



International College
Partnership
for Excellence
Campaign

IC Newsletter

Winter 2010



INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

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Note from the Editor



I have so much to say yet words almost fail me. The recent groundbreaking was truly exhilarating when Prime Minister Saad Hariri cut the ceremonial ribbon and put a shovel in the earth where our new elementary school will be built. I only wish you were with us when history was made that day. I wish I could convey this feeling of wonder as I witnessed history unfold before me.

I'm certain that 98 years ago, the then Board of Trustees felt this same awe as they broke the ground to build Rockefeller Hall, Thomson Hall, and the Refectory (today's preschool).

Thursday November 4th 2010 marks the beginning of a new age for IC. Our elementary school building is under construction as I write this note. From my office I hear the bulldozers and construction racket as they begin the work. What a wonderful noise!

Thank you dear donors for making this dream possible. I know that we are still at the beginning of our fundraising campaign, but I know – I am certain – that you will help build this school for the children of Lebanon.

Our happiness was marred by losing one of our precious children this year. Talal Kassem, 17, was run down by a speeding car as he was making his way to school just last month.

This newsletter issue is dedicated to him. May his soul rest in peace.

We miss you Talal.

Best regards,

Moufid Beydoun '64
Vice President for Alumni & Development

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Season's Greetings!

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A Historical Moment:

Hariri joins IC in digging the ground for the New Elementary School



Once his official speech was over, the Prime Minister couldn't resist. His sudden decision to sit among IC students was obviously impromptu. Body guards looked aghast. It was certainly not in the plan. But PM Saad Hariri seemed unperturbed. "I want to meet the children," he said simply.

The students, all choir members, who had just finished their performance, were thrilled as the Prime Minister sat amongst them. Parents looked even more elated.

"I want to thank you all for believing in the children of Lebanon," he said. "Ninety-eight years ago, Rockefeller and others invested in this school and they believed in teaching those children. Today some of their grandchildren have become leaders of this country. I want to make sure that you know that Saad Hariri is with you and thanks you."

Hariri was responding to IC's president John Johnson's call for help in procuring



the funds to build the new elementary school.

“You are today’s Rockefellers, Sages and Thomsons,” he said during his speech. “They were strangers who believed in educating Lebanese children. But we are family members who believe in providing the best for these children.”



The occasion was the groundbreaking ceremony for the new elementary school. It is the first step in the Partnership for Excellence Campaign which aims to raise several million dollars to build a new state-of-the-art building and renovate the campus.

After months of soliciting funds, the ceremony was held on November 4, 2010. Coincidence or perhaps fate played a major role that evening as exactly 98 years ago on November 5 1912, the then Board of Trustees looked on as the ground was broken to build the Rockefeller, Thomson and the Refectory buildings (today’s preschool).

“To be part of IC’s history leaves me in





awe,” continued Johnson. “This is indeed an important moment in IC’s history.”

Every detail of the ceremony had been carefully planned. The Prime Minister arrived and was immediately accompanied to the construction site. Donning an “IC” construction helmet (as did all Board members) and surrounded by a throng of press photographers, Hariri cut the green ribbon and dug a little of the ground where the new building will rise. At this point he was supposed to walk to the football field where a tent was erected and hundreds awaited him. But Hariri was interested in the construction site. And much to the distress of his bodyguards, he allowed himself the necessary time to contemplate the site.

It was obviously a welcome change for him from the never ending political squabbles and tedious meetings with heads of state.

Finally, the group made their way to the covered football field and stopped to admire the human statues that graced the entrance. Students had worked for hours to transform themselves into “statues”. Covered in white, gold or silver paint, they created a mesmerizing sight under the luminous lights. On one side, other students danced holding up the “bricks’

that will build the new elementary school. Once inside the tent, Hariri was greeted with yet another surprise. IC's choir elementary and secondary school choirs did themselves justice as they sang the national anthem, the Alma mater song, IC's especially composed Hand in Hand and Carl Orff's Carmina Burana. Boasting about the new elementary school, Chairman of the Board, William Turner, summed up the importance of the project in his speech. "Not only will the buildings be technologically superior," he said, "but fully recognized as "green" as we become the first LEED certified gold school in Lebanon."

The IC president and Chairman then presented Hariri with a small gold plated trowel.

All too soon the evening came to end and guests made their way to their cars. Some dwindled behind enjoying the beautifully lit campus. It was a momentous occasion. They had taken part in IC's history and they knew it.



Behind the Scenes:

12:10pm

Final choir rehearsal on stage. The students had given up at least one Saturday and many recess breaks to attend rehearsals required by Choir Director, Randa Sabbah.



2:30pm

IB drama students make their way to the Imad Taher auditorium in the top floor of Rockefeller Hall. Once the initial giggling was over, it was down to business.

2:45pm

Head of Drama department, Riad Chirazi, goes over the techniques of covering the hair with a white gel substance and powder. The body is covered in white, silver or grey body paint.



Human Statues

4:30pm

Statues are starving. A quick 'mankoushe' break was necessary. Unfortunately, the faces of white statues had more or less frozen and could barely open their mouths. Other students obliged.



5:15pm

It's showtime!



6:00pm

As on cue, human statues take their positions and freeze. Bright lights illuminate them giving them the appearance of ghosts. Arriving guests were greeted by the gold and silver human statues and then stopped short at the mesmerizing sites of the white human statues.



Down Memory Lane



“Mr and Mrs Sullivan” – known to all alumni who graduated before 1991 - are back in Beirut on a visit. At 90, James Sullivan still smokes his infamous pipe and Samia Sullivan still has that firm yet maternal look. During their visit, Samia (while it’s innately difficult for former students like myself to refer to the Sullivans by anything but “Mr” and “Mrs”, for the article’s sake, first names simply must be used), can easily be spotted almost every day at the elementary school.

“It’s my ‘baby’,” she said. “I grew in it.” Former students immediately rush to greet her, dragging along their children for Samia to see. (Even yours truly insisted she fawn over her children’s wallet pictures). Over lemonade and scrumptious brownies at the home of a relative in Ras Beirut, the couple tease each other as they remember IC days gone by.

“She was pretty,” said James simply, “so I married her.”

That was in 1967. Samia Khalaf joined IC in 1944 as an office manager. In the next 48 years, she made her way to the director of the elementary school. Meanwhile, James, who was then teaching in NY, was hired in 1960 by then principal, Leslie Leavitt as an art teacher and boarding director.

