

TSS News

05/09



Editorial

Dear friends and supporters of Theodor-Schneller-School,

It is one of the simplest but most expressive political campaigns of the the last decades. „Yes We Can“, Barack Obama’s dictum also fascinated me. Facing global crisis and problems it may sound utopian but basically there is something magic. In common and with the help of God we can reach everything – I’m convinced of that.

In Theodor-Schneller-School as well signs are pointing to >>change<<. After seven years there has been a variation at the top position. Ghazi Musharbash is the new director of TSS and he is taking the lead of this important Insitution from his predecessor Hanna Mansour. His motto is closely linked to Obama’s one: „Changes from inside and outside“. The first results can already be recognized within this newsletter.

I wish you, dear friends and supporters of Theodor-Schneller-School, with this first electronic newsletter a small insight of the changes and activities at our institution , and I would like to thank you very much indeed for your attachment and support to TSS.

With kind regards
Fabian Friz
(Volunteer 2008/2009)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fabian Friz".

From Schneller-son to Schneller-father

New director of the institution in office.

From the beginning of March 2009 Theodor-Schneller-School got a new director of the institution. Dr. Ghazi Musharbash has taken the lead of the school after a seven-year term of office of his predecessor Hanna Mansour. Dr. Musharbash once used to be a Schneller student in an institution in Bethlehem and he considers his new work as a big challenge. „Schneller was my mother, I was its son and now I am its father.“, he declared proudly at his inaugural adress to all the employees of school. As an industrial chemist this time the local board build on a manager, who wants do develop lots of advanced ideas. He himself considers the transition period under his leadership not as defined period but rather a period to complete the transfiguration and modernisation in school.



Right: Great joy of two students. They found the Easter eggs.

Left: The new director Ghazi Musharbash.



Decorated colorfully and with a lot of fun Easter was celebrated in boarding house.

TSS on Easter egg hunt

Easter celebration in boarding school

It is always a special highlight for the kids if boarding school is celebrating Easter. The families get decorated colorfully and the boys do handicraft. After the annual search for the Easter eggs where all the children grin like a Cheshire cat, they got the opportunity to paint eggs on their own. This year the programme was accompanied musically by the new music teacher in school who is both teaching in academical school and the boarding house. No celebration without food? The dinner in common and the hilarity of the children dancing just after this gave pleasure to everyone. It was probably one of the happiest days for children and educators in the current school year.



Schneller gives impulses for Middle East

Educational Training Centre will revolutionize education in the Middle East

With the installation of an Educational Training Centre in Theodor-Schneller-School the persons responsible for the institution take a huge step forward in education for peace and tolerance. The new centre with an area of 40000 square meters includes in addition to the newly inaugurated educational high rope course the training centre building for educators and teachers, a sense garden for intensive education and a children's zoo. Renovations from the former apprentice home to the training centre building are in progress.

The Educational Training Centre's objective is a trans-regional training of educators, teachers, vocational trainers, psychologists, school staff and trainers to use the most recent educational techniques and methods in future. Therefore the school is cooperating with leading educationalists from several Jordanian universities, trained by leading German experts from German universities.



The dream of a big Schneller family gets concrete in front of the Christus Church.

Equipped for the future

Apprentices celebrate their graduation

The 27 apprentices of the second year have taken a big step forward to a self-determined future with their graduation on May, 26th 2009. In this age group 10 of them learned in carpenter's workshop, 12 of them in the car repair shop and 5 of them in the metalworking shop. 11 of them were accommodated in boarding house. A learnt handwork is still the key for a Schneller student who runs a chance finding a work outside school. Especially successful was Ibrahim Shabakeh, who handed in the best work in a three-day competition of the Vocational Training Centre (VTS) and won the first price in all over Jordan.

Within a small celebration in the boarding house hall, Dr. Ghazi Musharbash (director of school), Suheil Dawani (bishop of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East), Dr. Ghazi Shoubekat (labor secretary of Jordan) and the respective vocational trainers handed over the vocational certificates. For this purpose all members of the families and friends were invited.



Group picture in the sports- and assembly hall of TSS.



Break new ground in the education for peace

Educational high rope course officially inaugurated

Approximately it took about two years to complete the challenge garden for experimental education in Theodor-Schneller-School. Within a big inauguration celebration on April the 5th, recorded by the Jordanian television, the German ambassador, Jordan's Minister for social affairs and delegates from German cooperation partners addressed some lovely regards for the work of the school and the courage to break new ground in the education for peace. The high rope course was a joint project of TSS with Berufsbildungswerk Neckargmünd, Kirchenbezirk Mannheim/high rope course „just try it“ and Evangelische Schülerinnen- und Schülerarbeit Baden. It is the first high rope course in the Middle East and that underlines once again the pioneering spirit of Schneller. The main objective of the new facility is the relatively young experimental education, which will teach the participants social skills like the ability to communicate, the ability to solve problems or the ability to work in a team. A week before the inauguration, Jordanian trainers were qualified under the guidance of German experts to lead the local groups from now on.



On top: The high elements of the challenge garden demand a maximum of concentration and courage.

Left: Official visit to the inauguration of the facility.



Left: The new high rope course.

Right: A children's trip to the "Humane Centre For Animal Welfare".

Schneller back to the roots as a pioneer

Visions of school fixed in new masterplan.

The new director Dr. Ghazi Musharbash has fixed ambitious goals and visions for the approaching school year in a masterplan. „Changes from inside and outside“ is its guideline which is going to put into practice step-by-step. The masterplan strongly faces each and everyone of the Schneller boys and shall vitalize the community in TSS so a big Schneller-Family is prospering. „In the end we will feel the spirit of Schneller all over the school and we will be a big family within a moved Schneller village“, Dr. Musharbash felt confident. By the help of new skilled personnel and the Educational Training Centre to train the employees, education and conveyance of values will be improved elementary.

„Outwardly“ a lot of modernisation and renovation will take place within the next years. Most of the buildings and facilities are still originated from the year of foundation 50 years ago and they are urgently in need of rehabilitation. All the same the school shall adopt a pioneer function within the scope of energy industry and water resources management. In terms of ecological awareness and sustainability Schneller wants to act as a model in the Hashemite Kingdom. Projects like modern solar systems, a school internal water preparation and a big vegetable garden for self supply are just some of them.

Currently renovations in the canteen kitchen, in guesthouse and in the training centre are in progress. In the big summer holidays renovations will be done in the children families. To make sure that all the innovative ideas of the next years can be feasible financially. The masterplan makes arrangements that the school step-by-step will stand on its own feet. Therefore lots of projects shall reach a capacity to offer its service even now to external customers. That means for example offers from the new Educational Training Centre, a catering service from the canteen kitchen, camping on the compound or sleeping accommodations in the guesthouse.