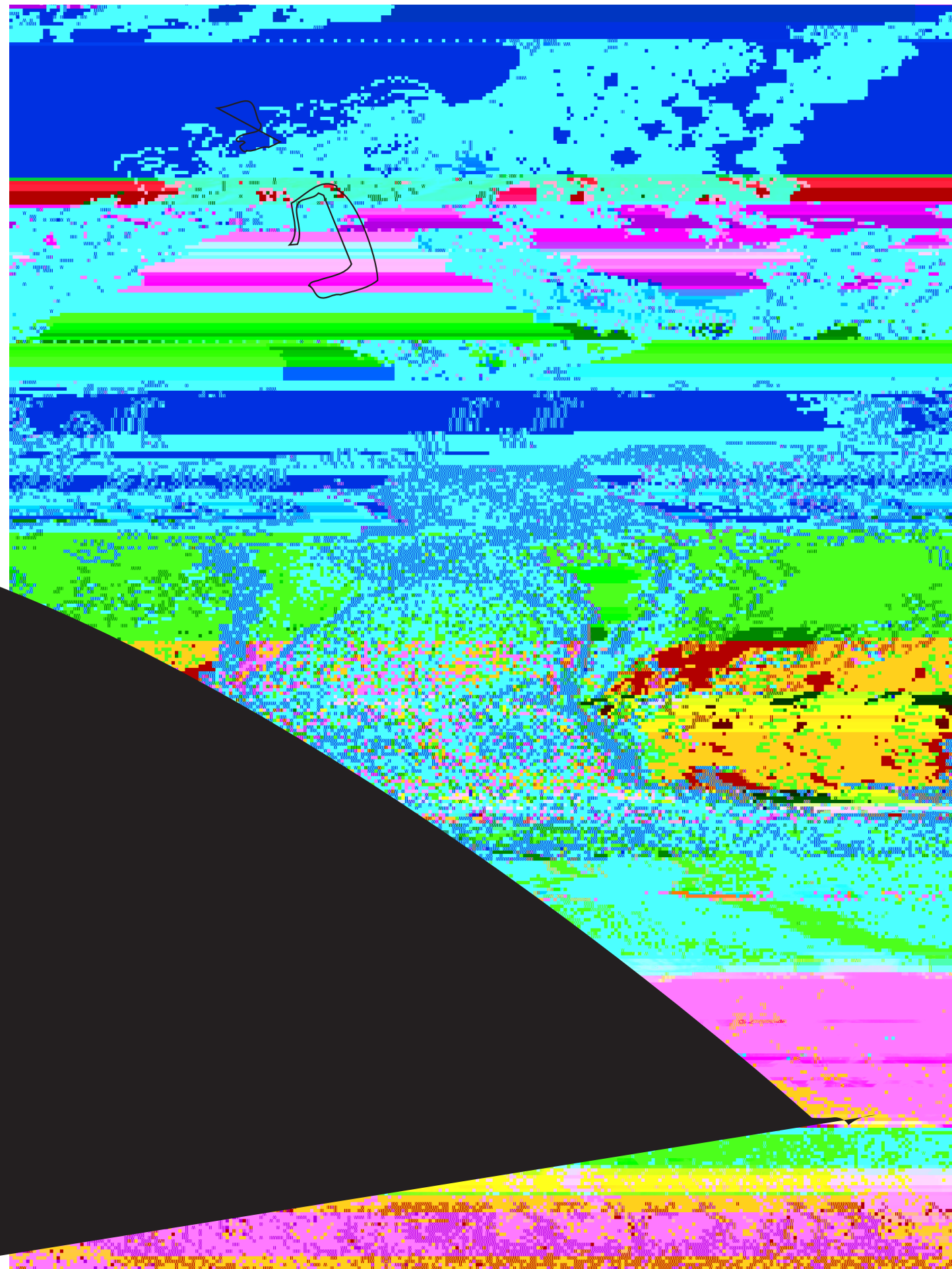


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Letter from the Superintendent, Mr. Steven Alexander

The Importance of Professional Development

One of the most important aspects of having a high quality teaching and support staff at an international school is providing professional development opportunities for teachers and support staff.

Schools can provide opportunities in different ways. One of the most effective ways is using teaching staff to provide workshops and presentations at school. On January 18th our teaching staff participated in a day of professional development that included four workshop sessions on the following topics:

- **Differentiation** – This refers to a practice where teachers use different preparations and practices in teaching a class. This is especially important in classes where students have different ability levels.
- **Assessment** – This refers to the way teachers assess their students. Teachers develop different ways to evaluate student work, which helps teachers understand what students have learned.
- **Classroom Management** – Developing good consistent student management practices help teachers provide students with a positive learning environment in their classrooms.
- **Information Technology** – Schools need to continuously provide professional development to staff to ensure effective use of current technology.

Another way to provide professional development is through regional conferences and workshops. Regional associations like the African International Schools Association (AISA) hold annual conferences for its members. These conferences provide workshops on a wide variety of educational topics not only for teachers, but also for administrators and support staff. KAS is a member of AISA.

Teachers also need special professional development for various programs. Professional development in areas such as learning support, second language learning, teaching Advance Placement (AP) courses, and counseling is essential for helping teachers use best practices in education.

Providing a variety of professional development opportunities for teachers is important for attracting high quality teachers to work at an international school.

Letter from the Middle and High School Principal, Susan Boutros

Preparations for Sudan Days are in full swing and will be held on February 5, 6, and 8. Sudan Days are an excellent way of celebrating our host country. Students will have the opportunity to experience the traditions and the rich culture of Sudan.

During these days there will be food, henna tattoos, donkey rides, a photo booth where students will have the opportunity to dress up in Sudanese national dress and have their picture taken and as well as several other activities. Students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 will have scheduled opportunities to participate in these activities. There will also be a souk, which will be accessible for the parents on these days. Please, feel free to stop by and shop. Also, please send some money with your children so that they are able to shop with their classes.

On Saturday, February 8, there will be regular classes until noon.

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Teachers also need special professional development for various programs. Professional development in areas such as learning support, second language learning, teaching Advance Placement (AP) courses, and counseling is essential for helping teachers use best practices in education.

To be **At A Loose End** describes a time when we would normally be sitting around with nothing to do. We go back to the old tall ships to define this phrase. Any ship using sails would have thousands of ropes making up the rigging. Each of these lengths would need to be bound tight at both ends to prevent them from unraveling, which would be disastrous during a storm. When the ship's captain found seamen sitting around with nothing to do, he would usually assign them mundane labor such as checking the rigging for loose ends, and re-binding them. Therefore, idle men would find usually themselves 'at a loose end'.