

45 Years



Founded in 1976

Hamzet Wassel

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Newsletter

November & December 2021



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LET'S BE BRAVE, HE IS WITH US

Why fear? He promised us the kingdom...

Let us be brave. Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather it is perseverance and progress with the belief that what awaits us on the way is what is best for us... Courage is confidence in God's word and acting on it. God is more powerful than our fear and is omnipotent. He is the one who said:

«Don't be afraid... I'm always with you... because I love you.»

Here we remember his redeeming coming. May his presence be renewed in our hearts. Let us be brave and walk the path of salvation towards the kingdom.

Christ is born... Let our fear go away
 Christ is born... Let us be brave, He is with us
 Christ is born... because he loves us
 Christ is born... Hallelujah

TOMORROW LEBANON WILL BE BETTER

«If Lebanon was not my country, I would have chosen Lebanon as my country.»

Gebran Khalil Gebran

On Independence Day, children and youth as well as staff and parents gathered to renew their faith in Lebanon. All hoping for a country of security, love and peace.

Mrs. Fadia Safi and the children of SESOBEL raised the Lebanese flag on the tune of the national anthem. Our flag will continue to fly high despite all the difficulties and crises.

Under the eyes of our mother, Mary, «Sitt al-Bayt», we raised our prayers for a better Lebanon.

With hope and confidence in a green Lebanon, we planted a cedar tree.

In a video, our children and youth called

out, asking Lebanon not to abandon us “because we need you”.

Of course, our party would not be complete without dancing to national tunes and music.

A big thank you to all the staff who attended and prepared for the party like a beehive.

Educational Program



LITTLE SNAIL

In November, we discussed the theme of Autumn season and got acquainted with the leaves of trees, oaks, and pines (touch, shape and sound).

The surprise was when the boys saw a snail wandering among the autumn leaves. They interacted with it spontaneously and carried it with their hands.

Early Intervention Unit



EXPRESSION

Our Scouting year started with new goals and ambitions. Saturday, November 27, 2021, the girls were waiting for this day to come back, meet each other at SESOBEL and share activities together, after a long period of remote meetings.

In this meeting, our activities were many, but the goal was one: the expression to empty oneself of all the fatigue and tension.

Our meeting included expression through sports, expression through symbolic images and expression through coloring.

Through specific exercises, the girls were able to take out the negative energy especially that they were required at the same time to scream out loud and express their feelings of anger and frustration.

Through icon pictures, the girls were able to express the things that make them happy and the things that upset them. The pictures also helped them to stimulate their imagination and think in a positive and healthy way.

As for the coloring activity, it helped each girl focus and enjoy calmly decorating the mandala.

Tournesol Unit



THE WHEAT, SYMBOL OF NEW LIFE

Wheat is a symbol of life and the crack in the middle of a grain of wheat symbolizes that the first half is yours and the other half is your brother's!

With the joy of brothers, we celebrated Saint Barbara day. Each team, in its own way, presented an idea so that we could live this occasion in a sweet way.

The pictures can show you how we celebrated this day!

Educational Program



MUSIC CLASS

This month, the remote music class was different from the rest. We put on our disguise and got ready to celebrate together Saint Barbara Festival.

The children's joy and reactions were indescribable, when they saw their classmates and especially the educators, disguised as well.

With enthusiasm, they participated in the activity and beat with a wooden spoon on an iron tray the tune of "Barbara" song, accompanied by Karl on the piano.

Poly-handicap and Severe Intellectual Disability Unit



CHRISTMAS STAR

Marvin's family visited our unit and gave us a star bearing the name of our family. It lit our Christmas tree.

Early Intervention Unit



WELCOME BACK YAHYA

After a long absence, Yahya visited SESOBEL to celebrate Christmas with us. The smile and joy illuminated Yahya's face when he saw his classmates and teachers who greeted him with enthusiasm and expressed their longing for him.

We celebrated with Santa Claus who distributed gifts, but we did not forget to take the necessary precautions for social distancing.

Intellectual Disability Unit



CULTURAL ENCOUNTER AT ATCL

The «Edelweiss» Foundation at ATCL Jounieh invited a group of our youth to participate in a cultural day that included the discovery of the sea world and all disciplines related to ships and yachts...

A civil defense team specialized in marine accidents also participated in this day, explaining to our youth the importance of first aid for those drowning in seas or rivers.

It was a day full of rich and new ideas. It included a lunch with the youth, in the presence of some of the students in the area's schools. Our colleague Lara Jabbour spoke about SESOBEL's role in society.

Christopher Al-Shemali and Raphael Rahal –youth with disability– expressed their opinion on all that was presented and explained during this day.

