

Dear Friends and Partners,

Another Christmas Season comes with messages of hope for peace and justice. While times are getting tougher, diligent efforts are exerted to keep a beacon of light glowing, and we continue to hold on to doing our best for a better future for our children.

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued support. Thank you for believing in our mission. Trust that together we can make a difference in the life of those children who need nothing but a normal nurturing of their dreams and future aspiration.

We know these are difficult financial times for everybody, yet the blessing of being able to share during this season with the Jerusalem families and institutions whose very existence is being threatened must be a very rewarding experience.

May the joys and blessings of Christmas stay with you and your families throughout the New Year.

On behalf of the Board of Rawdat El-Zuhur,

Abla Nasir
President
Dec 2009

Happy New Year 2010

Rawdat El Zuhur Oct through beginning of Dec 2009

Anera drawing contest

Meera Abu Tayeh and Ayah Siam won 1st place in the 5-9 age category of the Anera drawing contest and both were selected as nominees for drawing the holiday greeting card.

Both Meera and Ayah were presented with a school bag full of coloring pencils and pens and drawing pads.



Alumni Club Project

Through the generous initiative of Sharjah's "Salam Ya Sighar" - a campaign of her highness Sheikha Jawaher Bent Mohamad Al-Qasmimi - a project for the Alumni Club was funded through the Pontifical Mission in Jerusalem. The project's objective was to provide, through various activities, a nurturing and loving environment for the alumni. The different activities, focused on leadership and team building, creative thinking, drama, folklore and modern dancing, computer skills, and last but not least, music and choir. The duration of the project was for four and a half months. Around 50 Alumni participated in the activities, which were concluded with a celebration on the 31st of October.

Official Opening of the library

The newly refurbished library was officially opened on the 31st of October. Mrs Aghavni Habash- the wife of the late Samir Habash whose memorial fund was donated to the library- untied the

ribbons declaring the official opening of the library. The emotions were mixed with joy and tears. With great appreciation, another

good news for the library and those young readers, is that a library fund was started by Mrs. Ada Kalbian from donations, in lieu of gifts from her family and friends on her 80th birthday in October.

Mrs. Kalbian is an old friend of the school, and had served on its board in the fifties.



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Visit to Washington D.C

Accompanied by the school principal and alumnus Mazen Nofal, four girls and four boys were invited to Washington D.C. to perform national folk dancing, "Dabkeh", at Anera's annual Gala dinner on the 2nd of October. The children's performance was stunning and received a standing ovation from an audience who was touched by the hope that those children reflected. The 7 day trip was an experience beyond imagination for those children, many of whom had never been on a plane before. The Anera Team was wonderful, hospitable and loving.



Walk for Education

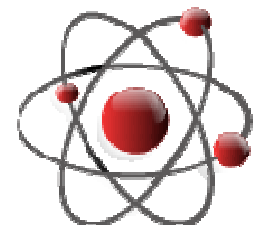
On the 16th of Oct 2009 Students , teachers and community members walked side by side in an innovative way to raise funds for the

Jerusalem Schools who are facing serious financial problems . the walk was organized by The Faisal Husseini Foundation and it covered a 6 km route in Al-Bireh/Ramallah area.

Rawdat El Zuhur participated in this walk with some of its students, teachers, and board members. Mrs Salwa Zananiri was given a Plaque for collecting the largest amount of pledges for sponsoring the walk. " *Way to go Mrs Zananiri*" It was a fun day !



Trip to Science Museum- All classes enjoyed a trip to the science museum during the month of Nov. Each class concentrated on the area of study to suit their ability and comprehension.



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Parent Teacher Association

Ten mothers were elected for the Parent-Teacher Committee on the 2nd of November – their agenda for this year includes attending all school activities including field trips and other social and cultural events ...

They will work on asserting the character of the children in accordance with the values that the children put up on the character tree. They are planning to do that by either sharing their live testimonies, a story, or through a skit.

The Palestinian Counseling Centre has arranged through the parent-teacher committee a series of lectures to tackle issues on dealing with the upbringing of children..

Charity Begins At Home- As the proverb states " Charity begins at home " and from this perspective the school is planning to have a fundraising event on December 11, 2009- where singer Wisam Murad – a former student will take us back in time by playing some old and nostalgic songs to be followed by an instrumental duet by our music teacher Wafa Zaghal and his wife Lamees. The event will also include a performance by our alumni group and a Dabkeh dance by the students



A Cute story- Raghd a girl in the first grade finally saw her little sister come into this world. After the delivery, she came and asked the school principal if she can register her newly delivered sister in the coming school year of course she's only a newborn!!!! The school principal could not stop her big big smile.....

Thanks and appreciation to all those who remembered RZ in a special way

Mr. Laurel Nelson
Mrs Samia Khoury
Westmorel Congregational United
Church of Christ
Mrs Hiam Tarazi
Mr Jamil Soufan
Zeitouna Group
Ms Mary Tomlinson-Jones
Mr Joachim Binz
Mrs R Bennis

Rev. Zondra Tyre
Rand Wa'eri
Mrs Layla Thanyan Al Ghanem
Nathmi , Layth and Taymour Augi
Salma Usama Tuqan
Mrs Basima Bakri
Ms. Audrey Swale
Ms Margaret and Keith Challinor
St. Clement's Parish
Mrs Ada Kalbian library fund

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Pontifical Mission
French Consulate
Biblelands
Mr and Mrs Basem Hishmeh
Mrs Elianor Youtz

Mr Schultes and Ms Dohi
Mrs Tomiko Dohi
Ms. Junko Shibuya
Mr Neville Usher
Mr Yihya Hijazi

Visitors and their words

Pastor Karl and Jan Whiteman
Biblelands group- Mr Jeremy Moody, Cyril Young, Dr. Brian
Usama Tuqan-Suha and Salma
Rima Tarazi
Carl & Janice Whiteman
Italian Group- Tavolo dela Pace
Patrick Gerard
Dalal Hanbali Desonions
Leanne Windolph
Anera Group- Nancy Nye, Ilham Naser
Wisam Murad
Marla Schrider – and her church group
Neville Usher
Yumi and Schultz
Joachim Binz



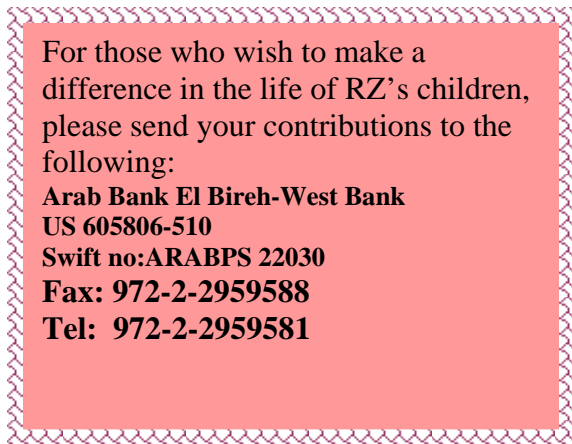
**Very
Impressive
Use of Space**



**What a
beautiful
School**



**What a joy to finally
visit the children we
grow to love!**



For those who wish to make a
difference in the life of RZ's children,
please send your contributions to the
following:

**Arab Bank El Bireh-West Bank
US 605806-510
Swift no: ARABPS 22030
Fax: 972-2-2959588
Tel: 972-2-2959581**

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