Unbeknown to Leavitt, he had made a monumental decision. Years later, as the Lebanese civil war broke out, the Sullivans would prove to be instrumental in keeping the school’s boarders safe.

And of course, there was the pipe. As former students could testify, James Sul-

livan wouldn’t be James Sullivan without the pipe. So infamous was the pipe that during the civil war when mail would take months get come through, James received a St Patrick’s Day card from a former student mailed three days earlier from the US. It was simply addressed to “Abou Ghalioun” (father off the pipe), Beirut.” The confused post office, seeing a card from the US, simply delivered it to AUB. Staff there quickly figured out that Abou Ghalioun can be no other than James Sullivan.

Truth be told, if a book ever needed to be written about IC, it would be written by the Sullivans. “I started to ten years ago,” admits Samia, “but life is so busy that I never got around to it.”

Their memories are endless. There was the time that James made his way to Thomson Hall dormitory and with a shock saw his car, a Fiat 500, parked in the hallway on the second floor. As a joke, students had carried it up.

“This was the type of trick kids played then,” he said laughing. “I can tell you the staff had a lot fun taking it back down.”

And then there was another time that James was summoned to save a student who was jumping over the IC fence to Bliss street (boarders were only allowed out with passes. Those whose passes were revoked would sometimes jump over the fence to catch the tramway) and got stuck on top. Much to the embarrassment of the student, James had to climb up and rescue him. Today, the student is a leading figure in the Gulf.

That was a time when parents showed deep respect to teachers. Upon hearing that James wanted to meet with him on his next visit to Beirut, one Saudi Arabian father took a camel, bus, train, and plane and was knocking on the Sullivans’ door three days later.

But as Samia puts it, the “nightmare” began once the civil war erupted in 1975. As the battles intensified, keeping the students safe was a perilous challenge. Years later, Samia still shudders at one

near miss tragedy incident. During one battle, the Sullivans shepherded their students to the ACS building which was deemed safer. About 25 young boarders were huddled in one room. After a while, Samia felt unsettled and moved the youngsters out. “Something told me that we have to get those children out of there,” she said. Ten minutes later, the room took a direct hit.

Another time, the staff joined the boarders as they huddled together for days on end. Mattresses were laid all around the Sullivan’s home (today’s business office and bookshop), Samia found herself cooking for 40 people on one small hot plate while James provided potable water by filtering it through paper towels.

Other times, during battles, James and a supervisor would run up between battles to the cafeteria (today’s preschool), grab food and run back to the boarders. During one such run, a shell fell near them. Jumping in panic, the supervisor somehow managed a somersault and landed on firm ground with the tray of food intact. “You see Mr Sullivan,” he cried out. “I didn’t spill any!”

Humour kept them going. In one incidence, the Sullivans received a package. Someone decided that it must be a bomb and the police were summoned. The officers promptly put the package near the elementary school building (with students inside) and before the Sullivans could stop them, shot at the package. There was no explosion.

“It’s definitely not a bomb,” declared the police. As it turned out, it was a crystal bowl now permanently chipped.

In 1986, James as a US citizen – on holiday abroad – was forbidden by US officials to return to Lebanon. Samia remained at IC as the elementary school director. In 1991, she retired and joined her husband in North Carolina.

Since then, the couple visit Lebanon every year.

And as always, their first stop remains IC.



“So infamous was the pipe that during the civil war James received a St Patrick’s Day card from a former student simply addressed to “Abou Ghalioun”, Beirut.”

A Legacy of Names

The Trustees of the Syrian Protestant College (SPC) had taken on a huge undertaking. Perhaps they hadn't realized how huge until they found themselves covering the yearly deficits from their own pockets. Still their campaign to solicit funds began in 1903, must continue. Already, Mrs. Russell Sage from NY has sent in her donation to build a dormitory for students. And so the Trustees took a vote: the Sage Dormitory should be located somewhere either on or adjacent to the present athletic grounds. It was decided that it should be placed upon high ground, west of the College's Jesup Hall. The construction began.

On October 11, 1911, according to the handwritten manuscripts of the Board of Trustees meetings, stored carefully at the AUB archives library, "the president announced the occupation of Sage Hall."

The trustees could now concentrate on the next phase: soliciting funds for the preparatory buildings.

It's been clear for quite some time that the SPC must have its own preparatory school. The standards of students applying to the College were just not up to par. The only solution was for the SPC to build its own prep school. On March 12, 1912 the Trustees "reported and recommended that three new buildings be erected on the bluff of the west campus," according to the archived minutes. The three buildings proposed would house a new "recitation hall to accommodate senior and junior students, a junior dormitory, and a refectory to accommodate kitchen, dining room and service facilities of the department."

Two sets of estimates were presented: one for £14,950 and one for £13,400 pounds. The campaign fund number showed the

figure of £13,470.

And so it was that the Trustees took their historical decision to construct a preparatory school "favoring the more expressive style of building and authorizing the president to secure government permit to build."

On November 5, 1912 ground was broken for the first of the new preparatory buildings.

Largely planned by then principal of the school, William H. Hall, the buildings were ready for occupancy in the fall of 1913. The first one was dubbed Rockefeller Hall, the second Thomson Hall and the third was simply referred to as the "Refectory" (today's preschool). Extra funds donated by a Mrs. Martin in Vermont, were used to make over an old house for the principal to live in. It was named the "Martin House".

The SPC soon became the American University of Beirut and its "Prep" school eventually became the International College. (In 1936, AUB President Dr Bayard Dodge invited the International College in Smyrna to take over the preparatory classes).

Today, IC is one the most renowned schools in the international educational area boasting a state-of-the art education and a diverse student body made up of over 70 nationalities.

Almost a century later and in a bid to continue the work of the SPC Trustees, a new campaign was launched in 2009 to build a much needed elementary school, new facilities and renovate the much loved "preparatory buildings".



“I think it is a man’s duty to make all the money he can, keep all that he can and give away all that he can,”
John D. Rockefeller,
 1839 – 1937

Naming Legacies

Sage Hall

Born in 1828, Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage was 78 when her husband died, leaving her a vast fortune. Over the next 12 years, she became one of the most famous philanthropists in US history choosing to give every imaginable charity, cause and requestor from educational, religious and medical institutions, cultural preservation program and animal shelters.

