

Here we go again...



Preschoolers of IC Ras Beirut are back to fill the school with their excitement, laughter, and experiences to share. The whole community strives to ensure a safe, secure and happy place for all our learners big and small. ■

Making Connections to IC's Guiding Statements

Grade 3 students and teachers have been hard at work in the Ras Beirut Elementary. They have thrown themselves straight into making connections to IC's Guiding Statements. The class brainstormed: *What is a Global Citizen?* and *How do we learn at I.C?* Then, the students chose important words from it and illustrated what the Guiding Statements mean to them. The interesting and colorful output of this activity was something to behold! Congratulations Grade 3 students – onwards and upwards for a great year together in the Elementary school! ■



Une bonne position

Pour commencer l'année en prenant de bonnes habitudes, notre infirmière Amal est passée dans toutes les G.S. (R.B) pour montrer aux enfants comment bien se tenir quand on est assis, comment les jambes doivent être bien positionnées, comment les pieds doivent bien toucher le sol, comment le dos doit être bien droit, et comment la colonne vertébrale est de travers quand la position est mauvaise.

Il est important aussi de bien porter son cartable pour ne pas se faire mal au dos, et aussi pourquoi il est important d'enlever le sac de son dos quand on est dans le bus ou dans la voiture.

Les enfants ont aimé les dessins présentés, ils ont mimé les bonnes et les mauvaises positions et ils ont bien compris le message.

Vont-ils suivre ces bons conseils ? A suivre...

La rentrée en G.S.

Une nouvelle rentrée pour les enfants, de nouvelles maîtresses et de nouveaux amis, rien de tel pour stimuler et éveiller nos chers petits.

En réalité, pas si petits que ça ! Le premier thème de l'année pour les GS (R.B.) a pour idée maîtresse : Les systèmes sont établis pour l'organisation et la sécurité de la communauté. Les enfants du groupe bleu ont réfléchi à un système d'organisation pour les différents coins des ateliers qu'ils ont choisis (lecture, écriture, maths, jeux, constructions, créativité...) avec le matériel nécessaire, le règlement ainsi que les objectifs. A travers ces différents ateliers



ouverts, les enfants peuvent circuler à leur guise, mais qu'on ne s'y trompe pas, chaque activité a ses objectifs et la maîtresse incite chaque participant à une réflexion approfondie. Ce système donne une autonomie et une responsabilité aux enfants qui se déplacent avec enthousiasme et bonne humeur.

La maternelle aime jouer et rendre ses enfants indépendants et réfléchis. Le jeu fait partie intégrante de l'apprentissage et stimule leur imagination et leur créativité. Chaque atelier permet aux élèves d'apprendre de nouveaux concepts ou d'en consolider d'autres. ■

Respect, responsibility, safety!



AA faculty in the Preschool and Lower Elementary have launched the year with citizenship. They brainstormed the "WHY" of productive behavior and focused on three key concepts: Respect, Responsibility and Safety! When we will ask a child to reflect on his or her actions, we will use the same language: Was it safe to you? To others? Did you show respect? How can you act so you show more responsibility? A committee for responsible citizenship will follow-up on the model created and its success in creating more responsible and thoughtful learners. ■

Joindre l'utile à l'agréable!

Pour rendre la lecture plus vivante et plus amusante, Raya Tabet, l'enseignante du CPB, a réinventé « Twister » le jeu de société que nous connaissons tous. Sur le tapis de jeu, les mots sont venus remplacer les fameuses pastilles en couleurs. Les enfants, à tour de rôle, tournent la girouette et lisent les mots indiqués en énonçant la consigne « Mets ta main droite sur le mot X et ton pied gauche sur le mot Y ». Les joueurs, pour exécuter la tâche demandée, doivent lire le mot indiqué au sol. Ainsi, en jouant ils s'entraînent à lire. Nous vous conseillons d'essayer, fous rires garantis! ■



20-20 Challenge on Deforestation

Students of grade 6 at Ain Aar have participated in the 20-20 Challenge focusing on the topic of deforestation. It was

an inter-disciplinary project involving Science, Social Studies, and English. Our students collaborated with students from

Franklin Avenue Middle School, New Jersey. Grade 6 started by researching the problem of deforestation in Lebanon and the world. This was followed by a reforestation initiative through planting trees in Baabda Forest. The students later received the Lebanese Reforestation Initiative (LRI) to help them understand the issues, impacts, and challenges regarding deforestation and reforestation in Lebanon. Our students' final product included presentations that showed their understanding of the problem and proposed solutions. This challenge provides an excellent foundation for meaningful problem-solving that leads to a more promising global future for our students. ■



