



Collège des Newsletters Frères- Jerusalem #49 January 2026

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

January opens a new year with fresh intentions—but it also reminds us that school life is made of real moments: celebration, hard work, unexpected changes, and sometimes deep loss. As we enter 2026 at Collège des Frères – Jerusalem, we do so with gratitude for our students and families, appreciation for our dedicated staff, and a renewed promise to keep building a community shaped by faith, service, and educational excellence.

This month's newsletter captures many reasons to be proud. We highlight meaningful professional development that strengthens our teaching and supports student learning. We also share moments of solidarity and joy through "Christmas Joy Day," where our school community extended care and celebration to the children of the Old City—reminding us that education is not only about lessons, but about values lived in action.

We celebrate student achievement beyond the classroom as well. The spirit of teamwork and discipline shone through in our sports community, including the special trip to Amman honoring our basketball team after winning the Jerusalem Schools Basketball Championship. These experiences shape character—teaching perseverance, respect, and unity—qualities our students carry into every area of life.

At the same time, this January carries a sorrow that has touched us all. The loss of our beloved student Gabriel (Gabi) Juha left our community heartbroken. In moments like these, we are reminded that a school is also a family: we grieve together, we support one another, and we hold tight to faith and hope. We continue to keep Gabi's family, friends, teachers, and classmates in our prayers. May his memory remain a blessing among us, and may we honor him by choosing kindness, unity, and care—every day.

As you turn these pages, you will also see the life and creativity of our younger students through winter activities and classroom projects, along with initiatives that open new pathways for the future—such as the launch of new programs connecting learning with the world of work and opportunity.

Even when the semester begins with delays or challenges, we move forward together, encouraging our students to stay focused, hopeful, and resilient.

Thank you to every member of our school community for your trust, your effort, and your support. May 2026 be a year of peace and strength for our families, and may our school continue to be a place where every student is seen, guided, and encouraged to become the best version of themselves.

Brother Daoud Kassabry, FSC
Director

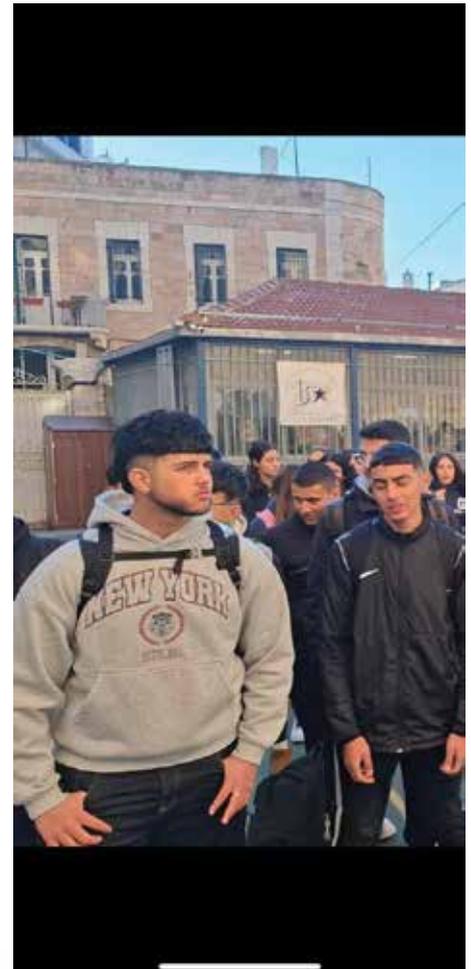
In Loving Memory of Gabi

Gabi's smile, kindness, and gentle spirit left a mark on everyone who knew him. He brought warmth into every room, treated others with respect, and lived with a quiet joy that was easy to feel. Though his time with us was far too short, his memory will remain with us—in our halls, our hearts, and the way we choose to care for one another.



Remembering Gabi

Gabi was the kind of teammate you could always count on—disciplined, supportive, and full of heart. On and off the court, he showed respect, encouraged others, and carried himself with integrity. We will remember his energy, his determination, and the way his smile made people feel welcome. His legacy lives on in the friendships he built and the goodness he shared.