“Mrs Russel Sage” as she liked to be called met and married her husband in her early 40’s. She was then a dedicated teacher and he was a 55-year-old widow who had built his wealth during the US industrial boom.

Rumors had it at the time that the couple was not particularly romantic. Nor were they a perfect match. She was sympathetic and generous and he was more callous and stingy. Still the marriage lasted 37 years until Russell’s death in 1906. Left with a fortune worth between \$70 and \$100 million, she was dubbed as the richest woman in the world. With a free reign to rule over her inherited fortune, Mrs Sage, established The Russel Sage Foundation for “the improvement of social and living conditions in the United States of America.”

Requests came in from overseas as well. Among them was a request from Dr George E Post, one of the founders and the head professor of the medical college in the Syrian Protestant College (today’s

AUB). SPC was looking to expand its campus and needed to construct new buildings. His request was accepted and Mrs Sage, most probably influenced by her strict Protestant upbringing, awarded the SPC \$75,000 (some records show \$50,000) to build Sage Hall. The new building was completed in 1911.

Mrs Sage died seven years later at the age of 90 leaving a rich legacy behind.



Thomson Hall

Dr William Thomson was the eighth American missionary to arrive to Beirut in 1833. Two years later, he relocated with his pregnant wife to Jerusalem. A month later he was on a trip to Jaffa when civil unrest broke out in Palestine.

By the time he was able to return to Jerusalem after two months, he found that his wife had given birth to a son. But he also found her with a high fever and nearly blind from ophthalmia. She died twelve days after his arrival.

Thomson took his infant son and moved back to Beirut.

In 1835, he opened a boys' boarding school. In 1845 a battle erupted in the shouf village of Abeih. Carrying a white flag, Thomson made his way to the area and talked the British Consul in Beirut to interfere. A truce was agreed on and a bloody massacre prevented.

An enthusiastic geologist by nature, Thomson threw himself in travelling around the Levant area despite the miry roads and swollen streams. Every nook and cranny was noted. "He would sit up to a late hour writing up his notes of travel with the greatest of care (...) Every mountain and hill, every stream and valley, every rock and castle, every village and hamlet, were familiar to his practiced eyes," wrote one of AUB's founders, Henry Jessup in his memoirs: Fifty Three years in Syria.

The result was a huge collection of descriptions of the area, the people and their customs before the influx of western modernities permanently changed the habits of the inhabitants.

"He felt deeply that the bible could only be fully and clearly understood by remembering its oriental origin," wrote Jessup.

The Land and the Book was published in 1880 and immediately sold 200,000 copies. It remains in use today.

During one of his travels in 1836, Thomson came across a cave. He ventured 50 meters inside and came across a river.

He fired a shot into the cave and listened closely. The echoes made him realize that

he had somewhat stumbled upon a cave substantially large.

Today, the discovery of the lower level of the Jeita Grotto is attributed to Thomson. Altogether, Thomson spent just over 43 years in Lebanon and Palestine serving when needed. He is credited with being one of the originators of the idea of founding SPC.

On March 15 1913, SPC Trustees took a vote: to name the newly constructed building Thomson Hall, in honor of the explorer and infamous author.



Rockefeller Hall

John Davison Rockefeller was an American oil magnate who is considered to be the richest person in history. From his very first paycheck, he tithed ten percent of his earnings to his church. His donations grew as his paychecks did. Before he died in 1937 Rockefeller had given away about \$540 million, much of it to education and medical research institutions. His philanthropy did not stop in the US but expanded across the world.

The Rockefeller Foundation records show that as early as 1903, the millionaire had shown interest in the SPC. It was most likely a heeding to a call by Dr Post and Mr Jesup who printed an international appeal asking for funds.

Thanks to the generosity of the Foundation, Rockefeller Hall was completed in 1913.



New Elementary School



IC's New Infirmary: Up to International Standards

Some come in limping. Some come in frowning. Some come in bouncing. And some just - well - they just come in and sit. One by one they take a seat on the new brown leather sofa and look at the nurse expectantly. Sarah Abdel Khalek looks up long enough from her current patient to give them a cursory glance. It was enough to surmise the ill from the hypochondriacs.

Regardless, one by one she takes their vital signs and questions them. And just in case, students have plans other than returning to class, she hands out a health record paper stating the exact time for entry and exit from the infirmary. Potential truants don't look too thrilled as they walk away.

The filing system was revamped. The medical history of over 1000 students is now computerized. Emergency lights, a direct phone line, lockable store and medication cabinets, lockable fridge and even sensor faucets were installed. A screen for privacy was erected. An LCD in the waiting area plays health documentaries. A direct internet link to AUB's labs and x-ray departments was established. A mission statement was created and new policies and procedures were adopted. New infections control measures were applied (all instruments are sterilized on a daily basis)

But most important, the infirmary can now deal with urgent cases immediately. Among the new medical supplies are

and high blood pressure."

As teachers for centuries will testify, students will find any excuse to leave class. Feigning a pain is probably the most common ailment. "I can immediately tell who is faking," said Abdel Khalek, "and 99% percent of students who show up to the infirmary (over 100 per day) are fine but I still have to do a full assessment of them all to find that one percent."

With a student body of 1,400 in the Ras Beirut campus - it soon became very clear that Abdel Khaled and her assistant Ali Fakhri, need help. Another Registered Nurse will begin work in January. Two doctors take shifts to see patients.



"We now have all the medical supplies recommended by international standards"

Abdel Khalek smiles. A registered nurse, Abdel Khalek looks around the infirmary with satisfaction. She had heeded the call of Talal Jundi, IC's Chief Financial Officer when first hired. "It is time for a change," he told her. As the nurse-in-charge of the AUB Family Medicine Unit for several years, she knew exactly the changes needed. And these changes, to say the least, have been dramatic. To begin with, the "look" has gone from drab white to cheerful multicolored décor to cater to the mostly under-18 patients.

an EKG (Electrocardiography), manual blood pressure machine, a pulse oximeter and IV hydration, first aid kit for sports and fire accidents, Emergency bag include CPR, portable oxygen bottles and all the necessary emergency supplies.

