

THE OLIVE PRESS

RAMALLAH FRIENDS SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

RFS Celebrates Month for Women!



Student Council and Middle School Library celebrated International Women's Day

As the first school for girls in Ramallah, and a pillar of gender equality and women's rights in Palestine. RFS community celebrated International Women's Day and Palestinian Mother Day during March in various ways.*



Celebrating 150th as a Community

Letter from Head of School

Over the last two weeks I have been fortunate to spend some time with each of the classes planting trees. Each class in the school planted a tree which will be identified with that class and marked accordingly. We are planting 150 trees this year to celebrate the 150th anniversary. It was effectively our first celebration to mark this occasion. But why are we planting trees? It is true that we want to create forests on our campus, that we want to make our campuses greener and more environmentally inviting, and that we want to

educate our students on the value and need for trees at a time when many trees in Palestine are being cut down.

However, the action of coming together and participating in a whole school exercise I believe is part of being a community.

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) tells us that while the Quaker faith is founded on the principle that every person can have a direct relationship with God, an equally central tenet lies in the power of the "gathered community." We believe that there is power in the recognition that we are a community. Although we are individuals, it is when we act together that we can have the greatest affect. We come together in silent meeting to create unity and trust. We come together to plant and improve our environment. And we will come together on Field Day recognizing that we are one school and that we work together as one. The author Margaret Wheatley once said "There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." This year we celebrate the community that is RFS.*

Adrian Moody - Head of School



Click on the photo to watch our Tree Planting video

Alumni in the Spotlight

By Lama Murra - Communications Officer

Meet RFS alumna, Class of 2006 and founder of Levantian; an e-commerce retail company that specializes in art, painting, fashion and embroidery influenced by Palestinian heritage and the Levant area, Dena Musfer.

In 2012, Dena owned a retail shop in Ramallah which she worked on with her husband and partner, but he sadly passed away in a sudden accident, which led her to make drastic changes in her life. She closed the business and moved to the U.S.

"My loss led me to pursue my passion for art again. I was desperately looking for a purpose so I started painting as a hobby while working a fulltime job at a non-profit organization."

Today, Dena is an artist and entrepreneur. She's the founder of Levantian. She creates art pieces such as oil paintings; focused on the portrait and figurative painting, as well as fashion art such as painted denim and leather apparel. She also supports Palestinian women by importing their folkloric embroidery products. It started as a retail company but shortly after it was reflective of her passion for art and a platform for Arabs around the world who love to represent their roots, especially in an artistic way.

When asked about being a student at RFS, Dena told the OP:

"My experience at RFS was amazing with no exaggeration. It shaped most of my character and I realized after graduation that the education I received there was, better than the education I got in college. The good thing is that it set me up well for college, especially my English language, thanks to Mr. Don Hutchison. In general I received a really good quality education and built lifetime strong relationships with my classmates and friends, of whom many are my best friends till this day."

Dena ended our interview with a few words to future RFS alumni by saying:



"My advice is simply to follow your passion and your intuition. That gut feeling is not there by accident and it does not lie. As long as we deviate from our passion and purpose, by following the standards, norms and expectations from others, we end up forgetting about what we truly love to do and what we value. Therefore, often times, we end up doing half a job instead of mastering one, battling anxiety and depression as adults and questioning our reality."

Pursuing your dreams is important, as well as having the discipline and persistence to become great at what you do. Think of yourself in this world as a person who's here to add service and value, to benefit the world not just to take from it."

A Look at Our History

1924
After World War I, the Boys School students raised money to purchase chairs for the boys' dining room.

1925
Construction at the Girls School continued and in 1925 the remainder of the third floor main building was finished. At that time the former dormitory on the second floor was converted into an assembly room and named in honor of Sara J. Swift of New England.

1926
At the Boys School Swift House was built in 1926 in memory of Sarah Swift.

1927
Government authorities provided plants as part of a major project to recreate forests, olive groves and other trees that had been destroyed during the war. By 1927 the fruit and shade trees were giving promise of a beautiful compound. Tennis courts were added in 1927.

1928
At the Boys School, the Lowell Jones library was given by Rufus Jones in 1928.

1929
At the Girls School, the home economics cottage, named for Ermina Jones Totah was built in 1929. Alice Jones and Mildred White were the Girls School principals during the 1920s.

