

Ramallah Friends School

Over the past two years, grants have been approved to support the service-learning "Living Letters" trips that FUM sponsors to Ramallah. Jane and Max Carter have been very grateful for the support, which enables the programs to be more affordable for participants. The global pandemic, however, has curtailed the trips in 2020 and 2021. Funds allotted to the service-learning trips have instead gone to the Ramallah Friends School, which they have very gratefully received. It is hoped that the FUM trips will resume in 2022.

Meanwhile, Max Carter joined two others from FUM, Kelly Kellum and Richard Stotler, in attending RFS board meetings in Ramallah in Sixth Month, 2021, and met with people and programs to talk about future visits.

Although the 2020/21 academic year was difficult for the Ramallah Friends School, the pandemic was navigated successfully with a combination of virtual and in-person teaching. At the conclusion of the school year, the International Baccalaureate test results were 100% and 99% in the categories tested, with two students achieving perfect scores. Enrollment at the School now surpasses 1,400.

In other news at the School, USAid funds have been restored under the new U.S. administration, which will mean improvements at the Lower Campus to facilities serving the youngest grades. At the Upper Campus, sustainability initiatives have resulted in a majority of electrical power coming from solar panels, and tree plantings and irrigation from a repaired cistern have turned the campus into a veritable arboretum and lovely park. A corner of the campus is now under cultivation in a gardening project.

After four years of service to the School as Head, FUM-appointee Adrian Moody is moving to Malawi, where he will be the Head of a school there. In his place, FUM has appointed Rania Maayeh, a graduate of the Friends School, a former teacher at RFS, and most recently on the staff of World Vision. Rania has a local connection through her son, Walid, a graduate of Guilford College and Earlham School of Religion.

Max L. Carter