"We now have all the medical supplies recommended by international standards," said Abdel Khalek. "An assessment of a student's condition can now be made here. We already used the EKG on students showing chest pain, palpitations

A website that keeps students, parents, staff and faculty updated on the latest epidemics, vaccines and needed medication will be posted on line soon. Emergency procedures and the Do's and Don'ts in first aid are also included.

Future plans include education and prevention programs throughout the school and an electronic assessment of patients sent to the administration and parents.

As soon as she walked into the preteen and teen world, Abdel Khaled realized that her duties go well beyond medical assessments. "Many who walk in the infirmary just need to talk and I let them," she said. "Many kids have problems. It's amazing how quickly a headache disappears once they talk about their problems."

And, she soon realized, many other health problems are related to unhealthy eating habits. The next mission: a healthier menu at the cafeteria.

Brown bread, granola and fiber snacks hit IC's new cafeterias in the IC Newsletter Spring issue.





Class of 2010

Throughout your years at IC, you have warmed our lives and that warmth is something you should take with you," Ghada Maalouf, Preschool Director

"My advice to you, our graduates, is to listen to your inner voice and do something well, something that matters and something that will help others!" John Johnson, IC President

"IC provided you with a firm education and a strong spirit to stand up to any adversities that you may face in life," Leila El-Solh Hemadeh, guest speaker, former Lebanese Minister and head of the Al-waleed Bin Talal Foundation

This is my final farewell, and as much as I wish that nothing in life was ever final even the best things in life must be said goodbye to. So goodbye to our teachers who have given more patience, consideration and affection across the years that could ever be imagined, and there are not enough words to describe how grateful we are to every effort they have done in our favor. Goodbye to the campus that has been the home of so many memories, so many experiences, and so much laughter that has relentlessly filled the hallways, maintaining the smiles on our faces. Goodbye to being children in the eyes of our parents, who after 15 years of yelling at us for not doing our homework but always being proud no matter what our report cards said, will now go back home with a lot less to worry about. Goodbye to the school spirit that has always been the link between us all, whose essences will remain no matter where life takes us, reminding us that we all once stood at the same starting line together.

Talia Fatte, Graduates address, class of 2010



Prom 2010

Phoenicia Hotel

Prom King - Bilal Derian
Prom Queen - Maya Hariri



Awards Day 2010

Awards were handed out to middle and secondary school students who excelled in mathematics, science, Arabic, French, English, music, general knowledge, IT, Model UN, information technology, community service, sports, art, music, theatre, and dancing.

New Ain Aar Football Field



Before

After



IC Board Members tour Ain Aar

During the fall Board of Trustees meeting, members of the board spent a day at Ain Aar touring the campus. They had the opportunity to see the new Ain Aar playing field, visit classes and attend a workshop for teachers on the use of the new electronic boards.



For the love of sports and IC

If ever a man loved IC, **Khalil Elias '59** is definitely that man. He has yet to miss a class reunion or show up empty handed. An avid athlete while an IC student, Elias showed up last June laden with trophies to bestow on the best male and female athletic students.

Surprised but pleased, the students gathered in the alumni office as Elias and former IC coach Samih Chatila presented them with the trophies. Elias stressed the importance of athletics in a school and urged the students to continue training.

Mabrouk!

Once again this year we have had outstanding results in the Brevet, with 100% success and over half of our students on both campuses obtaining honors. In addition, the Ras Beirut middle school is very proud to announce that three Brevet students ranked among the top 5 in Beirut, and one of them was 3rd in Lebanon!

Our secondary school graduates also had excellent results, with 100% success in both the French and Lebanese baccalaure-

ate exams. We will share the IB results once they are finalized.

The big news is that this year 78% of our FRENCH BACCALAUREAT students obtained honors [above 12] 84% of our LEBANESE BACCALAUREAT students obtained honors [above 12]

5 students ranked in the top 10 in Beirut, including first in humanities, and first in economics and sociology AND the latter

two students were also ranked 3rd and 5th in Lebanon!

Mabrouk to all our students, but also to our teachers, from the preschool to the secondary, for their collective efforts to help our students be the best they can be!

Misha Mourani, IC's Senior Vice president, announcing the Baccalaureate results at the plenary session held in September



IC Scholars



New Rubberized Preschool Playgrounds



IC preschool playgrounds in Ras Beirut and Ain Aar now boast the best specifications in the Middle East.

“The health and safety of our students is our most important priority here at IC,” said IC President, John Johnson. “We are constantly looking for ways to improve IC campus to make it a safer place for our children. What better place than our preschool playgrounds?”

At a cost of \$250,000, no money has been spared when it came to ensuring the safety of the school’s youngest students.

While no studies have been conducted in Lebanon, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission quotes that a yearly 50,000 children (in the US) end up in the emergency room because of playground injuries – 80 percent of which occur from a fall from a play equipment. A rub-

berized playground greatly reduces the chances of such injuries.

Both playgrounds are now covered by a multi-colored real in situ EPDM rubber flooring that is non allergic, non-toxic and mold-free. There are two levels of rubber thicknesses: a 10cm thickness around the play equipment that is safe for a fall from 2.5m height and a 5cm thickness in all other areas that is safe from a fall from 1.5m height.

The rubber, which is made from used tires and considered a “green” alternative, has been tested and certified according to international standards.

While the Ras Beirut playground - designed by Karim Bekdashe - reveals a medley of warm rainbow colors, the Ain Aar playground - designed by **Hani Asfour ‘83** - includes a maze and three-dimensional objects.



IC Middle School Boys' Choir Sing in Paris



Headed by their conductor Lydia Sabra, six students from the Middle School Boys Choir joined 15 other international schools in Paris last October, to perform in a concert for the annual AMIS (Association for Music in International Schools) Honor Middle School Boys Choir Festival.

(Students: Mazen Assaf, Nadim Captan, Hadi El Kassar, Christopher Raffoul, Nicholas Salloum, and Jamil Darwiche).

