

THE OLIVE PRESS

RAMALLAH FRIENDS SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

1. Letter from Head of School
2. Meet Alumna Su'ad Jarbawi
3. Student Quotes on Why They Love Reading
4. Upcoming Dates & Announcements



Designed by: Mohamed A. Daoud | Editor in Chief: Besan Jaawan

Our Quaker Testimonies

Stewardship

Letter from Head of School

On the 23rd of April we will be burying a time capsule as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations. Our students, teachers, parents and everyone in our community are currently sorting through ideas about what they want to go into the time capsule which will be buried on the lower campus next to the tree planted by Miriam, the first teacher of this school so very long ago. It will be opened in another 25 years in the year 2044 when the school will celebrate its 175th year. A time capsule is a historic cache of goods or information. It is a method of communication with future people and

provide future archaeologists, anthropologists, or historians a greater understanding of the time period. It is a message to future generations. The items contained in the capsule will reflect life at the school today.

A time capsule is a reminder that this school is not our own. It is a gift and as Friends we strive to use God's gifts wisely. We are the stewards of RFS. Stewardship means taking care of something but in a theological sense stewardship means more than this. Stewardship is a responsibility. We are responsible for our school and we must take care of it - not just for ourselves, but for the people around us and for future generations. When our priorities are right our stewardship is a joyful expression of faith and not a burden.

Stewardship is not merely being significant in the contribution to the school to ensure that it continues but rather it is an all-encompassing decision to be dedicated to our institution. Teachers often say that their's is a calling. In the same way we are called to RFS.

In 2044 may those who are present for the unveiling of the time capsule - and some of our current community will be there - look back and see that we, now, are good stewards.*



All 48 current RFS classes will add their items into the Time Capsule. During March, students and teachers will be preparing their items together- such as these items!

Adrian Moody - Head of School



Communications Depart. speaks with LS students about Time Capsule

Alumni in the Spotlight

By Lama Murra - Communications Officer

Meet RFS alumna, Class of 1999 and Middle East Regional Director for Mercy Corps based in Amman Jordan, Su'ad Jarbawi.

Su'ad started her career working with Mercy Corps (a global humanitarian and development organization). After getting her Masters degree from Columbia University she worked in Palestine for two years and then resumed her international humanitarian career with Mercy Corps. She was one of the first missions to respond to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, staying there for two years. Su'ad later joined Mercy Corps Emergency Response Team and worked in multiple crises across the world in challenging areas including: Yemen, Mali, Niger, Syria, Central African Republic and Iraq.

When asked about being a student at RFS, Su'ad told the OP:

"If I leave my mind to wonder, I find myself in my old school uniform running around campus. I can picture myself entering the main gate and walking through the perfectly manicured rose garden at the entrance of the school. On the special days, we would meet as a school to sing Mawtini together reminding us of what it means to be Palestinian privileged with an education at FBS."

We asked Su'ad about the school's effect on her life, and she said:

"FBS opened up the space for me to discover who I was as a person and to start sculpting my personality. The relationship we had with our teachers remains to be extra-ordinary. The foundation of knowledge instilled in us is what makes us hard working and goal oriented with a heightened sense of curiosity. Those are the basic fundamentals within my career and have always pushed me forward through thick and thin."

To current RFS students, Su'ad says: "The friendships you create will be your network in life and the learning you gain will be fundamental in shaping your future. Enjoy it despite the stress and be assertive in what you want to accomplish - nothing is out of reach if you put your mind to it."*



Environmental Clubs @ RFS

By Miraj Othman - US Teacher

The Environmental Club works at raising environmental and health awareness at the school. A small group of students established the club in 2010, with my support. This year, a group of members from the 7th to 9th grades are engaged.

The club encourages reclaiming agricultural lands, rationalizing water and energy use, recycling and awareness raising. Our students reclaimed land by creating an organic garden in a neglected area of the school campus. The garden allows our students to extend their learning beyond the classroom walls, as part of our MYP curriculum. Students reflect the MYP learner's profile as inquirers, communicators, principled, caring



and knowledgeable.

They plant, water, weed and care for the garden, which now has over 12 different vegetables. Other activities include waste sorting, recycling of solid wastes, making deodorants out of environmentally friendly materials, and recycling plastic bags, plastic bottles, and tires as well. We look forward to keeping our club active and unique! *



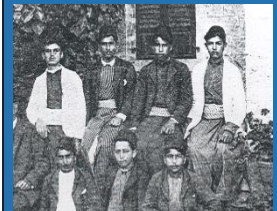
Environmental Clubs are always busy at RFS!



