

# 11C NEWS

news from the trunk

Thursday, October 24, 2019

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## Superintendent's Message

Dear KAS Community,

I want to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the importance of the KAS Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Its role is to further the sense of community within the school by running events and supporting student projects.

Over the previous few years the PTA has funded a range of projects to add value to our students' experience here at school. These range from soccer uniforms for teams to the new playground for the pre-school classes, and many more besides.

The PTA also reach out to the wider community through initiatives such as supporting a local school for children with learning needs.

The PTA is currently coming up with their events for the year and are looking for new members to join this important organization. If you would like any more information, please do contact me or the teacher representatives Sara Abugarga ([saburgarga@krtams.org](mailto:saburgarga@krtams.org)) and Mahfooz Fakeeh ([mfakeeh@krtams.org](mailto:mfakeeh@krtams.org)).

KAS is certainly a better school due to the work of the PTA, please do consider being a part of it.

Best wishes,

**Bridget Davies**  
KAS Superintendent



## Message from the Early Childhood

At every school, and the world changes, learning how to interact with others is a skill that people they share interests and how to handle being around people they don't get along with. It is a life experience that takes people time to perfect. Here at Khartoum American School, we believe in providing students with tools and strategies to make their interactions with others in the best way. We also stand by our commitment to providing a safe and friendly environment for all people in the KAS community.

Over the month of September, our team has committed to creating a system of active supervision and correct supervision. Creating this system has been a process that has involved many steps. The first step was to recognize the behaviors that needed to be corrected and to examine ways to address those behaviors. As a team, we all agreed that we need to be taking a role in active supervision, to walk around and interact with the students during these break times and to enforce playground rules fairly and consistently.

As a team we all agreed on general playground rules that can be seen in the classroom and are reviewed before heading to recess and lunch. The team agreed on specific playground equipment and the playground was divided into four areas, and rules for each area were then needed. These rules were then presented to the students. The middle and elementary student council representatives presented these rules to the students in presentations at the beginning of the playground. The elementary student council also taught the students the consequences of not being able to follow the rules and the importance of following the rules. The next step for the team is to find a way to promote positive behaviors that are expected in the classrooms and on the playground. We have elaborated and

When the students receive their certificates they bring them to the principal to be recognized and placed into the "Gotcha" box. At the end of each month a student's name will be drawn from this box and that student will receive a gift certificate to the KAS Trunk store.

Creating this system is an on-going process with more steps to come. In the coming months, working with the elementary counselor, we will be developing a peer mediator program. This will allow older elementary students the chance to help younger students solve problems and build relationships. As an elementary team we are dedicated to creating an environment where all people feel welcomed and safe.

"Collaboration is everything from getting along with others to controlling your impulses so you can get along and not kick someone else off the swing. It's building a community and experiencing diversity and culture. Everything we do, in the classroom or at home, has to be built on that foundation." - Kathy Hirsh-Pasek

**Jeremy Albright**

Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

**Lina Mutasim**

Library Teaching Assistant

With weekly practices on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3pm to 4pm, it must be tiring to coach for 3 hours a week! All jokes aside, Coach J is a hardworking, dedicated and focused coach. He always comes to practice ready with a good attitude, whistle and a healthy snack (salad) in hand. Coach J always comes to practice no matter what his schedule states, including Tuesday Teacher Meetings. Coach J has a simple, yet honest philosophy on discipline: "If you don't swim, you don't get better". I believe that this philosophy is quite simple, yet it does work. Sometimes all it takes is a simple philosophy to get the team working together. All Coach J wants is for his swimmers to get better, both in the pool and personally. There are many reasons why I enjoy going to swim practice. One reason is to be able to practice together with my friends but also to be coached by Coach J.

What makes swim practice most enjoyable is Coach J's humor. His most famous saying is "last one to change will do butterfly next class". I feel that with this sense of humor, it makes the swimmers more willing to stay after school to swim. Even after very hard and tiring practices, Coach J knows a way to make you smile so you don't feel too bad while going home. Many people may think Coach J is too funny and cannot get the children under control. I feel like it is the total opposite. I personally think that Coach J knows each child personally and it helps when he needs to deal with them. By knowing each child's personality, he can have a proper conversation with each child in his or her own way. This helps us because it shows that there is someone who truly cares about us. Coach J also knows his limits. He might be hilarious, but he knows when a swimmer has crossed the limit either in behavior or in swimming itself. He will start with a small joke and warning, and after several warnings a swimmer will get punishments according to their actions. I find this beneficial as each child is different and if Coach J handles each child the exact same way, nothing would work properly. All around, Coach J is a great swim coach with qualities and traits that would fit for any coaching position. The reason why he joined the swim team is for Dubai – which might not be the most fitting response but, at least he has a target and goal in mind.

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Which sort of animal has feathers?

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What is the boiling temperature for water?

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What gas do plants breathe in when they produce photosynthesis?

**Write your answer, your name and your grade on a paper and put it on the Quizmasters Box in the front office by Monday. The winner will be selected and announced on Thursday's morning assembly.**

**Good luck!**