

ARAB EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Autumn Newsletter, November 2020



Ahlan wa sahlan - Welcome Back

At AES we were very happy to start a new school year. We are happy and proud to begin with grade 11, and we are confident to have a 12. Grade next year.

After a promising start it should turn out that we would face one of the most challenging times in the school's history. Shortly after opening the school after the summer break we - as all schools in Jordan - had to close because of the corona epidemic. Classes are being taught in part digital as distant learning. Especially in our situation this is extremely challenging.



Morning Roll Call under Corona Conditions

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Preparations for the School Year



During the summer break we elaborately remodeled and renovated the school and prepared the school premises to be safe, homely and welcoming for the children.





The school building, classrooms, floors, and toilets were renovated, and painting work was carried out. All outdoor playground equipment was overhauled, and the electrical equipment was serviced.

We are proud to have an 11th grade!

The opening of the eleventh grade after approval by the school board and after receiving the necessary licenses from the Ministry of Education was very lucky for everyone. So our previous tenth graders can stay at our school. If we then - God willing - get the second secondary level next year, we can offer training for the blind from kindergarten to university entrance qualification.



Corona Protection Measures I



In view of the corona epidemic, we are making every effort to comply with all corona protection regulations. We thoroughly clean and disinfect. The temperature of all children and employees is measured daily. Dispensers are available everywhere to disinfect hands.

So we were ready to start the new school year.



But after just 17 days of school the government decided that all schools had to close.

A Happy, but Short Period

It could have been a good school year! After intensive planning and preparation, the new school year began. We had all adjusted to the epidemic and were just getting used to the security measures. Here are pictures from the short time in which we thought we could have a successful school year despite Corona.



When the children arrive in the morning, their hands are first disinfected. The children wear masks and keep their distance in the classroom.





Morning roll call in small groups and wearing masks in the classroom - even in kindergarten - but not during the breakfast break, of course!



Communication on dealing with Corona, protective measures



Schoolchildren are being informed about Corona precautions, classes have been divided and the children are set far apart.



The headmistress informs parents and teachers about the necessary methods to prevent the transmission of the virus as well as about distance learning with the program "MS Teams".



Hygiene concept, in service computer training.

Our children need school as a community, and professional, individual care is so necessary! At home with distance learning, this is as good as impossible, especially for disabled children. After the state decided that distance learning should be done, things became very difficult for parents, students and teachers. The pandemic hits the school in many ways, and the workforce works to the point of exhaustion. A hygiene concept had to be developed and implemented. School children and parents had to be trained. To protect everyone, all wear masks and adhere to the rules of distance.



Media had to be purchased for distance learning and the teaching staff had to be trained. Certificates for successful advanced training in the "MS Teams" program (right) As if that weren't bad enough, nine teachers are currently infected and have to work from home.

Distance computer learning, no volunteers



Teachers apply their new computer skills, work together on programs, and connect with the children who need to study at home.



The fact that volunteers are not allowed to enter the country due to the epidemic is particularly stressful. In recent years, volunteers have been able to help teachers in the classes by accompanying the blind and severely blind. In addition, the volunteers always helped with the German-language correspondence and the newsletter. That also explains why the newsletter is coming to you later this year. We apologize for that. From November 30th, according to the Jordanian government, the disabled children should go back to school. We are doing everything we can to master this situation.



Our children need school as a community and professional, individual care so much! This is extremely difficult at home with distance learning, especially with disabled children. The pandemic hits the school several times, and the community is at the end of its tether. The school and its staff do extraordinary things in terms of strength and finances. In addition to the daily work, the hygiene measures have been developed and implemented, the school has been equipped with electronic media and further training has been carried out. In addition, nine teachers are currently infected and work from home. One teacher tested positive even after three weeks.

*„Doch guter Menschen Hauptbestreben Ist,
andern auch was abzugeben.“ (Wilhelm Busch)
("But good people's main endeavor is to give something to others")*

If you can support the school in this particularly difficult year, we look forward to your donation to the friends' association. It benefits the school without any deductions and is fully tax deductible.

Notes on this on the last page

White Cane Day

On October 15, the school celebrated International White Cane Day. This day is dedicated to the blind.



Sad Loss

Brother Andrew D. Carpenter died in early October. He served in the Episcopal Church for over 46 years and served on our school's board of directors for over twelve years before retiring. We lost one of the people who played an important role in the Church and on the AES governing body.

A Big Thank You

Pastor Samir thanks all donors for the great help the school received after the summer trip had to be canceled. He very much regrets that he has not been able to refresh his personal contacts with you because of the pandemic.

His thanks also go to all members, the board of directors and the volunteers who remain loyal to the school and continue to support it.



1st Advent at the AES

*All employees and the AES school community
thank you from the bottom of their hearts
for your great support
and wish you
a blessed Advent season,
Merry Christmas,
and God's blessings for the year
2021.*

Förderverein Inklusionsschule Irbid (FII) e.V.

Friends of the Inclusion School Irbid (FII) e.V.

In May 2018, the Friends of Inclusion School Irbid was founded in Öhringen, Germany. With the decision of the tax office in Öhringen dated October 2nd, 2018, the association is recognized as non-profit because of the "promotion of education, national and vocational training including student aid".

The FII e.V. is therefore entitled to issue donation receipts.

We are happy that you support the school as a member of the FII e.V. or with your donation.

You can find the membership application form, and interesting news at www.fii-ev.de or write to the office:

Chairman Dekan i. R. Dr. Winfried Dalferth, Zum Römerbrunnen 14, 74613 Öhringen, E-Mail: FII-eV@gmx.de

This newsletter was created by Pastor Samir with Thomas and Rosemarie Lutz.

Donation account at the Volksbank Öhringen:

DE96 6209 1800 0344 2820 07, BIC GENODES1VHL

Important note for donors:

If you would like to donate for Christmas, please use the note „Weihnachtsspende 2020“.

Please always include your address on all transfers. Then we can thank you and send you a donation receipt. We really want to do that.

Many many thanks!

The Arab Episcopal School is part of the Diocese of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Have a look at the website of the diocese:

www.j-diocese.org

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Take a look at our Facebook page! There you can find a lot more information and pictures!

www.facebook.com/ArabEpiscopalSchool

or on our website:

www.aeschool.org