

## End of School Year



*Level 3 students enjoying a snack*

## It's a Wrap

The children at Noor Academy studied hard, took exams, and celebrated the end of the school year just like any other school. However, in the midst of these normal activities, our teachers had growing concerns that hunger was pervasive among the students. One mother broke down and admitted she had nothing in her kitchen to feed her children. Amira, our lead teacher, managed to find another nonprofit to step in and provide occasional snacks for them which has helped. We hope to continue this practice as hungry children really cannot learn and thrive.

Spring was difficult for Syrian refugees in Beirut with more Lebanese calling for their repatriation to their homeland and forced evictions being used against some. It is no safer now in Syria for them than before, but the host country and its residents are turning against immigrants and scape-goating them for their own problems. Hopefully our school will be able to "fly under the radar" and not be impacted by this anti-immigrant sentiment spreading throughout Lebanon.



## Summer Schedule

During June and July, when the weather gets quite hot in Beirut, the school will only be in session two days a week. Another day each week the teachers will take the children on an outing. In August, the school will be closed for a month-long holiday, reopening in September.

Our teachers are paid year-round but at a lower rate than other teachers in Beirut public or private schools. The class sizes are large and the demands are great. We are fortunate to have them and plan to increase their pay in the coming year. We hope having a month off will rejuvenate them for the work of the next school year.

(See group photo, below.)





## Outreach

During the last two months, we applied for more grants and made efforts to reach a wider audience with information about the school by printing a brochure. We also participated in a Mission Fair at UCC Boulder along with about 15 other non-profits. Our table, with brochures and Lebanese cookies, is shown above.

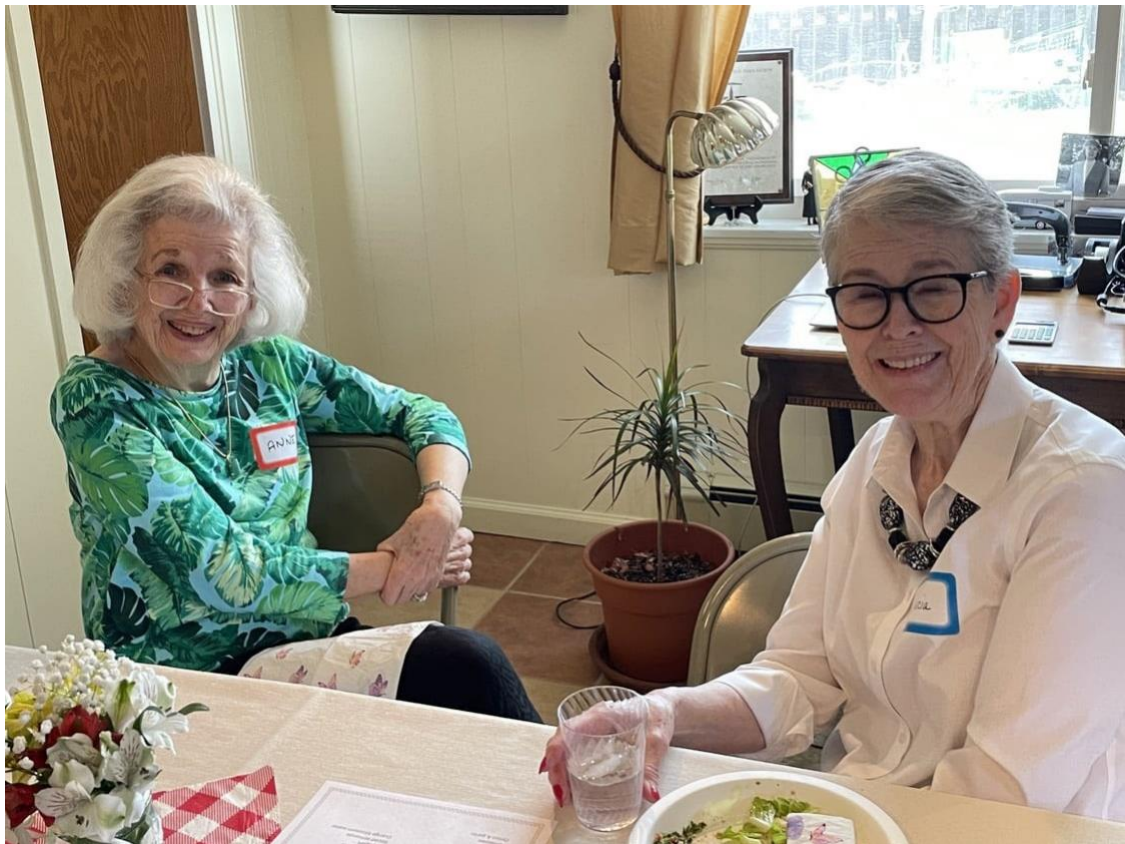


## Lebanese Luncheon

On May 11, the Board paid for and hosted a Lebanese luncheon to thank our donors and update them on the school's progress. More than 50 people attended, filling the house with joie de vivre! We started with mezze (appetizers) of minipizzas with za'atar and cheese, olives, hummus, and vegetables. Amine then introduced the Board and gave an update on the school and our finances. The Q&A was a great opportunity for the Board to hear what our donors are thinking and we will be following up on many of the ideas discussed. Thanks to all who participated!

After the program, guests were invited to watch a video and slide show from Amira and the children as they ate their lunch. The lunch menu included chicken freekeh, sfeeha, maghmour, tabbouleh and fatoush.







## - Suffering and War -

In Gaza, a ceasefire must happen. In this war, as in all other wars, it is the children who suffer the most. Over 14,500 children have been killed. No child will ever fully recover from the trauma.

What the erudite Jewish writer and scholar, Elie Weisel, said long ago remains true: "I would like to see real peace and a state of Israel living peacefully alongside a state of Palestine"

May it be so.

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## Your Support is Appreciated

Do you know anyone who might be interested in promoting education to refugee children? We need to double the size of our donor base in order to remain viable into the future, as well as find success in grant acquisition. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to one friend, telling them why you support this particular school. Your help in spreading the word and alerting us to any grants is appreciated more than you know.

[Donate Online](#)

Or donate by mail:

Noor El-Salam

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Longmont, CO 80503

We will continue to work for peace and to give children hope through education and love.

Gratefully,

Amine & Noor El-Salam Board