20-20 Challenge on Biodiversity

For the third consecutive year, the Ain Aar Grade 4 students led by their teacher Anne Bechara have had the pleasure to participate in the 20/20 Challenge under the theme of *Biodiversity* and specifically Ecosystem Losses. Our students partnered up with two schools in the United States, Rye Country Day School in New York and Edward W. Morley School in Connecticut. The collaboration on this project took place over the months of April and May. Using their *PYP transdisciplinary skills*, the students researched, formulated inquiries, acquired knowledge and presented their findings using a variety of mediums such as posters, PowerPoints, skits and poems. This challenge helped give the students an incentive to become citizens of the world, knowledgeable and proactive towards any problem that might arise. ■



Une collaboration dans les classes du CM2/Grade 5

Étroite collaboration, harmonie parfaite entre parents, élèves et enseignantes du CM2/ Grade 5, inquiétude dissipée ; ceci fut l'ambiance dans laquelle s'est déroulée la Session d'Orientation dans les différentes classes du CM2/ grade 5 à Ain Aar.

Les enseignantes ont exposé aussi bien aux parents qu'aux élèves les grandes lignes de l'année en jonglant entre les différents axes du *Programme Primaire* et la *Mission de l'International College*. Nous avons survolé les six thèmes transdisciplinaires et nous avons évoqué le curriculum des langues, des maths et des sciences. Des questions ont fusé des trois partenaires, *apprenants*,



parents et enseignants, une première qui s'est manifestée à travers les échos positifs. Par conséquent, les parents et les élèves ont bien compris que tous les acquis des années précédentes se font prévaloir en CM2 /Grade 5, classe charnière

qui clôture le PP et les prépare au processus de l'exposition annuelle, clef de voûte du cycle primaire.

Rosy Daou -Professeur principale du CM2A■

Getting started with online teaching and learning

Teachers across IC were very busy this September attending workshops, and accessing the college's online teaching and learning programs, all in preparation for a new school year. Eighteen new preschool and elementary teachers in both Ras Beirut and Ain Aar gathered at their respective campuses for a PYP induction workshop. Organized by the ERC, PYP coordinators Rola Haj-Ismaïl and Nadine Habre at Ras Beirut, and Alexandra El Khawaja at Ain Aar introduced the new teachers to the PYP and how it is integrated into the philosophy of IC's educational

cycles and curriculum matters. Looking at available technology and how it can help their teaching this year, the trainees were introduced to two online tools: the OCC, the IB's Online Curriculum Center, and Atlas, a web-based curriculum management tool. The introduction to Rubicon Atlas was presented by Mrs. Connie Hadba who helped teachers log-in and establish their accounts. Teachers will be using this program for curriculum mapping across the school. At the same time, teachers across the college were revisiting these same online programs, updating their courses

in Rubicon Atlas for the new school year and preparing their beginning lessons in Moodle for students to use when they arrive for a new school year. IC's new middle and secondary teachers were helped by coordinators Mrs. Connie Hadba, Mr. Elie Hayek and Mr. Dagher Mehanna as well as the Education Technology Facilitators to set up their accounts in both programs and to get started. The new teachers appreciated the opportunity to meet with colleagues, collaborate and learn about their programs before beginning an exciting and challenging school year. ■

Notre EXPERT en technologie Internet et multimédia ENSEIGNE!

Enseigner avec les ordinateurs portables et apporter la technologie au contact des élèves dans leur environnement de travail quotidien, c'est précisément notre objectif principal au cours des cinq dernières années à l'école élémentaire afin d'assurer un enseignement didactique, ludique et interactif. L'intégration pertinente des technologies de l'information et de la communication à l'enseignement apporte une valeur ajoutée à l'apprentissage, incite à la différenciation et favorise la réussite des élèves tout en respectant le style d'apprentissage de chacun.

