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# PEARL OF THE ISLANDS FOUNDATION Inc.

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P E A R L S   O F   W I S D O M   N E W S L E T T E R



In this spring/summer edition of the Pearl of Wisdom newsletter, the most important event was the “World Together” festival at Silo Park where the Pearl of the Islands Foundation presented the Turkish culture and tradition with 2 magnificent stall displays. The Folklor Group also put on a fine display of traditional Turkish dancing to the viewers.

PIF organized many other events including hosting the Pakistan High Commissioner Syed Ibne Abbas at the Pearl Centre, sharing Ashure on Neighbourhood Day, Ebru Day with students and Eid-al Adha celebrations at Cornwall Park with family, relatives and close friends.

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### *Ashure (Noah's Pudding)*

Intercultural and Dialogue Platform from PIF shared Ashure (Noah's Pudding) on two occasions at Beth Shalom Synagogue and Mt Albert Methodist Church. Both the Synagogue and Church organized the event in conjunction with the Pearl of the Islands Foundation also named Neighbourhood Day.



### *Pakistan High Commissioner visits the Pearl Centre*

The Pakistan H. E. Syed Ibne Abbas visited the Pearl of the Islands Foundation with his wife. Mr and Mrs Abbas visited the Pearl Centre for the first time however, have been in touch with the Turkish based Foundation for the past few years such as being part of our annual Iftars. Their visit was combined with PIF officials hosting a delicious Turkish lunch, prepared and set out by the Women's Platform.



### *Pif visits the Archbishop*

Officials from PIF visited the Archbishop of Wellington in their Wellington Catholic Centre. The meeting was based around the different takes on intercultural dialogue from both PIF executives and colleagues from the Catholic Centre. During the visit, it was mutually agreed that dialogue is needed for people to respect others from different religious and ethnic backgrounds.



## *Members of the Turkish Parliamentary sub-commission visit PIF*

The members of the Turkish Parliamentary sub-commission on the Education for Gifted and Talented Children headed by Prof. Dr. Yüksel Özden and followed by Dilek Yuksel (MP, Tokat), Ahmet Duran Bulut (MP, Balikesir) visited New Zealand to gather information regarding studies and academic work as well as services given to gifted and talented children in New Zealand. Director and Education Platform coordinator Taner Basar hosted the tour.



## *Eid al-Adha at U.S. Consul General Residency*

In honour of Eid al-Adha (Kurban Bayrami), U.S. Consul General Jim Donegan invited the Pearl of the Islands Foundation to his residence for an evening of celebration. PIF CEO Hasan Cihan Demirbas and Director Taner Basar attended the event. Many leaders from Muslim communities were also present which provided an opportunity for future relations to begin, and existing bonds to strengthen.



## *Wellington Catholic Centre – Table Discussion*

The visit to the Archbishop on 20 September was followed by a table discussion in the Wellington Catholic Centre. Among the PIF attendees, Sister Catherine and Catholic Schools C.E.O. Patrick Lynch were also present. The main area of discussion was based on Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue. It was mutually agreed upon that the common goal of peace could only be achieved by forming an understanding of other cultures, ethnicities and religions.



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## *Noah's Pudding Day*

We celebrated Noah's Pudding Day during Turkish Culture lesson. Our volunteer teacher Hafsa D. explained the story of the flood that happened centuries ago. She then explained the story about Noah's pudding and how was made it. The students followed their teachers instructions to make a Noah's Ark on the day.



## *PSHP October 2012*

The Pearl School Holiday Program was held, for the 8th time, during the 2012 term 3 school holidays at the Pearl Centre. The timetable was similar to the previous ones held. Students varied in ages from 7-16 all from different backgrounds. The program coordinator was Kevser G. Demirbas with volunteers who helped to allow the Holiday School to be fun and also run smoothly. The PSHP was organized like that of an ordinary school day running from 9.30am-3pm over the two weeks.





## PIF at "World Together" Festival

The Pearl of the Islands Foundation was invited to participate in the SILO Park "World Together" Festival on the 1st of December with 3 marvelous food and cultural Turkish stalls. This followed the SILO "Weird" Festival that was held on the 1st of July with PIF displaying a magnificent Turkish food stall.

PIF's Women's Platform were responsible for cooking and preparing the delicious Turkish food. They arrived early in the morning, before the festival initiated, to arrange the baklava, dolma and gozleme (Turkish pancake) they prepared prior to the event. There was large interest to PIF's stalls.

