



\* ACCESS PROGRAM PROVIDER





**July 2013**

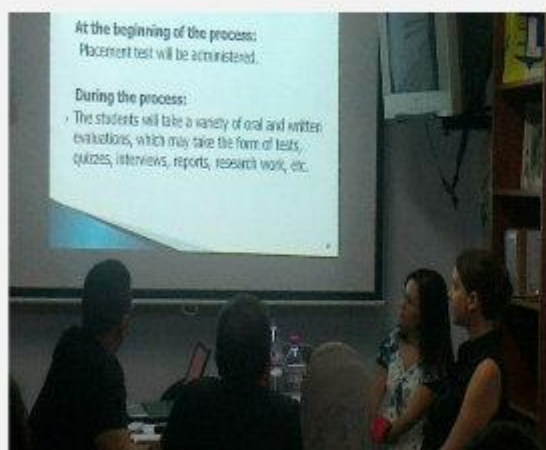
**Visit of Ms. Katherine Hall the Cultural Affairs Officer and Mr Hafedh Zanina Public Diplomacy Assistant to the Space of Wisdom in Sfax in order to meet Access teachers and the new Access Students.**







**Ms Hall wrote “Congratulations on an outstanding Access event! Hafedh and I enjoyed visiting Space of Wisdom once again. It was nice meeting the new Access students, their teachers, and all the administrative staff who worked very hard on putting together excellent presentations about Access. As always, getting the opportunity to interact with the students is my favorite part of any trip (and my job in general)... I look forward to continuing to work with you”.**



**60 new Access students from different schools in the region of Sfax joined the second round of the English Access Microscholarship Program (2013-2014) at the Space of Wisdom premises.**

**The second generation of Access Program started with a placement test. Students were placed according to their scores, into their initial level. They were divided into 5 groups of 12 students each, ranging from pre-intermediate and intermediate level.**



#### **T-shirt design**

**Access students were given T-shirt templates with back and front where they were asked to print their own designs. Many students were interested in this competition and submitted their designs before the deadline.**







### Alumni meeting with new Access Students

Alumni met the second generation of the Access Students at the Space of Wisdom, Sfax to talk about their previous experience and to answer their new peers' questions. The meeting was a good opportunity for both generations to exchange views and experiences.



### International Teachers' Day

On the occasion of the International Teachers' Day, Access Students at the Space of Wisdom, Sfax made a « Call » for an inspiring teacher whose birthday coincided with the International Teacher's Day. Together with Alumni students, new Access Students organized a party to pay tribute to their teachers and send them a message of gratitude. They sang « in your hands » a song which gave them the chance to share a common activity and to strengthen the ties between the two Access generations.

*"Access changed my life. It changed my thinking, my choices, and my friends. It opened doors to me."*

*Access graduate  
Anoir Ayedi*



*Access graduate "Access changed my life. It changed my thinking, my choices, and my friends. It opened doors to me."*

### Tunisian Flag Meaning:

Tunisia from late 16th century until 1881	represents the sun.
The crescent and star	The Tunisian flag was originally adopted
The white circle	The Ottoman Empire ruled Tunisia
Between 1881 and 1895	the Tunisian flag wasn't legislated
1959	are traditional symbols of Islam
March 20, 1956.	Tunisia had gained independence from France
July 3, 1960.	The current version of the Tunisian flag was adopted

### National Flag of the USA

6 white and 7 red	represent the 13 original colonies of the US
50	represents courage
13 stripes	horizontal stripes
the red of the flag	stands for liberty or purity
The white	White stars
and the blue	was adopted on July 4, 1960.
The current American flag	represents justice and loyalty

### The Flags Quiz

**The Flags Quiz**  
Work in pairs. Ask your friend to read the information about the Tunisian Flag and to answer your questions. Exchange roles and read the information about the American flag. The faster reader is the one who finds all the answers in a shorter period of time ☺



# Tunisian Flag Meaning:

## Tunisian Flag Meaning:

Red is a traditional color of Islam and was the color adopted by the Ottoman Empire who ruled Tunisia from late 16th century until 1881. It also came to represent resistance against Turkish supremacy. The crescent and star are traditional symbols of Islam and are also considered to be lucky symbols. The white circle represents the sun.