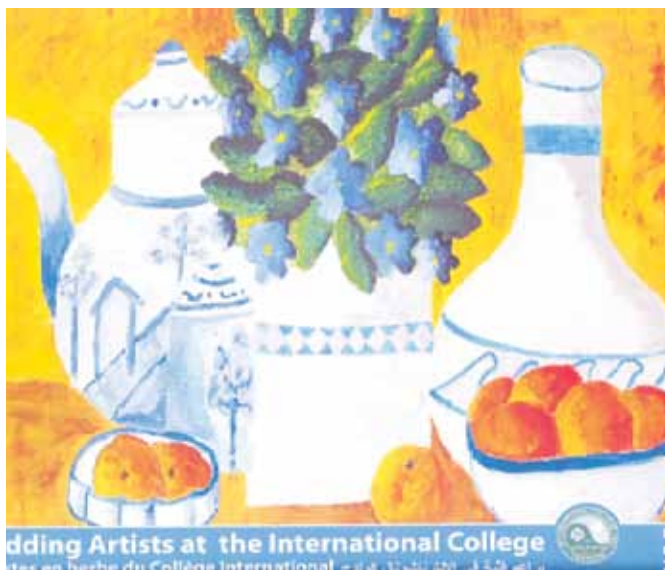
IC Calendar

This year's calendar "Budding Artists at the International College" boasts the work of the school's many talented students. The theme, according to Head of the Art Department Samia Boulad "shows a lot of what our students are capable of."

The work of 122 students from both Ras Beirut and Ain Aar campus make up the calendar. Each page is accompanied by a text written by a student in the three languages about creativity and free expression.

"We believe it is through art appreciation and aesthetic perception that our students can really become more culturally aware," said Boulad. "And this year we made it a point of selecting as many students' works as possible from all levels."

The idea to start an IC calendar came about in 1991 during a meeting of the Activities Committee. By 1995, the calendar became a yearly event. A new theme is usually chosen every year. So far, themes included "Folk Tales in our cultural heritage", "Children's Human Rights", "Sports and Leisure", "End of the Century in Lebanon", "Global Awareness", and a four-year series "Glimpses of Contemporary Lebanese Art, Music, Poetry, and Museums."



Budding Artists at the International College
 Texte en herbe du Collège International - 2010

Dinners and Events

Faisal al Kudsi '67,
Dr. Fawaz al Akhrass



United Kingdom

Faisal Al-Kudsi '67 hosted a dinner for the IC Board of Trustees headed by Chairman of the Board William Turner last June which was attended by IC president, John Johnson, Vice President of Alumni & Development, Moufid Beydoun, Senior Vice president Mishka Mourani, CFO Talal Jundi, and Director of Development, Peter Gerard. Many IC alumni and friends also attended.

Bassem Ziadeh '69,
Karen Ziadeh, Raed
Ziadeh '64, Issam
Shammas '63



USA

Vice President of Alumni & Development, **Moufid Beydoun '64** attended a CASE conference in Vermont in Communication and Marketing last August. He then met with alumni and friends including **Wasim Jraige '71**, **Dr. Agheg Yenikomshian '64**, **Karim Kano '74**, **Khaled Nasr '76**, and **Mohamad Ahmar '80** and **Hania Ahmar '92** who hosted a dinner in Los Angeles attended by many alumni and friends.

Anwar al Mulla '63,
Fouad Malouf '56



He also visited **Dr. Ray Irani '50** who made another major payment to the Partnership for Excellence Campaign.



Donor Reception June 2010

Pinning Ceremony July 2010



Updates

'50

Wael Dajani is working in Abu Dhabi. "I have the best memories about my days at IC and AUB," he writes. "I always remember most of my classmates. I want to give you my best regards, and also give them to all my ex-teachers at IC (whoever is still there). I also give my best regards to all my class mates who are still around."

'54

Sami Alamuddin is living in Beirut and has been - for the past ten years - the president of the AUB Engineering & Architecture Alumni Chapter with the activities of the AUB Alumni. He would like to share a picture of the 1954 IC graduates preparing to receive their diplomas at the graduation ceremony at the "Oval" of the upper AUB campus. (e-mail: alamuddin.sami@gmail.com)



From left to right:
Jawad Adham, Edward Akkawi, Nabil Acra, Sami Alamuddin, Fadel As'ad & Hassan Ayad.

And another picture of three members of the 1954 graduates of "Beirut 4" scouts in one of their camps in Lebanon.

Left to right:
Dr. Alex Zakharia,
Engineer Sami Alamuddin, Dr. Kamal Bikhazi



Dr Alex Zakharia is living in Miami, Florida where he practices his profession as a surgeon. He visits Beirut every few months and enjoys playing tennis, his favorite sport, in the beautiful weather of Lebanon. (e-mail: alex_zakharia@bellsouth.net)

Dr Kamal Bikhazi is living in Beirut-Lebanon looking after his patients and occupied for the moment in refurbishing the Hospital he owns "Khoury Hospital" adjacent to the AUH hospital in Ras Beirut. (e-mail: kbikhazi@inco.com.lb)

'57

Ziad Salaheddin Yamout retired after serving as Director of Physical Plant at AUB. He has three children: Sani, a Pediatric Surgery fellow in Buffalo NY, Sawsan, an Equine Surgery fellow at UC Davis CA, and Karim, a Neuropsychology fellow at UC Davis CA.

'61

Nicolas Chahine would like to share the picture of his son Karim's marriage on August 6th. (He is sitting in the middle). "This is how I look 50 yrs later at my son's wedding," he writes.



L to R: bride Riwa, head of Chafik Jirbaka AUB BA 02, groom Dr Karim MD FACS, his mother in law Rania, my wife Dunia my daughter Zeina Chahine Jirbaka AUB BSc'02, MPH'05, my daughter Lara Chahine Rezko BMarketing Concordia U., Robert Rezko.

'63

Zahid Hamid obtained BA/MA degrees from Cambridge University in 1968, worked as civil servant (1970-78), entrepreneur (1978-88), Advocate, High courts and Supreme court (1988 to date). He is an elected member, National Assembly of Pakistan (2002) and served as Minister of State/Federal Minister (2004-07). He was re-elected MNA (2008)

'67

Marwan J. Kabbani graduated in 1972 from AUB (Bsc in Civil Engineering) and married Roula Doughan in 1976. His daughter Dima '99 and his son Sany '02 are both IC and AUB graduates. Dima graduated from the Medical school in 2006 and she is specializing now in Infectious disease at Boston University. Sany graduated from the school of Engineering (CCE) in 2005, worked at Bowz and Co for three years and is now doing his MBA at Harvard. Immediately after graduation, Marwan worked with Jouzy & Patners Consulting Firm up to 1978 before joining the international consulting firm, Dar Al Handasah (Shair and Partnes), where he is now the head of the Transportation Department in Beirut. Email marwan.kabbani@dargroup.com or mjmkabbani@gmail.com.