Session at Bard College / Jerusalem University December 17, 2025

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance professional performance, the teaching staff of the American Curriculum participated in a training workshop at Al-Quds University – Bard College, with 14 teachers in attendance. The workshop focused on the quality of education and strengthening teachers' skills.



Christmas Joy Day at Frères School – Celebrating with Old City Children December 30, 2025

In cooperation with the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem—and with its appreciated contribution—Frères School organized a special day entitled “Christmas Joy,” aiming to give children of the Old City the opportunity to celebrate Christmas in an atmosphere of joy, play, and fun.

More than 140 children took part in the event, along with a large number of families who came with their children to spend a joyful time surrounded by Christmas spirit and traditional Christmas carols. A large number of the school's teachers helped organize the gathering, in addition to student volunteers from the “Yes, We Can” Lasallian Group.





A Sports Trip to Amman to Honor Frères School Basketball Team January 3, 2026

In recognition of their outstanding achievement in winning the Jerusalem Schools Basketball Championship, the administration of Frères School, together with the De La Salle Club, organized a sports and recreational trip to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to honor the team.

Twelve students took part in the trip, accompanied by international coach Issa Kamel, academic supervisor Ms. Sylvia Amer, and the school principal Brother Daoud Kassabry. During the trip, the team played two matches against the Orthodox Club of Amman, winning the first game and losing the second.

The program also included visits to Frères School in Amman, the Royal Automobile Museum, the Map Church in Madaba, and Mount Nebo, in addition to enjoyable time spent at Amman's malls and entertainment venues. Special thanks to the De La Salle Club for facilitating this trip, and to the De La Salle Administration in Amman for their warm hospitality and for providing transportation for the team.





Back to School with Enthusiasm: A Warm Welcome to the Second Semester (2025–2026) Januray 17, 2026

At the start of the second semester of the 2025–2026 school year, and after a three-day delay due to circumstances beyond our control, students and teachers returned to school with great enthusiasm for learning and work. On the first day of the second semester, the students were warmly welcomed by Brother Daoud Kassabry, Mr. Issa Deeb, Ms. Mona Hazo, and all the teachers, who offered encouraging words and urged them to work hard and persevere, in keeping with the saying: "He who strives, succeeds."



Reception Ceremony for the Hospitality Department and Launch of the Tourism Program January 15, 2026

In an atmosphere of pride and joy, our school celebrated the reception of the Hospitality Department and the launch of the Tourism Program—an event that highlights our commitment to combining knowledge with hands-on training and preparing students for the future.

We are proud of the Hospitality Department for offering professional training aligned with the job market in hospitality, services, and tourism. We sincerely thank the department coordinator and dedicated teachers—especially the chefs/instructors—for turning learning into daily practice and mastery.

Our school also has unique cultural features, including archaeological remains dating back to the first century and a historical museum with valuable artifacts. Among its highlights is a Bible printed in 1761, said to be among the earliest printed Arabic translations, giving it strong academic and historical value.

We are proud of our cooperation with the Ambassador Hotel (Ambassador Collection), connecting education with real hotel-based training. We also appreciate the scholarships that will support Hospitality students by expanding opportunities and encouraging excellence



January 19th was a deeply sorrowful day for Collège des Frères

A day we will never forget — because it brought us the shocking news of the passing of our student, Gabriel Juha.

His death stunned all of us and left our entire school community in complete shock. We did not know how to react, or what to say to one another. For a moment, words failed us, and silence — and tears — were the only language we shared.

Death took from us a young man only 16 years old, suddenly and without warning. In just 48 hours, Gabriel went from the moment his heart stopped on the basketball court, to being in the hospital, and then to leaving this world. Everything happened so quickly that it felt unreal. We barely had time to understand what was happening, and we certainly were not ready to say goodbye.

Today, we stand in grief — but also in faith. We may not understand the “why,” and we may not have answers that can heal this pain. But we do believe in a God of mercy, a God who holds Gabriel in His loving hands, where there is no suffering, no fear, and no more tears.

Gabriel was not just a name on a list. He was a son, a friend, a classmate, a student who was part of the life of this school. His absence leaves a painful emptiness in our hallways, in our classrooms, and on that basketball court — but most of all, in our hearts.

