



THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

The National Library For The Blind
AL-SHURROOQ SCHOOL FOR BLIND CHILDREN

Newsletter 2014/2015

Dear all,

What pleasant news that we want to share with you! This school year started with thirty-eight students, and the achievements of our high school graduates were high. Four students got an average above 90%, and with God's help we managed to find someone to sponsor them for further studies at Bethlehem University. The achievements of 2015 at Al-Shurooq School for blind children are considerably impressive, and The Palestinian Ministry of Education has recognized us as an accredited school that provides educational and rehabilitation services for visually impaired children.

Consequently, six new visually impaired students enrolled in Al-Shurooq School from various districts of the country. Many more children applied but are still on the waiting list due to shortage of funds. The services provided for our students are much more generous than in previous years, and we have been able to hire a special education teacher and an administrative assistant to complement the staff.

New facilities were added taking in consideration physical health. Two teachers took part in a course for mobility and white cane training as a preparation for its implementation. Besides, we are looking forward to importing new Braille printers and equipment needed for blind children.

To conclude, on behalf of Al-Shurooq School, I would like to thank every sponsor who supports us in achieving our aims. You are always welcome to visit our school.

Best wishes

Ruba Aburdeineh



"The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision" Helen Keller

It is not sight but insight that Helen introduces in her quote. Many of us have the gift of sight but don't use our highest potential to see the possibilities in life. Seeing nature and people's faces around us doesn't mean we have sight as we take it for granted. In contrast, blind people take advantage of their highest potential within their high capacity of observing things that we cannot observe because of their emotional context.



Quality time

Christmas Time at Al-Shurooq School

During this holy season, children were excited about Christmas Celebrations and found their own way in expressing their pleasure. They helped the school staff in the preparation for the big Christmas celebration organized at the school. Everyone happily participated despite of the religious differences. Truly we felt the spirit of Christmas; the school was dressed with stunning Christmas handmade decorations. The children left school for midterm vacation holding wonderful memories in their minds that couldn't be forgotten.

Performing Christmas songs



Exploring Christmas decoration

Open Day Activity

As part of the integration program, the students participated in the open day activities organized on May 20th by Al-Shurooq School in collaboration with local organizations. The event included several activities which highlighted the exceptional skills and abilities of our students.

Truly, they were glamorous like stars in performing songs, dancing, playing music, and much more. The crowd enjoyed the performance and showed their affection towards the children through their generous donation.



Open Day activities

The Fruits of Our Follow Up Program

Al-Shurooq school welcomed the return of its daughter/student, Aseel Rzeikat from Hebron. She had enrolled in Al-Shurooq kindergarten to be in a place that provides academic and physical rehabilitation until the 5th grade. She then left to pursue her studies in mainstream classes, graduated with a high average of 96%, and finally returned to our boarding section to pursue studies at Bethlehem University. Aseel is one case of the remarkable success of the follow-up program.

Four other university students also stay in the boarding section. University students' are considered to be role models who give hope for visually impaired children in the boarding section for a bright future.



Graduation day of Aseel

New Scholastic Year 2015-2016

Despite of all the difficulties and challenges we have been facing at the beginning of this semester, we are able to persist and start our scholastic year with great students and staff. While thirty-eight visually impaired children from poor societies study in Al-Shurooq School, twenty seven of them stay in the boarding section.

Furthermore, there are two special needs children with multiple disabilities who were rejected by other organizations. For that reason, we felt that it is our duty to surround, support, and rehabilitate them; Al-Shurooq School accepted the challenge, established a special needs class, and hired a specialized teacher to deal with them. Jaber, a hearing impaired blind child had been living for many years as a deaf/blind until we consulted an Otologist. The evaluation reported that he had a very low hearing level which could be improved through the use of hearing aids. After few months of following rehabilitation techniques with the assistance of the hearing aids, Jaber is showing a significant improvement in learning skills.



Jaber, a hearing impaired blind child



Teachers-children meeting



In class room

Mobility Training

Two of our school teachers participated in a mobility training course which was divided into two parts.

1) The visual part where white cane skills were introduced to prepare children for using them in the future.

2) The training part, as moving in a straight line while using the cane and exercising with partially sighted children to help blind children; Guided by someone who can see, gives a sense of safety.



During mobility training course

Lara's Graduation

Lara's graduation from Talitha Kumi School is an enormous success to our school. We, as Al-Shurooq School staff were so proud to attend Lara's graduation in which she delivered a speech in English on behalf of her classmates. After graduation, Lara left to Gaza to visit her family, and now she is back in our boarding section to join her classmates who study at Bethlehem University.



Lara delivers a speech in Talitha Kumi School



School Principal with Lara in her graduation day

Tiberia Camp 2015

Tiberias camp was held from 22nd -27th of April with the support of Melrose Parish Church. Al-Shurooq School managed to camp in Tiberius with the participation of eight staff members and eighteen students. They had a lot of activities. Some of them helped to develop their fine muscles such as handcrafts, exercises using dough, and sport exercises. For fun, the students enjoyed a fantastic trip on the lake, a walk in nature, and swimming. Additionally, they were given training sessions for the development of using their senses.



Staff members with students in Tiberia

Exchange Program

A group from Bethlehem University and the Catholic University of Koln visited the school to discuss the possibility of a cultural exchange program for students. The mission of this program is to promote mutual understanding between students of nations through cultural and educational exchange.



Members of Catholic University of Koln in our school library

The McCabe Educational Trust

The McCabe sponsoring team visited the school and enjoyed the lunch meal in our kitchen. Later, they discussed issues concerning sponsors and children. Though the number of children had increased, the sponsoring level had decreased which makes it hard for the School to fulfill the needs of our children. Also, they took into account the school situation as it has a shortage of funds that impedes the progression of its building. We would like to increase the number of sponsors through McCabe team for the sustainability in providing services for this marginalized group.



Kindergarten children with visual impairments

Drama and Theatre Course

In order to enhance the skills and develop the abilities of visually impaired children, two of our staff joined a training course of drama and theatre in collaboration with Pontifical Mission Jerusalem. Later, as a graduation project of the course 8 students of Al-Shurooq School will be performing a play on 19th of November 2015.



Samira and Intisar



Making puppets



In class room

Extension of The Kindergarten

Al-Shurooq School for Blind Children has the first and the only kindergarten in the Palestinian Territories. Thus, a large amount of visually impaired children want to join the kindergarten, which resulted in the extension of the kindergarten to accommodate the number of children. The extension of the kindergarten included the establishment of another room, and an external small playground to give them enough space for playing and to arrange corners for each activity. We are so thankful for St. Mary's Church and The World Vision for completing this work.



Playground of the kindergarten



Kindergarten

AL-SHURROOQ SCHOOL FOR BLIND CHILDREN

P.O. Box 19924, Jerusalem 91198

Tel/Fax: +972-2-2766151

Email: info@nsfvh.org

Website: www.nsfvh.org

 مدرسة الشروق للمكفوفين
Al-Shurooq School for Blind Children