## Interesting Tunisian Flag Facts:

Even though Tunisia resisted against the Ottoman Empire and Turkish rule, the Tunisian flag is very similar to the Turkish flag.

## Tunisian Flag History:

The Tunisian flag was originally adopted between 1831 and 1835, making Tunisia's flag one of the world's oldest flags. However, the Tunisian flag wasn't legislated in constitution until 1959, after Tunisia had gained independence from France on March 20, 1956. The current version of the Tunisian flag was adopted on July 3, 1999.



### National Flag of the USA

Country: United States Of America  
Proportions: 10:19

**American Flag Description:**  
The flag of the United States of America consists of 13 alternating horizontal stripes of equal width - seven are red and six are white. The top and bottom stripes on the American flag are red. In the top left corner of the flag there is a dark blue rectangle which has 50 white, five-point stars on it. The stars are arranged in nine horizontal rows.

**American Flag Meaning:**  
The 13 stripes represent the 13 original colonies of the US: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia. The 50 stars represent the individual states that make up the nation. Popular history states the red of the flag represents valor, white stands for liberty or purity and blue represents justice, loyalty and perseverance. These meanings are unofficial though.


**American Flag History:**  
The current American flag was adopted on July 4, 1960. The American flag originated in the mid-18th century from flags used at the time of the American War of Independence with Britain. Congress officially set the design of the American flag in June 1777, stating that it should be 13 alternating red and white stripes, with 13 white stars on a blue field as there were 13 original member states in the newly formed Union. As new states joined the country a new star and stripe were added to the American flag. In 1818, the American flag's design was changed to the original one of 13 stripes. Any new states were now represented by a white star only and would be added to the American flag on July 4th of the year they joined. Up until 1818, there was no specific pattern for the stars to follow and this led to a few different designs until the president stated they should be placed in parallel rows. The last star, representing Hawaii was added was in 1960, and it became the 27th version of the American flag. Like many of the world's other old flags, there are many legends and myths that surround the flag of the United States of America.


**Interesting American Flag Facts:**  
The American flag is often called "the stars and stripes" or "Old Glory."  
The American flag has influenced the design of many other of the world's flags.  
Old and tattered flags are supposed to be burned in a simple ceremony once they become unacceptable for flying. However, many people have taken to public displays of burning the American flag to show their displeasure with the country.





In an attempt to sensitize kids and make them know about the American culture, we worked on a document entitled American symbols using the KWL approach, and then we tried to see their counter parts in the Tunisian culture.


### **E** More American Symbols


- 

The delegates of the thirteen American colonies planned the Declaration of Independence, and Thomas Jefferson wrote it. The document declared the independence (separation) of the colonies from England.
- 

Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, and the delegates signed the document on July 4, 1776. The Liberty Bell in the State House in Philadelphia rang out on that day.
- 

The French gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States as a symbol of friendship. Now it is a symbol of freedom for new immigrants to this country.
- 

The American eagle is the official emblem (symbol) of the United States. It appears on the Presidential flag and on some coins.
- 


The donkey and the elephant first appeared in political cartoons. They are symbols for the Democratic and Republican Parties.
- 


Uncle Sam has the initials U.S. He originally appeared in political cartoons and is an unofficial symbol of the U.S. government.




## Tunisian Symbols

This paper is about the declaration Of independence, and pierre mondes Wrote it. The document declared the independence of tunisia as An Independent country.


 The theater of al jam is from the big monuments In tunisia in this theater many fights has occurred.


 Freedom, justice, system are the official Emblem of tunisia. It appears on some coins.


 Habib Bourguiba is one of the fighters who gives tunisia its independence and he govern Tunisia for many years



## Halloween

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, a group of students at the *Space of Wisdom Sfax* had a Halloween party. They prepared a pumpkin then dressed in ghostly costumes and knocked on other groups' doors. They talked to them about the history and significance of Halloween, holding bags open to catch the candy or other goodies that their peers would drop in.

