

## Al-Shurooq Kindergarten

"And being blind that's doesn't change who you are. Renee Carter"

We welcome blind children from 3- 5 years old in our kindergarten regardless of their religious and social background. Our mission is to help blind children to grow, to gain autonomy and to develop themselves and their skills so as to be a constructive and effective human in the future.

The adopted methodology in our kindergarten is built on multiplying the opportunities to stimulate their desire to learn diversify and enrich their understanding of the world. Our kindergarten curriculum is in line with the requirements of the general education system in Palestine, at the same time it takes into account the basis of modern education (Early Childhood education) , and with this our students are not separated from the educational system in their community.

The daily program in the kindergarten aims to allow children to develop their potential, creativity and self- esteem, and promoting them to be confident in their abilities.

### School trip to Jericho on April, 9, 2014



On a nice spring day our students left the school at nine o'clock heading to Jericho which is a city lies below the sea level. Wearing their yellow T-shirts, that we provided with to distinguish them between the crowds. The students and the staff enjoyed their day there at the park they had BBQ, ice-cream and played on different games.

Al-Shurooq kids enjoying playing outside

### Extracurricular Activity

In order to improve student's skills at music every Wednesday students take music lessons at Edward Said National Conservatory of Music which helps them to improve their hearing skills. Students listen to music and learn to play on different music instruments, such as the piano and the drum. The students are also taught to sing correctly and nicely.

At Edward Said Conservatory of Music



For sponsoring a child please visit the website: [www.nsfvh.org](http://www.nsfvh.org)

Find us on:  Al-Shurooq School for Blind Children

## THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

### The National Library For The Blind



### AL-SHURROOQ SCHOOL FOR BLIND CHILDREN

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### Quarterly Newsletter - Summer 2014

Dear Friends,

We are apologizing for the delay in issuing our quarterly newsletter. We were in a very delicate and complicated situation due to change in administration and rearrangements of the interior issues of the Society. Proudly now we can say that we are back on track and we are moving forward to ensure quality of learning to our beloved ones. Not ignoring the psychological development of them and to ensure that we hired a very qualified social worker her name is Wafa Gayada. Year 2013 was a very hectic one here at the Society, four of our students were successfully integrated at the mainstream schools also other three students joined Al-Shurooq Kindergarten. Another student Intisar graduated from Bethlehem University with Honor role and she is a member of our staff now.

Year 2014, unfortunately, has the agony of war and stress as many of our children especially from the Hebron area, were having troubles coming to school because of the imposed closure. Nevertheless, we have to continue our mission and to serve our students as much as possible believing in peace and justice for all. Also we should not forget the suffer in Gaza and how many children are the victims of war and that many of them were lost or unfortunately will be living with a handicapped, not forgetting our child Lara who is now in Gaza under the bombing, we are praying for her to come back safe to us.

Finally, we appreciate all the efforts that our supporters around the world have toward the school and its mission and we thank them for their commitment.

Ruba Aburdeineh, Principal

## Art Gallery

(Mazien Najar got the third place in a painting competition) Mazien, which is a nine years old, low vision student joined a painting workshop with an organization called START and his painting were presented at art gallery in Bethlehem and received an award for his work.



Mazin Painting at the Russian Center in Bethlehem

## Christmas season

The children participated in two Christmas parties one at the school and the other at the YMCA Jerusalem. At the school coral participated with two songs and after that they received gifts from Santa. It was a joyful moment for us to listen to their soft voices and to watch them stand up with pride.



Day at YMCA Jerusalem on 22/12/2013



Santa at Al-Shurooq School



School Coral at the YMCA Jerusalem Christmas Party

## Day out at the YMCA Beit-Sahour

Supported by Y's Men and Women Club. Al-Shurooq children enjoyed a day out at YMCA Beit-Sahour, they played, sang and danced with a group of educated Palestinian men and women from Bethlehem area accompanied with school staff and the Chairman of the Society Dr.Simon Alaraj who believes that Al-Shurooq children should have the chance to experience the life outside the school and to integrate in the local community.

As we know children loves to eat outside so at that day they got the chance to have lunch at the KFC Bethlehem. It was a joyful experience for them since our children comes from very poor communities and never got the chance to eat outside.



Having Lunch at KFC Bethlehem

## McCabe Sponsored Walk

On January 28, the school principal Ruba Aburdeineh, Mrs. Helen Shehadeh and the School Secretary Mrs. Samira joined McCabe sponsored walk in the old city of Jerusalem. It was an unforgettable moment for us walking with our friends for a noble cause which is raising money to fund projects supported by McCabe Educational Trust. Later the Chairman of the Society Dr.Simon Alaraj joined the group at the dinner celebrating 30 years of McCabe Pilgrimages.



From the left Mrs.Ruba Aburdeineh, Mrs.Helen and Mrs.Samira at the McCabe Sponsored Walk

## Open Day Activity

We shine like the Sunshine

Al Shurooq School for blind children organized an open day activity on may 24<sup>th</sup>, the event program included several paragraphs carried out by the school students such as dances, singing traditional songs, music and poetry reading .

More than 50 people participated in the event from many local institutions whether it was in supporting and funding or attending the ceremony, as well as the families of the school's students. The beginning of the ceremony started with the national anthem, followed by a few welcoming words from the representatives of Al shuruq administrative committee , the Parents Council, the director of the medical affairs in the presidential office and the school headmaster.

After the students paragraphs were completed the participants visited the school educational tools and materials gallery, and they had close look on the educational methods that Al Shurooq school is using in teaching the blind children, and they were impressed to know that all these materials have been designed and manufacture by the school teachers.

In addition to that there was an open buffet which contained some of the delicious Palestinian traditional dishes.

We were so proud that all Al-Shurooq school students participated in this event, including those who have graduated from the school, and that each one of them had a role and they were all involved in every part of it.

The students of Al -Shurooq School proved in that day that in spite of disability they can achieve lots, and breaking down barriers and obstacles is something possible with faith and perseverance.

They all shine like the sunshine in that day, and we will keep the hard work to help them to continue shining in their future.