



HONOURING TEACHERS WHO REACH FOR THE STARS



جائزة خالد للمعلم المتميز
KALD Distinguished Teachers Award
2013 - 2014



Dear respected guests

I would like to thank you all for accepting the invitation by the Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences, and for attending this celebration, the first-of-its-kind in the Arab world. We are here to honor and award distinguished teachers and schools in the field of special education. It is a project that we are proud of, and consider it a quantum leap in our volunteering work, through which we serve individuals, for they are the nation's real wealth, whether they are a student, a parent or a teacher.

These are the real partners in the educational process, and KALD works hard to support them academically, socially and psychologically. We are committed to our mission and goal of better serving our community.

We ask Allah to help us succeed in this project, to be able to achieve the sustainable results we aspire to. As a non-profit association, we aim to cooperate with every teacher dedicated to helping students with Learning Difficulties and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

Our goals in doing so are firstly, to promote the spirit of fair competition among teachers who love their profession. Secondly, we seek to encourage self-assessment and reflection among teachers, following Charlotte Danielson's framework for enhancing educational performance. Lastly, we acknowledge those teachers who left their countries and families to contribute to educating our children in private schools.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for his high patronage of the ceremony, and to the Masharee Al Khair Charity Organization, Zain Telecom, and the National Bank of Kuwait. We also thank the media sponsor of the ceremony, Good Health magazine.

Sincerely

Amaal Alsayer





About KALD

The Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences (KALD) is a social welfare association that collaboratively works towards helping students with learning differences in private schools in Kuwait.

Members of KALD have chosen "learning differences" instead of "learning difficulties" because they believe that these students are intelligent individuals and are capable not only of succeeding, but of excelling. The only difference between them and other students is that they have their own way of learning.

We at KALD work towards identifying and developing the capabilities of these students. We provide academic, psychological and social support for them through training, awareness and entertainment programs for the students, their families and their schools. Our vision is to bring people together and create a platform that assists in solving problems and brings a sense of optimism to the lives of those suffering from learning disabilities.

KALD was established in 2007 and is exclusively funded by Masharee Al Khair Charity Organization and is strongly supported and guided by The Center for Child Evaluation and Teaching. The Center has generously given us offices on their premises and has also provided continuous cooperation and much appreciated consultation services.

KALD aims to cooperate with all government and non-governmental institutions and organizations that are involved directly or indirectly in the educational process, because we believe that unity brings strength and saves time and effort.



About the KALD Teachers Award

Award Objectives:

KALD Distinguished Teachers Award will be granted to teachers who exemplify the highest standards in teaching students with Learning Difficulties and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. The purpose of this award is to:

- Provide a lasting service to Kuwaiti society, by creating a new generation of teachers with enthusiasm for their profession.
- Prepare teachers and develop educational processes in the field of teaching students with learning disabilities.
- Begin promoting self-assessment and reflection among teachers, to contribute to raising the level of education in private schools.
- Urge teachers to work on their own professional growth plan in order to enhance professional practices, so as to positively impact student learning.
- Acknowledge distinguished teachers working with LD/ADHD students in private schools.
- Motivate and stimulate teachers to excel at their work.

Award Criteria:

The Award Committee will select the Distinguished Teachers based on international criteria used in the educational field, as well as international and national awards standards. The standards include, but are not limited to:

- Inner and outer recognition for excellence and innovation in teaching students with Learning Difficulties and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, as mainly observed by parents and colleagues at work.
- Commitment to excellence and originality in teaching, as shown by:
 - Excellent performance of daily responsibilities.
 - Development of effective techniques and practices.
 - Attractive and stimulating presentation of lessons.
 - Demonstration of respect for student inquiry and discussion.
 - Effective relationships with students.
 - Continuous efforts to evaluate and improve one's own teaching.
 - Matching the criteria presented in Charlotte Danielson's "Framework for Teaching" Model.



