



THE EPISCOPAL TECHNOLOGICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER RAMALLAH - WEST BANK

February 2015

Our mission

To improve the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of Palestinian youth in Ramallah and the surrounding areas so that they can become creative and productive members of society through hospitality management, technological education, vocational training, dancing and arts instruction, communication skills development, and the building of intercultural understanding.

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

The first semester is over, 2014 is behind us with all the suffering and the growing violence that affected the whole area. I hope that 2015 will bring us and the whole world more stability and real peace.

It was not easy to start the new school year in September without one of our ambitious students, Mohammad Ziad Al-Araj, who was shot dead on his seventeenth birthday by the Israeli soldiers on the 24th of July 2014. But the spirit of Mohammad is present with his Tawjihi classmates to fulfill the dream that he was not able to achieve!

With the beginning of the second semester everybody is trying to give all their support to our Tawjihi students from both the Hotel and IT streams, hoping that they will have good achievements at the end of this school year.

The highlight of this school year was the grand opening of St. Andrew's Guesthouse with Archbishop Suheil Dawwani and our German partners and many other friends who appreciated all the work achieved in our hospitality.

The ETVTC team is also very satisfied with many of the 11th graders' achievements in the hotel stream, who implemented many catering events on and outside of the school premises, and the IT students who took part in some technological activities at the national level. We are all looking forward for the yearly cooking and IT competitions that will start in February!

We are also very proud of both the Ballet and Karate schools and other programs, including about 100 participants working hard for the final ballet concert at the end of this school year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ETVTC staff for their hard work so far this year, all our local and international friends from around the world who believe in our mission, as well as the Episcopal Church in the Middle East and our Archbishop Suheil Dawani. We are deeply encouraged by your support for providing better opportunities to people who face many difficulties under occupation.

Giovanni Anbar



St. Andrew's Guest House Grand Opening!

We celebrated the Grand Opening of St. Andrew's Guest House, complete with remodeled hotel rooms on the 27th of October 2014. At this Opening, the Archbishop Suheil Dawani, the Chairman of Paulinenpflege Dr. Thomas Weinmann, the project manager from Germany Mr. Guenther Schmidt, and ETVTC director Mr. Giovanni Anbar cut the ceremonial ribbon which marks the culmination of making this Guest House a reality. Our German partners, Board members, and employees were also present at the celebration. The whole event was prepared by our Hotel stream students, who cooked and served the food.



Women's Empowerment Workshop

At the beginning of the first semester, we hosted and participated in the "Women's Empowerment Workshop" that was held by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and under the patronage of Mrs. Shafeeqa Dawani. The workshop aimed to improve women's capacity to identify, address and promote community needs and priorities, in addition to learn how to design programs and work together with others in the community. One of our staff, Mrs. Hanadi Eleimi participated in this workshop that lasted four days. During these days, 25 women stayed in our Guest House, and our Hotel Management students prepared and served all of their meals and coffee breaks.



Hotel Management Students Catering!

During the first semester, our Hotel Management students catered many events in-house and in the community. One of these events was in Khalil Sakakini Cultural Centre: our students went there in order to do some catering for an event held by the Netherlands Representative Office in Ramallah. The event was an exhibition of "The Art of the Islamic Book" and was attended by guests from the Palestinian ministries, the diplomatic community, the Palestinian cultural sector, and the local media. The students did a great job and were noticed by many of the guests. Another important event was held in the centre itself, where a large group of people from different countries were gathered by Juzoor for Health and Social Development for a workshop, called "Explore Youth Initiatives in Palestine 2014". Our students prepared breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the whole group for several days. We are really blessed to have such students and we thank them for all their efforts. We would also like to wish them the best of luck.



Celebration of IT Students' Achievement in Innovation Contest

Our 11th grade IT students participated in the "Celebration of Innovation" and won first place among the vocational schools of the central part of the West Bank. The contest was arranged and held by Al-Quds Open University within the activities of Palestine Entrepreneurship and Employment week. In this contest, the students created a technological project on their own, and then competed with other students from different vocational schools.



Sports Day for people with mental disabilities

On the 29th of October 2014, our students (from grades 11 and 12), went to First Ramallah Group in order to do some activities for members of the community who are mentally disabled. The event was organized with Al-Nahda Women's Association. Our students worked with the participants in small groups in order to play some sports with them, such as basketball. They spent the entire day in these activities.



“ETVTC is an example that really works, if there are many schools like this a lot could change in society” said the Grand Prior of SMOTJ during his visit to the ETVTC.