Intellectual Disability Unit



REMOTE COSMETIC WORKSHOP

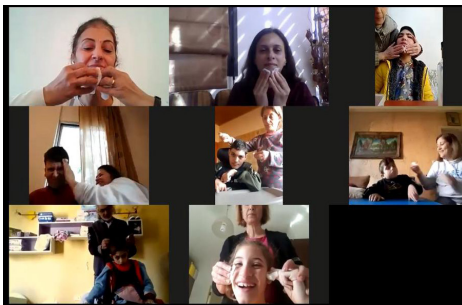
It is true that difficulties are trying to separate us and to prevent us from meeting, but our will, that of our children and youth, and that of their parents is stronger than all challenges.

That's why we came back to remote learning every Monday and Friday with new educational and induction classes. One of them is the cosmetic workshop. This workshop has always intrigued parents. During this period, the goal was to:

- Sense the scalp through various activities such as massaging with hands or a towel.
- Feel the hot air with a hair dryer.
- Pass the hairbrush over the scalp.

We asked the parents to follow the educator's directions and apply every step of each activity to their child. How sweet were their reactions when they felt the interaction of their children with every step they took. This is how they learned the objectives of this workshop and its importance.

Poly-handicap and Severe Intellectual Disability Unit



WHAT IS MORE INTERESTING THAN PLANTING?

Agriculture is of great importance and benefits, especially that it is one of the main sources for humans to obtain food.

No matter how much we develop and advance, agriculture is indispensable. With the planting class, we got acquainted with the types of seeds and each child prepared the soil to be suitable for planting.

Everyone was ready and prepared. Elvis planted watercress, Christa Maria planted rocca, Michael planted radish, Maria planted cress, and Mustafa planted parsley.

Every day we will water the implants properly and we will watch the stages of growth.

When it will be ready, we will harvest and prepare together the best fattoush. Blessed season!

Motor Disability Unit



COLORING WORKSHOP

We want to congratulate Angie, Michel and Chris for the clear progress in their coloring skills, their commitment to Carla's directions and their attention to fine details.

The pictures are the best proof.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder Unit



SPORTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT

Above, under...

Left, right...

Walking, running and jumping are morning exercises that help us develop our motor skills and maintain our physical and mental health.

Early Intervention Unit



HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS FOR BROTHERS TO MEET TOGETHER

A special prayer stop every morning with our children and Liliane.

We can see big responsiveness from our children.

Noor is attached to the phrase «we want to laugh» if she hears someone crying.

Chris emphasizes on the participation of his classmate Halim.

Giovanni starts with the phrase «I love you, Jesus. You are in my heart».

Elie follows the prayer with a musical instrument.

Ryan expresses his love for Jesus with signs on the words of the hymn «I love you, my Lord Jesus.»

Their participation in the prayer till the end is very special.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder Unit



COCO THE PARROT

Welcome to Coco the Gray Parrot! He visited us in December and put smiles on our faces and the faces of our children. He became an ambassador of welcome and farewell to children.

We do not pass without greeting him and giving him something like grapes, apples, cucumbers or pistachios. He communicates with words or whistles, and gives us his head for a hug, as an expression of his joy and love for us.

Thank you Coco for your sweet visit.
Early Intervention Unit



KEEP GOING ELISSIA

Elissia Kordahi joined the swimming team and participated in exercises with her friends in the swimming pool of Aintoura School. Elissia has important swimming abilities and skills, which we discovered through the Halliwick Program.

Certainly, with perseverance and exercises, we will be able to develop these skills and abilities, and she will be able to participate in local and international championships.
Bravo Elissia Keep Going...

Joelle Ouba
Physical Education and Sports



THE DYNAMO OF THE MOTOR DISABILITY UNIT

She arrives excited and takes care of the children.

She always asks: Did they study? Did they take their medication?

One day, May said: "Hey Sarah, Ghada, is in her office, go say good morning." Sarah replied: «Now it's the children turn not Ghada's.»

This is Sarah the "dynamo" of our team. She works with energy and enthusiasm. She is all about service and attendance next to our children.

Motor Disability Unit



CHRISTMAS TIME

In the month of joy and peace, we celebrated the birth of the Savior. With songs, drawings, and «wire», we prepared the nativity scene for Mrs. Safi.

She visited us with the Minister of Social Affairs. We introduced ourselves in the nativity cave where we were its characters.

After that, we celebrated the mass with the VRP team and the youth of Kfarhouna, and we prayed for Lebanon.

