



## Palestinian Child Day Celebration



On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2015, four hundred children, parents and visitors celebrated Palestinian Child Day. An excellent Dabka performance was enjoyed by all. The vital nature of placing children's needs at the heart of all work was stressed as well as keeping alive Palestinian culture.

## A group from Norway visited the Ghirass



On Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> the Ghirass Center was delighted to welcome a group from Norway. Our Hakaya group danced for them and the visitors enjoyed this exciting show

very much. Afterwards they visited the various departments in the Center and discussed the Center's goals and objectives. They also talked about the FO organization and the long-term support they have offered to the Center over the last twenty years.

## 21<sup>st</sup> summer camp in Ghirass Center



The summer camp in this year started little bit earlier because of Ramadan. All the activities lasted for two and a half weeks. Around 152 children between the ages of 5

and 13 years participated, 90 of them boys and 62 girls. The children were divided into 7 groups according to age. Each group took part in every sector in the Centre, i.e. computer, library, art, educational games, drama, dabka and outdoors games. At its conclusion, the children had developed many skills from the activities provided during the camp.

## Some new activities in the schools



A highly successful, innovative programme, "Musical Playgrounds" has been initiated jointly by the Ghirass Center and Musicians Without Borders. 850 children have had great fun taking part.

## Ghirass opens doors for new children



Children from Alfajer School had a very enjoyable time taking part in normal play activities at the Ghirass Centre.

## No child has to wait for help!



A programme to fast-track assessments for children with learning difficulties, so that they no longer have to wait, has started with joint input from Rania the Librarian and Ayed, the Social Worker

## Ghirass welcomed a group from France



Visitors from France (on 19<sup>th</sup> March) and Norway (on 3<sup>rd</sup> April) were treated to an exciting Dabka show. Both groups also saw the excellent work carried out by all sections of the Center.

## Christmas Celebration



On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January more than 300 hundred children and parents enjoyed a Christmas party with a show and gifts for all. The Hakaya Band also gave a great performance.



## A parents' workshop on the correct use of the Internet



On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2014, Ghirass organized a very important workshop for parents on internet safety. Parents were given advice and the chance to ask any questions and express concerns about their children's use of the internet.

## Conference with the title of: "Practical Experiences in Protecting and Supporting Children's Rights".



Three hundred educationalists from a range of professional backgrounds, working in and around Bethlehem, attended the fourth annual conference on the theme of: Practical Experience in Protecting and Supporting Children's Rights. Ten papers were selected from fifty submitted, covering schools and centers in a wide geographical area in the Bethlehem District. Subjects included: reduction of violence, drug abuse, positive approaches to behavior modification, encouraging



supportive changes in professional approaches to low achievement and the value of a good education for the future of all children and young people. The conference was voted extremely informative and successful by all and emphasized the need for continued cooperative working between all departments.

## A training course for the staff



Ayed Husheya, Social Worker, has launched a training programme for colleagues discussing psychological issues.

## Ghirass Centre and the CBR conclude a session about learning disabilities



On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014, a group of seventy school and kindergarten teachers graduated from the programme for work with children with learning disabilities. Close cooperation between the Ghirass Center and the CBR and the Bethlehem Arab Society has made such great success possible.

## A hike to Battir



On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015, a hike from Beit Jala to Battir was enjoyed by 74 children and their families. Everyone had a great day out and the children learnt about their local landscape and its importance and how it is their responsibility to keep it green and clean.

## A Graduating Ceremony at Ghirass



On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 17 children finished one year of a Dabka training course and were ready to take their certificates. A Norwegian group was welcomed to the Center and greatly enjoyed and appreciated both the graduation ceremony and

the Dabka show. The trainers, Maher AlDerabani and Sama' Ilzughyer, offered children four hour training sessions, twice a week for learning how to dance and sing Dabka. Next September, another twelve children will have the chance to graduate at Ghirass.

## Children from Gaza visiting West Bank



Ghirass Center was very happy and excited to welcome twenty children and three teachers from Gaza in August. GIZ, our German partner supported Ghirass Center in building a relation with Gaza. The center introduced the guests to its sectors and activities. Together with Ghirass children they visited historical places in the West Bank as the Nativity Church in Bethlehem, Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and Al Ibrahim mosque in Hebron. Children spent the entire week in host families houses and built deep relations. It was not easy for all participants to say good bye after one week. They felt deep gratitude for the time they spent together and were sure to keep in touch in the future.