Notre enseignement se base sur la variation des méthodologies de travail. Parmi les méthodes utilisées le travail par groupe qui occupe une place importante. Ce matin, chaque groupe avait un sujet de travail qui lui est propre. Le travail demandé aux enfants contenait une part de recherche



documentaire, une part de traitement de l'information et une part de communication au reste de la classe. Chaque groupe avait donc accès à un certain nombre de ressources, dont les cédéroms et les sites internet. L'accès aux ordinateurs s'est fait donc par roulement autogéré entre les groupes. Néanmoins, l'introduction "massive" d'ordinateurs portables dans notre

établissement scolaire constitue parfois des perturbations ou des difficultés techniques. C'est à cette problématique que Hassan Maatouk, notre Expert en technologie Internet et multimédia apporte des réponses immédiates, en s'appuyant sur une approche personnalisée et une qualité d'écoute remarquable. Nous tenons à le remercier pour ses interventions constructives. ■

La chasse aux profils d'élèves



Dès le deuxième jour de la rentrée à l'école élémentaire, les élèves du CE2A et Grade 3 A ont revu les profils d'élèves, afin de les associer à leur vécu et à la vie courante à travers la presse. Les élèves ont cherché dans des journaux locaux bilingues : des titres, des images et des expressions se rapportant aux divers profils. Ensuite, en groupe, ils ont étiqueté chaque item en fonction des profils qu'ils connaissaient déjà sur un carton. Bravo les CE2 et grade 3 vous étiez des chercheurs et des penseurs. ■

Oxford Union Visit and Sustainability Debate

Following the success of last year's sustainable living essay writing competition, two of the winning students took the initiative to travel and attend the week long exhibition in Oxford, England organized by the Living Rainforest Trust and held at the beginning of July. The prize winners from over 40 countries, including Kristin Kharrat and Yasmine Boury from RBE presented their views on incorporating sustainability within education at the Oxford Union, the world's most prestigious debating society, promoting debate and discussion in Oxford University and across the globe. Following the presentation day, the students were invited to go on



focused tours around Oxford and London highlighting innovative sustainable practices in schools and cities. The program included a visit to a sustainable school (Sandhills) as well as the Crystal building in East London, currently the world's most sustainable

building. "This whole experience was amazing for me and I hope even more people contribute from IC to help make a difference "Said Kristin who would like to see this IC spirit and global contribution continue in future years. ■

The school mantra

This year, the RBE teachers are going about their frenetic days with the following simple mantra playing on repeat in the backs of their minds: "Know thy impact." Teachers are an integral part of a student's upbringing. Because we are so often bogged down in the essential details of only their academic development, we tend to forget that our students

are also just children—they are undergoing an enormous amount of development in every sense of the word! Among countless other things, school is a place where kids learn to work with others, to operate and exist within a social community. They are formulating some of the first social bonds of their lives right in our classrooms. Becoming people! And the adult

that conducts them through all of this—the teacher—should always remember that the slightest word or gesture can influence a child's life.

By taking a step back and looking at their daily practices, teachers at IC assess everything that they do. On a more global level, we look at how we are affecting our entire planet. ■

ALTRUISTE dès la petite section



« L'initiative « Bouchons Roulants » lancée en 2009 par Arcenciel continue de mobiliser le grand public et de sensibiliser adultes et enfants au tri et au recyclage. Chaque 500,000 bouchons collectés et donnés à Arcenciel permet le don d'une chaise roulante. Ayez ce réflexe ! » <http://www.arcenciel.org>

Les enfants de la petite section ont collecté des bouchons et, dès la rentrée scolaire, ils ont été heureux de devenir le modèle pour les autres enfants. ■

Who are we as learners?

On the basketball court in Ain Aar, grade 3 students had a task to complete during their PE lesson: create 4 teams of 6 or 7 students then create a game with specific materials (cones, a ball, a hurdle, a hoop and



bean bags).

15 minutes later, they all had a common situation: the task was not completed. Why? Asked the teacher. "We did not listen to each other," "We couldn't agree." The teacher reminded the group of the transdisciplinary theme they were exploring: "Who we are" and the central idea "The functioning of a community depends on people's actions". They started proposing solutions for the problem at hand. "We need to organize our work", "we need to listen and take turns in speaking", "and we need to be open-minded about others' ideas". In another 15 minutes, the groups managed to apply these agreements and complete the task. In the end-of-session reflection, our young learners valued the discussion and goal setting for group interactions.■