Below is a photo (taken in April 09) of the following Engineers from the Class of 67



From Lt to Rt Marwan Kabbani, Basim Sayigh, Walid Nasr and Rizk Sahyoun

Samir Moujaes, Ph.D., P.E. was awarded the FEA Distinguished Alumnus Award the award lists: "in recognition of his pioneering and numerous contributions to energy conservation architecture and to his involvement in promoting the engineering profession", by the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture (FEA), AUB May 2010.

Dr. Moujaes is a full professor in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

'75

Khalid Fraiji, PhD is preparing to move to Cincinnati, USA to head a team to manage the traffic system as a senior civil engineer consultant. He is leaving his wife and youngest son (Mike) in Riyadh while the other four boys (Fahad, Fawaz, Faris, and Moe) are attending college in Southern California (Irvine) where Dr. Khalid graduated from UC Irvine '82. He is back practicing Civil Engineering after about twenty years involvement with Mace pesticides servicing more than 4,000 customers in Riyadh. He is looking forward to hear from old friends at IC boarding and daily school during the early 70s. KALd35@yahoo.years.com

'77

Dr Fida Atallah is currently working at Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates as an assistant professor of Educational Technology.

'79

Pierre Kerbage lives in Texas and is the president of Managed IT consulting, Inc.

'81

Bashar Jaafari went on to complete his Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from the University of Texas and then his MBA in Business computer Information Systems from the University of North Texas. He is currently the Director of Information Technology and Strategic Planning with Catholic Health Initiatives in the Cincinnati area.

'85

Wassim Soweid and his wife Ghada Tab-

bara are pleased to announce the arrival of their baby boy Mohamad on Aug.15th, 2010. "Moe" joins his brother Omar and sister Judy.

'87

David Ramadan was presented the commission of appointment to the Board of Visitors (Trustees) of George Mason University (GMU) by Virginia's Governor, H.E. Robert McDonnell.

David Ramadan, President of Rama International, is an international consultant and a graduate of GMU with a BA ('93) in Governments and Politics and a MA ('95) in International Trade & Transactions. He has further served as an Adjunct Professor at GMU where he taught Middle East Realities: Past & Present.



'89

Nada Ghazal is married to Elias Gannage and is mother to Antoun (born in '09) and Malak (born in '10). She is the Owner and designer of Nada G SARL, a designer jewelry company which was founded in 2004 in Beirut, Lebanon. Wwww.nadag.com

'90

Anis Khoury is married to Reem Deeb, Doctor of Music History and Literature and Voice Performance and they were blessed with their first baby daughter Alice Anne-Marie Khoury on December 16th, 2009. Anis graduated with a degree in Executive Master in business administration (EMBA) in 2008 after 10 years of experience at the family business George Khoury and Company which deals with plumbing, heating, sanitary ware, tools and recently alternative energy. "I would like to inform you that IC had a great impact on my overall character and provided me with friends that I still cherish till now," he writes. aniskhoury@hotmail.com

'92

Wissam Jawdat Akkawi now lives in Beirut. He owns and manages his company : FIESTA

'93

Amal Khoury and **Nicolas Khouri** '93 were blessed with twin boys, Elias and Ibrahim, born on March 29th, 2010 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Randa Abla and **Serge Cherfan** were blessed with their third daughter, Jana, on October 30th in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

'95

Fadi Mirza graduated from AUB with a medical degree in 2005. He then relocated to the US where he pursued a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Tufts University in Boston, MA. He then joined Columbia University in New York, NY where he completed a Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and care for patients at Columbia University Medical Center.

He currently lives in the US with his wife, Lama, and 4 year-old son, Jad.

'96

Rana Kobeissi gave birth to a son, Joud Kobeissi, in Brussels on June 26, 2010, making her and husband, Hani, very proud.

'97

Bassel Abou Zaki is a lawyer with a Master in Corporate Finance from London. He is currently working within the Capital Markets Group of Shearman & Sterling LLP in Paris, advising on public and private securities offerings, derivatives and structured finance transactions.

'99

Orouba El-Arab became an associate with the Dispute Resolution Team of Simmons & Simmons, the international law firm, working from their branch office in Abu Dhabi.

Ali Ballouz and Rana Ghalayini '99 got married on October 19, 2007. They just welcomed their Baby boy Laith who was born on October 30, 2010. They currently reside in Jeddah KSA where Ali works in the FMCG Industry while Rana does some teaching and children's extracurricular activities.

Raja Haidar has been living in Qatar since 2006 and works for Qatar Asphalt Company as a Plant and Construction Manager. He is currently working on the MBA dissertation with University of Liverpool by correspondence. He has a son, Maher (currently attending IC nursery class) and is expecting a daughter (Noor) in January.

'03

Maher Abdel-Sattar moved to California and earned his Bachelor of Science in Molecular, Cell, & Developmental Biology from UCLA. He is currently completing his graduate studies at UCSF, the highest ranked school of pharmacy in the United States. He also works as a pharmacy intern at McKesson Specialty Care Solutions where he designs and recommends the best chemotherapy regimens and cancer treatments to prescribing oncologists. "I miss my days as an IC student and I am very proud of my sister, Rana Abdel-Sattar, who is finishing off her last year as a TSM student," he writes.

'05

Lamis Yahya graduated with a BS in Clinical Laboratory Science from AUST and joined the Faculty of Medicine at AUB as a graduate student, as she is now working on her thesis dealing with a very aggressive form of breast cancer. Moreover, she's been recently selected to receive the International Fulbright Science and Technology Award sponsored by the US embassy, in order to complete her PhD studies in the States. "I will embark on this exciting journey next summer," she writes "and I just felt the urge to immensely thank my Alma Mater for this wonderful gift."

Claudia Matta is pursuing a Masters degree in Public Health (MPH) with a concentration in Health Management and Policy Making at AUB.

She is also the youngest member of the editorial board in the academic peer-reviewed Springer Journal titled: Beliefs and Values. This journal was nominated for the Best New Journal Award in 2009. She has her own column which deals with using Education as a tool in Sustainable Development. She enjoys exploring the many ways global education can empower youth to address sustainable development challenges even at a very young age. She owes IC for helping her develop her love for writing and "giving me the opportunity to sharpen my skills by participating in many of its clubs and activities," she writes. "IC is an Alma Mater I am very proud to be part of!"

