



Dear Friends,

As we welcome another Christmas Season, we take a moment to thank every one of you for your continued support and friendship to our school. The challenges never subside but our hopes give us the strength to hold on to our mission, knowing that we are not alone.

Our children, bless their heart, are our source of hopefulness. This year, they added the value of “brotherhood/sisterhood” to their Tree of Values reminding us and themselves were able to seek those qualities that could give positive meaning to their relationships with one another. We could label this as being courageous and we could also see the sheer innocence of their minds of how things should be. It is us that need the courage and the means to nurture those minds and help them hold on to those values in a world that seems to be drifting far away from the basic norms.

We are here to provide opportunities for growth and development. With you, dear friends, this is made possible by how you support and by what you give to increase those opportunities. May God bless your efforts and may the New Year bring with it bundles of joyous moments to you and your families.

Abla Nasir

New Scholastic year

The school started a bit later than usual this year because of the Holy Month of Ramadan which started on the 11th of August 2010. The feast fell on the 10th of September 2010, therefore it was wise to start the school after the holidays.

The children were all excited to see the new colors in their classrooms, the halls and everywhere around them.

This project was made possible by the generous donation of the Faisal Hussein Foundation and their donors and supporters so as to meet some of the infrastructural needs of the school.

We take the opportunity to thank the Faisal Hussein foundation for helping our school through this project which has three phases. Phase 1 focused on infrastructural needs. Phase 2 started with this scholastic year for training of teachers and the last phase will cover the cost of furniture.



Farewell but definitely Not GOODBYE!

Last June Rawdat bid farewell to 25 of their students who graduated from sixth grade, some of whom continue to pass by early in the morning before they go to their new schools.



The Alumni club still meets periodically which gives those graduates an opportunity to stay in touch with their school and catch up on the different news that their friends and classmates experience.



Sadly, this year during the graduation it was announced that two of the staff Ms. Aya Shaker and Ms Naheel Wa'eri would be retiring. The photo above surrounding those teachers is an expression of how much they will be missed.



Dr Karim Abu Libde-an alumnus of the school and who has his own dental clinic now - did a general dental check up for all students. His contribution was greatly appreciated by the school, the children and their parents.

You lose some and you gain some

While 25 students graduated, 34 new students enrolled this year. The young ones are adjusting and are being well taken care of.



Nutrition Program- BibleLands

Our gratitude to BibleLands for their support of the healthy food project. It is to ensure that the children are eating healthy items and are aware of the importance of healthy snacks like vegetables or fruits. The children are setting a good example to each other by abandoning junk snacks.



Safer Nursery and KG area and better awarness –

The **Belgium Technical Committee** contributed 12050 Euros to support the Nursery and KG area. This project focuses on creating a safer place inside and outside the Nursery and KG area.

It also enhances the creativity of teachers as well as working with parents through a support team from teachers, parents and school.

Part of the project is for the support of the infrastructure

while the other part is for the development of human resources.



Basem Hishmeh Foundation renews funding music, folkloric dancing and art for another 3 years. It is a blessing to have committed people who appreciate the importance of those extra curricular activities for the wellbeing of the children. Thank you Muna and Basem for your support and for your belief in our work.



Elizabeth Knott and Connie DePond

Keeping hope alive and never despairing has always been the moto of Rawdat El-Zuhur. Even amidst all what has been happening on the political scene and the school financial difficulties, a ray of hope always manages to shine through and bring about a brighter day for the school community. Seventeen Years ago two women found their way to the door

step of Rawdat El-Zuhur. They must have been two angels in disguise, for ever since that day, Rev. Elizabeth Knott and Connie Depond of PalCraftaid became committed to this small heaven for children in East Jerusalem. The following item appeared in the PalCraftaid news letter which we would like to share with you, and hope you will be encouraged to contribute towards the fund established in their name.