1930
Both Friends Girls and Boys Schools were listed in the Government Your Book in 1930 as "schools of standing" in Palestine, a rank they have maintained. The old Student Association built a beautiful gate and drive for the Girls School in honor of Miss Kate Gabriel, who gave 41 years of devoted service to the school.

1933
Aphrodite Karaviote, a student at the Girls School, was the winner of the school Peace Essay Contest. She was presented with a lovely gold medal by the Peace Section of the American Friends Service Committee. Grant Hall of the Boys School was built in 1933 to accommodate boarders and provide residential space for the school principal.*

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

1869 150 Years 2019

Ramallah Friends School's
150th Anniversary Field Day

Friday April 19th, 2019, 2 p.m – 7 p.m
Upper Campus (Albireh- FBS)

Step right up and join the fun!

A new kind of excitement awaits
all members of your family!

Games | Food | Performances | Family Activities
Races & Prizes | Student Exhibits and much more!

يوم عائلي للإحتفال بمرور 150 عاما على تأسيس مدرسة الفرندز
الجمعة 19 نيسان، 2019 || الساعة ٢ ظهرا - ٧ مساء
شاركونا بحضوركم في المدرسة الثانوية (البيرة)
هناك نشاطات وفعاليات لكافة أفراد العائلة!
ألعاب | طعام | عروض | نشاطات عائلية | مسابقات وجوائز
معارض لأعمال الطلاب وغيرها الكثير!

College Counseling Corner

By Chris Akel – College Counselor

Application Acceptance UPDATE:
 - 93 universities & colleges, 41 students, 12 countries
 - \$5,094,906 in scholarship and financial aid (almost 5x more than last year)
 - 18 "full demonstrated need" awards for 12 different students
 - 13 Ivy League or "Ivy-League-type" US Schools, and 7 world-ranked schools outside of the US

Upcoming Deadline Dates:
 - April 1: Early Registration Discount for I Know I Can Summer Academics and College Prep Academy
 - August 20: Due date for the first College List Draft for all rising 12th graders.

Upcoming Events/Announcements:
 April/May TBD: Palestine Universities Fair.
 April/May TBD: RFS Alumni Spring College Fair
 April/May TBD: Applying to the US: 101 Workshop

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:
 - Fill out the survey in detail.
 - 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: caikel@rfs.edu.ps

Quaker Quotes

"Have faith and the way will open"

A Community within a Community

By Frieda Dahdah – Lower School Principal

God created man and set him on land to live in a society within a community, each of us has a role and we complete each other to form one body where each individual has a responsibility to form a community and this is how the Friends School operates as one bee hive. Where each individual has a role and a responsibility towards a community that works together to achieve its goals in a family atmosphere, passionate towards each other and supports all members of its body. This beehive, or community, is an integral part of the Palestinian community, which is a part of the global community. RFS graduates are known for their spirit of belonging

and good citizenship and deep humanity. Where ever they go they spread the spirit of cooperation and principles which were rooted in them and they spread them around the world. These principles which were rooted in them by administrators, teachers and staff working together hand in hand in school with cooperation with the local community. Our school goes back to 150 years ago, and until this day, it graduates generations of Palestinians who contribute to this society and that is why we are thankful to those who founded the roots of this school and we have continued in their footsteps in giving and cooperating for the good of all so we can be one community belonging to this great edifice.*

150 Years
 1869 - 2019
 April 23rd 2019

RAMALLAH FRIENDS SCHOOL TIME CAPSULE EVENT

Ramallah Friends School's 150th Time Capsule
 Tuesday April 23rd, 2019
 1:00 p.m.
 Lower School Campus – Ramallah (FGS)
 Inauguration of the RFS Museum & New Classroom Floor and planting of the 150th Anniversary Time Capsule

حفل إطلاق الصندوق الزمني لمدرسة الفرنديز بذكرى تأسيسها الـ 150
 الثلاثاء ٢٣ نيسان، ٢٠١٩
 الساعة ١ ظهراً
 في حرم المدرسة الأساسية – رام الله (مدرسة الفرنديز للنبات)
 حفل افتتاح متحف مدرسة الفرنديز وطابق الصفوف الجديد
 وزراعة الصندوق الزمني الخاص بذكرى تأسيس المدرسة الـ 150

TIME CAPSULE EVENT
 Realize Potential | Fulfill Dreams | Share Hope

150 Years
 1869 - 2019

Ramallah Friends School's 150th Anniversary Field Day
 Friday 19th April 2019

Community Spirit Competition

Goal: Bring your classmates to Field Day and WIN the Spirit Competition!

