

Steve Alexander
KAS Superintendent

Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

As you already know, early release days are used for teachers to collaborate and plan together. Teacher collaboration is one of the most important factors in students' success as it ensures all teachers are working together on a common path for teaching, learning and overall school improvement.

This Thursday, March 7th, we will be working on updating and reviewing our five year strategic plan. Teachers will be working in groups in the following categories:

- Safety
- Languages
- Admissions
- Marketing
- Facilities
- Service Learning
- Information Technology
- Student Life
- Campus Beautification
- Cafeteria

Teachers are requested to look at the ideas that were already put forth for each category as well as to brainstorm new ideas and to prioritize these ideas.

We are very excited to discuss these ideas in the above categories and we are sure that this will have a very positive impact on school improvement.

Have a great weekend!

Susan Boutros

Middle & High School Principal

The First Eight Minutes of the Day

At KAS, the homeroom period occupies an unenviably slim timeslot, 8:00 to 8:08AM. These eight minutes are too brief to engage in fundamental learning, yet too long to sit through idly once attendance is taken.

Many might lament the homeroom period as wasted time, eight minutes for latecomers to sleepily drift in while others noisily chat about a mundane plot twist in their favourite TV show, or how they devastated their opponents last night in an online competitive video game. If that is all homeroom is good for then it might as well be retitled, "morning break" and not be accumulated into the minutes of the school day.

But what is an educator to do with eight minutes?!

In grade 12 homeroom, those eight minutes are used to keep students up to date on knowledge that does not categorize into any of their class subjects. For example, they are used to keep students abreast of world events such as the ongoing Canadian scandal in which the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, attempted to absolve Montreal engineering firm SNC/Lavalin from bribing Muammar Gaddafi's Libyan government. It was also in homeroom that we learned that Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko is speaking favourably of merging his country with Russia. It was in homeroom that we saw video footage from the daily protests in Venezuela, when tens of thousands of citizens stormed the streets of Caracas.

We also use homeroom time to learn of advancements in science, technology and economics, such as the creation of lab-grown, edible meat; how the quantity theory of money explains pecuniary inflation; Albert Ellis' rational-emotive theory, which links psychological disorders to philosophical underpinnings; and the effects of increasing testosterone levels in other mammals (hint: they get real mean).

Today in homeroom we explored why an educational YouTube channel with 8.1 million subscribers recently deleted their two most popular videos when they came to disagree with a video which purported. This subject is particularly important for understanding how information is constructed, why it is important to critically analyze published work, and how this event relates to one's responsibility to act with intellectual integrity. Is it strange to look forward to homeroom? Often, I do. Even though eight minutes barely scratches the surface, sometimes a brief overview is enough to pique one's interest in the topic and get one thinking about the further implications and connections. After all, the goal is not to cram in an encyclopedia's worth of facts, but to wake up a dozen sleepy teenagers.

Jon Marck


HS Mathematics Teacher

Saying of the Week

Across The Board means all encompassing, wide-ranging and including everyone or everything. At 19th-century race meetings large boards would be used to display the odds on a horse to come first, second or third. This was known as an 'across the board bet.' Obviously the bookmakers' odds would be calculated and only when a horse finished in the position a bookmaker least expected it to would a punter win more than the sum of his three stakes.

Minette van der Bijl

High School English Department



The summer weather is arriving and it is going to be hot! There is no better way to beat the heat than by going swimming to cool off. Here at Khartoum American School we are getting ready to start our swimming unit in physical education class. The students will be learning basic swim safety and the use of different swim strokes and skills.

Although playing in the water can be fun and satisfying, without respecting the water it can be very dangerous. According to the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease and Control Prevention over 360 000 people die a year from drowning and is the 3rd leading cause for unintentional injury-related deaths. In many countries people are not taught the basics of swimming, which could help prevent drowning. There are many other ways to decrease the number of drowning victims, while still having