

Rawdat El-Zuhur Newsletter

June 2019

Another year is over, ending months of challenges and many achievements. Graduates of the sixth grade ended their years at Rawdat El-Zuhur and are ready for a new beginning of higher level of schooling. Equipped with skills and knowledge to meet the new demands of high school, they carry with them a unique experience filled with memories of their time at Rawdat El-Zuhur. We have no doubt that the basis they had at the school will pave their way for further growth and personality building.

For all the staff, this is a time of reflection and satisfaction for fulfilling their mission with success.

We have been blessed with the care and great support of our friends and partners; without them our task would not have been fulfilled. We seize this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to all of them. We give special thanks to Palcraft Aid, who just ended 25 years of diligent and sincere work to support Palestinians through their partner organizations. They continue to have a special place in our hearts as friends, and we will always remember them with great admiration and love.

In ending, it is our pleasure to share with you news and activities of the second semester, and to wish everybody an enjoyable and safe summer vacation.

Raeda Jasser
School Principal

Abla Nasir
President

Grade Reports

Grade reports were distributed to students at the end of the first semester. The school honored those students with outstanding progress, especially those with learning difficulties, who showed a remarkable response to our constant follow up and guidance.

Interactive Learning

The main focus for the academic year was interactive Learning. Teachers throughout the various grades used strategies and created the proper atmosphere for this process of learning. They did their best to equip the students with the necessary tools to engage in a more hand-on process of learning.

The English Language Projects

With emphasis on communication, the English language projects were completed by the beginning of January 2019.

Sixth graders worked on PowerPoint presentations of their projects. A variety of issues were addressed in their presentations such as healthy food, alternative energy, safety measures, animals and pets, good and bad habits. Their presentations were remarkable and the whole project was especially helpful to those students who were shy and lacked the confidence to stand in front of their class and make a presentation. It certainly was encouraging to them and enhanced their self confidence.



Workshops for Teachers

The teachers resumed their training workshops about Critical Thinking with Dr. Rabab Qteish. The training helps them to engage students in a critical

thinking process and to provide the students with the skills and techniques for thinking “outside the box” and to engage in a problem solving process.

Healthy Food for Kindergarten

A variety of activities were organized to instill the concept of healthy food. Fresh fruits salad and fresh juices were served for breakfast as well as milk.



Physical Education

Healthy food habits were associated with physical exercises in maintaining a healthy strong body.

Admissions for the new year 2019/2020

Applications were received during the first week of February, and 38 new children were selected to join the kindergarten section. Because of limited space, the school goes through a process of screening and aptitude tests before the final admission is determined.

The Rubik's Cube Competition

On February 10, 2019 a Rubik's cube competition was organized for the 4th and 5th graders to encourage them to focus on concentration skills during their leisure time. Layan Dweik won the first prize and Layan Zablah won the second prize.



Robots Competition

On February 2, 2019. Under the supervision of the school science teacher Ms. Mervat Elayyan, two groups from the fifth grade participated in a Robots competition organized by the Faisal Hussein Foundation for the elementary classes of twelve schools in East Jerusalem.

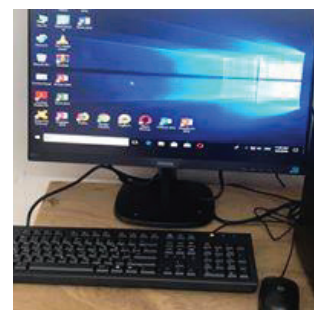
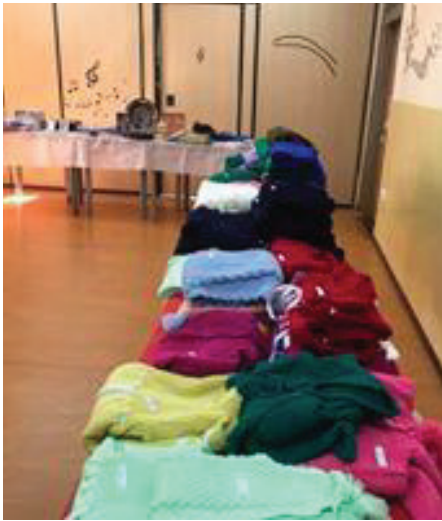
The first group named Future Designers chose Plastic Recycling for their project. While some plastic cannot be recycled they focused on its being reused in different designs for various decorative purposes or for flower arrangements.

The second group named Charity for the environment chose paper recycling for their project so as to encourage the use of recycled sheets of paper and help reduce the cutting of trees.

A Charity Bazaar

Under the slogan “We are all partners”, families of Rawdat El-Zuhur organized a charity bazaar at the school for two days at the end of February whereby the proceeds went to Al-Salam (peace) Centre for the Blind in Shu’fat which serves girls from various areas of Palestine. The items on sale were from institutions serving people with special

needs. The Peace Centre provided hand-made woolen items, and educational toys for children were provided by Al-Nahdah Women’s Society in Ramallah. With the proceeds of the bazaar and contributions from the parents of Rawdat El-Zuhur students, it was possible to provide the peace centre with a computer and a projector and to provide meals for needy families during the month of Ramadan.