Najla Khatib an AUB graduate student in public health, picked up the annual AUB BCG Promising Leader Award, at a ceremony held at AUB on June 4, 2010. The AUB BCG Promising Leader Award was created last year by the American University of Beirut and Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to help celebrate and develop future leaders from AUB. The award also offers the recipient the opportunity for a full-time job interview at BCG along with an \$11,000 cash prize.

Randa Adra is currently a second-year student at Cornell Law School, pursuing a Juris Doctor with a specialization in International Legal Affairs. She is also a member of the law school student government, as well as the Cornell graduate and professional student assembly. She plans to work at a large New York City law firm for the summer of 2011. "I attribute much of my success to my unforgettable years at IC," she writes. "I look at my former classmates and see that so many of them are so successful and it cannot be a coincidence that we all went to the same school. Many of us are still in touch and reminisce over those years and the great memories we made. I look forward to visiting as soon as I get back to Beirut."

Farah Arakji graduated in 2009 from AUB majoring in Landscape Design and Ecological Management. She then worked for one year as a Landscape Architect in a reputable firm in engineering and architecture in Lebanon. She was then awarded the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship. She is currently doing her masters in Sustainable Urban Planning and Design in Stock-

holm, Sweden at KTH- Royal Institute of Technology. "It is a two year program," she writes, "so I hope to graduate by 2012".

'06

Michel Boulad graduated in Hospitality & Business Administration from Glion Institute of Higher Education in 2009 ("I strongly recommend this Swiss Institute for any Hospitality Enthusiast", he writes) and after a full-on experience with Hilton Worldwide's Regional Sales Office in Paris, I joined Beirut's Le Gray Hotel as their Sales & Events Coordinator and "it's been great!" he continues, "word of advice to all Secondary Schoolers ... Despite the fact that I'm extremely happy with my life now, very little beats those last three years at IC, we often recall those amazing & Hilarious moments my IC Alumni Friends and I. So Enjoy it! And to all my Teachers at IC: Best Regards and sincere apologizes if I was too mischievous". michel.BOULAD@glion.ch

Wassef Dabboucy is a fifth year architecture student at AUB. He was the 1st

prize (partnership with Danny Arakji) winner in the 2010 national "Sustainable Architecture Competition" sponsored by the Heinrich Böll Founda-



tion and directed by MAJAL Academic Urban Observatory, in partnership with the Order of Engineers and Architects of Beirut, Lebanon. In 2009, he participated in the international sustainability event: "In a planet of our own", Mumbai, India. That same year, he was also the 1st prize winner in "Sustainability Week" competition, held in BIEL - Project Lebanon 2009, sponsored by the Order of Engineers and Architects, Beirut, Lebanon.



10th



25th



50th

Reunions



It is with great sadness that I inform you of the loss of my brother Bessilios Bessos.

He passed away on Thursday August 12th, 2010. I would like to pay tribute to Bessilios who was my brother, my teacher and my friend. I was enrolled in the International College in 1963 at the age of 12 where Bessilios was a well liked and respected Biology teacher, his other job being a pharmacist. Bessilios was 18 years older than me so it took a while for fellow students and teachers to realise that I was actually his brother and not his son, for I was often referred to as "Ibno la mister Bessos". Whether regarded as his brother or his son, his reputation gave me a sense of pride and confidence which helped me through my secondary school years. Having him as a teacher at IC, though, had its disadvantages. For my own teachers were able to report to him directly and on a regular basis on any of my misdemeanours. In my last year at IC Bessilios was my biology teacher and his exquisite, stimulating, and above all, caring methods of teaching inspired me and many of my fellow students to succeed, particularly in medicine and medical sciences. In the mid to late 1980s he helped his three children (two of whom had also studied at IC) to leave Beirut for Glendale, California, rejoining them with his wife in 1989. Aged 58 at the time, my brother took up a Biology teaching post in LA, at the same time setting out to prepare over 4 years for his US pharmacy license examination which he passed at the age of 62, no less; a magnificent achievement. That enabled him to switch from teaching to pharmacy management which he practiced until he passed away, surrounded by loving children and grandchildren and doing the things he cherished most.



Hagop Bessos '70 and Bessilios Bessos in the Canadian Rockies, August 2010

Hagop Bessos '70

We regret to inform you that Joseph Der Torossian '55 passed away on October 21. IC staff and faculty send their deepest condolences to the Der Torossian family.