Noah's pudding was handed out to everyone on the day. This Turkish tradition involves sharing this sweet recipe to friends and family. The PIF Foundation did exactly this for the New Zealand community.

While the Turkish food stall attracted many people, another area with much interest was the Ebru Art (Water Marbling) stall. Volunteers from the Turkish community who have mastered the art of Ebru displayed their skills to interested audience members. The finished artworks were gifted to those that wanted to take a very traditional Turkish piece back home.

PIF thanks the Women's Platform and Youth Platform volunteers along with the Auckland Council for their efforts on the day to allow such a beautiful event to take place. We also express our gratitude to the New Zealand community and Mr. Brown for coming along and experiencing Turkish food, tradition and culture.





## *Turkish Folklor Dance at Silo Park*

PIF's Turkish Folklore Group performed a very appealing Zeybek dance at the "World Together" festival held in Silo Park. The group which consists of 5 students showed their presentation in front of a very optimistic crowd. The audience applauded to show their appreciation.



## *End of Year Dinner*

PIF's Youth Group celebrated the end of the school year at Mozaik restaurant in Parnell. Youth Platform Coordinator Yusuf Ciftci organized the dinner for the students as a gesture for their efforts throughout the educational year. The students range from high school to university students. PIF CEO Hasan Cihan Demirbas attended the dinner with the Youth Group members on the night to show appreciation that the students' ongoing work at school and voluntary work with the Foundation have not gone unnoticed.





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## *Feast of the Sacrifice at PWS*

Students at the PWS continued their celebrations at the Pearl Centre by making the symbolic lamb in respect to the traditional Muslim holiday: Feast of the Sacrifice.

The students enjoyed a great time with the toys and candy full of party bags they had received before commencing on their Cultural Studies Lesson, which was based around 'Kurban' meaning 'Sacrificial'. The class was not only entertaining but also very informative. While they were having fun making their little lambs, the kids were told the story behind the hardships Prophet Adem and Ibrahim had to go through with their children.



## *Students experience Ebru 'Marbling Art'*

PWS students experienced the Ebru art in their cultural study hour at the Pearl Centre. Volunteer teacher Hafsa Demirbas, demonstrated the art with a brief presentation.

Students had the opportunity to experience the traditional 'Water Marbling' art. Students put on aprons and rolled their sleeves to try and create a piece of art with what they observed from their teacher. Parents who were present also joined in later on to try out the art for themselves. Afterwards, students, teachers and parents had lunch together.



## *Turkish Republic Day October 29th at PWS*

Turkish teacher volunteer Hafsa Nur Demirbas, explained the meaning and importance of the republic to the students.



The Turkish flag cut & paste activity followed and the program ended with parents and students taking photos to memorialize the day.



## *Tulay's Kitchen Grand Opening*

PIF's Entrepreneurs Platform attended the grand opening of Tulay's Kitchen. Coordinator Yusuf Ciftci and members commemorated the opening of the Turkish based restaurant in Mission Bay Auckland by attending their opening function.

## *Eid al-Adha at Cornwall Park*

Entrepreneurs Platform arranged a picnic to mark the beginning of Eid al-Adha (Kurban Bayrami) that drew attention to over 50 people. Coordinated by Yusuf Ciftci, the picnic in Cornwall Park was attended by the Turkish community and also by friends and families who were able to share this very special event with us. EP members prepared the traditional 'etli pilav' (meat on rice) for all to enjoy. The fine weather also added to the overall enjoyment of the day.



## *Little Pearls coming soon!*

The resource consent is granted to Pearl Educare LTD to establish PIF's first community based childcare centre at 2A Lorraine Avenue, Owairaka/Mt Albert. The centre will be owned and managed by the Foundation as a non-profit charitable trust to provide better services & facilities for community purposes. Little Pearls Educare centre is planned to open in mid-2013 and will serve 33 children up to 5 years old. Renovations are scheduled to begin this summer, with opening set for the second half of 2013.

Pearls Educare LTD aims to create economically self-sustaining, high-quality, affordable early childhood service in a safe friendly environment to meet the needs of the local community and the Turkish Community.

Contact us [contact@littlepearls.org.nz](mailto:contact@littlepearls.org.nz) to find out more and to register your interest. Follow us on Twitter account [@littlepearls\\_nz](https://twitter.com/littlepearls_nz) to keep updated [www.littlepearls.org.nz](http://www.littlepearls.org.nz)



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