

# ARAB EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Spring-Newsletter, March 2021



## Ahlan wa sahlan – Welcome Back

### The new school semester begins at the AES

Samir Esaid, the founder of the school, reported on March 14, 2021:

The second half of the school year began on February 8, 2021. Everyone was happy that the days of home schooling were over and that we could go back to school. The pupils should arrive in three stages. By March 7th, everyone would have been there in full. But that wasn't possible. Two weeks after the first group of students, the number of people infected with corona doubled due to the new arrivals. So their return to school had to be stopped.

Now the school is trying again to give distance learning. Distance learning is particularly difficult for the blind and visually impaired because the technical prerequisites for it are often lacking. The blind teachers therefore try to support the pupils wherever possible and to make learning easier for them. After the number of those affected by the epidemic rose daily from 700 to around 5,000 and the number of daily shop opening hours was reduced, it was decided at the end of February to close the school and even the churches completely on Fridays after five weeks.

The economic situation in Jordan is deteriorating daily due to the closure of many companies. Statistics show that 24 percent of Jordanians have become unemployed. 400,000 people have lost their jobs as a result of the epidemic. Short-time working is not included here.

Since only a small number of parents continue to pay school fees despite the school closings, the school loses considerable amounts of school fees. This is unlikely to change in the coming school year.

As only a few vaccines have arrived in Jordan so far, unfortunately only a small number of people have been vaccinated.

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Hundreds of thousands of people are still waiting to be vaccinated. My parents, both over 82 years old, are also affected. My mother has now been vaccinated, but my father is still waiting for his turn. Doctors and nurses had priority in Jordan.

We pray to the Lord to help us in this catastrophe that has hit the whole world, because in Jordan, as everywhere in the world, we have lost many people to this epidemic. We now have around 450,000 infected people and almost 5,000 deaths. Six patients have just died in a hospital near Amman because the clinic ran out of oxygen.

### School starts in the second half of the year, corona tests



The first day of the second half of the school year began with the lighting of thank you candles in church. These are an expression of the request to God Almighty to look after and accompany the children and their safe return to school. We are grateful for God's blessings, also in school.



At the beginning of the second half of the school year, the epidemiological investigation team from the Ministry of Health came and tested all employees for Corona. A medical team from the Caritas Jordan Association tested the students at the Arab Episcopal School. Respect and thanks to Caritas! In the meantime, all employees as well as the children are experienced in handling all corona protective measures.

## Looking back at the Christmas season



Christmas is an important date also in the school year. School and church are richly decorated. People meet for worship, at the Christmas tree and at dinner. In 2020, of course, with the mouth and nose protection. The newborn little cats prefer to sleep in the crib.

## Distance learning training

The last few months have been characterized by numerous advanced training courses on distance learning and home schooling. The teachers took up the new challenge constructively.

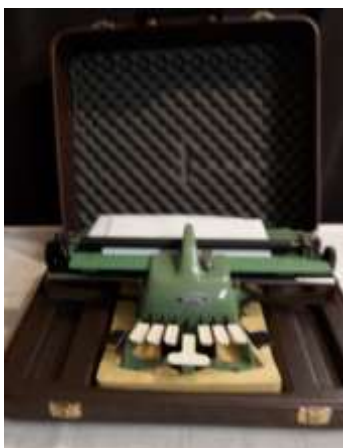


They were motivated in the strategic plans to "activate distance learning".

## Celebrating Louis Braille's Birthday



On January 4th, AES celebrated the birthday of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille. As a child and adolescent, he himself developed the script that is common today in connection with other blind people. ([https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis\\_Braille](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Braille)) For the AES this is an important day to be celebrated. A short video specially produced for this can be seen on the website of the association (<https://www.fii-ev.de/>). The association has collected some Braille typewriters and had them repaired.



Unfortunately, we cannot get these devices to Jordan at the moment, as transport and taxes are far too expensive. Groups of visitors cannot currently fly to Jordan. They usually brought such devices with them in their luggage as gifts to the school. We hope that one day we can deliver our Braille typewriters to Irbid.



## Becoming at home

The students were at home with distance learning for several months due to Corona. Now they have to get used to school life again. So that this succeeds, there were various offers in the first week of school: sports, puppet theater and special offers.



## Reviews even in kindergarten

Even in kindergarten, the children receive semester evaluation certificates. The children were rated as suitable for advanced degrees. Congratulations! May God bless their lives and increase parents' joy in their children.



The little ones proudly hold up their certificates.

## The art of self motivation

In its two branches, the school organized a training workshop for students in the tenth grade and the first secondary level under the title “Art of Self-Motivation”. It was also about the targeted planning of the upcoming new phase in the school expansion.



## Arts at the school



The sense of art is an essential part of developing creativity in children.



After a basic introduction, color prints are made here. The children were there with great joy and creativity. Many thanks to all teachers who have lovingly contributed to the development of the students.

## Success has to be celebrated

In the third grade of elementary school, the competition for education and culture at home was celebrated. Thank you to all those who love to promote and challenge the student souls.



Many of you were able to provide additional support to the school in the particularly difficult year 2020. For this we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. Unfortunately, the situation did not get any better in 2021. Of course, we are always happy to receive your donation. It benefits the school without any deductions and is fully tax deductible.

Notes on this on the last page

## New treasurer for the FII e. V.

The FII e.V. has a new treasurer. On February 1, 2021, Michael Vögele took over the tasks from Michael Westhauser whose impulses made important contributions to the development of the association. Despite other obligations, Michael Vögele has agreed to continue the tasks of the treasurer in a competent manner. We are very grateful to both volunteers! In the picture we see both of them handing over the business in the office in January 2021.

So you, dear readers, can cheerfully continue donating. The corona-plagued AES can use support!

We thank you for your gift.

You can find information on donations and donation confirmations on the last page of this newsletter or at <https://www.fii-ev.de/spenden/>.

Thank you very much for all your support!

Remain healthy and God commanded,

Dr. Winfried Dalferth



## Rainbow over Irbid

We were able to observe this rainbow from school in January. The rainbow has a deep meaning for us as a sign of peace. We hope for this desperately!

## 100 years Kingdom of Jordan

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will celebrate the anniversary "100 years of founding Jordan" on April 16, 2021. AES therefore shot a video on January 8th, 21st to show how the school is preparing for this anniversary.



## Thanks to Lydia Zoubek



Lydia Zoubek writes in her blog "Lydia's World" about what it's like to be blind. In 2019 her blog was nominated for the Grimme Online Award. We are very pleased that an article about the AES appeared there. Click here for the blog post: <https://lydiaswelt.com/2021/02/18/die-arab-episcopal-school-integrationsschule-jordanien/> And what's more: Lydia has set up a "money pool" via PayPal. Anyone who wants to can donate the equivalent of one coffee to the AES by March 31, 2021.

As of March 14 € 740 were collected! And about the Money Pool:

<https://www.paypal.com/pools/c/8wREnH1xQK>

We would like to thank Ms. Zoubek very much for her great commitment!

## Imprint

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The AES works according to the principles of peace education.

This includes the joint teaching of:

- blind, visually impaired and sighted children (inclusion)
- boys and girls (co-education)
- Christians and Muslims (interfaith education)

Help others to help!