

# Rawdat El-Zuhur School Newsletter

From January to June 30, 2015.

As the summer holidays have come to an end and a new academic year 2015- 2016 has just started, we want to wish all the students and staff a fruitful and enjoyable year. At the same time we would like to share with you news of the last term before the summer holidays, which included a variety of scientific and recreational activities and events aimed at working to promote effective learning and volunteer work.

## Science Day

On February 16, the students participated in the Science Day by hosting Al Bayrouni Center for Astronomical Sciences which included scientific experiments as well as some fun with the magic of chemistry, centrifugal force and the telescope.



## Reading Contest

As reading is incorporated in the school program, eighty four students from grades 3-6 were encouraged to participate in the reading contest for the Jerusalem schools sponsored by Faisal Al Hussein Foundation. Each child read two stories in Arabic and two stories in English, and had to answer a list of questions pertaining to those books. Three of the school children won first prize and four won second prize when the results were announced in April in the presence of Mr. Abdul Kader Hussein, chairman of the sponsoring foundation. He honored the winning students, and urged them to go on reading.



## New Admissions

February 22, was registration day for new admissions for the new academic year 2015-2016. Twenty nine new children (20 girls and 9 boys) were admitted.

## Your health in your diet

This was the theme of the health week activity which took place between 9-14 of March. The purpose of this activity was to educate students and parents to the importance of eating healthy food, and stay away from junk food and replace it with vegetables and fruits, and food containing vitamins and proteins.

The highlights of the week were:

A healthy breakfast for all grades. (The traditional sesame rolls with labaneh, milk, Humos, falafel, tomato, cucumber, and sweet pepper).

A luncheon of *Mujaddara* (lentils and rice) with salad and Yogurt.

Fruit salad and **Manakish** (baked bread with thyme and cheese.)



- Orange juice.
- Under the supervision of the teachers the students had a sale for healthy food products, the proceeds of which were allocated to the community service project. Hosting nutrition specialists from Birzeit University, who through various activities emphasized the importance of eating healthy meals and staying away from sugar, sweets and junk food.
- The week came to an end in a joyful atmosphere, as Za'tar & Simsim team was invited to entertain the students, but at the same time targeting good and healthy eating habits as well as hygiene.



## Mother's Day



With an original invitation, the children sent out a call from the heart, from their second home and second love as flowers in the Garden of flowers (Rawdat El-Zuhur) to their mothers to join them on Mother's Day (celebrated in the Arab World on March 21) The children celebrated the event with



their mothers in a happy and joyful atmosphere through a variety of items including singing and dancing and words of praise in verse and prose.

## Workshop for parents:

On another aspect of cooperation between home and school, the school administration organized a workshop for parents on "The importance of contact and communication between parents and their children," sponsored by Feisal Hussein Foundation.

Mr. Jawad Dweik led the workshop which turned out to be very successful in terms of attendance and content. It was an opportunity to learn from parents the problems they face with their children and how to find a solution through dialogue and discussion.



## Music Grants



The school wishes to express its deep gratitude and thanks to the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music and for the generous contribution of Bassem and Mona Hishmeh for covering the expenses of training the school choir and providing five scholarships for students of Rawdat El-Zuhur to study music at the conservatory. This program will emphasize the

importance of cooperation between the school and the conservatory so as to provide opportunities to a larger sector of the community to learn how to play a musical instrument. Mr. Abdel-Salam from the conservatory will visit the school to select the children who will be eligible for this program. In the meantime Maya El-Khaldi started training the choir who was able to perform during the school graduation in June.

## Humanitarian Voluntary Work

As part of the school policy to encourage voluntary work and be committed to the community, the students were able to raise money that was donated towards an electric wheel chair for a young student with special needs from the Nablus area.

### School Friends Visit



A delegation from the Heart of the Rockies Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – Fort Collins, Colorado led by Mr. Jeff Wright visited the school. It was an enjoyable visit, and especially that three members of the delegation were music teachers and had good sessions with the children and the teachers on music therapy and expression through music. It was a pleasant and fruitful experience



### School trips



The school's plan includes recreational trips for students, whereby the kindergarten students had a recreational trip to Suba. And the primary grades to Al-Yarkon River, which is considered to be the main source of water for the Jerusalem governorate.



### Years of tender

On 05/21/2015 the Arabic language teacher Sawsan Baghdadi was honored by both the students and the school administration as she decided to retire at the end of the school year. Of course the joyful atmosphere was marred by sadness for parting with a long time dedicated teacher who had spent twenty nine years at the school. We wish her good health, happiness and an enjoyable retirement.



### "Students creativity"



This was the title of the activities of the English language project for class 6, under the supervision of the English teacher Maha Barakat. The project dealt with different events like identifying the city of Jerusalem and its heritage and the development of transportation, health, food technology and its importance, and turned out to be a wonderful and fruitful effort.

### "Bundoq" the Clown

Bundoq, the clown celebrated with the children the last day of the school year on May 30, 2015. He entertained them with enjoyable and fun activities including dancing, singing and face painting, and some treats.



## Sixth grade graduation

After spending 8 years full of beautiful memories at the school, a new batch of sixth graders (11 boys and seven girls) graduated on June 8, in the presence of their families and friends. The



celebration took place in a joyful and happy atmosphere, and the program included short speeches by the administration, parents and students as well as some poetry. As usual music and folk dancing (Dabkeh) were part of the program, and the newly established school choir was absolutely lovely.



## The Rights of the Child program

With the end of the school year, and on June 13, 2105 the training program for the teachers on the Rights of the Child, which was conducted by Mr. Jawad Dweik as of the beginning of the school year, came to an end.

## Expression of Gratitude

The family of Rawdat El- Zuhur extends its sincere thanks and gratitude to all the friends who have supported the work of the school and continue to do so, in order to ensure the continuity of this beautiful Garden of Flowers.

## Visitors

We would like to thank the following friends who stopped by to visit the school during the second term of the school year from January till June, 2015:

- Stephen Tunstall – Embrace the Middle East
- Prof. Mary Grey – Living Stones
- Mr. Jeff & Mrs. Janet Wright & group from UCC
- Dr. Peter Makari & group from United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Rev. Elizabeth Knott
- Rev. Jean Hughes and Ms. Joy Bull – UK
- Ms. Liza Burr
- Joyce Molteni
- Theresa De Cosos
- John & Evonne Leon
- Bishop J. Sartin
- Deacon Martin Clement
- Tim & Liz Desmond
- Margaret Geitzen
- Catherine
- Frank & Flo
- Susan Sundstron