



Holy Child Program

برنامج الطفل المقدس

## Second Quarter Report: November 1, 2018 - January 31, 2019



**Gathering Round The Parabolic Sculpture  
At The Israel Museum**



**Captivated By World's Largest  
& Oldest Known Oxen Horns**

**Objective 1: To provide a therapeutic environment which fosters not only academic and emotional growth but also a sense of belonging to a larger family.**

- The highlight of this quarter came at the end of January when our students and staff had the extraordinary opportunity of spending a whole day at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem! We were enthusiastically welcomed by the museum staff and were given a brief overview of the museum. We then broke into smaller groups each with our own private guide who held us spellbound with information they imparted. After a refreshing picnic lunch in the courtyard of the museum, we had a hands on learning experience which involved sculpting and decorating face masks. Students were inspired by all of the face masks they had seen in the museum and eagerly began molding their clay. Everyone created their own clay mask and adorned them with decorative beads, feathers, and a variety of organic materials such as dried peas, lentils and corn. It was hard to tell who enjoyed the project more, the students or the teachers! Feedback from the museum staff was overwhelming positive. They were impressed with how well behaved our students were and by the mature and thoughtful questions they asked about the exhibits.

Some of the students' favorite exhibits were the European period rooms. They were awed by the tapestries and rugs in the Rothschild and Venetian rooms as well as the rococo English dining room. The gilt furniture proved equally fascinating. The museum guides engaged the children in a game of "I spy" in each of the period rooms, ensuring everyone noticed every detail! The other favorite exhibit was a neolithic burial scene with the bones of a woman arranged in a sleeping position with her dog's bones nestled next to her. The outdoor sculptures of the huge apple core and the parabolic mirror were definite favorites. Many photos were taken of the students posing with them!



**Visiting the European Period Rooms**

**Objective 2: To embody and promote a deeper understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church in every aspect of our work with children, families, co-workers and other professionals.**

- During this quarter we were invited to attend and participate in a religious education program sponsored by Bridges to Evangelization. The purpose of the weekly, year long course is to *"update and enrich teachers' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic doctrine and to provide teachers with new resources, tools and approaches to teaching"* the faith. HCP is the host agency for the training in the West Bank. Four sessions were held during this quarter. Our staff looks forward to deepening their understanding of the Catholic faith and learning new ways to impart that knowledge!
- This season abounds in opportunities to celebrate the teachings of the Catholic faith. On All Saints Day each class draws the name of a saint which becomes the patron saint and guardian of their classroom for the year. After researching the history of their saint, a presentation is made to the rest of the school.
- All Souls Day is an opportunity for special prayers in the memorial rose garden for all the beloved of our friends, children, families, and staff. A candle is lit and placed in front of every rose named for someone. It creates a powerful sense of communion and community.
- While not a religious feast, Thanksgiving is celebrated. We take this opportunity to reflect and



**All Souls Day Prayers In The Rose Garden**



**Thanksgiving Preparations**



**Building Our Turtle Shell**



**The finished masterpiece!**



**Practicing Calm Down Skills**

be thankful for the support for of all the organizations, donors and visitors who have helped foster our mission. In the spirit of Thanksgiving we celebrate with a communal meal featuring Director Iskander's famous turkey!

- Christmas is beloved in Bethlehem! At HCP, the children decorate our Christmas tree with ornaments made with their pictures. Mass is held at Shepherd's Field, our parish church, and includes a Nativity play performed by all the children. During Mass the intentions of all our benefactors are prayed for. A book, with the names of all of our visitors and donors, reposes on the altar throughout Mass. After Mass, we returned to school and enjoyed a play about the spirit of Christmas put on by the Arab Bible Society from Bethlehem. The Greek Orthodox Youth Group from Beit Jala donated all of the gifts distributed by Santa to our students. The generosity of our local community helped our students understand the immensity of this feast and the need to share it with everyone!

**Objective 3: To develop and implement individualized educational and therapeutic treatment plans for each child enrolled in our program.**

- This quarter, students finished their unit on problem-solving and started learning about anger management with "Tiny Turtle" in Dina Dinosaur school. As part of the process the students enjoyed building a new turtle shell for school, (our old one finally fell apart). Next they learned how to withdraw into their own shell and calm down. Every student practiced the calm down skills and generating positive solutions. Their classmates were available to coach and congratulate them as they practiced! The students' homework was to use these skills at home with their friends and family.
- One student told his mother that *"Dina Dinosaur school teaches us how to express our feelings."* He shared a specific example of how he used his new skills with his sister. He said: *"I feel hurt when my sister calls me 'buns' (fat) and she feels hurt when I call her 'loser' My solution is*

to stop calling her 'loser' so she will stop calling me 'buns'. The mother, needless to say, was thrilled and surprised by her son's new skills!