IC Green

"The future will be either green or not at all". The mastermind behind this quote is the Australian Senator, Bob Brown. "The environment is everything that isn't me"-Albert Einstein. "Our population and our use of the finite resources of planet Earth are growing exponentially along with our technical ability to change the environment for good or ill"- Stephen Hawking. The growing issue of the destruction of our Environment has been addressed by people of influence. Some solutions have been found and implemented, but the main problem facing us is how unaware many are about this issue. To combat this, the ENO program has been launched. Yves Achjian, Leen Chanouha and Zane Mroueh, together with Mrs. Sawsan Kibbi took part in the ENO conference that took place in Joensuu, Finland. There, we, Environmental Pioneers of Middle School, attended hands-



on workshops promoting the use of renewable energy, the topic of this conference. We were pleasantly surprised when we saw a vast number of people present at the conference including Ms Earth, an aspiring Portuguese singer and the Ambassador of Botswana, who befriended us. During our stay we were housed in the Green Star Hotel, an environmentally friendly one as the name suggests. We also managed to make new friends and were introduced to new cultures. To protect our Environment and in the process to protect ourselves,

we must act now!

As Leen puts it: "This trip was a unique adventure for us. It did not teach us only about the benefits of renewable energy and sustainable development, but also gave us insights for our future. It taught us how to be independent, how to be socially involved with people from around the world, how to develop our skills to solve environmental problems, and finally how to represent my IC while discovering the beauty of nature. This trip will be always engraved in our heart" Yves Achjian- IC Middle School■

Educational Technology Training

Under the theme of educational technology, the Educational Resource Center organized a series of workshops for all the IC faculty in September. Educational Technology facilitators from the college's six schools presented workshops that addressed the following topics: ActivInspire Active Board, Introduction to Moodle, Basic Library Skills, iPad tools and usage techniques, and educational technology Basic Skills that introduced the trainees to a variety of software and web tools that might aid the trainees in their educational and instructional endeavors. In addition, teachers visited two of the school's online teaching and learning sites that they will use extensively throughout the school year – Moodle and Atlas Rubicon. Teachers set up or updated their Moodle courses that will be used to facilitate student classroom experiences, post assignments and information for study, and as a means of communication



with both students and parents. Teachers will be using Atlas to develop, edit and expand their courses in the written curriculum throughout the year. The Educational Technology Facilitators team headed by Dr. Mahmud Shihab consists of teachers from all six schools on both campuses, including Iskandar Abou Kassm, Nayla Abu Fadil, Rana Awkal, Maya Chebaro, Nadia Farah, George Hanna,

Samar Kandil, Nadine Karam, Carole Katrib, Rosie Khalil, Robert Ledford, FidaMalak, Jinan Masri, Walid Matta, Dagher Mehanna, Hanan Sabra, Yussef Sayah, Lama Shihab, Lara Wehbe, and Dina Zein El Abidine. All of these facilitators are available to teachers throughout the year to assist with their Educational Technology needs. ■

Hiking Trip



The social studies department organized for the brevet classes the annual hiking trip to the Barouk Biosphere Reserve. The purpose of the trip is to discover the different aspects of the Lebanese geography that our students have studied till now. Photos were taken to create a photo gallery that will be presented at school. The trip was a total success. ■

John Joseph and Study Skills

On September 14 and 15, Mr. John Joseph presented workshops to IC teachers for the 2nd year. John is an expert on how the brain works and how learning takes place in the brain. John has a real passion for neuroeducation. His focus is on learning: how it happens; how to maximize it; how to inspire it; and practical strategies to enhance it. He has written several books on the subject including *Brainy Parents*

- *Brainy Kids and Learning in the Emotional Rooms: How to create classrooms that are uplifting for the spirit which are available at the ERC.*

Last year Mr. Joseph, a father of two young adults, worked with our high school students, teachers and parents presenting lectures that focused on the brain and how it works. This year, John worked with an audience of 70 IC advisory teachers and administrators on

a special program crafted for IC that focuses on how to work with students to build better study skills.

Over the course of these two days, Mr. Joseph presented six sessions touching on different aspects of the brain, how it learns and how teachers can help students develop study skills that help them to study better and more efficiently. The different sessions included: how the brain learns; information processing that facilitates learning; the importance of sleep; addressing emotional intelligences and thinking intelligences; and assessing students' talents, strengths and areas for development that will lead to creating a personalized Learning Plan to direct/enhance their study habits. ■