To Gabriel’s family, we offer our deepest condolences. We pray that the Lord gives you strength, patience, and comfort from above. And to his friends, classmates, teachers, and everyone at Collège des Frères: may God help us carry this loss together, support one another, and turn our shock into compassion, our sorrow into prayer, and our love into a lasting tribute.

Lord, grant rest to the soul of Your servant Gabriel. Let Your eternal light shine upon him, and may he rest in peace. Amen.



Winter Art Activities in Kindergarten January 20, 2026

In a cozy winter atmosphere full of warmth and joy, our kindergarten children took part in a variety of special art activities. They designed winter hats and snowballs using colors, yarn, glue, and cotton, creating a free space for creativity, self-expression, and imagination.

These activities aimed to develop fine motor skills, strengthen hand-eye coordination, and nurture artistic sense and creative thinking, while also introducing children to the characteristics of winter in a fun, hands-on way. They also helped build focus and patience, boost self-confidence through completing a unique artwork for each child, and encourage a love of learning and independent work in an environment filled with happiness and interaction.



Catholic Scout Day January 18, 2026

College des Frères Jerusalem hosted Catholic scout groups for a day of hard work. The meeting was organized and supervised by the Arab Catholic Group in Jerusalem, and the scout group from the Frères School in Bethlehem, the "De La Salle Group" led by Ghassan Anastas, participated in the day.



Welcoming the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre January 29, 2026

College des freres in Jerusalem hosted a group of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. The meeting was to learn about the educational and economic conditions of the school in light of the repercussions of the Gaza war and its economic and social impact on the school.



Bard College Delegation Visits the School to Explore Future Cooperation January 29, 2026

The administration of the School received Dr. Dan from Bard College in the United States, accompanied by Dr. Intisar from Bard College in Jerusalem and the director of the American School affiliated with Al-Quds University, with the aim of learning about the American program in the school and developing plans for future cooperation.



The Italian culinary arts course began at the Hospitality section in the Frères High School in Jerusalem, with the participation of 18 trainees from Jerusalem mothers and students of the School. The course is supervised by Professor Fadi Dib, and the participants are trained by Chef Amir Khoury. The course lasts 7 weeks and is a specialized course in Italian cooking. It is supported by the French Development Agency and the Center for the Development of Civil Institutions.



Volcano Activity: A Fun, Integrated Learning Experience for Children January 29, 2026

The volcano activity is one of the most enjoyable educational experiences that supports a child's development in a well-rounded way. It enhances cognitive growth by introducing simple scientific concepts such as reactions, cause and effect, and observation. It also promotes language development by encouraging children to ask questions and express what they see and feel.

In addition, the activity supports fine motor development through using hands for pouring, mixing, and careful watching. It strengthens social and emotional development by fostering teamwork, patience, cooperation, and a sense of wonder and achievement. This activity also nurtures scientific curiosity and a love of discovery, making learning a lively, fun experience that stays in the child's memory. We would also like to thank Tim Faidhi's mother for participating in the activity with the Waiting Class.



A Joyful January Birthday Celebration in Kindergarten January 29, 2026

In a warm and cheerful atmosphere filled with smiles and happiness, the kindergarten students came together to celebrate the birthdays of their classmates who were born in the month of January. The classroom was full of excitement as the children shared laughter, kind words, and sweet moments that made the day truly special for everyone. This lovely celebration helped strengthen friendship and belonging among the students, as each child felt seen, appreciated, and included. Singing together, cheering for their friends, and sharing in the joyful spirit created beautiful memories that will stay in their hearts. Wishing our little ones a year filled with bright days and happy surprises—may their hearts always beat with joy, and may their path be full of success, growth, and shining achievements. Happy Birthday to all our January stars!



Think Outside the Box

In this creative activity, we challenged the imagination of fifth-grade students by giving them a worksheet that contained only car wheels, along with the prompt: "This isn't a car! It's..."

The goal was to reinvent the purpose of these circles and transform them into completely different elements within original, imaginative drawings.

This exercise helps students develop flexible thinking and shows them that similar beginnings can lead to surprising and totally different results, depending on each person's unique perspective.

Special thanks to the school social worker, Diala Katanasho, for leading this meaningful and inspiring activity.



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**Education is our
Passion**



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