

THE OLIVE PRESS

RAMALLAH FRIENDS SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Realize Potential | Fulfill Dreams | Share Hope

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150th T-Shirts & More!



We now welcome you in the RFS Souvenir Store – Upper Campus in El-Bireh on school days. Just contact the Communications Office in front of the Finance Office and you can get your own RFS 150th specially designed T-shirts, coasters, bookmarks and much more!

*Kids sizes available!



Reflecting Back on 2018/2019

Letter from Head of School

As we come to the end of the year I have been reflecting on all that has happened this year. We began this year with our minds firmly focused on the significance of the school's 150th celebration. At that time I wrote that this school stands as a witness to history. The story of RFS is an unforgettable story of a relationship between extraordinary people which lead to the development of what is considered to be one of the most significant Quaker Schools in the world. Eli and Sybil Jones began a school which over time has changed the lives of thousands of Palestinians through education.

This year we celebrated 150 years of education in Palestine. We marked the occasion with our reforestation project, our time capsule and a hugely successful field day where over 2,500 attended and celebrated together. Next year we will conclude the 150th celebrations with a Gala dinner in December.

This year we paid special attention to the Quaker testimonies. The testimonies are now visual throughout both campuses. We have introduced silent meeting and we have educated our students as to what the testimonies mean. The testimonies bear witness to the truth known through our relationship with God. They do not exist in any rigid, written form; nor are they imposed in any way. Each person searches for how the testimonies can best be expressed in his or her own life.

Very soon our grade 12s will graduate and will join our group of prestigious alumni. The gifts that they have been given and the opportunities they have been granted through their time at RFS bring with them responsibility. What they do and where they go from here on, is their responsibility. How they take on that responsibility and make a go of it is, quite simply, a question of attitude. In the end it's not what you've done or what you've learned, who you've beaten, what awards you've received or what you've done at school that counts. It is the attitude that you take with you when you leave that counts.

We are Ramallah Friends School. We

Realize Potential Fulfill Dreams Share Hope

Adrian Moody - Head of School



@ 150th Time Capsule Event

Words from RFS Alumni

By Lama Murra - Communications Officer

"RFS not only trained outstanding leaders of national and global standing, but more importantly, it has provided generations of Palestinians with the knowledge, skills and values enabling them to become better humans."

Hanan Ashrawi – Class of 1964 (Palestinian Legislator, Activist and Scholar)

"Ramallah Friends School counseling and strong education system gave me the opportunity to be well prepared for university applications."

Saher Ahwal – Class of 2009, Software Engineer at Microsoft

"If you are RFS alumni, you're able to do anything"

Sa'ed Atshan - Class of 2002, Swarthmore College's Peace and Conflict Studies Professor

"It constituted a turning point in my life, I am not praising the school, it's just that I was drowning at that point and all of the sudden I found myself at the shore of safety and security, it was very healthy, very welcoming, very loving environment for me at the Friends, everybody was supportive, which I wasn't used to then."

Dr. Wafa' Darwish – Class of 1973, English Literature Professor at Birzeit University

"I can't forget Ethics classes with Jean Zaru, where she taught us what she used to call the Golden Rule; Treat people the way you want them to treat you, and till today I keep that in mind."

Anan Bargouthi – Class of 1991 RFS Physics Teacher

"We knew at the time that we were provided with the best educational experience in Palestine, which affected our lives and professional careers."

Ramzi Ewais – Class of 2001, Jewelry Designer

"I was only 16 and RFS encouraged my desire in producing a Palestinian heritage themed fashion show. It was a pivotal moment that boosted my confidence and showed me that others believed in my uncommon passion for becoming a fashion designer someday. I am grateful for the school's support of such diverse interests and aspirations in its students."

Rami Kashou – Class of 1994 International Fashion Designer

"The resources the school's campus had, played a significant role and created what started as a hobby and has now become a profession; photography."

Joseph Maybar – Class of 2012 Artist and Works in Photography

Construction & Maintenance Projects This Summer

By Amal Abu Nimreh – Facilities Engineer

Over the past few years RFS campuses have developed tremendously. Many projects were carried out in accordance with the school's vision and mission. The latest project that has been executed was the Photo Voltaic system installed at the Upper School campus and on a smaller scale at the Lower School campus. Solar power in Palestine has become a very feasible source of renewable energy and by installing the system RFS has become the first school in Palestine to use this environmentally sustainable system. The system has showed its efficiency from the first day of operation. The electricity bills have reduced tangibly. In addition, it has also demonstrated leadership through practical care of the environment seen by students and the surrounding community.

This summer will be a busy one with two main projects at the Upper School campus and one at the Lower School campus in addition to the regular maintenance and development works that are carried out every summer.

The school has secured funding (through USAID/ASHA) for the rehabilitation of the cafeteria in the Administration building and for the rehabilitation of the amphitheater.

The design was reviewed and approved earlier this year and the construction on ground will be throughout the summer break and they will be ready to operate before the beginning of the coming school year.