Talal Kassem

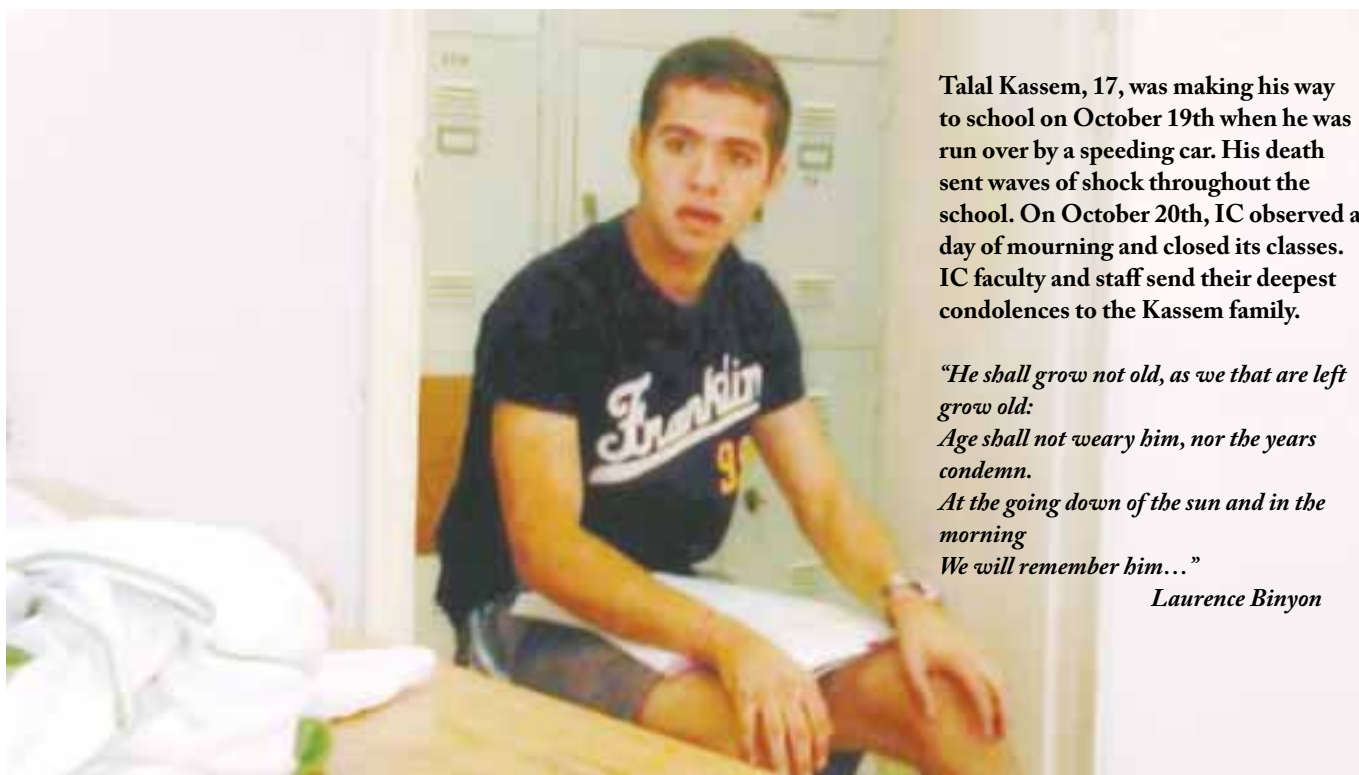
The legend of a rebel

"He who has gone, so we but cherish his memory, abides with us, more potent, nay, more present than the living man." - Antoine de Saint-Exupery
And thus, ends the story. But where does it start?

A man was driving too fast. He was crossing the road. The man had no control over the car. He was crossing the road. The car was going faster than the speed limit. He was crossing the road. The car met him, and tragically hit him, making him fall onto the ground, and grievously pass away. That is the end of the story. We all know the end of the story. But... Where does it start?

I could tell you that this story starts 17 years ago, when Talal Kassem was born. But this is not the story. After knowing him for years, we lost the beginning; we let go of the past and simply knew him. Talal is hard to figure out, and honestly, hard to describe. I'm working hard on finding the words to describe him but what I see in my mind, is beyond words. And I'm sure most of my classmates agree with me. By the name Talal, we see a smile, we see a laugh; we see the rebel. We often live to follow the rules and regulations enforced by our entourage, and we force ourselves to accommodate to them. I have known Talal to be the one to set himself free and loose, and work on playing and living by his own rules and believes. Maybe some of us rejected this idea before, but now we learn the value of it. If we just evaluate our lives, try and look back at the time we lose planning, and worrying and waiting. Talal taught us action. He didn't wait for things to happen, he fought hard to accomplish what he aimed for and live up to life's challenges. When I was sitting with my friends and classmate, remembering Talal and the days we spent with him, we constantly said, "He lived the shortest, but the fullest". Talal was the rebel.

In our classroom, Talal is still there. He still has his very own desk, and no one has the right to sit on it, since it is reserved for him. And every time we turn to see



Talal Kassem, 17, was making his way to school on October 19th when he was run over by a speeding car. His death sent waves of shock throughout the school. On October 20th, IC observed a day of mourning and closed its classes. IC faculty and staff send their deepest condolences to the Kassem family.

"He shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary him, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember him..."

Laurence Binyon

that desk, we remember him sitting, and smiling and making us laugh in class. I hear my classmates say, "He will be back; I cannot encounter the fact that he's gone"; "To believe that he had travelled is easier than to believe that he had died". We all feel that the class is different without Talal. For two years, we lived as a family, as siblings. We all became one. Even if we faced some conflicts, they were the reason to get us all closer together. And well, what can I say about Talal. He took care of us, and we took care of him. Freddie Mercury once said, "When you're through with life and all hope is lost, hold out your hand 'cause friends will be friends, right till the end". This is not the end. It is just our way of saying we will be there for each other, and for Talal's family. He's our brother, and the brotherhood bond is robust enough to endure all that one can face, even the harshest ever, death.

Our sadness is unbearable. Nonetheless, our mourning must come to an end and must be forgotten. I'm not saying we should move on from the memory, since this memory is everlasting, we should simply move on from our black days. We walked together following Talal's last steps and stopped at the place where he passed away and surrendered his soul to eternity. We promise to follow through his steps in life and continue his voyage, live the way he taught us to. Talal, we miss you. Talal, we love you. We started our senior year with your beautiful smile, and we will finish this year making you proud of us, and cherishing the memory of that smile on your handsome face.

This story has no end. We're still writing it.

Nay Tabbara TES

Elle est celle qui m'a porté 9 mois dans ses entrailles
 La seule femme qui porte pour moi un amour sans faille
 Celle qui m'a vu pleurer pour la première fois
 Celle qui m'a couvée changer les couche
 Couvert quand j'avais froid
 Celle qui m'a vu faire mes premier pas
 Celle qui a entendu le premier mot sortir de ma bouche Yemma
 Aucune phrase ne peut définir une créature aussi belle
 Son regard est plus étincelant qu'une étoile dans le ciel
 Celle qui surgit tel un oasis dans le désert
 Rien n'est plus confortable que le cœur d'une mère
 La chaire de ma chaire
 Celle qui est fière quand je réussis
 Le paradis est à ces pieds, la comble sera ma réussite
 Dire que je t'ai causé tant de traqua tant de soucis
 Puisse Dieu pardonner ton fils Omni
 L'amour d'une mère l'ingratitude d'un enfant
 Paraît que je connaitrais ta valeur que quand j'aurais des enfants
 Princesse de se monde princesse de mon royaume
 Gardienne de mon cœur garant de mon bonheur
 T'y es forte est courageuse et tu marche fière
 Rien n'est plus confortable que le cœur d'une mère
 Princesse de se monde princesse de mon royaume
 Gardienne de mon cœur garant de mon bonheur
 T'y es forte est courageuse et tu marche fière
 Rien n'est plus confortable que le cœur d'une mère

As sent by Talal to his mother on the night before his death



Build
and they will learn



PARTNERSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE

G I V E



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