## Tree Planting Day: First Sunday of November



Access students learned about the history of the Tree Planting Day and how the idea of setting aside a day to plant trees originated in the United States in 1800 as a reaction to the concern about rapid deforestation. As the situation is not different in Tunisia, Access students decided to organize a campaign to sensitize other students about the importance of the tree in our life. Preparing for the Tree Planting Day, Access students arranged a clean-up campaign then, On Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, planted an olive tree with their Access teachers. Asked about their choice, Access students Ameni Kachouri and Hassen Elhor said: **"we chose an olive tree because it symbolizes peace, determination and wisdom."**

## Access is Altruism and Volunteerism

Access students planned a visit to *Aoulédouna*, an association which takes care of mentally-retarded kids, mainly those with Down syndrome. They were very enthusiastic to meet these people. They enjoyed chatting, playing, singing and dancing with them. It was an opportunity to have fun and to know more about this association and these children and teenagers.





Access students also volunteered to take care of the association's garden and helped the children to decorate the place. This visit has changed the students' attitudes to mentally -retarded and has motivated them to seek more opportunities to help others.

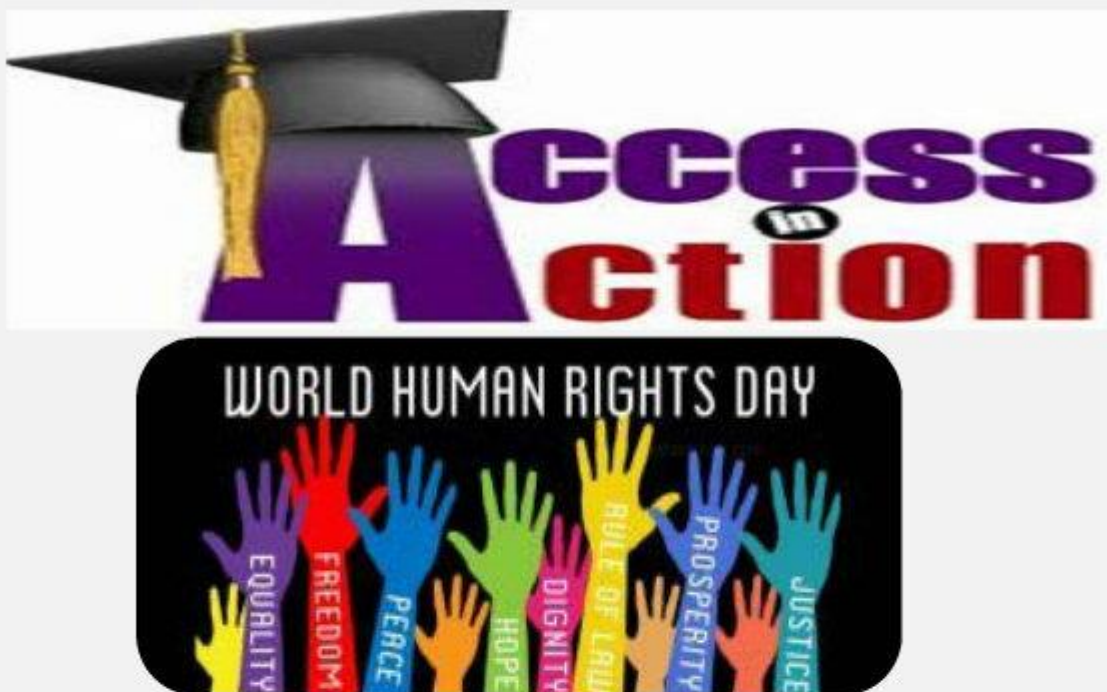


## ACTIVITIES FOR THE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION OF HIV/AIDS



On December 1<sup>st</sup>, Access students celebrated the World Aids Day. They met at The Space of Wisdom and wrote down their questions about HIV. Doctor Maha Yahia was invited to give a presentation in English and answered the students' questions. **This prevention-focused training was intended on the one hand to provide students with the necessary knowledge to protect individuals and communities from HIV/AIDS. On the other hand, to increase students' awareness of the causes and conditions which lead to the spread of HIV. It was also an opportunity to interact with the doctor and know more about this epidemic and its impact on society. The students also enjoyed a question-answer game that was used to check what they have learnt.**





The main objective of involving students in human rights project has been to gain knowledge of “rights and responsibilities” and to be able to define and recognize those rights and responsibilities. Access teachers believe that students will be positively empowered by engaging them in different human rights projects.