KALD Teachers Award

KALD Award Committee Members



Mrs. Hana Al-Duaij
Arabic Language Supervisor
- Farwania Education Area,
Ministry of Education



Dr. Badria Ahmad Al-Hajji
Assistant Professor -
The College of Basic Education,
The Public Authority For Applied
Education and Training



Mrs. Souad Al-Thwaikh
Assistant Teacher -
College of Social Sciences,
Kuwait University



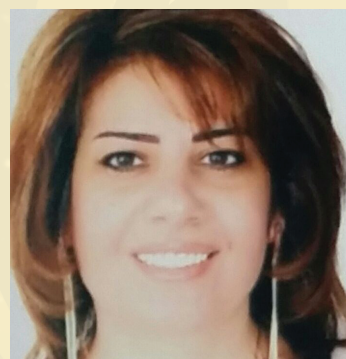
Mrs. Wafa' Nusaibeh
Supervisor - Inspection of
Private Schools Department,
Ministry of Education



Dr. Fatma Al-Awadi
Consultant Developmental
Pediatrician - Fatima Clinic



Mrs. Nabila Al-Midlij
English Language Instructor -
The College of Basic Education,
The Public Authority For Applied
Education and Training (PAAET)



Dr. Huda Nuhad Shaaban
General Coordinator-
KALD Distinguished Teachers
Award, Head of Growth and
Development Department-
KALD

Katie Adan

Universal American School



Personal Description

My name is Katie Adan. I was born in 1986 and raised in Dallas, Texas, USA. I received my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education in 2008 from the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, AR and then my Master's degree in Educational Leadership in 2013 from the American College of Education, which is based out of Chicago, IL.

In my free time I enjoy traveling, teaching Zumba Classes (Latin Dance), playing and watching sports, working out, watching movies, and spending time with my friends. I have been teaching for seven years and I would not change my career in education for the world.

I plan to one day open a private elementary school for children in poverty to help address some of the issues that often are overlooked in mainstream education in America.

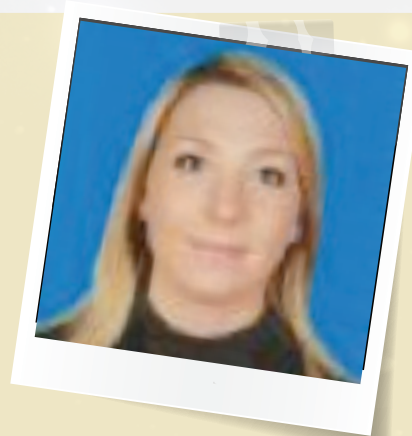
School Description

The Universal American School is a private, college-preparatory, Nursery to Grade 12 school serving a multinational student body from the diverse populations residing in Kuwait, regardless of race, religion, gender or nationality.

UAS offers a full American program with twelve AP courses offered. The College Board's Advanced Placement Program and its AP International Diploma are integral parts of the school program. Counseling services are provided and include preparation for TOEFL, PSAT, SAT, PLAN, ACT and school-wide achievement tests. College admissions are served by the College Board's services.

Valeri Wagner

Universal American School



Personal Description

I was born on January 30th, 1987 in Timmins, Ontario and raised in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. I completed all of my education and initial teaching positions in Canada before moving to Kuwait in 2010 to work at the Universal American School (UAS).

I am a Certified Teacher of AP World History at the College Board in United States. I am also a Certified Teacher with the Ontario College of Teachers in Canada. I completed my Honors Bachelor of Arts degree at Wilfrid Laurier University specializing in Geography, Environmental Science and History in 2009. Then, I completed my Bachelor of Education at Trent University, Canada in 2010.

I have taught a variety of World History courses for students in grades 6-12. I enjoy being involved in school activities including clubs, coaching soccer and supervising programs like our Model United Nations program. I have respect for diversity, a deep personal attachment to people and a commitment and passion for teaching and lifelong learning. I adore teaching. I am grateful for all of the different people and experiences that I have encountered in my life, especially while teaching internationally. I have taken time and care to know my students, colleagues, local and international friends, giving me a better understanding of people, places and cultures. I hope to equip students to become ethical citizens who can help preserve human values and appreciate others through creativity and collaboration. I plan on studying my Master's next year in Global Development and after that I will continue teaching abroad or at home in Canada.

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Shereen Shahata

Dasman Model Bilingual School



Personal Description

I grew up in Egypt, and left after university to be with my husband here in Kuwait. That was in 1997. I have been teaching in Dasman Model School since 2004. Before that, I was in Al Marifa Model School for six years. That was where I started my Special Needs work. I became the coordinator of the department and coordinator for the program which I teach (ASDAN). To that end, we here in Vocational commit to attracting our students, and to this, we must strive for individuality.

I hear, and I forget,
I see, and I remember,
I do, and I understand.

