

THE OLIVE PRESS

RAMALLAH FRIENDS SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Giving Thanks...

Letter from Head of School

Giving thanks.

I am writing to you today from a quiet campus. Although it is a Saturday the school and Ramallah is once again in lockdown in the attempt to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

These are the times we live in and the stresses and strains in having to adjust to different methods of teaching and learning will continue until a vaccination is available throughout the world.

People from the US have just celebrated Thanksgiving and it must be incredibly challenging for many people to find things to be grateful for during 2020. This is why many of us look towards the holiday season and the celebration of Christmas.

Christmas is normally a time for family and friends to come together and for many this is not going to be possible. But Christmas is more than that. It is a time for us to celebrate and reflect on the moment when God entered human history through the birth of Jesus Christ.



It is for that reason that Christmas remains a time for hope and a time to be thankful.

We have a lot to be thankful for - family, friends, for the people that care for us, and for our health. If 2020 has taught us anything it is that we are all in this together.

We wish you a happy and safe Christmas.*

Adrian Moody - Head of School

Alumni in the Spotlight – Meet Adla Khalaf

By Besan Jaawan – Development & Communications Manager

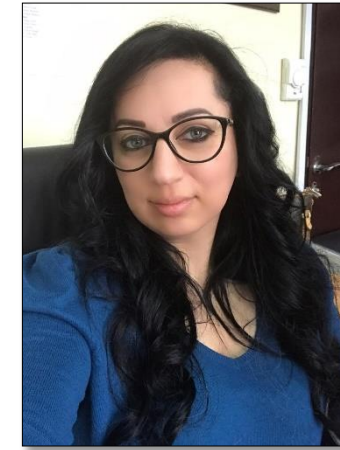
Meet Adla Khalaf, Class of 1994. After graduating from RFS, she completed her BA degree in Civil Engineering from Birzeit University and studied for her MA degree in Remote Sensing in France. During her studies, she received training at the French Space Agency in image processing and remote sensing applications and high-resolution satellite images.

"I was awarded a full scholarship to complete my PhD studies in remote sensing applications in water resources management. During my last year of study, I received a call from Dubai offering me a job as a remote sensing scientist."

In the UAE, Adla worked on several projects including a joint project with American NASA Goddard Space Flight Center which aimed at developing climate change downscaled scenarios in the MENA region and using them in modeling the impacts on water resources and agriculture in the Arab countries.



"Being a graduate of RFS is a great achievement and honor that comes with great pride. I consider RFS as one of the most critical determinants of my success both at the personal level and career wise. RFS adaptive education system has led me to many positive outcomes other than gains in cognitive abilities and attributed to gains in knowledge and skills such as independent thinking, critical reasoning, and developed intelligence."



When asked about her memories at RFS, Adla said she fondly remembers being selected to lead the Environment Day activities and Chapel Program, which led her to realize then her passion towards Earth Science.

Adla also remembers RFS back when the neighboring bus station was a military base. *"Once in class, we started hearing gunshots and we noticed that the Israeli soldiers were pointing and aiming at our class. Immediately, we moved away from their sight and evacuated class. No one was hurt but we were extremely terrified and couldn't continue the discussion. I still keep three rubber bullets I located in class and in the yard as a memory of that day."*

Ending her interview with us, Adla's advice to future RFS graduates is to continue their education, be open to change, and to follow their passion whatever it may be. *

Social Media Safety

By Adele Jaraiseh Eid – Lower School Deputy Principal



The COVID-19 virus has affected all levels of our lives. With the school closures and the enforced lockdowns, most children and young people will often spend more time online using social media.

Staying connected online is extremely important for us as well as for our children. It provides our kids with valuable opportunities to learn, play, socialize with friends and peers and access information and support. Spending time online, however, is not always favorable. It may come with dangers, such as online sexual harassment, cyberbullying, online risk-taking behavior and potentially harmful content, so the privacy of children could also be at a greater risk.

Not only do these risks come from outsiders, but also from individuals they already know online or offline.

As parents, we must stay involved in the digital world of our children to support and safeguard them. It is crucial to build an open, trustworthy relationship, help them to protect their privacy, teach them to be alert to signs of unwanted communications, establish security standards for meeting 'mates' online, speak to them without being judgmental or mad if anything goes wrong and get them assistance and support if needed.

So, we can't just say social media is good, or social media is bad...It's all about how we use it!*

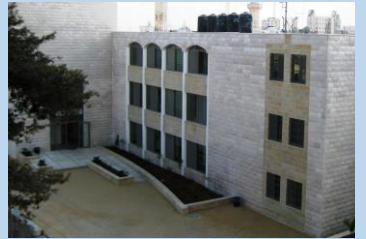
A Look at Our History

2008

Upper School continued its scholarship exchange program with George School (PA), Westtown School (PA), Sidwell Friends School (DC), and Penn Charter School (PA). Each year one RFS student is selected to spend an academic year at each of these very reputable Quaker schools in the US.

2009

The Friends United Meeting annual summer work camp continued to take place on the school grounds with the leadership of Max and Jane Carter of North Carolina. A student financial aid fund was established serving between 15% - 23% of the student body.



First phase of the Middle School Building was completed in 2010

2010

New facilities at the Upper School were erected to accommodate more students thanks to support from USAID/ASHA; namely, a new Multipurpose Hall and the new Middle School Building which first opened its doors in 2010 (Middle School building was constructed under two phases).

***To know more about history of RFS please visit our website www.rfs.edu.ps**