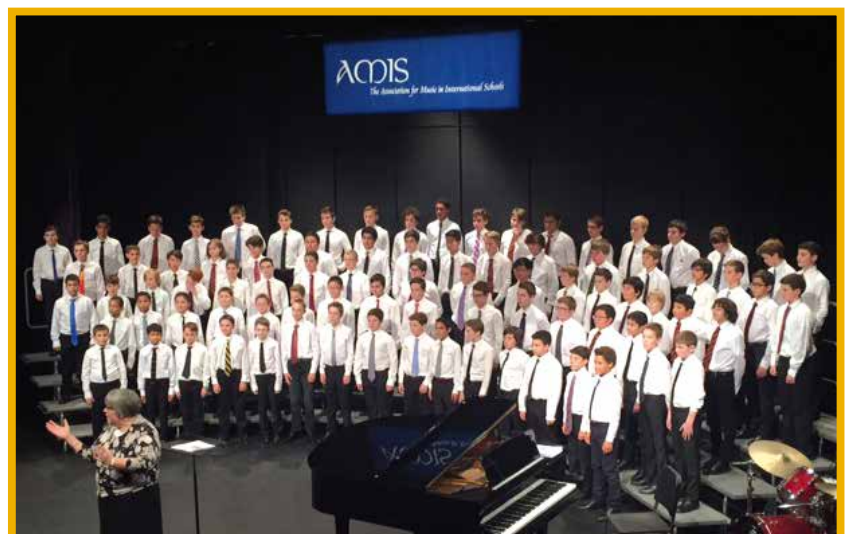


Honor Boys Choir 2015

Like The Beatles from Abbey Road on their way to fame Five Middle school boys from Ras Beirut and 6 from Ain Aar participated in the European Honor Boys Choir that took place at The American School Of London in London from October 14 to October 18.

They were accompanied by Mrs. Arlette Akl and Mrs. Randa Sabbah.

They were commended for their excellent behavior and communication skills as well as their musical talent. ■



Orientation for All at the Secondary School!

The Secondary School certainly started off with a bang—orientation for students (during their advisory periods) and afternoon sessions of the parents of each class. Not to mention the college guidance and prep sessions given by Richmond University (UK), Sciences Po (France), New York Film Academy (UAE), Boston University (USA) and Glion Institute (Switzerland). On the local scene, Ms. Nadine Naffah, Associate Director of AUB Admissions, addressed 12th graders on October 27, and Ms. Meghry Khoshian will be addressing them on November 3. Ms. Assir also addressed Grade 12 on the application process, and as application deadlines approach, the offices of Ms. Marie Assir (for international applications) and Ms. Azkoul Soubaih (for local English speaking universities) continue to buzz with students. The advisory period sessions have also included orientation sessions to computer programming and App Design with guest speaker



Mr. Elie Khoury and to community service, presented by Mrs. Rindala Abdel Baki and her team: Ms. Zeina Chahine, Ms. Miriam Abou Atmeh, and Ms. Sawsan Husseini. These orientation sessions provided students with an overview of school matters relating to their concerns as well as with the opportunity to ask all their questions. When asked the purpose of these meetings, Mrs. Paula Mufarrij said, “What better

way to get everyone on board? We are all on this journey together.” Moodle courses are another venue for students to remain informed via the forum posts and calendars.

Continuous communication among administration, faculty, parents, and students is the best way to ensure that all concerns are addressed. This way no one will feel left out. ■

Tennis Ace



Anna has spent most of her summer vacation on the tennis courts both in training and in tournaments. She was and still is working hard on improving her tennis skills and doing so with passion! After long hours of technical and strategic tennis training, she participated in most of the local tennis tournaments and achieved great results in Under 12 category:

She was victorious in Samaya, Koura, La Collina and “Lebanon Cup 2015” at the Golf Club tennis tournaments in which she won the first place.

She was finalist in ATCL and Spring Hills, Jamhour and Dammour Club tournaments ranking second.

She won “Lebanon Cup 2015” at the Golf Club Tennis Tournament under 14 categories and was a finalist at Damour Club. ■

My first time in Africa

I have always considered myself a lucky person but it was my trip to Tanzania that reassured me how truly blessed I am. I have always pictured Africa as a third world country full of insects and illnesses where people were unhappy and most of the time sick. Some people might ask why I chose Tanzania? Well, I always had this massive curiosity about African society and culture and doubted what I saw on TV. I didn't want to go to a regular summer camp but rather do something I had never done before. The day I arrived to Kilimanjaro (specifically "Marourani village"), I was terrified, there was no electricity, no bathrooms, no roads, no Wi-Fi...and that first night I went to bed I had to wrap myself under a mosquito net so I wouldn't get bitten. That night it was all about surviving rather than having fun. This all changed the next morning. Upon our arrival to the village, we were greeted by over-excited children, yelling "mzungo,