At the Lower School Campus, the newly constructed classroom floor is in need of stone facades insulation which will also be executed this summer and will be ready before September.*

Environmental Benefits

Environmental Equivalents
Achieved by use of renewable energy

The energy to operate a TV for 17,569 days

The pollution an average passenger car emits over 61.39 years

The energy to power 466.68 computers for 1 year

Greenhouse Gases
Greenhouse gases avoided by use of renewable energy

CARBON DIOXIDE
CO₂ 278,457.86 kg

NITROGEN OXIDE
NO_x 667.10 kg

SULFUR DIOXIDE
SO₂ 5.94 kg

Carbon Offset
278.46 metric tons



You have offset the equivalent of:
24.06 ha

Typically one acre of pine forest will offset the equivalent of 4.69 metric tons of CO₂



Environmental benefits achieved by RFS in March 2019 as a result of photovoltaic system.

A Look at Our History

1950
Farid Tabri was at the Boys School almost 50 years before retiring (1919-1968). He taught Arabic and was also dean of students. He led chapel and would read from the Bible one day and from the Koran the next.

1951
The Boys School celebrated its first 50 years of education. At the Boys School the Golden Rule Club spent much of their free time teaching illiterate boys to read. The Girls School operated both literacy training and a crafts program for older refugee women.

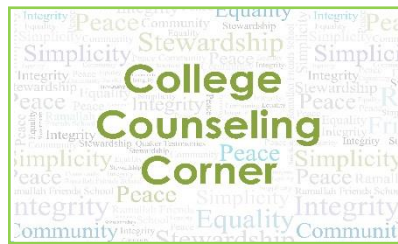
American Federation of Ramallah Five Friends School graduates, who were attending Wayne State University in Detroit, decided in a period of homesickness to start a newsletter among their Ramallah friends abroad. The first issue appeared in December, 1952 and cost about \$65 to publish. This was the beginning of the American Federation of Ramallah, which today hosts an annual meeting and social activities, and provides scholarship assistance and financial support to the needy.

1960
During Jordanian rule, the Friends School earned a reputation throughout the Middle East as an excellent educational institution. Under Jordanian government instructions, the Boys School was required to hold after school marching drills on campus. A government instructor came to campus to lead the drills. Students were given a final test. Since the Friends School is a Quaker institution committed to the peace testimony, participation in the military drill was an unwelcome obligation.

1965
A Youth Club, consisting of students from both the Boys and the Girls Schools, began to meet Sunday afternoons at the Friends Meeting House. Realizing social and religious objectives in the nature of its programs, the fellowship conducted work projects and field trips.*



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



College Counseling Corner

By Chris Akel – College Counselor

Application Acceptance: Class of 2019

- 103 universities & colleges, 44 students, 13 countries
- \$10,725,410 in scholarship and financial aid total over 4 years.
- 38 "full demonstrated need" awards for 23 different students, 12 of whom received multiple offers.
- 17 Ivy League or "Ivy-League-type" US Schools, and 7 world-ranked schools outside of the US.

Upcoming Deadline Dates:

- FIRST COLLEGE COUNSELING DEADLINE FOR 12TH GRADERS - AUGUST 20, 2019: Due date for the first [College List Draft](#) for all rising 12th graders.

Resources:

- Spring Meetings: Meetings are now finished (May 31st) and will resume in September.
- 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: cakel@rfs.edu.ps

Another School Year Has Passed

By Frieda Dahdah – Lower School Principal

As we say goodbye to the 150th school year at the RFS, we stand at the last step of its thresholds and take a quick look at its achievements to take the momentum to start another year of development and change for the better. And here we are serialized in reviewing these achievements, including:

- The first achievement is finishing another school year and another academic stage for our students.
- The school continued to offer the PYP program for the classes between Lower KG and Fifth grade, as an essential feature of the school's educational process, which culminated this year in the completion of the exhibition project for the fifth grade.
- The school continued working on and developing "Yalla Neqra" Arabic language program, which we offer for the classes between Lower KG and second grade. This year we worked on developing the program

for other grades by introducing Arabic Reading Platform.

- Opening of the Learning Community classrooms model for the third graders as the first pilot experiment towards the 21st century.
- Accomplishing many Extracurricular Activities, such as community visits, internal activities and after-school activities such as drama.
- The school continued to participate in the Environmental Activities associated with the Ramallah Municipality and the implementation of the play.
- The classrooms were provided with Internal communication telephones, in addition to completing the availability of all classrooms with interactive boards and effective internet service, as an integral part of the academic process.

The school also did not overlook the provision of Professional Development for its staff, whether in the work of meetings and workshops, internal or external, as this year the workshops were attended by a number of employees of administrators, teachers and workers.*



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

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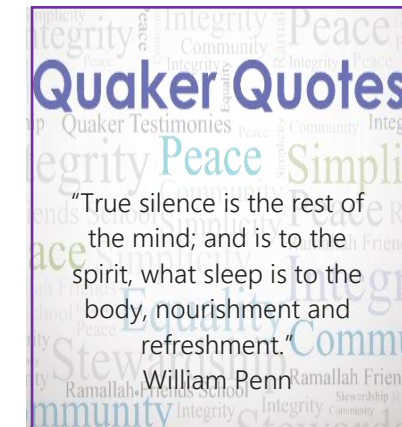
Lower School Students Visit RFS Museum



Upcoming Dates & Events

- June 1st
US: end of final exams.
- June 3rd - 7th
Eid Al-Fitr Holiday
- June 9th
Graduation Ceremony
- June 11th
Reports cards distribution
- June 18th
Last day for teachers
Makeup exams at 9:00 a.m.

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



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