A Look at Our History

Origins and Early Days of Ramallah Friends Boys School

1901
In 1901, a Boys Training School, occupying a separate nearby building, began offering instruction to boy boarding students. Elihu and Almy Chase Grant came from New England to start the school, which began in a rented house.



First FBS Graduating Class 1906

Friends United Meeting

In 1905 Timothy B. and Anna Hussey of the American Foreign Missions Board (later known as Friends United Meeting) came with funds to find and purchase the land for the Boys School campus. Permission to build was finally approved in 1909 and the Boys School permanent building was completed in 1914. Students did not occupy it until 1919 because schools were closed during World War I. During the war years, the building was occupied by Turks and then by the British army which used it as a hospital. At certain times the dining room was sometimes even used as a horse stable for troops.

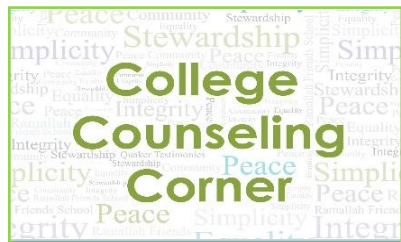
Elihu Grant was the first principal followed by Edward Kelsey, Khalil Totah, Moses Bailey, and John Haramy.

1902
The first experiments in mixed classes began in 1902 when the Boys and Girls schools had classes together for an hour and a half per day.

1923
The Friends School was the first institution in Ramallah to have electric lights in 1923. Boys first took the Palestinian Matriculation examination in Jerusalem in 1926. American University in Beirut agreed that male students could be automatically accepted after graduation from RFS.*

Press here to find out more about RFS' 150th Anniversary celebrations and upcoming events.





By Chris Akel – College Counselor

EARLY Application Acceptance
UPDATE (as of February 19)!!
-52 universities & colleges, 23 students,
8 countries
-\$1,515,314 in scholarship and financial
aid
-10 "full demonstrated need" awards
for 6 different students
-Record number of regular
applications submitted: 436

Upcoming Deadline Dates:
Ongoing through
January/February/March/April: Europe
and Canadian deadlines

Upcoming Events/Announcements:
-March 11: PSAT (10th grade only)
-March 18, 3-4:30pm, Upper School
Chapel: Bard College Berlin Visit
-March 19, 3-4:30pm, Middle School
Library: US College Fair with Council of
International Schools
-April TBD: Palestine Universities Fair
-April TBD: RFS Alumni
Spring College Fair

College Counseling General:
-Spring Meetings: No meetings will be
scheduled during breaks. Instead, all
official meetings will be scheduled in
advance. In order to reserve a Spring
meeting, any 11th grader interested
should follow the following directions
(in the email from Chris):
1.Fill out the survey in detail.
2.Respond to Chris' email with days
and time of their Free or Religion
period.

2018-19 CC
Handbook: The [College Counseling Handbook](#)
has everything you need to
know to apply to college and use the
CC Office!

Contact Chris and the CC
Office: cafel@rfs.edu.ps

What does it really mean?

By Riyam Kafri – Upper School Principal

Stewardship...What does it really mean to practice stewardship in an educational institution? Isn't education a form of stewardship, be it academic or disciplinary? These are the kind of questions I contemplate regularly as I work with students and teachers on a daily basis. According to Quaker testimonies from the San Francisco Friends Council on Education, Stewardship is caring for the earth and its inhabitants.

In a school setting this means that we care for students' well beings, and the environments they live in, but we also teach them to care for themselves, their peers and the school environment.

At the upper school stewardship shows up in the most direct way, like the school environmental club hanging signs urging students to turn off the lights, and to wash their hands after using the bathroom and to throw paper towels in the trash. Or the planting of trees as we plan to do in March 2019. Or putting up trash cans with lids so that littering is curbed.

Other times stewardship shows up in the library as students offer each other support and help. It is the care and love we show each other on a daily basis to ensure that each and every one of us is enabled to realize their potential.

Stewardship extends also beyond peers, the principal seeing students regularly, or counseling a teacher after a long day, making sure that they have everything they need to fulfill their responsibilities.