Therefore, active participation will ultimately strengthen their determination to become good citizens and to make better lives for themselves, their community and the world. Along with this line of thought, Access Students were involved in different workshops which intended to gather information about children’s rights. Finally, students decided to produce something they could use to draw people’s attention to these rights and to focus on their value. Every pupil wrote on his/her hand what he/she considered as a crucial right.



### Fun with paper craft projects: Making Kites



After making kites, pupils wrote on them some slogans and messages relevant to access events especially those involving kids. This activity involves learning by doing, learning the language needed to make kites and other craftwork, searching information on the culture of kites and writing a report on all the stages of the process.



### A visit to the book fair





On the occasion of the winter vacation, Access students at the Space of Wisdom organized a visit to the National Book Fair held in Sfax. This visit was a good opportunity for Access students to take part in reading activities and games. This visit was also fruitful for Access students as they met alumni Access students and interacted with them. During this visit, Access students enjoyed the experience of reading for pleasure and socializing with other students. **Access students interacting with Wafa Garbout, an alumni Access student.**



On a cold Wednesday afternoon, Access students were invited to watch a movie which was followed by a debate monitored by a group of teachers.

*The Terminal* is a 2004 American comedy-drama film directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones. It is about a man who becomes trapped in New York City's JFK International Airport terminal when he is denied entry into the United States and at the same time cannot return to his native country due to a revolution. Worksheets were handed out before the show with pre, while and post watching activities. This event was a good opportunity for students to practice their critical thinking and to develop their debate and discussion skills.

# Strengthening the voice of tomorrow's leaders

December 2013

## Celebrating the End of the First Quarterly of the English Access Microscholarship Program



On December 29<sup>th</sup> 2013, Access students at the Space of Wisdom, Sfax celebrated the end of the first quarterly of the Access Program by animating a show under the title **"Strengthening the Voice of Tomorrow's Leaders"**.

During the show different performances were enacted in front of the Access teachers, the students' family members and friends. Such performances were met by the audience's appreciation who applauded on many occasions for the sense of seriousness and innovation they felt in the show which included a play about **human rights** in which the students voiced their deep awareness of the importance of respecting human rights in society. Another play was about **'Citizenship'** in which the students sensitized their peers about the importance of being a good citizen. **'The Chair'** was another play based on physical silent discourse in which the students summarized the story of dictatorship and revolution in Tunisia.

Apart from the plays, the students showed their talents in playing instruments, singing and dancing. The show was a good opportunity for Access

students to strengthen their voices as future leaders and send important messages of citizenship, democracy and togetherness.

The Access **Alumni participation** added value to the show which ended with a song "we are the children of the world we are the children of peace! We are the children of the world" Access Alumni shared their experience with the New Access students, they sang and danced together.

Dr. Salwa Mrabet-Abid said: "I have enjoyed watching the new Access students in action. I can see the spectacular improvement of the students' proficiency level in English.

**The show was a great opportunity for the new Access students to share with the Access Alumni, their parents, friends and teachers what they have learned in three months and they exhibited in a talented manner what the concept of leadership, citizenship and Human rights mean to them. In addition, the activity was an occasion to practise some audience addressing techniques and speaking skills.**



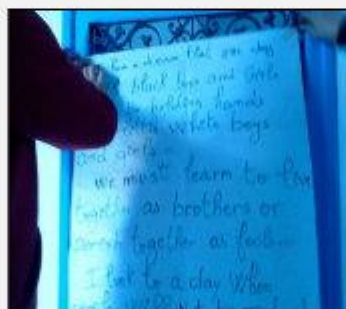
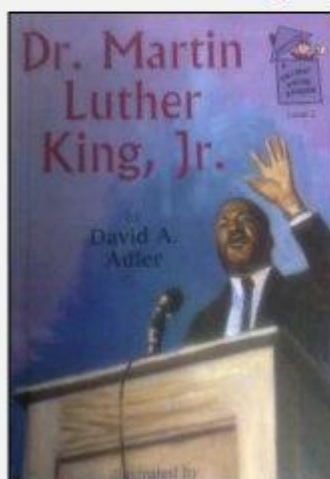
## A Visit To The Elderly Home

On the Mouled day (our Prophet Mohamed's birthday), a group of Access students paid a visit to the elderly home. It was an opportunity to put into practice their work on **citizenship and community service** and to bring the elderly some warmth, care and love. Also, we went with few benevolent people who brought "Assida zgougou", cakes, tea, sugar, etc...our role was to help serve the elderly and especially talk to them. Some students brought very symbolic things. As a follow up activity, students were asked to write a report about the visit and to prepare a power point presentation to the other groups who didn't join in the visit.