The Pal Craftaid board and many friends and colleagues of our founder, the Rev. Elizabeth (Liz) Knott, attended the Women of Faith Breakfast at the biennial General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in early July. Liz was honored as

one of four Women of Faith.

In her acceptance speech she humbly accepted the award in honor of Palestinian women.

The board also honored and celebrated the retirement from active leadership of Pal Craftaid of Liz and Connie DePond at a reception during the General Assembly. This reception kicked off a fund raiser for the Rawdat El-Zuhur School in East Jerusalem in Liz and Connie's honor.

The Knott-DePond Fund aims to raise \$50,000 for the Rawdat School as a tribute to Liz and Connie, who, for 17 years, traveled to Palestine to buy craft products at a fair price, kept inventories of stock, shipped purchases to online buyers, ran sales in churches and major denominational events, stashed boxes in the basement and donated the profits to humanitarian work among Palestinian agencies.

Parent teacher association (PTA) holds its election which is held every three years. The previous PTA enjoyed their experience so much that they stayed in the new elected association as well in order to help out the new elected team. The PTA plays a very active part of the school.

Donations for the library- Ms. Shereen Awad donated \$500 towards books for the Nursery and KG area and Mr Maher Farouki- Donated \$ 500 for curtains for the library and for class one as well.



Development of the nursery area- Many changes took

place

since the separation of the KG and the nursery area from the rest of the school. It started in a very small area and slowly and gradually the area developed as well as the educational program. More and more, active learning through touching, exploring, trying things out is being developed.

Twining of Rawdat El Zuhur Nursery with Junior School Marzabotto

After a 3 phased project "building the capacity of Early Childhood sector in Jerusalem" between the ECCD Coalition in Jerusalem and the Italian partners – Regione Emilia – Romagna and Arci . Our Italian friends visited Rawdat El Zuhur and crowned the twining between Rawdat El Zuhur nursery and another nursery in Bologna Called Junior school Marzabotto

The Twinning will concentrate on experience exchange and support.



Character tree

- Ethical values are stressed in the school through different subjects and classes. Every opportunity is utilized to emphasize the importance of the different values that hang on the tree and how they can become part of the character of the students themselves. The children enjoy adding a value each year, and for this year they chose brotherhood /sisterhood. Some students wanted to express the character tree in their own drawings, that are shown below. Dana Lidawiye a student who embodied the character tree through her actions-



Donations in kind

Karl and Jan Whiteman group- crossed the ocean with two heavy suitcases full of chalk , crayons , and jumbo colored pencils.

Musa'ab abu Khalaf – A committed father who believes in helping out the school has donated air filled bouncer toys for the children to have a fun day.

Mr Harry Zysman Donates jump ropes to the school and a booklet info and DVD.



Donations- We thank the following people who believe in our mission and have kindly contributed to keep our children happy and full of hope.

Donations- from the 1st of April 2010 until 13th of December 2010.

Mr & Mrs Scott
Mrs Samia Khoury
Dr. and Mrs Hanna Nasir
Mrs Juliet Touma
Mrs Shereen Awad
Nathmi, Layth and Taymour Augi
Mrs Layla Abdallah Al Ghathyan
Mrs Salma Touqan
Mr Neville Usher
Mrs Mary Tomlins
Mrs Roxanne Bennis
Mrs Yumi Dohi and Mr Norbert Schultes
Dr and Mrs John Nasir
Mrs Frances Kang
The diocese of Springfield in Illinois
Mr Tony Khoury
Mrs Margery Mills
Mrs Bernice Youtz
Mr John and Mrs Brenda Spencer
Palcraftaid

Visitors

Visitors from the 1st of April 2010 until 10th of Dec 2010.

Mr & Mrs Basem and Muna Hishmeh
Mrs Samia Shami Cassem
Mrs Sharon Opizen
Mrs Norma Shami
Mrs Marion Rutter
Mr Tarek Abu Ata
Mrs Melinda Borne
Dr. Mousa Khoury