greens in our campus every day; they watch trees grow (with the help of water and sun), develop seeds, cut down when old, and cared for regularly. We discovered that trees are home and shelter to many small animals and insects, like birds, lizards, caterpillars and spiders. The students learned the names of the main parts of a tree: the trunk, the branches, the leaves (that we can see), and the roots (that we cannot see).

We have toured our campus checking out the many different trees and plants that grow here: palm trees, banana trees, flower trees, new trees that are small, and old trees with big trunks and long branches, and trees that have leaves of different colors. We found a big old eucalyptus tree (if you rub a leaf between your fingers it smells like lemon, and the koalas eat those leaves, the children observed). We collected a large number of small and large leaves of many colors and shapes. We read a book about things that could be made with leaves, and copied some ideas from it. In the flowerbed outside our classroom we planted some pumpkin seeds that we had saved after carving a pumpkin for Halloween. We water them every morning, and we watch those plants grow, their leaves getting bigger and bigger. We hope we will be able to see a pumpkin some day!

Minette van der Bijl