الهدف: الصف الذي يتواجد بأكثر عدد من الطلاب والطالبات في يوم النشاطات العائلي يفوز بجائزة هذه المسابقة!

150th Anniversary Field Day

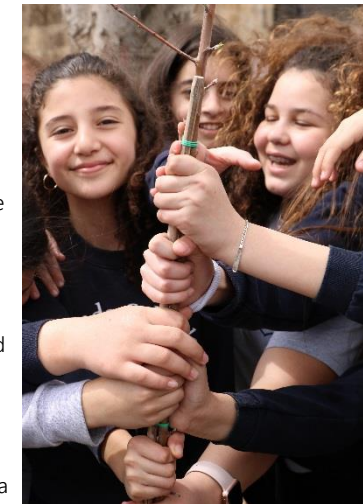
150th Forestation Project Takes Off!

By Elizabeth Price & Morgan Cooper

This year, we are proud to celebrate 150 years of RFS in many different, fun, memorable ways. One of the most amazing and long lasting activities is the launch of the RFS Forestation Campaign, under the slogan "Celebrating the past by planting for the future." Starting this year, hundreds of trees and shrubs will be planted on both campuses to create a school forest for our students and community. There will be 60% more trees on the school campuses by the end - with 75% more trees on the upper campus alone. The campaign is being guided by the Forestation Committee, made up of passionate tree-loving volunteer parents, school leadership, and community experts. Working together, we have mapped out how to green the two campuses, choosing, where possible, native plants that are safe for children, give shade in the summer, help feed Palestinian birds and insects, are beautiful to look at, and/or

provide fruit!
 As always, the students will have a hands-on, educational experience. The Forestation Campaign started in March with a mass planting of 48 trees, as each class homeroom (KG1 – 12) plants a tree somewhere

on their campus. Each tree will be labeled with the homeroom name, so the students can watch over their tree and visit for years to come. Our goal is to plant 150 trees in 2019 – and continue planting more through the coming years -- for the future RFS community. An interactive map to all the new trees and shrubs will be developed, so that all students and visitors can enjoy the RFS 150th Forest!
 If you're interested in sponsoring a tree (with a commemorative sign), contact the RFS communications department (communications@rfs.edu.ps).



Students prepared their class items for the Time Capsule, which is to be buried on the Lower Campus on April 23rd as part of RFS' 150th Anniversary events and activities.



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

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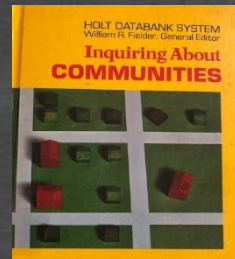


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Lower School Library Corner

By Nadine Haj Abed – Lower School Librarian

INQUIRING ABOUT COMMUNITIES by William R. Fielder
 You may feel cold and engage in an inquiry process to get warm (put on a sweater, turn up the heat, exercise, etc.). But no one else may feel that or need to engage in a similar inquiry. If inquiry is so



grounded in our real, immediate situation, how is it even possible to connect with another? Can we really have community inquiry, or even collective inquiry among a small group, or do we remain forever locked in our own individual worlds?
 "Inquiring About Communities" a book by William R. Fielder inquires about the meaning of being a person, what languages do people use? What tools do people use? What is a community? What do people think about the past and future?

Upcoming Dates & Events

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

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

April 19th
 Field Day (for all RFS families)

April 20th
 No School

April 23rd
 Time Capsule Event

April 25th – 30th
 Easter Holiday

May 1st
 International Labor Day Holiday

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

May 3rd
 Official IB Exams begin

May 5th
 Ramadan begins (tentative)

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

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



A sneak peek at 150th Anniversary RFS Souvenirs!
 Get your new RFS t-shirts- and more on FIELD DAY!