mzungo" (white people). They stared at us as if we were characters out of a fairy tale. The look in their eyes and their happiness made me forget all about my sleepless night. It was an indescribable feeling that was totally new to me. When they started chattering words in Kiswahili, I was shocked at the number of words similar to Arabic. This was no normal trip I wasn't a tourist coming to visit the country's historical sights... but a traveler. I helped the villagers on the site. I painted classrooms, built walls and taught the kids, but these kids taught me too. They taught me to prioritize things in my life and never to take things for granted. They accepted me as one of them; I finally understood what it was like being a native of Tanzania. ... When I first signed up for this trip



I was hoping for a trip of a lifetime and I'm delighted to say I have achieved that. I left Tanzania with a huge sense of satisfaction and this new experience has made me grow in character and reevaluate my priorities in life. I made many new friends on this trip but most importantly I have made amazing memories that I will cherish for a lifetime.

Sara El Fil, Première S ■

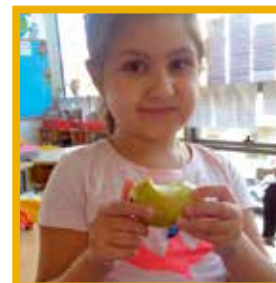
Sens dessus dessous



Par un mardi matin, alors que les élèves du CPA revenaient du cours de musique pensées calmes et têtes mélodieuses... Ils furent surpris à la vue de leur classe par quelque chose d'impensable ! Un désordre monumental ! Étonnés, ils entreprirent seuls de leur plein gré et décision le rangement de leur classe. Et puis, les enfants réfléchissent en rangeant ... «tu as fait ça pour nous montrer qu'on est une équipe qu'on travaille ensemble», «nous sommes une communauté, on communique, on coopère et chacun a un rôle». Voilà donc à peu près "Comment nous nous organisons". ■

Getting Caught Making Healthy Choices

As part of our *Who We Are* - "Healthy Body, Healthy Mind" unit of inquiry, grade 2 / CE1 students at RBE inquired into different lifestyles and making balanced choices. As an outcome to the inquiry process, the students were asked to use the class camera and take snapshots of each other making healthy choices anywhere and anytime during the school day. These pictures were posted on a special bulletin board in the classroom to help them reflect on how balanced their personal choices are and how to incorporate these choices into their daily lives. ■



RIP Josette Gabayen



C'est avec une profonde douleur que le département de Français de l'École Secondaire a appris la disparition de l'un de ses éminents professeurs, notre très regrettée collègue et amie, Mme Josette Gabayen.

Au cours de sa longue carrière à l'IC, Josette Gabayen a enseigné le Français dans des classes et des programmes différents, au collège comme au lycée. Ces dernières années, elle

était chargée des programmes libanais et français au Secondaire, travaillant sans relâche pour préparer ses élèves aux épreuves officielles, s'inquiétant de leurs performances et de leurs résultats, suivant anxieusement leur parcours. Exigeante mais enthousiaste, toujours professionnelle et toujours généreuse, c'était une femme d'une sensibilité extrême et d'une extrême discrétion, toujours là pour rendre service, arrondir les angles, ménager les susceptibilités, faire plaisir. Nous nous souviendrons toujours de son entrée quotidienne dans la salle des professeurs, choisissant un coin comme pour ne gêner personne. A peine assise, elle tirait une feuille de son sac, puis son crayon feutre pour écrire, annoter, corriger ; et dès que la cloche sonnait, elle se pressait de rejoindre ses élèves de cette

démarche qui lui était propre, pesante, fatiguée, qui cachait mal cette souffrance qui la minait depuis quelques temps déjà, serrant les dents pour traverser le hall et monter les escaliers menant à ses classes. Car Josette se faisait plaisir dans une profession qui était sa vocation. Elle était pètrie de cette Afrique, terre d'exil et d'asile qui l'a vue naître et qu'elle évoquait avec une tendresse pleine de nostalgie, une Afrique qui forme à l'endurance, au sacrifice, à la patience, qui lui a appris à rêver des jours meilleurs, une Afrique qui lui avait inculqué la joie de vivre et la fantaisie, le sens critique et le franc parler, l'abnégation, l'honnêteté, la bonté.

Aujourd'hui, Josette n'est plus. Elle laisse un vide béant au sein du département désemparé. Puisse sa belle âme reposer en paix !■

