

News From Special Needs!

The staff of the Special Needs Department at Dasman Model School is very excited about two new projects they are undertaking which will receive wide recognition throughout Kuwait and the Gulf. We will be producing, by the end of the year, the very first issue of the *Dasman Model School Special Needs Gazette* and we will be hosting the first annual *Yes, We Can!* Sports event.

The *Dasman Model School Special Needs Gazette* was conceived in conjunction with our Arabic Special Needs partners at the school. It will be dealing with various special needs issues such as inclusion (the theme of our first issue). We expect a fairly wide distribution throughout Kuwait to all the other schools who have children with special needs. We also hope to gain a readership in other Gulf Countries. The unique features of our gazette will include such subsections as a question and answer section, a current events in special needs section and articles written by psychologists and other eminent scientists in the area of Special Education. We also hope to include some student work on a regular basis. Another unique feature will be that it will be completely bilingual, with the same information and articles provided in both English and Arabic. We expect this undertaking to meet with wide interest and success.

The more imminent of our exciting undertakings is the *1st Annual Dasman Model School Yes, We Can! Sports Event* which will take place on March 29. We are working with the Arabic department, the P.E. department and the administration to prepare an exciting day for children with special needs from other bilingual schools in Kuwait along with students from our school. They will participate in numerous events including a marathon, a football game and other team sports. We are inviting numerous V.I.P.'s from around Kuwait and will be having media coverage. All these factors combined with a highly engaging and physically challenging day will contribute to great fun and enjoyment for all.

One of Dasman Model School's beliefs is that parental and community involvement is conducive to social and educational development. We, in the Special Needs Department, are convinced that these contributions from the partnering of the various departments will result in such an outcome.

By: Priscilla Gagnon, Senior Coordinator, Special Needs Department