SESOBEL Jezzine



HALLELUJAH CHRIST IS BORN

“Today, a Savior was born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord”
“He is coming with great glory, he is coming in all humility to be born among us”

This way, we lived your birthday, O Lord, you little child with a big heart. We prepared the Christmas procession. We carried baby Jesus. Youth and staff, we walked hand in hand with hymns, incense and meditations towards the nativity cave chanting: Hallelujah, Christ is born.

We completed our day with celebrations of joy and peace and a morsel of love that brought us together. We cut the cake, and in the end, Santa Claus drew laughter and distributed gifts to our youth.

Merry Christmas.



VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM - VRP

YOUR JOY, MY LORD, IS IN MY HEART

Our joy in the Vocational Rehabilitation Program cannot be affected by anything. We live and celebrate all occasions together with love and simplicity, while respecting the distancing measures.

- Independence Day,
- Saint Barbara Day,
- And Christmas.

At the end of this year, we ask Jesus to keep us united in love and peace.



CUTE ROSY

She joined SESOBEL family when she was little. You all know her, she is Rosy Abbosh.

She works with precision and responsibility. She brings a smile to our face, with her sweetness and her jokes.

Rosy, we wish that joy remains in your heart, that all your family stay united and celebrate Christmas together with love and peace.



WE WILL CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS DESPITE DIFFICULTIES

Christmas is a very sweet holiday. We celebrate it every year, old and young and of all ages.

Streets are lit up and houses are decorated in the most beautiful colors. Let us not forget the family's gatherings. It is not important if the clothes are new and fashionable, the important thing is that we gather and everyone lives the joy of Christmas.

This year is difficult for all of us. Some people have lost loved ones and their place in the house is empty, others are sick and forgotten, some are abroad, and others don't have the means to celebrate.

My family and I want to celebrate despite everything, because we believe that this is a holiday of love and tolerance, a holiday of birth and joy, a holiday of humility and hope.

We want to keep remembering that Jesus is the joy of this feast.

Bernadette Richa
A youth of SESOBEL



SOCIAL ACCOMPANIMENT

PSYCHOSOCIAL CAFÉ FOR MUMS

The psychosocial café is a place for debate, open to all parents, at the heart of SESOBEL.

It deals with topics related to mental health and psychosocial support. We offer a space for talking, listening and friendly meeting, a place to talk freely with mutual respect.

Neither a conference nor a workshop, the floor is always given to the participants. The goal is to meet with pleasure, share emotions and thoughts in a warm atmosphere, and exchange experiences, in respectful listening and confidentiality, in the presence of health professionals: a psychologist and a social worker. The themes are set from a psychosocial support guide based on recreational activities.

This framework allows everyone to become an actor of their own change, stimulated by the creativity generated by the group.



BROTHERHOOD LIKE NO OTHER

Siblings meetings take place at SESOBEL premises once a month. Meetings started in November with a new working strategy. The siblings are divided into 3 small groups taking into consideration their age and development.

The social worker, the psychologist and the specialized educators animate the group with psychosocial support activities while encouraging speech. This group of expression allows brothers and sisters to feel recognized and valued each in his uniqueness.

The children's testimonies legitimize the feelings they share together and help reduce feelings of loneliness when they discover that other brothers and sisters are going through a similar experience to theirs.

This is a space for advice and observations on how they should handle difficult situations.



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT GROUP IN THE LIFE PROJECT OF CHILDREN IN THE EARLY STIMULATION UNIT

Since the influence of the family environment on the child's life project was revealed, the question of parental involvement has caught our attention.

The traditional division of work between the specialized institution and the family has been reconsidered and has led to granting a central place to the forms of parental involvement in the child's life project.

A group of mothers whose children are newly admitted to SESOBEL, specifically to the early stimulation unit (less than 3 years of admission) share their experiences and work together to unify the concept of parental commitment while developing their parenting skills.

Weekly meetings are held with the social worker to animate and manage the online group.

PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The parents' committee has resumed its meetings at SESOBEL. These meetings are currently targeting SESOBEL's means of support and action programs during this period of crisis.

HOPE DESPITE EVERYTHING!!!

The working conditions this year were subject to many difficulties, especially the infection of some colleagues with the Corona virus. We avoided the worst by solidarity and rushing to secure products and orders on time.

The depreciation of the lira affected the prices of our products. The quantity of manufacturing, production and pricing was studied every day to comply with all developments. The delivery, distribution and securing orders inside and outside Lebanon with those of the express line were monitored.

We have decorated our permanent showrooms with their five branches and opened the Christmas season in our permanent exhibition in Dbayeh. We also participated in several other exhibitions.

