

***Pupils of St. Joseph's School attend LERC presentation and visit museum***

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011, Auditorium, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU opened its doors to welcome pupils of the St. Joseph School-Cornet Chahwan to view firsthand a LERC presentation.

The first visit was made by sixty one students from Secondary Class 1SA and 1SB accompanied by their teachers and supervisors, Carla Mitri, Youssef Khoury, Sylvie Khoury, Noha Assi and Sami Malouf. The second group of pupils from Secondary Class 1SC, 1SD and 1SE was larger, numbering ninety-two and were accompanied by their teachers Ziad Akiki, Rima Moukarzel, Hala Salameh and Asad Sayegh.



Souvenir picture of Secondary Class ISA and 1SB at the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU (Oct 2011).

According to Carla Mitri, the head librarian and English teacher at St. Joseph's, who had been welcomed at LERC earlier on a preliminary visit, "our first secondary students will have the

opportunity to learn and acknowledge the cultural/social/economic contributions that exist between our country and others.”

She went on to explain that the students would be placed in groups to “choose a country of their choice to explore in depth the Lebanese cultural presence and find out how both countries have influenced and supported each other in terms of trade, business, medicine, technology, language, religion, customs, food and the arts.”

It was with this in mind that LERC’s Chief Indexer, Mrs. Liliane Haddad, prepared her power-point presentation for both sets of pupils, aided by LERC Intern Ms. Adriana Bou Diwan.

The presentation was divided into two sections. The pupils were introduced to the phenomenon of migration and were given a historical timeline of Lebanese emigration, its causes and the countries that the Lebanese tended to emigrate to. The importance of remittances was stressed to the pupils, who were also given an estimate of the number of Lebanese abroad. This was followed by an introduction to LERC, the projects that the Center is currently involved in and the array of social, economical, political and cultural data at its disposition.



Souvenir picture of Secondary Class 1SC, 1SD and 1SE at the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU (Oct 2011).

The second part of the presentation concentrated on LERC's electronic archiving tool called Laserfiche. Mrs. Haddad showed how she was able to give a full demonstration to the pupils on all the material LERC collects. Historical documents, letters, identity cards, articles, papers, reports, dissertations, cultural items and photos concerning the Lebanese emigrant were displayed on-screen to the pupils. A full audio-visual presentation of LERC's cultural material such as poetry readings, music, movies, folklore dance shows, and photos of famous Lebanese personalities abroad captivated the pupils.

The pupils were then given a guided tour of the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU.