



Rawdat El-Zuhur

Newsletter December 2022

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of the year, and we get busy in the hustle and bustle of the Holy season, let us for a moment stop and think and remind ourselves of how fortunate some of us are, despite all what is going on around the world, and especially in our part of the world, supposedly the Holy Land. Do remember to treat yourself to an act of kindness and think of the many children on whose face you can add a smile by such an act.

As we share with you our news for the first semester of the new school year, we want to seize this opportunity to thank you for your support and to wish you and your families warm greetings for a blessed Christmas, and peace throughout the New Year.

Abla Nasir

President

Raeda Jasser

School Principal

The School News:

Every new beginning gives us an incentive for change and innovative methods in teaching and in communication with all stakeholders of the school. So, before the beginning of the school year, a meeting was held with the parents to introduce them to the school by-laws and to meet all the teachers.

On August 29, 2022, the school year officially started with a joyful atmosphere, as the “Khanafis Ensemble,” provided entertainment with a meaningful educational purpose.

New Appointments of teachers:

- ✚ Rana Mousa, Science teacher
- ✚ Nuha Baransi: Hebrew language teacher
- ✚ Luciana Hosh English language teacher
- ✚ Aseel Najeeb Kindergarten teacher
- ✚ Shahd Elayyan Kindergarten teacher
- ✚ Shahd Tamimi Music teacher

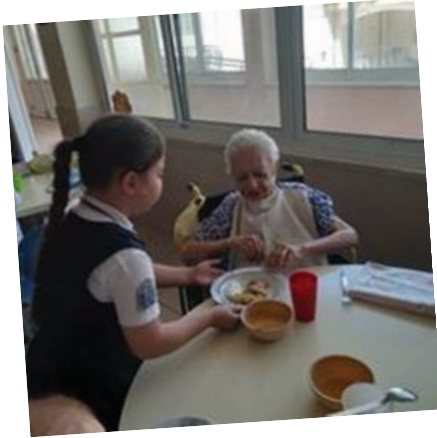


1-Continuing the Teachers Without Borders project with the Finish Church Aid and the Palestinian Counselling Center, with the participation of trainers from Finland to complete the trainings with the teachers and the principal inside the school.

2- From 2-6/11 and on 19/12: Workshops for mothers with the Palestinian Center for Counseling, dealing with several topics, including hyperactivity and dispersion, adolescence, and communication over 6 meetings.

The School Activities:

- 1) 9/29/2022 a weekend without school bags to break the routine for students and parents so as to enjoy the weekend (students keep their bags at school).



concluded with the Dabkeh, the Palestinian folk dancing which brought joy to their hearts.

2) 1/10/2022 **International Day for the Elderly**. To enhance the value of humanitarian work and under the slogan (Giving and Hope), a group of students and teachers went to visit the elderly home (Our Lady of Aches) in Abu Dis. The students offered them some symbolic gifts including a hot meal as well as cards of their own drawings expressing their love for the elderly. Finally, the visit was



3) 2/10/2022 **International Child's Day**. Under the slogan "Our rights are one and our dream is one," a group of students went with their class teachers to the Center for Specialized Child Care at the Augusta Victoria Hospital. With the participation of a clown, they entertained the sick children with activities and offered them some gifts and toys that brought joy and happiness to the hearts of those children.



4) As part of the school's policy to strengthen the relationship between home and school, every Saturday, one mother is invited to join a class and to carry out a meaningful educational and entertaining activity with the children targeting various important topics such as: dental hygiene, healthy eating, the olive picking season, and olive pressing, the five senses, and many other topics.



5) 7/10/2022 ***Palestinian Heritage Day.***

The students and the teachers celebrated the Heritage Day in a fun atmosphere by decorating a special booth demonstrating various heritage items such as Palestinian embroidery and a variety of tools in addition to folk music and the Dabkeh folk dancing.



6) 29/10/2022 Kindergarten children as well the first and second graders went to the Zoo on a **school trip**, and the third to sixth graders went to the Ein Hamad Nature Reserve to spend time in nature. Their trip included the following activities:

- 1- Eating a Palestinian traditional breakfast
- 2- Hiking a path in the reserve to reach the castle
- 3- Pressing olives
- 4- Oil extraction
- 5- Making bread on the fire, and the students ate “manakish” (special bread with thyme and olive oil).
- 6- Making herbs with oil
- 7- Learning how to make soap



7) 31/10/2022 Under the slogan "You are the hope", the ***pink month of October***

dedicated to supporting breast cancer patients, and in cooperation with the Mothers' Council the school raised awareness about breast cancer and invited mothers to a lecture given by Dr. Rima Qutteineh from the Palestinian Ministry of Health. A nurse and a nutritionist accompanied the speaker too. In addition, the school hosted a survivor of cancer who talked about her experience with the disease and how she was able to overcome the pain and illness.



8) 10/10/2022 **Children's Theater Week:** The students attended a play: The City of Happiness at Al-Hakawati Theater Jerusalem, which expressed preserving the environment and cleanliness.

Also, they watched a musical performance that included Palestinian folk songs as well as folk songs from Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Tunisia, and other Arab countries.



9) On 13-12-2022, third and fourth grade students were invited by the YMCA to participate in a variety of activities for the **Christmas season**. Students and their teachers were welcomed by those in charge of the activities, and they enjoyed drawing on bottles as well as planting in small containers. They were joined later on by the first and second graders to attend a play which was meaningful, highly motivating and performed



in a creative and interesting style. It revolved around electronic games and their effects on students. During the play, Santa Claus appeared to give advice about the

positive and negative impact of electronic games followed by Santa Claus's visit. He danced with the students and gave each one a bag of sweets, Christmas chocolates, and balloons.



10) ***Palestinian Teacher Day*** 14/12/2022: the school celebrated this day, and all the teachers and staff of Rawdat El-Zuhur were invited to lunch held at the Christmas Hotel.



After school (extracurricular) activities:

- 1- The ***Robotics program*** aims at enabling to design and build a robotic system and robots programming. This activity is held on weekly basis for one hour per session.



- 2- The ***UCMAS program (Universal Concepts of Mental Arithmetic System)*** is a two-hour meeting every Saturday. The program aims at mastering arithmetic with high accuracy and speed with less effort and better results. It helps remove fear of numbers and arithmetic, and helps practice mathematical operations in an applied manner, not through memorization and indoctrination, in addition to developing visual memory and enhancing self-confidence.



School Visitors

Ever since the Covid, very few visitors have shown up at the school. However, it is always a pleasure to welcome old and new friends who are given a warm welcome by the staff and children who enjoy performing for them.

- Usama and Abir **Touqan** with their daughters Salma and Suha Tuqan with her children Nadhmi, Laith, Taymour and Layla Auchi, August 15, 2022
- Jean Hughes was finally able to come again on October 22, 2022



- Another friend, Jeff Wright, accompanied **Westmoreland** group -from the USA on November 14, 2022