January 2014:

## Martin Luther King Day



Access students have become familiar with a famous figure in the history of the USA. In the third week of January they celebrated Martin Luther King's Day in their own way. After reading a book about the life of King some of them presented a role play (a scene from the book). A short film about king's role in the civil rights movement in America was shown and some famous quotes about racism were displayed.



### President Day and George Washington's Birthday

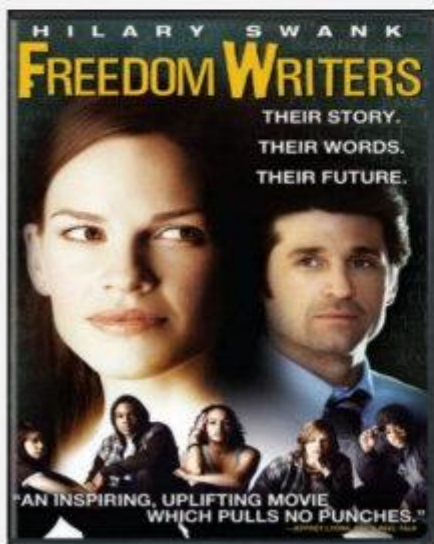
Washington's Birthday, also known as Presidents' Day, is a federal holiday held on the third Monday of February. The day honors presidents of the United States, including George Washington, the USA's first president. Schools often organize events and lessons for students about the presidents of the United States and George Washington in particular.

Access students decided to gather more information about "the Americans' father". They surfed the net and did some language and writing activities as well and finally they prepared their own presentations which were varied: a picture, a power point presentation and video about Washington's life.

### American Movie Day



Once a month Access students at the Space of Wisdom – Sfax are invited to watch a movie . This is meant to get rid of exam stress they had at school. This month film is called « *freedom writers* » which is a 2007 American dream movie directed by Richard LaGravenese and starring Hilary Swank, Imelda Staunton, Patrick Dempsey, Imelda Staunton, Scott Glenn.



The film was followed by a debate monitored by a group of teachers. Worksheets were handed out before the show with pre, while and post watching activities. This event was a good opportunity for students to develop their critical thinking skills and to develop their debate and discussion skills.



## Celebrating the Third Anniversary of The Tunisian Revolution

On the occasion of The Revolution Day, Access students at the Space of Wisdom - Sfax organized a party for the benefit of 4 to 5-year-old kids from poor background families. Celebrating the occasion with children was a fun and merry learning experience for Access students.

Access students called this event “**Access Smile Party**” as they believed in the necessity of bringing a smile on the faces of children on their day. The party was a success as it received a positive feedback from the kids’ teachers, parents and the officials who thanked Access students and encouraged them to “shine more on the region”, as one of the administrators in the Regional Childhood Administration said. Likewise, the party was an eye-catching event as it caught the cameras of the region’s official electronic newspaper which praised the event and described it as a source of insight for the youth of Sfax to give, share and care.



موقع الصحفيين التونسيين  
بصفاقس

آخر الأخبار  
17:17 جاني 12 2014

أطفال من رياض التضامن يتكثرون حفلة نقالية

بمناسبة المولد النبوي الشريف و عيد الثورة إستضافت مجموعة من التلاميذ بصفاقس عدد من الأطفال من رياض التضامن و قاموا بتنشيط حفلة غنائية تخللها عروض غنائية و مسرحية بالمركز العلمي بصفاقس شارك في هذه الظاهرة عدد من التلاميذ يتنقلون إلى معاهد مختلفة بمدينة صفاقس بتأجير الـ 7 سائلكم هذه كمون حضانة المياني و وراء الوصفير تاتي هذه الإستضافة في إطار تهيئة الشباب بأهمية العمل التطوعي و الفكري

أطفال من رياض التضامن يتكثرون حفلة نقالية  
<http://www.journalistesfaxien.tv/36613>



On **March 29 2014**, Access Students at the Space of Wisdom had a trip to El Jem. They visited the Roman Coliseum which is one of the largest Roman amphitheatres in the world. A tour guide provided the students with information about the monuments.