Everything I teach is something they 'can' do, and by the end of the year, they are 'doing' it.

I enjoy my work and the people I work with. If I can work harder to make my students happy, I will, and I do work very hard.

School Description

Dasman Model Bilingual School is a private school in the State of Kuwait. The school was founded in 1996. Dasman is a leading school that offers a bilingual program for students in grades K to 12. Over two thousand students are enrolled at the school.

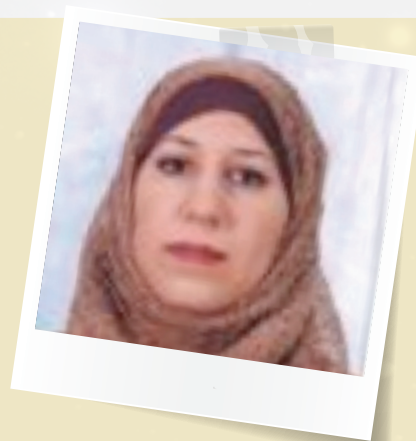
Grades K-5 are part of the KG/Elementary division, 6-8 are part of the Middle School division, and 9-12 are part of the High School division.

Dasman has a self-contained Special Needs Division within the main school. The Special Needs department is considered one of the best in the Middle East. The following support services are also available for students: counseling, physiotherapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy. After completing the special needs program, most students are placed in the school's Vocational Department. In the Vocational Program, students are offered UK certified certification and training in business and life skills.

Dasman is accredited by both CIS and NEASC. The school's Vocational program is also accredited by the UK's top vocational awarding bodies: Edexcel and ASDAN.

Amal Al Ward

Dasman Modern School



Personal Description

I was born in Jordan in 1970 and finished my high school with Distinction and enrolled at Yarmouk University Department of Education (for a Major of Classroom Teacher, where my focus was on teaching methods in different subjects). I graduated in 1992 with very good grades.

I worked as a teacher at the New Generation School in Jordan for a year, then worked in Oman in distinct schools. I was a 3rd and 4th Grade teacher from 1994 to 2004. After moving to Kuwait, I worked at Dasman Model School as a Teacher Assistant in the Learning Difficulties Department for a year and then as a Teacher for students with Learning Difficulties in Arabic language and Islamic studies from 2004 to 2014. During this period, I taught various grades from Grades 6-12. My experience grew every year as I tried to find new methods of teaching and to better serve this category of students. I joined a number of specialized courses in this area as I was keen to participate in training workshops or conferences, to develop my skills and upgrade the quality of my educational performance. As well, I joined a Master's degree program in Special Needs from the University of Framingham and graduated in 2007 with a good grade.

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Helen Al Rahi

Manarat Special School of Kuwait



Personal Description

Helen has been one of the Pre-K teachers at Manarat School – Kuwait (MSK) since September 2011.

It has been a privilege to have Helen be part of the MSK community. Helen is a dedicated teacher, conscientious and hard working in regards to many aspects of our school. Through her helpful attitude, Helen has established and developed good relationships with students, staff and administration, which has contributed, to her achievement at MSK.

She has excellent skills in cooperation and collaboration. Her great leadership skills and can-do spirit are an advantage to MSK environment. Her interest in professional development and eagerness to learn new strategies are highly commended.

School Description

Manarat School-Kuwait (MSK) opened its doors in September 2007. Since then, the school has been defining the population it is able to serve and has received authorization from the Ministry to offer two academic programs through to Grade 12.

MSK was chartered by the Ministry of Education-Kuwait to serve the educational needs of children with learning difficulties and special needs, ages 3 – 21.

The mission of Manarat School-Kuwait (MSK) is to provide an individualized program that connects education with real life experiences. We empower students to become independent learners who are confident, caring and responsible global citizens.

Our school's primary instructional focus is to educate students with learning difficulties who are capable of progressing academically. Our students may have diagnoses such as:

- Learning Disabilities (LD)
- Slow Learner
- Mild Developmental Delays

Mariam Chakroun

Fawzia Sultan International School



Personal Description

My name is Mariam Chakroun, a special education teacher for children with special needs for the past 22 years. I hold B.A. in English Language and Literature from Lebanese University of Beirut; Diploma in Child Education from K.G. Center, Beirut; Master's Degree in Special Education from University of Phoenix, Arizona, and Master's Degree in International Counseling from Lehigh University, Pennsylvania. Currently, I am enrolled in the Research Doctorate Degree in Educational Psychology. I worked with juveniles, elders, and with children from poor socioeconomic status, with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mild MR, autistic, Asperger's syndrome, ADD/ADHD, and behavioral and emotional disorders. I am currently a special education teacher at FSIS. I integrate yoga, Brain Gym exercises, the Circus, and Drama (mini-lessons, writing stories with students, and puppetry) into teaching.

