

The Jubilee Celebration

The invitations for the jubilee musical on April 4 & 5th, 2002 were already out when everything had to be cancelled as a result of the Israeli incursions and the deteriorating situation in the Palestinian Territories. Activities for the occasion were to include an art and photo exhibit, and an open house for alumni and friends.

A special electronic guest book was created for the occasion but the tone of the hopeful and bright messages started to change with the announcement of the cancellation.

There is never a dull moment when one lives under a military occupation. Everything was on hold until it was decided to have the musical during the graduation ceremony on June 8, so that the children who were graduating and participating in the musical could still take part. The story of Rawdat El-Zuhur and its founder were made vivid by music and dancing. The musical was produced by Aya Shaker, the art teacher with the help of Simon Azazian, the music teacher who did a beautiful job in training the children. The whole staff cooperated in making that day a memorable occasion.

Every graduate was presented with the special Jubilee mug, and partners and friends as well, were honored on that occasion with a special olive wood souvenir. Eventually, one year later, it became possible to hold the open house and to have the rest of the activities that were planned for the occasion. Unfortunately the past volunteers, Brenda Spencer, Lori Hayes, and Tracy Hughes who had come in April for the occasion could not come back again.



Al-Fawanees Musical

Rawdat El-Zuhur was very proud of its two young girls who participated in the first professional musical in Palestine, Al Fawanees (Lanterns). Wa'ad El Wa'ari and Tamam Nofal were among sixty children selected by the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music from various schools in Jerusalem, Ramallah and Bethlehm for the musical. After two years of intensive training, including summer camps, and a lot of hard work, Al-Fawanees had its opening at the new Cultural Palace in Ramallah on August 6, 2004 and was followed by eight performances. It was a unique experience for the children, and an enjoyable one for them as well as for the community as a whole.



الفوانيس

شعرت روضة الزهور باعتزاز كبير عندما وقع الاختيار على اثنتين من طالباتها. وعد الوعري وتمام نوفل للمشاركة في الفوانيس المسرحية الغنائية الأولى من نوعها في فلسطين وقد تم اختيار المشاركون في المسرحية من عدة مدارس في القدس ورام الله وبيت لحم. وبعد تدريب دام سنتين وتضمن جهدا كبيرا تم افتتاح المسرحية في القصر الثقافي في رام الله بتاريخ ٦ آب ٢٠٠٤ تبعه ثمانية عروض. لا شك أن التجربة التي مرت بها هذه المجموعة من الأطفال كانت مميزة لهم وللجماهير التي شاهدتهم واستمتع بهذا العمل الفني المتكامل.



The Library

Since the development of the program of Rawdat El-Zuhur into formal education, it was realized that establishing a library was one of the priorities of the school. Unfortunately with the limited space available at that time, the only option was to have the books in closed closets in one of the corridors. The children would check out books at certain hours either to take home or to read during specially allocated hours for reading. With the building of the second floor in 1991, a library was made available. During the inauguration ceremony, it was dedicated to the memory of Robert and Sophie Peterson who had left a substantial legacy for the school. With open shelves, the children enjoy browsing through books, reading and using the reference books for their reports. The school constantly participates in National Reading Campaigns, and it encourages the older children to read to the younger ones; a very successful initiative enjoyed by both the older and younger children. A special corner in the library will carry the name of Samir Habash as it is being developed from contributions of Samir's friends in lieu of flowers for his funeral in August 2002.

المكتبة

تعتبر المكتبة من المرافق الأساسية للمدرسة. ومنذ أن تم تطوير روضة الزهور إلى مدرسة ابتدائية أصبحت حصة المطالعة من ضمن البرنامج الدراسي يستمتع بها الأطفال حتى عندما كانت المكتبة عبارة عن خزانة في إحدى الممرات. ومع توفر غرفة خاصة للمكتبة في الطابق الثاني عام ١٩٩١ أصبح الطلبة يتشوقون لاستعمال المكتبة وتشجعوا لاستفادتهم من مراجعتها في أبحاثهم إنباستطاعتهم مشاهدة الكتب المتوفرة على الرفوف المفتوحة وبما كانوا هم المطالعة في جهودهم وتشارك المدرسة في حملات القراءة الوطنية كما تشجع طلبة الصفوف العليا أن يقرأوا للأطفال الصغار ويستمتع الكبار والصغار أثناء جلسات القراءة والتي لا تقتصر على التواجد في المكتبة هذا وقد تم تدشين المكتبة باسم روبرت وصوفي بيترسون عندما تم افتتاح الطابق الثاني وذلك تقديراً لتركتهما الروضة الزهور. كما خصصت زاوية من المكتبة باسمه سمير حبش ليتم تطويرها من تبرعات أصدقائه بدل الأكاليل عند وفاته في آب ٢٠٠٢.





البرنامج الدراسي

تعتمد المدرسة بشكل رئيسي المنهاج المعمول به في مناطق السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية وكنه تدرس اللغتين الانكليزية والفرنسية ابتداء من الصف الأول الأساسي وتدريب جميع الطلبة بما فيهم قسم رياض الأطفال على استعمال الحاسوب. بالإضافة الى المواد المقررة كاللغة العربية والرياضيات والعلوم والاجتماعيات والتربية المدنية والتربية الدينية تخصص المدرسة حصة حوارية لتدريب من خلالها الطلبة على التعبير وعلى الحوار بأسلوب ديموقراطي، وتولي المدرسة اهتماما خاصا بالنشاطات المرافقة لعملية التعلم كالفن والموسيقى والتمثيل والرياضة ولقصر الشعب والتي تنمي مواهب الأطفال وتصل بشخصياتهم وتدريبهم على العمل الجماعي وجعلهم يستمتعون بعملية التعلم



كما تنظم المدرسة رحلات دراسية وترفيهية ليتعرف من خلالها الطلبة على معالم البلاد الا انه بسبب الأوضاع المتردية لم يعد سهلا تنظيم مثل هذه الرحلات.



The School Program

The school follows the curriculum of the Palestinian Ministry of Education basically, but English and French are taught as of the first grade. All classes including kindergarten get training in computer skills. Over and above Arabic, mathematics, science, history, geography, civics, and religious education, there is a special period of dialogue which encourages the children to develop skills in expressing themselves and to train in using democratic procedures. The extracurricular activities are an integral part of the school program. Music, art, drama, folk dancing and sports make the learning process an enjoyable one and help discipline the children. And field trips are a regular feature but had to be curtailed lately because of the deteriorating situation in the country.