SESOBEL participated in the following exhibitions:

Burj On Bay Hotel – Tabarja
on December 11 and 12

Noël des Associations – Sodecco
on December 16 and 17

The House of Christmas – Gemayzeh
on December 17 and 18

Christmas Fair – **Bossa Nova Hotel** – Sin
El Fil from December 17 to December 22

I would like to mention the importance of the participation of the Volunteers Committee and some colleagues in ensuring attendance. From the heart, thank you very much.

Jeanette Mattar – Marketing Unit



POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE

The obsession with infection with the Corona virus is still present, and people have become obsessed with the results of the PCR examination, whether negative or positive.

In the production unit, we were not spared from this reality.

In early December, the Corona virus infected some colleagues, despite all the preventive measures taken.

It is true that the positive results caused fear but not panic or surrender.

The virus can affect everyone, so the best way to continue and race against time was to double efforts to be able to deliver all orders to customers on time.

I would like to salute all members of the production and marketing teams for their solidarity, love and support that made it possible to overcome all the obstacles and they were many. Hope the coming seasons be better.

Stay safe.

Rada El-Sokhon
Production Unit

ARE WE WITH HIM ?

In the Advent season, we came to the nativity cave, like the shepherds and the wise men, bearing what we have to place with Jesus, our difficulties and fears, our toil and effort, believing that He alone is able to transform them into a light that overcomes all darkness.

It is great to hear the angels praise: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men."

It is great that we think of the star that lighted the way for salvation and erased with light the darkness and distress of the world.

It is great that we think of Joseph, Mary and Bethlehem, the symbol of the family, the cell of love in the heart of society.

It is great that we think of a cave, a manger, and a homeland.

It is great that we think of the shepherds, a symbol of peace and submission.

It is great that we think of the Wise men, bearing gifts, a symbol of giving and appreciation.

But the greatest thing we can think of, is Jesus.

Think who is...

We think of God who became man for us. We think of the perfect God and the perfect man.

We think of God who is with us, all the way to raise us to his kingdom.

So why fear,
our God became man for our salvation.

In this contemplative state, we celebrated Christmas mass with His Excellency Archbishop Andari, the Curator of Louaizeh Convent, Father Moussa and Father Salloum, on Tuesday December 21, 2021.

With joy, we gathered with our children and their families, live or online via Zoom app, we prayed and chanted with SESOBEL choir led by Father Rahmeh.

We will never be afraid because He loves us, we will not be afraid because He saved us, we will not be afraid because He is with us.

But are we with him???

Dolly Ghreichy



MRS. FADIA SAFI SPEECH DURING CHRISTMAS MASS

«Don't be afraid, I'm always with you because I love you».

This is our motto for this year at SESOBEL.

This year was very difficult for us, because it changed our lifestyle, the way we organize our work, and even the way we communicate with each other. We are destined to face difficulties, tolerate changes, and remain steadfast in the face of all challenges.

Our destiny is to change our priorities. Our destiny is to draw strength from weakness to continue our mission with our children with courage, perseverance, and faith.

– Because like our mother Mary, we said “yes” and did not allow fear, anxiety and frustration to control our lives.

– Because we know that the essence of our strength, courage, and faith is our absolute dependence on Mary, the mother of our house, and her son, Jesus.

We handed them our lives, our difficulties, our children, our families, our team, our friends and everyone who loved our children.

On this holy feast, we ask you, Baby Jesus, to keep our hearts filled with hope and joy. Do not allow fear to control our lives.

We ask you to help us be the children of whom you are proud.

We ask you to strengthen us because you are stronger than fear.

We ask you not to let our faith in you be shaken.

This year, on the 45th anniversary of SESOBEL, help us embody every day with our lives and our service, our filiation to you, Baby Jesus.

– Thank you, Archbishop Antoine Nabil El-Andari, Patriarchal Vicar General and Pastor of the Maronite Diocese of Jounieh for presiding over our mass every year.

– Thank you for the participation of Father Khalil Rahmeh, Director of the Music Institute at Notre Dame University, with the choir.

– Thank you to Father Joseph Salloum for always being with us.

– Thank you to Father Walid Mussa, the custodian of the Monastery of Our Lady of Louaizeh, for receiving us every year at the Church of Louaizeh.

– Thank you to Father Joseph Saad and Father Charbel Abi Rached for cooperating with us.

– Thank you to Mr. Shadi Akiki for sound engineering.

– Thank you to the filming and directing team of LBCI TV.

– Thank you to SESOBEL choir and all the staff.

– Thank you to all the parents and friends from Lebanon and abroad who helped us fulfill our mission.

We hope that this feast renews our lives, illuminates our path, so that we may live together in love, as brothers and as children of God, in a family that resembles the family of Jesus.

Christ was born Hallelujah