Hosting Different Groups

We have hosted many different groups of guests in our guest house during the first semester. One of these groups was the Sovereign Military Order of Jerusalem, SMOJ, which sponsors some of our students. The students and teachers took the guests for a tour around the school and the guest house, gave a presentation about ETVTC, and cooked them Palestinian Msakhan as a way to appreciate all of their support and efforts. We also hosted the American Friends for a whole week, for which the Hotel Management students also prepared and served the food.



“We are inspired by your leadership and vision, and we are committed to building a bright future for this institution – which we are now, today more than ever, so proud to call home.” said some of the German partners during their last visit to ETVTC.

OUR VOLUNTEERS JO, KATHARINA AND CEDRIC!

Every year, the Diakonie Wuerttemberg association sends volunteers to the ETVTC and the Guest House for one year in order to stay and work. The volunteers' duties are to support our staff and work on administrative tasks. Currently, we have Cedrik from Germany; he is teaching drums in the centre for kids twice a week, booking rooms for guests who want to stay at St. Andrew's Guest House, and helping all of our staff with everything they need. Moreover, he is working in the Evangelical Kindergarten with Sister Najah twice a week. Last year, we had Katharina who is also from Germany. She stayed in the ETVTC for almost a year; in this year, she taught the students the German Language and did some administrative work.



We also have Jo Bronson from the United States; she is a regular volunteer who comes twice a year in order to work with the students on strengthening their English and confidence. Jo is an amazing volunteer who has a lot to give, both to the students and our staff.



We would like to thank our great volunteers for all of their efforts

OUR BALLET AND KARATE SCHOOLS

On Friday the 12th of December, the ETVTC School of Ballet received an invitation from the Russian Center for Science and Culture in Bethlehem in order to perform in a contest they are holding. Three of our talented students



went with their instructor, Mrs. Katia Al-Sheikh to Bethlehem and gave a stunning performance. The girls

were also honored by the judges for participating.

On the following day, Saturday the 13th of December, our Karate School did an examination for its 20 students. The examination was done by the trainer Issam Shaban, a Karate

instructor with one of the highest ranks in the West Bank, and other judges from the Palestinian Karate Federation. In this examination, the students went through different challenges such as Free Fighting and "Kata". Accordingly the students

passed to higher levels and got new belts; ten of the students earned yellow belts, five of the students earned green



belts, two earned blue belts, and three students now have brown belts. All of the Karate students got medals from their trainer, and three students were very unique to the extent that the trainer gave them a "belt" as a reward.

WE ARE VERY HAPPY WITH THE PROGRESS OF BOTH THE BALLET AND KARATE SCHOOLS

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAM

This program was developed as a part of ETVTC in 2002 in order to help students from different schools in Ramallah and the surrounding areas identify and troubleshoot computer issues through learning by doing (hands-on experience). This program is considered a community outreach, rather than focusing only on our students. Each year this program targets more than 380 boys and girls ranging from grades 7 to 10 from Friends School, Evangelical School, Lutherans' School, and two public schools.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

- Celebrating with Vocational School Students and Teachers

The Bible Society held a Christmas celebration for all of our students and teachers in the Centre. At this celebration, the students side by side with their teachers went through different activities such as puzzles, quizzes, and question and answers; whoever answered correctly got a gift as a reward. After that, the students and teachers were divided in seven groups, the teachers in one group and the students in the other six groups. They had a competition in which all of the groups got a set of questions they had to answer in a short amount of time. They competed and the teachers' group won the contest. After the activities, they all had lunch together, talked and laughed. The whole celebration lasted from 9.30 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.



- Celebrating with Ballet and Karate Schools



We also celebrated Christmas with the Ballet & Karate schools' children and parents. During the celebration, the children enjoyed many interesting activities until SANTA showed up and distributed the presents.

OUR ACHIEVER

Our graduated student, Ibrahim Wael Obeidi, was honored on the 9th of September 2014 by the Governor of Ramallah and Al Bireh, Dr. Laila Ghannam and the Director of Education, Ayoub Elayyan for getting the highest average in the public examinations in Hotel Management on a national level for the year 2013/2014. We are very proud to graduate such a student, and hope he will be a model for other students in the years to come.



FIELD TRIPS

During the first semester, our 12 IT students went to ExpoTechExhibition with their teachers in order to see the exhibits and be inspired by all the innovations that were shown there. They learned a lot from this experience and were motivated to do their best!



Despite all the wonderful moments we spent during the first semester, we had very difficult ones as well; we lost our student Mohammad Al-Araj and our colleague Mousa Khoury. It is very hard to accept the fact that they are no longer with us, but Mohammad's classmates, friends, and teachers and we, Mousa's colleagues, are still remembering them in everything we do. We know that they are no longer here, yet their spirits will never leave us; they will always remain in our hearts.



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