There are many ways to practice stewardship, and at the upper school, we are committed to get better at it every day.*



From the Middle School Library

In February, students wrote something they love about reading. Here are some of their responses:

- * I love reading because it takes me to other worlds where I can travel and have fun.
- * I like reading because I learn new things and I become more intelligent.
- * I love reading because it makes me think and gives me information.
- * Reading is one of the good things to do because it's informative and also interesting.
- * Reading takes me to another universe!
- * I like to read because I can escape reality when I want to.
- * I like reading because it makes me feel like I'm a character in the story and I can be someone else for a while.
- * I like reading because I learn new things about life and how people think in other places

Middle School Library Corner

By Cheryl Engel – Middle School Librarian

SCHOOL FOR LOVE by Olivia Manning

This story takes place in Jerusalem in 1945 when the streets were filled with many refugees from the war in Europe. Felix Latimer is a recently orphaned teenager who arrives in Jerusalem from Baghdad



lonely and unsure of his future. His only choice is to room in a boardinghouse run by Miss Bohun. She proclaims joy, charity, and love as she makes life miserable for her boarders. Then Mrs. Ellis shows up. She is a fascinating widow who disrupts the dreary routine found in the home. This book weaves compassion, skepticism and humor together in a good read. Check-out this book in the middle school library.*

Sign-Up Now for "I Know I Can" Summer Academies 2019!



K-2nd Grade Camp
have fun, build crafts, learn English,
and work in teams ☺

3rd-5th Grade English Camp
improve English, do fun activities and
competitions with teammates ☺

ANNOUNCEMENT

"I Know I Can" College Prep and Leadership Academy

- BIG CHANGE: This year, IKIC is focused on ALL college preparations including personal statements, college counseling and applications, college research, test prep (IELTS, TOEFL, and SAT English), leadership (electives like Model UN!)

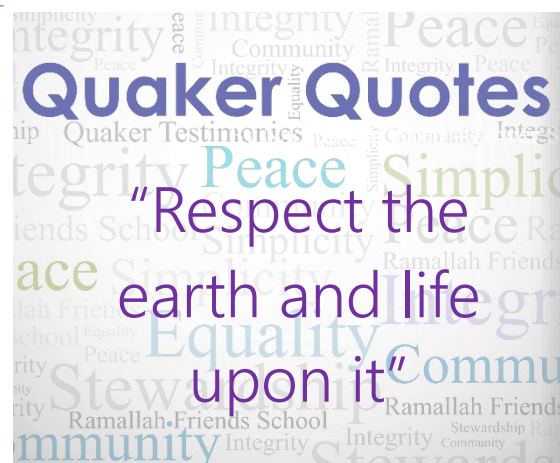
- BIG CHANGE: Students must sign up for all 4 weeks - anyone who wants to come for partial time will be added to a waitlist.

- March 16: Early Registration Discount for I Know I Can Summer Academies.

- BIG CHANGE - April 1: LAST DAY to register for IKIC.

- To register:

- Fill out the [online survey here](#)
- Pay Ms. Hanan Saad (Upper School) Monday-Thursday, or Saturday before 12pm.



It's time to celebrate Mother's Day in Middle School library!

March 21st is Mother's Day! 🎉🎉 Come and celebrate your mother or grandmother or even a friend who is like a mother to you in the MS library and join our March contest:

- 1) Come by the library and pick up a coloring sheet, or draw your own picture or card.
 - 2) Color it with care and then write either a short letter to your Mom, or list the things you love about your Mom.
 - 3) Turn it in so we can make a copy for the contest.
 - 4) Take it home and give it to your mother along with a big hug.
- Winners will be chosen based upon their imagination and thoughtfulness in writing and their neatness in coloring. Prizes will be awarded on March 28th.

Upcoming Dates & Events

March 4th
Start of IB Mock Exams for 12 IB

March 11th
PSAT Exam for 10th grade students

Mar. 12th – 18th
New student applications for Grades 2nd -11th

Mar. 13th – 23rd
Registration for new students LKG -1st Grade

Mar. 18th
Tuition payments due (Plan C)

Mar 21st
Last day of 3rd Quarter

Mar. 23rd
End of 3rd Quarter – no school.

Mar. 25th – April 6th
Registration for current students KG- 5th Grade
4th Quarter begins

Mar. 28th
US: report cards distribution.

Mar. 30th
Professional Development workshop – half day
for students.

April 1st
US: parent teacher conferences

April 8th - 24th
Registration for current students Grades 6th-12th

May 2nd – 18th
Registration for new students 2nd – 11th Grades

*** LS – Lower School
*** US – Upper School

[Press here for RFS
Calendar 2018/2019](#)

When everything seems dark,
consider you may be the light.
Quaker Proverb

02.295.22.86 tel

02.295.83.20 fax

www.rfs.edu.ps

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Editor in Chief:
Besan Jaawan

Translation by Besan Jaawan.

Design, photos and graphics by
Besan Jaawan, Lama Murra,
Mohamed A. Dawud.



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