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Ramallah Friends School's Monthly Newsletter

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Designed by: Mohamed A. Daoud



Congrats Class of 2018!

RFS held its 112th Commencement Sunday May 27th. "This is a school with a proud history. In fact, 149 years of history that has shaped and influenced countless alumni. I ask that those alumni present here today stand. These people before you represent generations of Ramallah Friends School graduates." said Head of School Adrian Moody while directing his message to Class of 2018, "Today you join them. The torch of leadership that was once entrusted to these past graduates now passes to you. You represent not only this school but the whole Palestinian community."

The commencement ceremony was attended by friends and families of 98 RFS seniors who had just finished their official IB exams.

Palestinian Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Sabri Seidam, gave a heartfelt speech during the ceremony, and he was followed by speeches from Lower School teacher Huwaida Imseeh and valedictorians Yazan Mimi and Sara Yasin.

Guest speaker Mr. Azzam Shawa, Palestine Monetary Authority Governor, wished the graduates the best of luck and success.

"It is a privilege and honor to be with you on this momentous occasion. Today, our sons and daughters are closing a key chapter in their life, as they graduate from the time-honored Friends School. The edifice we pride ourselves in and look up to as a beacon of quality education and human moral values." – Mr. Shawa Before presenting the graduates with their high school certificates, the school administration honored Jeries Abu Ezam – Upper School Deputy Principal and Duha Masri – KG Head and PYP Coordinator, who leave RFS this year after gracefully serving the school for more than 35 years.*

By Besan Jaawan
Communications and Development Manager

Stewardship at RFS

Letter from Head of School

This month's Quaker testimony is Stewardship. The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) describe Stewardship in this way. Friends strive to use God's gifts wisely, with gifts conceived in the broadest of terms. These gifts include our talents and our possessions, as well as our natural environment. Friends believe that such gifts are not ours alone. Good stewardship means taking care of what has been given, not just for ourselves, but for the people around us and for future generations as well. This is a timely reflection because the

Class of 2018 held their Graduation late in May. The gifts that they have been given and the opportunities they have been granted through their time at RFS brings with it responsibility.



We were fortunate to have many alumni attend the Commencement Ceremony and as I said to the graduates, the torch of leadership that was once entrusted to these past graduates now passes to them. They represent not only this school but the whole Palestinian community. 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. Shirley Chisholm, Politician and Author, once said service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth. It is the very purpose of life, not something you do in your spare time. 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.*

Adrian Moody

Adrian Moody - Head of School

What's Happening at RFS This Summer?

Our campuses will be very busy during this summer break. Quaker volunteering groups visiting from USA begin to arrive for their annual visits after Eid Al Fitr, while our Facilities team steps up the works on many construction projects that include finishing the outside Quad and Learning Center, installation of PV cells, as well as works on maintenance and renovations around both campuses.

The school's summer programs are set to start in July as I Know I Can Summer Academies break up into four programs tailored to different age groups taking place on both Lower and Upper campuses.

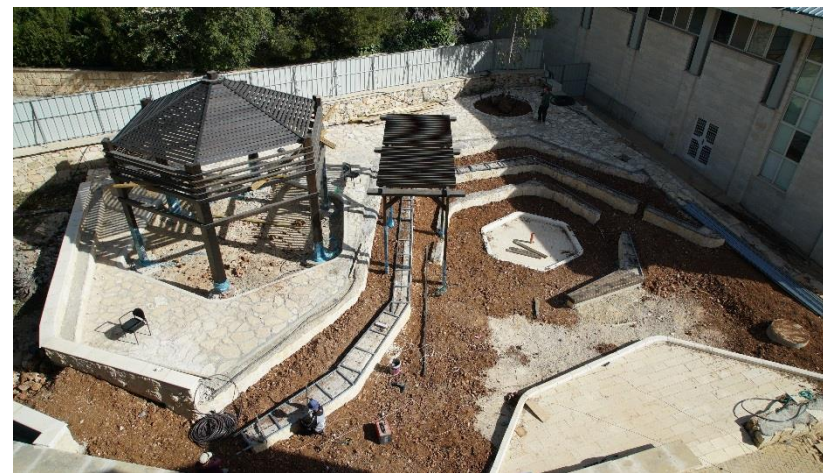
This summer, RFS's Go Palestine Summer Camp invites a new group of Palestinian youth from the diaspora to visit and learn about their homeland and culture.

Administrative work never ends at RFS, after school administration team finishes paperwork for the 2017/2018 Academic year, the preparations begin early for 2018/2019 new Academic year as the school calendar, teacher schedules, curriculums, and much more need to be fully prepared before students come back to classes.

Our 2nd annual Alumni Reunion will take place at the Lower Campus this year on Friday July 13th, 2018. If you are an RFS alumni or Attendee, please join us for a chance to reconnect with your school teachers and friends.*



Facilities team begins planning for summer projects early during the year.



Upper School Learning Quad will be an outside learning area for students to enjoy. This photo was taken in May 2018.



IS NOW AUTHORIZED
TO IMPLEMENT



**HEARTIEST
CONGRATULATIONS**
to teachers, students, parents and staff.

Adrian Moody,
Head of School,
Ramallah Friends School

"I am pleased to inform you that we have been contacted by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) with the outcome of our recent PYP Verification visit and that the IBO has approved our school for authorization to offer the Primary Years Programme. This is a great achievement and comes from the hard work and dedication by the elementary staff brilliantly led by Duha Masri as the PYP Coordinator and the senior leadership of the lower campus. The authorization of the IBO is a sign that we are developing as a school and that we are striving to improve. RFS is one of the few IB World Schools in the region that offers three programs of the IBO." -

Adrian Moody, Head of School.



