

# Spring 2016 Newsletter

We would like to share with you some of the activities that took place after the winter break.

## *The yearly special project*

At the initiative of the school children, a Bring and Buy sale was held at the school between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of February. The children provided a variety of items for sale, the proceeds of which will be used for their yearly project to help a handicapped student.

## *Field Trip*

On March 7, all classes 1-6 went on a one day trip to the Dead Sea area in Jericho and experienced a hike in Ein-Jedi, and the area of



Wadi Darajeh from where they got a view of the Dead Sea. They also visited the Baptismal site on the West Bank of the Jordan River, and the Palestinian West Bank



Salt Company.



On the same day the kindergarten section spent their morning at the Zoo.



### *A Delegation of American Teachers:*

On March 10, a delegation of American teachers visited the school and were briefed by Mrs. Salwa Zananiri, the former school principal, on the general situation of the schools in the Jerusalem area. They were very impressed with the cheerful faces of the children and what goes on within the walls of Rawdat El-Zuhur which some of them thought was a haven for children amidst all what is going on in the region. The



Tree of Ethical values attracted their attention in a very special way, and they also enjoyed being entertained by the children's singing and folk dancing (The Dabkeh)

## *Hope in Sight*

On March 16, a number of volunteer students from the Genetic & Metabolic Diseases Centre of the Medical School of Al-Quds University, accompanied by Dr. Samir El-khatib, performed a medical eye examination for the children in grades one and two, in cooperation with the American organization Hope in Sight.



## *Singing Competition*

On March 18, Duna Ayyad (10) won second prize for the younger age group in the singing competition organized by the Frere School (De La Salle) for the sixth consecutive year under the logo "Sing for Jerusalem." Most of the songs entered in the competition were for the renowned singer Fairouz, including the song that Duna sang.



## *Mother's Day*



March 21<sup>st</sup> is Mother's Day in the Arab World: A delegation from the fifth and sixth grades visited mothers at the new maternity ward at

St. Joseph Hospital in Jerusalem and presented them with symbolic gifts. They had set up a sale in the school to help raise funds for the occasion.



### *Land Day*

The school children celebrated Land Day which falls on March 30, by planting flowers to brighten up the school wall and courtyard.



### *People with Disabilities*

On April 5, Rawdat El-Zuhur was one of seven schools that benefited from a workshop led by Princess Basmah Centre in cooperation with the European Union, for a special project: "People with Disabilities in East Jerusalem Enjoy Improved living Conditions," which will be launched at the beginning of the school year 2016/2017



## *The Day of the Child*

April 5, is the Day of the Child in Palestine. So the children were

encouraged to bring their favorite toys and enjoy sharing them with their friends at the school.



## *Reading Week*

Under the logo "A country is built by a generation that reads," the Reading week at the school ran from April 9-16 with a variety of activities that included the emphasis of the principal on the importance of reading in her daily morning meetings with the students, and the library was open for longer hours. Special Sessions were



allocated for older students to read to the younger ones, and parents were encouraged to take part by reading to some of the classes. Also some of the older children took part in reading to students in the neighboring schools, and in some cases through drama and pantomime. Cultural competitions took place as well. During the last two days there was a book exhibition which was officially opened by the renowned Palestinian



novelist Mahmoud Shukeir who writes children's books. Also attending the opening was a representative of



Tamer Institute for Community Education, a non profit organization based in Ramallah, that promotes reading among children and young people.

The children enjoyed listening to Shukeir reading for them, and the occasion gave an opportunity to other school children to interact with the



novelist. The function was open to the community and to other schools, and its proceeds will be used to enrich the school library with new books. Recognized on that occasion, were the best six readers, representing grades 1-6, and the best three writers representing grades 4-6.



## *The Development of the Jerusalem Schools*

To mark the completion of a special project for the Development of the Jerusalem schools, a special celebration was held at the National Theatre in Jerusalem on April 11, 2016. Rawdat El-Zuhur was one of 27 schools which had benefited from the project that ran from September 2011 until April 2016. The project was organized by The Faisal Hussein Foundation, supervised by the Welfare Association, and financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development - Kuwait. Representatives from the organizations, and schools as well as the Palestinian Governor and the director of the Palestinian Education Department were present and each school received a special plaque on that occasion.

