

THE OLIVE PRESS

RAMALLAH FRIENDS SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

1. Letter from Head of School
2. 150th Gala Dinner
3. Christmas @ Lower School
4. Upcoming Dates & Events



Realize Potential | Fulfill Dreams | Share Hope

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

www.rfs.edu.ps



MAXIMUM IMPACT

Use where most urgently needed

The need is growing - and as a result so is RFS. In 2019 we had to turn away more students than ever. The current economic and political situation in Palestine is creating additional pressure, but **we are committed to keeping our tuition fees accessible for anyone.**

Currently our tuition *only* covers 80% of our costs. The additional cost of providing a safe and effective educational environment for our kids is dependent upon people like you.

Will you give now to help students **realize potential, fulfill dreams and share hope?** RFS helps students realize potential, fulfill dreams, and share hope.

[Donate Now](#)

The Maximum Impact Endowment Fund will give us the flexibility to meet those challenges.

Welcoming a New Year 2020

Letter from Head of School

I would like to welcome you to a brand new semester. We hope that all parents and students had a happy and safe break. Christmas is a special season and I think especially in Ramallah. For Christians Christmas is a celebration of the moment in time that God entered history through Jesus Christ. Being present here in Palestine at this time is something I find extremely powerful.

In a previous Olive Press I wrote about the meaning of the word January. January is named after the Roman god Janus. Janus was the god of gates, doors, doorways, beginnings, endings and time. Most often he is depicted as having two heads, facing opposite

directions; one head looks back at the last year while the other looks forward to the new and so he simultaneously looks into the future and the past.

I think that this is very appropriate – the idea of looking forward and back at the same time. We are always encouraging our students to reflect because we believe that this is a very important part of the learning process. This is a good time of year for our students to take stock of things, to think about where they are going and where they have been and to check bearings and make sure they are on course.

I believe we should all be doing that. As a learning community we are constantly in the process of reflection. Looking back at lessons learned, correcting our direction as we move forward. Over the break I had a look at what I thought I had achieved this year and what I thought I hadn't. It is important to relook at who we are and what we represent and it is a continual process of looking forward and looking back. Whilst the long term vision for the development of the school remains the same our path begins to take different turns as we move forward. So the idea of looking forward and back at the same time makes sense.*



150th Gala Dinner

By Besan Jaawan – Development & Communications Manager



On the eve of December 6th 2019, about 300 RFS community members came together to culminate the School's 150th anniversary celebrations in the School's first Gala Dinner. The dinner was organized by RFS' Communications Department, and attended by alumni, parents, staff, RFS friends and Quakers.

Friends United Meeting General Secretary, Kelly Kellum commenced the event with the Quaker moment of silence, a tradition RFS has always held dear. Several FUM senior staff had flown over to attend the event, joining the local community in an effort to raise donations for RFS' student financial aid fund.

All proceeds from this dinner will go into the student scholarship fund, in an effort to entice the local and public community to increase the percentage of RFS students receiving financial aid.

For the academic year of 2019-2020, almost 17% of the entire student body at RFS is receiving some form of financial aid. For the academic year of 2020-2021, and with your continued assistance as F/friends of RFS, we aim to increase that percentage.*

A Look at Our History

1980
Ten young West Bank students were wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers in one of the worst outbreaks of violence in the administered territories in years. Hania Gabi Baramki, a Friends School 10th grade student, who was demonstrating in El-Bireh, was shot in the leg and hospitalized.

In June the traditional graduation ceremony of both schools joining together was shortened because of the civil strife.

The 1980-81 school year opened with nearly 430 students enrolled at the Girls School and 400 students at the Boys School.



1983
The Friends Girls School Art program produced "the Wizard of Oz" in both Ramallah and at the Jerusalem YMCE. The program also offered classes in music, calligraphy, debka, drama, painting and dance.

1984
By 1984, at the Girls School, school uniforms were to be worn at all times except during physical education classes. Blouses could be of any color. Belts were to be worn around the waist.



College Counseling Corner

By Chris Akel – College Counselor

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

*Chris is out of the office from December 18-January 10th. Communication will decrease heavily starting December 22.

Christmas @ Lower School



- To see more of our Christmas photos please visit [RFS Facebook page](#).



Middle School Library Corner

The Middle School Library organized a reading challenge titled "Christmas Smart Cookie" aimed at encouraging our middle schoolers, in grades 6th and 7th and 8th, to read more and more! Seven winners were announced and their prize was to participate in the "Christmas Present Scavenger Hunt" where each winner got to look and follow clues to find their own gift.



Pebbles, the Middle School Library's mascot turtle, participated in the Scavenger Hunt as well! Search for Pebbles' appearance on the Scavenger Hunt video on RFS' Facebook page, at [this link](#).



Upcoming Dates & Events

December 23rd – Jan 9th
Christmas Holiday

January 11th 2020
1st day back to school!

January 20th
End of 2nd Quarter

January 21st
Third Quarter Begins

January 25th - Feb. 5th
New Student Applications for Grades LKG, UKG, 1st

January 29th
LS Report Cards Distribution

January 30th - Feb. 1st
US PalMUN Conference



January 30th
Tuition Payments Due (Plans B & C)

February 1st
LS Parent- Teacher Conference

February 5th
Last day of accepting new student applications for grades LKG, UKG and 1st.

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

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
[Subscribe to the Olive Press](#)

Editor in Chief:
Besan Jaawan

Translation by Lama Murra &
Haneen Batrawi.

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



SUBSCRIBE
NOW

Now you can subscribe
to the Olive Press –
[click here!](#)



[150th Anniversary RFS
Souvenirs!](#)
[Get your new RFS
hoodies and more
from the new souvenir
store!](#)