Alumni in the Spotlight

By Lama Murra – Alumni Relations

This month we share with you a few quotes from some of RFS' freshest graduates- Class of 2018!

"Leaving behind life long memories is very difficult, however, I'm excited to start my new journey with all its unknowns." Laila Atta

"My favorite memory of school is our graduation". Natalie Jubeh

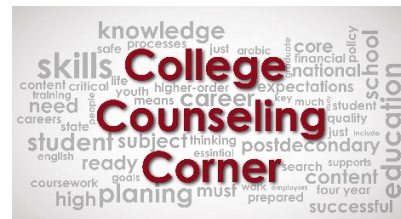
"Graduation is one of the unforgettable memories that will stay with us throughout our life! It's our first big accomplishment that will help us push forward and seek our dreams and goals. Many thanks for the school, teachers, friends and parents who helped us with every step in the way of this 12 year journey." Shahd Sawalhi

"It's only the beginning of a new chapter by the end of the old one, seeking in between the lines, motivated to know the rest of the story and what life has hidden for us." Ahmad Khairy

"School has been our home for the past 12 years, we've been through many experiences that helped and taught us how to face our fears and get through all the ups and downs we might face in our journey. We worked hard with the help of our beloved teachers, parents and the school in general to achieve our goals and be on this stage in our graduation day." Aida Al-Shawa*

Go Palestine is still looking for international campers, if you know someone who would like to join the program for summer 2018 please direct them to the link below:





By Chris Akel – College Counselor

Upcoming Application Dates:

May-June: Submit IB requests to Ustaz Luai for all universities around the world (including US for college credit).
June-July Ongoing: Applications for Middle East universities open.
June: Registration for "I Know I Can" English and SAT Prep Summer Academies open for July.

2018 Final College Data:

120 Colleges and Universities accepting the Class of 2018 around the world.
Nations represented: USA, Canada, UK, Scotland, Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Czech-Republic, Hungary, Turkey, Greece, Cypress, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, UAE, and many local universities.
30 Top Liberal Arts, Renowned Research, and Ivy League school acceptances worldwide.
More than \$7.6 million in scholarship awarded.
18 different "full rides" scholarships meeting full demonstrated need.

College Counseling General:

Missed 11th Grade Spring CC Meetings: If your student missed their counseling meeting this year, unfortunately there is no more time to reschedule. We will reschedule meetings starting in September 2018. As they prepare for next year, all students know that the first draft of their college list, is due by August 20th. Email cakel@rfs.edu.ps for any questions.
2018-19 CC Handbook: This year's [College Counseling Handbook](#) has everything you need to know to apply to college and use the CC Office!*

Stewardship

By Frieda Dahdah – Lower School Principal

God has blessed us with countless gifts, internal and external. He has given us personal attributes in addition to materialistic things to help us survive and lead a peaceful life in serving God by serving the community. Therefore, we are individually held responsible for what God has entrusted us as humans. Unfortunately, in this complex and dynamic world, conflicts and economics and power struggle are dominant. Good citizenship requires that we think twice about every decision in life. Good stewardship of God's gifts holds us responsible for our resources and the resources of future generations.

As a Friends School in Palestine, we practice our teachings and beliefs as we believe in learning by doing; that is we do more than we preach. We model what we believe in through our actions on the ground. Therefore, the school has adopted a variety of programs that reflect the Quaker testimonies and values. First and foremost, we are proud to implement our Environment-Friendly School Program. We believe that everybody can make a difference each and every day. Students conduct numerous activities throughout the school year to reduce, reuse and recycle for a greener school. To show appreciation to God for all the blessings he bestowed upon us, we have adopted the White Gifts Program. Bake sales are our favorite way for raising funds for the less fortunate. Last but not least, our school maintains the Community Service Program throughout the year. Our students visit the blind and the elderly to entertain them with musical and dance performances. It is our duty to be actively involved in our community and in the betterment of our fellow citizens.

Through our engaging and giving programs, essential attributes are instilled in each member of the community. Great stewards are conscientious and empathetic taking responsibility for their decisions. Good citizenship and stewardship require that each human lives and strives to make this world a better place. Here at our beloved Friends School, we are making this world a better place!*



5th Grade Farewell Ceremony May 2018



*Join us on July 13th for
the Annual Alumni and
Attendees Reunion
@RFS Lower Campus -
Ramallah*

4:30 - 7:30 pm

****Don't forget to bring your family and
classmates**

Upcoming Dates and Events

June 11th
Report Cards distribution

June 15th – 18th
Eid Al Fitr Holiday - tentative

June 18th
Upper School – Makeup exams at 9:00 a.m

July 1st – August 1st
Upper and Lower School administration
offices closed.

July 5^h
IB Official scores distributed.

July 13th
RFS Alumni Reunion – Lower School
campus.

Photo Gallery – RFS' 112th Commencement Ceremony

Congrats Class of 2018!



Lower School teacher Huwaida Imseeh
speaking on behalf of RFS teachers.



RFS bid farewell to Jeries Abu-Izam and Duha
Masri, who leave RFS after serving our community
for more than 35 years.



Guest speaker Mr. Azzam Shawa, Palestine
Monetary Authority Governor, wished the
graduates the best of luck and success.

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

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