

Tabeetha School, Jaffa

December 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parent, Carer, Friend of Tabeetha,



It is with very mixed feelings that I write to you at the end of my teaching career, after almost 45 years in education, the last 4+ at Tabeetha. I am very much looking forward to retiring now and returning home to Scotland but leaving this wonderful school is a real wrench. I am so pleased to know I am leaving it in safe hands as Mrs Gilboa and Miss Rachel continue their roles as Head of Secondary and Primary. I am very pleased to know the Church of Scotland has made the decision to employ an Executive Director in place of a Principal and I am thrilled to have my very good friend, Mrs Mona Ashkar, join the staff team in this role. Mrs Ashkar has been a great advocate for the school and has worked tirelessly for the school as School Board and Parent Committee member throughout my time and before. I know she will take the school from strength to strength and be able to promote the school further afield. I commend her to you – please support her in every way you can.

Thank you for the good wishes, cards and gifts I have received on my retirement.

December in any Christian community is a joyous time as celebrations of the Saviour's birth take place. In school, of course, although that is key to the festival, there is also the fun part when Santa Claus visits and brings gifts.

Let me share some of Tabeetha School's December events with you:

Secondary Spirit Month: The Student Council led this venture each Thursday in December, making pancakes to sell at breaks to hungry pupils. They had themes each week including Meme's Day, Christmas Jumper Day, Twins Day and Dress as You Like Day. The money they collected went towards their final fundraising total for the year.

Tabeetha Christmas Concert: If you were not there, you missed a truly fantastic event! Once again, we were treated to a fine array of Tabeetha talent. There was all kinds of musical entertainment and our pupils did so well. A number of primary age pupils played piano. Secondary pupils played piano and ukulele and sang while Grades 7, 8 and 9 used percussion to mesmerize the audience. The school choir gave a breathtaking rendition of some well-known Christmas songs and carols. A huge well done to all involved, especially our pupils and Miss Gitman, our Music Teacher. Thank you to our audience for without you, it would just be another rehearsal! The entry money will buy some much needed equipment for the music department. Thank you.



Hanukkah Assemblies: Our primary and secondary Hebrew teachers, told the story of Hanukkah in imaginative ways. The candles were lit one by one in both assemblies while the pupils and staff told everyone the meaning of each one. There was great singing and acting and everyone performed their part well. Thank you to the primary parents who came along to support; as always, that is much appreciated. Thank you to the children and to Miss Efrat, Miss Nili, Dr Silverman and Mrs Halamish for all their hard work too.



Christmas Nativity Shows: We had two different shows again this Christmas. The first was performed by Reception to Grade 2 children and the second by pupils in Grades 3 to 6. did a sterling job with great choreography, dancing and singing. We loved them both. Parents came along to support their children's performances (some for both days!). A huge thank you to the form teachers, Ms Gitman, music teacher, Mr Eran and all staff who helped in every way. Thank you to parents for all your help and huge praise for all the children who did their very best on the day.



Primary Christmas Fair: was held right at the end of term and was another great success as teachers, support staff and a few secondary pupils put on a great afternoon of fun and games. There was lovely food and sweets, things to make, transfers and glittery tattoos to be worn and Santa Claus to visit and, of course, he had a little gift for all! Thank you everyone who made it a lovely afternoon.



Secondary Christmas Dance: was held on the same evening. It was well attended and the Student Council had organised food, photographer, D.J. and disco as well as all the other trimmings to make for a successful dance. Well done to Ondine and Najib, crowned Queen and King of the Dance. Thank you to the staff who chaperoned and to Mrs Reis and the Student Council.



Carol Assemblies: Assemblies on the last day of term were a time to sing Christmas carols and songs before breaking up for the Christmas holidays. Dalia Yambaka, a former Tabeethan who works now for Jews for Jesus and great advocate for the school, reminded everyone that they are the best gift and got them telling each other – right in line with our school values – I value myself; I value others.

Let Peace Prevail:

We were very pleased to welcome Let Peace Prevail to Tabeetha on 16th December. This group included 40 Japanese as well as other nationalities. We were very pleased to have with us, three other schools - Neve Shalom, Tur'ahn and Tel Mond. Together we marched through Jaffa Port and back to Tabeetha to show our sameness is much more worth celebration than our differences divide us. To end the day, a Peace Pole was erected in the school's Jane Walker Peace Garden. Thank you to everyone who organised the day especially Miss Rachel.



Mrs MacDonald's Coffee Morning: Only one parent was able to attend this event on 5th December but it was still a very worthwhile time. Please do try to come along if you have any questions about how things are done in school and why. It is also a good time to get to know parents you might not otherwise meet. The next Coffee Morning is on Monday 17th February 2020, 8.15 to 9.15 a.m. when Mrs Gilboa will be delighted to meet with you.

Swimming Lessons: Grade 5 have now finished their swimming lessons and will be receiving certificates verifying their learning when we return in the new year. Well done Grade 5.

Trips Out of School: Reception to Grade 3 enjoyed a trip to the Safari Park and Zoo at Ramat Gan. It was a very enjoyable day when children got up close to animals. Unfortunately, the trip for Grades 4-6 had to be postponed because of the weather but pupils can look forward to their visit on January 23rd 2020.

Africa 2030: is an organisation helping people in the Congo by recycling plastic bottles and aluminium cans. There are special recycling bins around the school to collect any small plastic bottles or cans. Many thanks for your support with this venture led by Mrs Reis.

Afterschool Club: Afterschool Club runs from 2.30 – 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday for primary age pupils – to register or for further details, contact Miss Raeda.

I want to remind you, please, that you can contact Miss Rachel or Mrs Gilboa by email or make an appointment to see them with concerns or for information throughout January and beyond and, of course, Mrs Ashkar, from 3rd February.

You can find more photographs of these events on the school's website www.tabeethaschool.org.

I hope you all have a happy holiday, a blessed Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 2020.

Margaret MacDonald

Principal

Dates to note:

January

7/8	Orthodox Christmas
8 th	School reopens for staff and pupils
10 th	Meeting for applicants for Reception Class
13 th	Grade 10 Mock Art Exam
14 th	Orthodox New Year School closed for Staff Inset Day
15 th	Pikud Haoref - Grade 5 Home Front Command
15 th to 21 st	Exams and Exam Leave for Grade 9 pupils Reception Class Interviews
15 th to 24 th	Exams and Exam Leave for Grades 10-12 pupils
22 nd	Grade 4 trip to Egodan Reception Class Photographs
23 rd	Grades 4-6 to Safari Park and Zoo at Ramat Gan
25 th	Rabbie Burns Day

28th to 30th Visit of Church of Scotland, Tabeetha Future Group to school

February

3rd Mrs Mona Ashkar, Executive Director, takes up her post at Tabeetha

5th Parent Committee 5-7 p.m.

6th Art Mock Exams Grades 11-12

12 – 13th Grade 10 undertaking Light Rescue Earthquake

14th Grade 2 Assembly – parents welcome at 8.10 a.m.

17th Coffee Morning with Mrs Gilboa

19th Secondary Reports issued to parents

20th Staff Inset Day – Pupils on Holiday

21-24 Staff and pupils' mid-term holiday

28th Pupil Learning Update Meetings for all pupils and parents 3 – 7 p.m.