



**Steve Alexander**  
KAS Superintendent



Dear KAS Family,

Welcome back to school again, now that we are restarting our engines after the holiday break. It was a little bit difficult timing for a week -long break from school but now that we are back we can get the ball rolling for real.

Since the first few weeks of school before the break had many students being absent, our teachers at the elementary level will be looking forward to starting off this week with all of the students present. This means of course having to back track a bit with classroom organization procedures and expectations. But it must all be done in sequence to ensure proper understanding is happening with each child, in each room. We are such a small school that

# The Churchill Factor

As a Brit whose father experienced action during World War Two, as a paratrooper and whose mother worked in a munitions factory making shells; it was natural that I was first inculcated with stories about the war and in turn became obsessed with it. I recall my mom telling my sister and I stories about Winston Churchill's inspiring speeches, which are now legend among us older people in the United Kingdom.

So upon our arrival in the U.K. this summer I got caught up in what could be described, as Churchill fever. Along with our friends Claire and Dave, Shams, Sabah and I visited Blenheim Palace; home to the Dukes of Marlborough and the Churchill family for many years, the only non-royal, non-episcopal country house in England to hold the title of palace. A wonderful Churchillian Museum inside the stately home was the highlight of our visit complete with recordings of his speeches and photographs showcasing his life. At the end of the day we drove back to Claire's house and watched the movie Dunkirk followed by Darkest Hour, captivating movies that really shows just how close Britain teetered on the precipice of defeat at the hands of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany and how Churchill's words inspired a nation not to yield to tyranny.

With my insatiable thirst for knowledge still not satisfied I got stuck in to Boris Johnson's *The Churchill Factor*, which tells the story of how Churchill's rather peculiar, and unique style of genius not only influenced the outcome of the war, but also shaped its aftermath. The late, great Robin Williams in his role as the teacher Mr. Keating in *Dead Poet's Society* said, "no matter what people tell you words and ideas can change the world!" According to Johnson, Churchill's style, mood, tone, and delivery did just that! What fascinates me most about Churchill is his writing style.

Johnson illustrates this beautifully with a linguistic analysis of Churchill's famous quote following the Battle of Britain: "never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." Breaking it down, Johnson draws our attention to the nobility and pomp of the first part of the speech, "never in the field of human conflict." Latinized, romantic, auspicious, and grand! However, the second part he says is pure Anglo Saxon in its simplicity; a short sharp play on words that the common people can understand and relate to.

**Michael Metcalf**  
Middle School Language Arts

## Saying of the Week

To Cut And Run describes pulling rapidly out of a difficult situation and escaping without disadvantage. The phrase was first recorded in 1704 and has a nautical meaning. Hauling a heavy anchor was a difficult task and took many men a considerable time to both free it and raise it back into the sling. Ships coming under attack from the shoreline could suffer considerable damage before the anchor could be dislodged and raised, so it became standard practice to chop the hemp anchor line with an axe and to allow the ship to 'run on the wind'. By 1861 the phrase to 'cut and run' was a standard naval expression.

**Minette van der Bijl**  
High School English Department