I was a member of the committee that established the LDPA in Kuwait and a member of the National Education Association. Currently, I am a member of the Middle East Psychological Association, a member of the Association of Play Therapy, and a member of North America Drama Therapy.

School Description

Fawzia Sultan International School is a non-profit 1-12 American International School dedicated to serving the educational needs of children with learning differences. It is a highly resourced school, with a staff that believes in utilizing team planning and IT in order to meet student needs, and featuring advanced IT in all of its academic subjects. It is widely recognized in Kuwait for providing an effective child-centered and solution-oriented approach to teaching and learning.

The school facility is a relatively new purpose-built building in an urban setting and has small classes where students receive extra assistance when needed. The high school offers an academic program designed to prepare students with learning challenges for a high school diploma in an American curriculum format. The school is governed by an appointed volunteer board of trustees and is a member of international organizations such as NESAs.

Ahmad Abd El Khalek

Al Marefa Exemplary School



Personal Description

- I enjoy teaching special needs students, to help them better integrate into their community.
- I have received qualifications to teach physics to students with learning disabilities.
- I have also won an appreciation certificate as a HOD teacher in Al-Marefa Exemplary School.

School Description

Al-Marefa Exemplary School is a leading school that has established a long track record in teaching special needs students. It was built in 1985 and improved its programs, teaching and administrative staff.

The school offers quantitative and qualitative programs for its students with special needs, especially in the field of integrating special needs students, who may have learning disabilities, developmental delays and simple hearing handicaps, with their mainstream peers.

Al-Marefa Exemplary School has been praised for its efforts and for the quality of its qualified teaching staff. The school goes above and beyond to serve its students with special needs .

Acknowledgements

Educational affairs and learning outcomes have always been some of the most important issues for specialists in the educational field. These factors drive the continuous advancement, refinement and development of the best educational opportunities for students, especially for those with Learning Difficulties and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

Since the teacher is the core element in the success of the educational process, the Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences founded the KALD Award for Distinguished Teachers in private schools, based on international educational standards. The award acknowledges exceptional teachers, in order to promote reflection in daily practice and consequently, self-assessment. It is KALD's hope that this award shines bright in the skies of Kuwait, and becomes a guide for teachers aspiring to excellence.

As we congratulate teachers and participating schools that achieved excellence in the 2013-2014 academic year, we announce the search for the next stars and open the nominations for the KALD Award for the 2014-2015 academic year, according to the following schedule:

October 2014	Start receiving the nomination files
31st December 2014	Nominations with all required documents are due
January 2015	Award Committee reviews nominations and verifies eligibility
February 2015	Top five candidates are chosen
March-April 2015	Schools' visits and candidates' observation
May 2015	Personal interview with the top five candidates
June 2015	Award Ceremony and the top three winners are chosen

Finally, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Ministry of Education, the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, United Nations Development Program, the Higher Council for People with Disabilities, Masharee Al Khair Charity Organization, Zain Telecommunication Company, and all the teachers and schools who applied for the award. We also thank the Award Committee members for their contributions to the success of this project and its sustainability.

Dr. Fatma Al-Awadi: Consultant Developmental Pediatrician.

Dr. Badria Al-Hajji: Assistant Professor, The College of Basic Education, The Public Authority For Applied Education and Training.

Mrs. Nabila Al-Midlij: English Language Instructor, The College of Basic Education, The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

Mrs. Wafa' Nusaibeh: Supervisor, Inspection of Private Special Needs Schools, Ministry of Education - Private sector.

Mrs. Souad Al-Thwaikh: Assistant Teacher, Kuwait University, Representative of the Higher Council Authority for People with Disabilities.

Special acknowledgements go to **Mrs. Hanaa Al-Duaij** for her contribution to auditing the International Educational Standards to suit the Arabic educational terminologies used in the State of Kuwait.

Dr. Huda Nuhad Shaaban

General Coordinator of KALD Award for Distinguished Teachers
LD/ADHD Expert, United Nations Development Program

