Salwa Zananiri's Retirement

After forty two years of dedicated service, Salwa Zananiri retired as of the beginning of the new school year. Come rain or sunshine Salwa was at the school every morning to make sure that the children are well taken care of, and are safe in their little haven which is truly a “Garden of Flowers” (the literal translation of Rawdat El-Zuhur.) The school was the legacy that Salwa carried on with faithfulness, love, wisdom and compassion.

On the 8th of September, the board, staff and friends celebrated with Salwa her long years of service. It was a lovely gathering that triggered so many memories as photos of Salwa during school activities were shown on the screen. They were a witness to Salwa’s finger prints on Rawdat El-Zuhur.

A bound book with a variety of photos was presented to Salwa with a beautiful forward as a tribute to her long years of service ever since she started work and training under the guidance of the founder of Rawdat El-Zuhur, the late Elizabeth Nasir. The patience and support of her husband, Dr. Samir Zananiri was highlighted. It also included a rhyme that Samia Khoury, who had worked with Salwa for seventeen years, had written. It has become a tradition that Samia would write a “rhyme for every time.” As she read it during the celebration it brought lots of laughs and tears as everybody cherished so many beautiful moments, encounters and experiences with Salwa that came up in the rhyme. Representatives of staff and parents also spoke very warmly and sincerely about Salwa. Salwa was overwhelmed and responded that although she retired from Rawdat El-Zuhur, she will never retire from her second family.

Welcoming The New Principal

Salwa’s retirement party was also a nice occasion for everybody to meet the new school principal Raeda Jasser. Raeda has a BA in business administration and an MA in education from Birzeit University. And she brings with her an experience of 3 years in school administration at the Rosary Sisters, one of the largest schools in Jerusalem. Raeda is efficient with leadership traits and is ready to look after the welfare of the children and maintain a strong relationship with board, staff and workers.
Wedding Bells
The school bid farewell to Lina El-Haj Yaseen, the teacher for the lower classes who got married in August and moved to England. Lina will be greatly missed with her lovely spirit and beautiful smile, and we want to wish her all the best.

Graduating Class of 2011-2012
It is always sad to see another graduating class leave. Yet it is a joy to celebrate with those young boys and girls and their parents the success of their first phase of education. Twenty four of them will be moving on to new schools, but we look forward to their visits during the activities of the alumni club.

Renovation of Multi Purpose Hall
The renovation of the Multi-Purpose Hall was made possible by the generous gift of PalCraftaid and ANERA.
Thanks to the wisdom and generosity of Rev Elizabeth Knott and Rev Connie De Pond who turned the reception of their retirement party from the active leadership of PalCraftaid as a fundraiser activity to provide for the renovation of the hall. As the saying goes “one cannot clap with one hand” so thanks to ANERA for stretching their hand to make it possible to finalize the work. The hall is very much needed for the various school activities such as music, drama, dancing, etc. We would like to take this opportunity to thank both Palcraftaid and ANERA for their continuous support and belief in the mission of Rawdat El Zuhur.

Dad and Granddad shares a story with me
Through the encouragement of Tamer Institute, the school hosted a day for the fathers and grandfathers to enjoy telling a story and doing activities with the children. The number of fathers went beyond expectation and it was a lovely day. Some stories took us to a time when simplicity in life was so much cherished.

Local Fundraising
Like so many other organizations, the school is facing financial difficulties and that is why the board has been very concerned and is working on a fundraising strategy. As a starter it will hold a fundraising dinner on the 8th of November at the Terra Sancta Centre.
Hall in Beit Hanina. Wish you could be with us, but do hold us in your prayers and wish us a successful evening.

**Character Tree**
Rawdat el Zuhur feels so proud of its character tree which bears branches of various values that children choose and want to live by and remind others of them. The beginning of this year, Mayar stood out with her Honesty. The school was hosting a bake sale and she took something for less than its value. She heard the other children saying that they paid a different sum. So, she came to the administration office and said that she paid less.

**Activities through pictures**

![Visitors]

**Visitors:**
As we start a new year we want to specifically thank the Congregational UCC St Charles Illinois church group who visited the school in September with loads of gifts for the school. We really appreciated that lovely gesture and want to thank each and every one of them for carrying all those items from overseas.

We also would like thank the following friends who stopped by to visit the school
Teresa Butel
Maria Janasz
Emily Cherney
Rebecca Roper  
Carolyn Hockey  
Beth Coetzee  
Andes Coetzee  
Donald Gordon  
Nahida Gordon  
John Roper  

**Donors:**

We take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to the following friends who made a donation during the period of 1\textsuperscript{st} of May – 16\textsuperscript{th} of Oct 2012

Ms Nahida Halaby  
Ms Samia Halaby  
Mr Hani Halaby  
Mrs Samia Khoury  
Global Ministries UCC  
Mrs Bonnie Miller  
Pal Craftaid  
Mrs Elizabeth Burr  
Presbyterian Womens League  
BibleLands  
Mrs Celia Root  
Mr Mousab Abu Khalaf  
Mrs Basima Bakri  
Mr Mamdouh Bakri  
Congregational UCC St Charles Illionois Church  
Mr J and Mrs L H Scott