The Reading Competition



On March 3, 2019 the results of the reading competition “Lines are Bridges” organized by the Faisal Hussein Foundation for the fifteen schools of East Jerusalem were announced, and all the winners of the school were honored in front of all the school children and staff. The winners were:

Third grade: 1st prize Qais Washaha (Qais is one of the students having learning difficulties). 2nd prize Fayez Abu Libdeh

Fourth grade: 1st prize Hana’ Misk. 2nd prize: Jamal Jaabari

Fifth grade: Layan Dweik, Mohammad Abu Taáh, Layana Zablah

Sixth grade: Sadeen Oweis, Shahd abu Khaled, Jihad Shaloudi

Furthermore, on the 20th of May, the students who won the reading competition were awarded certificates by Ms. Fadwa Hussein, the executive director of the Faisal Hussein Foundation. She also presented a special plaque from the foundation to each of the school principal and the librarian.



The Reading Campaign

Under the title “The Jar that has become a Galaxy” a reading campaign was launched during the first week of April, in cooperation with Tamer Institute for Community Education. Al-Qafila Theater group performed some sketches that would encourage reading habits, and to everybody’s surprise the girl



who made the presentation Mona AlBasha turned out to be a former student at Rawdat El-Zuhur. Other activities during the week included story telling by Shireen Jaber, a

local female writer. Also, the fifth and sixth graders visited Dar El-Tifl El-Arabi school whereby they read stories for the young children of the first and second grades and joined them in coloring activities and in a jigsaw puzzle.

In another function, Tamer Institute and Al-Hosh Art Gallery, opened an exhibition of “Stories from the Palestinian Plastic Art” in Jerusalem in which the fifth and sixth graders participated, and made some models from colored paper and clay sculptures.



School Day without Bags

Once again, this year there was a special day for breaking the routine of carrying books back home. The children as well as their parents were taking a break from school bags loaded with books. The day coincided with the beginning of Spring and Mother’s Day celebrated in the Arab world on March 21.

Mother’s day

The day was celebrated with the mothers of the kindergarten and their teachers. With meaningful songs and poems written especially for mothers, the children welcomed their mothers and had a joyful time dancing and expressing their love and respect for their mothers.



A Music Day

Ever since it was founded, music has been an integral part of the school activities. Just like reading is vital

for nourishing the mind, music nourishes the soul and uplifts the spirit. In the presence of their parents the music teacher, Samer Rashid, led the children in a variety of songs pertaining to the Palestinian Culture and identity. And the sixth graders excelled in their percussion performance.

Easter and Ramadan



In a land where we all feel at home despite the different faiths, and the different traditions, the school children enjoyed a day of coloring eggs before the Easter Holidays in April. And during Ramadan the children made the special Ramadan Lanterns from colored paper under the supervision of their art teacher.



Spring out-door trips

The land was blessed with a lot of rain this year, so Spring was beautiful with wild flowers and fruit blossom, and the weather was perfect for the school trip on April 16, which always has a two-fold purpose; educational and recreational.



The kindergarten and the lower elementary classes went to the zoo and enjoyed all sorts of animals, birds and reptiles. But the upper classes visited some of the destroyed villages in the north, walked through the pigeon lofts. archeological overwhelmed by trails and saw old They visited some sites as well and were the experience.



Solar Energy System

In a country where the sun shines most of the year, the school was able to install a Solar Energy system with the greatly appreciated support of the DEAR Foundation, a Swiss agency. This will cut the cost of electricity and create a friendly environment.

School Leadership Program Diploma

Mrs. Raeda Jasser, the school principal completed the requirements for the diploma in school leadership which was implemented under the supervision of the Palestinian Ministry of Education and funded by the UNDP/PAPP under the slogan “take my hand because I can.” Her research focused on the learning difficulties of a group of students at Rawdat El-Zuhur.

Graduation Ceremony

It seems like yesterday when those sixth graders, the 48th batch of graduates, first joined the kindergarten with tears of fear of the unknown. On the 3rd of May, they celebrated the day with joy and tears of sorrow for leaving the school. According to their teachers, that class was really special and will be greatly missed.



The ceremony started with the national anthem, and the main items were the addresses of the children Ahmad Siam and Rahaf Taqsh in Arabic, and Abdel Razzak Sayyad and Jihad Shaloudi in English. And on behalf of the parents, Mr. Khaled Zuheikeh thanked the school for their effort in educating their children as well as instilling in them the proper moral values needed for building the community. On her behalf the school principal

thanked the parents for cooperating with the school and urged them to invest properly in their children so that they will eventually be proud of their achievements.

As usual the program included dancing and singing, and this year the choir was directed by Ms. Marcelle Batshoun who was seconded to the school by the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music.

Upon their retirement and ending their teaching career at the school, Basemah el Bakri and Dina El-Basha were honored with special plaques.

Whereby Maha Barakat, and Mervat Elayyan were honored for celebrating their silver anniversary at the school.



Visitors during the second semester:

It was a pleasure welcoming the following guests at the school.

- ✚ Oliver Burton, a student from the UK, on February 16, 2019
- ✚ Jeff and Janet Wright leading a group from the USA “Footsteps of Jesus Tour 2019” on February 18
- ✚ Palcraftaid Visit:

Board members of Palcraftaid from the USA Carol Hylkena, Virginia Priest, Sarah Humphrey and KT Ockels visited on May 11. The president of Rawdat El-Zuhur and the treasurer Ms. Margo Tarazi as well as a past president Samia Khoury and the past principal Salwa Zananiri were there to meet with them and to welcome them for lunch.

Please check our website regularly for future updates www.rawdat.org.

Also, check our Facebook page for more school activities and news.



Rawdat El-zuhur School