- One of the HCP teachers shared how surprised she was when one of her students told her he used to be "very naughty" and frequently made "problems" at his previous schools. His teacher told him it was very hard to believe because he was so well behaved at HCP. The student replied; *"That's because you have rules here and Dina School!"*

**Objective 4: To provide clinically appropriate and culturally sensitive parent education, counseling and support services for the families of this region.**

- In December our mothers from the Group of Peace received certificates for completing the units on positive attention and special time. The group leaders commented on how dedicated this group of mothers is. They are always on time, come with all their homework completed and rarely miss a group. Feedback from the mothers is equally positive. All of the mothers said they had learned to be more patient with their children. Several mothers said they learned to calm down and communicate more with their children. Others identified that they *"learned to understand their children's feelings and how to share their opinions."* One mother shared, *"After I thought about the way I raised my children I found that I made many mistakes, but Mothers group (The Incredible Years program) taught me how to deal with my children. I learned how important 'special time' is."* The mothers unanimously agreed that talking to other mothers in the group and collaborating with each other was extremely helpful.
- During this quarter, we provided two assessments for families hoping to enroll their children in HCP and three family counseling sessions. Additionally, we provided counseling services to one student not enrolled in our program but who was referred to us for services. Although we can only accommodate thirty-five students, through our after school counseling



**Our Incredible Mothers In The Group of Peace**



**Role Playing How To Coach Children In Mothers Group**



***A Visit From Santa And A Christmas Play!***



***Bridges To Evangelization Training***



***One Of Our Great Graduates & His Mother Make Time To Visit With Us***

program and mothers group we are able extend our outreach to the community.

**Objective 5: To provide our staff with continuing education opportunities as well as regular support and supervision to further their professional development and increase job satisfaction.**

- As part of our teachers' professional development, each teacher has a day long observation twice annually. We are fortunate to have a master educator work with our educational Director, Suzanne Elias, in providing this service. The first round of observations was completed and reviewed with each teacher individually. Our master educator's feedback regarding the teachers was overwhelmingly positive. Teachers were invited during the review period to identify specific goals they would like to work on and what support or tools they needed to accomplish their goal. It should be noted that our teachers enthusiastically welcome the observations and feedback.
- Continuing education during this period focused on the Bridges to Evangelization program. Sessions are two hours each and are held every Friday after school at HCP. We have enjoyed four sessions to date.

**Objective 6: To ensure a successful integration for our graduates in their next educational placement.**

- During this quarter our social worker connected either by phone or in person with all of our 2018 graduates. Six of the seven graduates are all doing well in their current placements. The one remaining graduate, who had previously refused any placement, hoping to return to HCP, is currently enrolled in a vocational program.
- Our school social worker visited one of our former graduates who lives an hour and a half away. She met with the graduate and his mother and arranged for them to meet with the head of Caritas Baby Hospital in Bethlehem to discuss having some of his medical expenses related to his kidney transplant covered by Caritas.

- During this period we were graced by visits from several of our graduates and their families. These are always happy occasions for us.

**Objective 7: To collaborate and coordinate with other organizations and/or treatment providers involved in the education and treatment of children and families.**

- We are particularly blessed by the many organizations, groups and individuals who make time to visit HCP. This quarter a group of Australian educators visited us, several of whom were familiar with the Incredible Years Program and its implementation in Australia. We also received a group of educators from the United States interested in supporting education in the Holy Land.
- In January our Director, Iskander Khoury, began a program sponsored by the Latin Patriarchate for Catholic school leaders. The course is an intensive one year course that meets one full day every week in Ramallah at the Ministry of Education. The program is based on the Colip Educational Model "Learning by Doing" and includes reading assignments as well as weekly homework assignments. The assignments include a number of self-evaluation questionnaires which are completed by parents, teachers and staff regarding our program. Based on the results of the questionnaires, target areas and goals are identified to be addressed. Thus far it has been an insightful experience for us, one that has prompted interesting and thought-provoking discussions among the staff. While it requires a significant amount of additional work for Director Iskander, it is sure to be of benefit! Upon completion, Iskander will receive a certificate in School Leadership certified by the Palestinian Ministry of Education.



***Christmas Mass & Nativity Play In The Grotto At Shepherd's Field***



***Prayers For The Intentions of our Benefactors***



***Thank You To Everyone For Helping Us Spread "The Good News"!***