

KAS CELEBRATES

Superintendent's Message

Dear Parents,

As we enter the month of December I would like to highlight the many events upcoming before KAS closes for Winter Break:

December 1-5 – Spirit Week (organized by Student Council) December 4 – Elementary School Track and Field Event December 5 – Middle and High School Track and Field Event December 11 – Board Meeting December 19 – Elementary School Holiday Assembly and 4 Cs Awards

On this day of thanksgiving I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the KAS community who go above and beyond to make these events a reality. Parents' commitment to the school community is incredibly important when we plan and carry out such events – it is you who transport your children, provide snacks or provide moral support. We appreciate everything you do.

To those celebrating today – Happy Thanksgiving!

Kind regards,

KAS Superintendent

Dear Parents and Friends,

Today Americans all around the world celebrate a very special day – Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is celebrated each year on the fourth Thursday of November in the United States. Thanksgiving Day is traditionally a day for families and friends to get together for a special meal. The meal often includes a turkey, stuffing, potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, pumpkin pie, and vegetables. Thanksgiving Day parades are held in some cities and towns on or around Thanksgiving Day. This is one of the busiest periods for travel in the USA. Some people have a four-day weekend, so it is a popular time to take trips to visit family and friends.

Many people trace the origins of the modern Thanksgiving Day to the harvest celebration that the Pilgrims held in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621. However, the first true thanksgiving was in 1623, when participants gave thanks for rain that ended a drought. These early Thanksgivings took the form of a special church service rather than a feast. In the second half of the 1600s, thanksgiving after the harvest became more common and started to become an annual event. George Washington, the first president of the United States, proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day in 1789.

Thanksgiving Day is a time for many people to give thanks for what they have. Here, at Khartoum American School, we have many things to be thankful for. We have a wonderful school with outstanding teachers and excellent facilities. We teach our students to be thankful and we emphasize the importance of gratitude. We, as teachers, are thankful for being educators and we are thankful for the opportunity to be working with your children and for making a difference in their lives.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend, being thankful and spending time with family and looking hopefully to the future.

Middle & High School Principal



ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Facebook post by Byron Román in 2018 challenged the world. He took a photo of a public area covered in trash, and then took another photo after he had finished cleaning it up. Then he issued a challenge to bored teenagers everywhere to do what he had done in their own countries, calling it the '#Trashtag Challenge'. For Week Without Walls we took him up on that challenge. We chose two sites to clean. One was located aside the school, and the other one was at a garden in a nearby neighborhood.

The first day we scouted where we were going to go to get a sense of where all the sites were. We also watched videos about how trash harms the environment, and how it also affects animals. The second day we cleaned the first site, the site beside the school. We cleaned the whole place step-by-step. People even stopped by and said we are doing really good for the neighborhood. There were so many obstacles in our way, such as the heat from the sun, but we stuck together to finish cleaning all of it. In the end we cleaned about 11 bags of trash, which is a lot!

The third day we went to a neighborhood garden that took thirty minutes to walk to. The trash in the garden was mostly bottle caps, but there was also plastic bags, straws, old clothes, cardboard boxes, etc. It took us about two and a half hours to gather up all the trash, which amounted to about three bags' worth. During the cleanup we took before and after pictures that we could put on social media. The whole thing was a unique experience for us because we all stepped into the shoes of the people who cleanup Khartoum's trash.

By the KAS Trash Pickers

"I learned to never give up on saving the environment. Plus, I liked that my friends helped me, and I helped them too. The hard part was that we had to work a long time without resting." – Murad Ali, grade 5

"I learned that cleaning up the environment helps the world. The thing I did not like was that it was so hot that we drank all of our water. The best thing was that our cleanup will help marine animals." – Stefan Gindi, grade 5