Access students enjoyed the visit and learnt about the importance ancient Tunisia held in the Roman Empire.



After their visit to El Jem, the students visited Sousse, a city full of things to do with its many attractions. The students had lunch then spend the afternoon having fun.





March 30, 2014



Access Students organized a talent show in which they performed plays, songs and poems. Students performed a song entitled **"The Rainbow Song"** through which they paid tribute to the famous leader Nelson Mandela. Through this song, the students addressed the message that "a leader never dies" to themselves and to their peers.



Access students prepared a play entitled *Snow White* in which they highlighted attitudes of tolerance, cooperation and sacrifice.



**April 2014**

**Access Students' meeting with The English Language Specialist Jason Levine's at The Space of Wisdom, Sfax.**

Jason presented Collo and SPARK! - A Fluency MC Gallery Languages workshop on April 19 with Access students at The Space of Wisdom in Sfax, Tunisia. He met Access pupils and teachers, interacted with them and conduct workshops for them.



Access pupils at The Space of Wisdom in Sfax were lucky to be part of Jason Levine's English Language Program schedule in Tunisia that took place from April 18 to May 1.





Access students wrote role plays about Jason's role in facilitating learning. Before the end of the workshop, the students expressed their gratitude and their love by singing one of the songs they wrote for Jason.

### **Jason in Sfax: A poem written by Access students:**

Knock knock knock  
 It's Mr Stick Stuck Stuck  
 To Sfax he is back  
 Have you ever seen  
 Mr Levine on the screen?  
 Come and see  
 It's Fluency MC  
 Listen to Jason  
 His music is amazing  
 You are our star  
 And now you're here not far  
 This is our opportunity  
 To meet a celebrity  
 Access students are your fans  
 And they have lots of plans  
 Learning English is easy  
 Even for the lazy  
 Just relax and repeat  
 And listen to the beat  
 You'll remember without stress  
 And to English you'll have access



Access students recorded their learning experience with Jason Levine in videos and uploaded them on Youtube and Facebook.



Jason in the Space Of Wisdom

Access pupils learning while having fun with Jason :)))

YOUTUBE.COM



Jason in the Space Of Wisdom

Access pupils learning while having fun with Jason :)))

YOUTUBE.COM





## Celebrating the Tunisian cultural heritage month

### Access, being proud of our roots

On the occasion of the National Day of Traditional Clothes Access students at the Space of Wisdom were happy and honored to attend an event held at a high school in Sfax to celebrate the national heritage



of country. Access students interacted with their peers, wearing 'Sheshia' (traditional Tunisian hat men used to wear) and 'Sefseri' (a traditional garment women used to wear when they went out).

Access students contributed in the event by bringing some traditional meals and wearing traditional clothes. Students enjoyed the event because "it's always good to remember our origins especially now as some people try to strip us from our heritage and our own traditions and to impose odd dress code and strange ideas," as one of the students put it.



Access Students wearing traditional Tunisian clothes as they celebrate the National Day of Traditional Dress.



The event was a good opportunity for Access students to communicate with peers from other institutions, exchange ideas and share good moments.



Access students enjoyed tasting traditional local meals jointly prepared by all students participating in the National Day of Traditional Clothes.



### Access, enjoying the artistic

To celebrate the end of the third school term, Access students at the Space of Wisdom invited some students from *The Higher Institute of Arts and Crafts of Sfax*. The students animated a workshop in which they showed Access student some drawing skills. During this workshop, Access students prepared some designs of 3D Tunisian and American flags. The workshop was enjoyable and Access students enjoyed being creative.





At the end of the workshop, Access students thanked their visitors in a special way. They performed a song and a dance in front of them as a way of thanking them for their visit and their enlightening ideas and skills



### U.S History: April Activity

During the month of April, Access students watched a documentary about American celebrities then started compiling an extra list of celebrities in American history then introduced them in a power point presentation to their colleagues, showing the major role these people played as leaders in the construction of their country.





One of the projects that inspired the students and motivated them was the Mother's Day Project .

### Discovering

**Step 1:** The pupils look at a photo of two women and are asked if they have any information about them.



Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis and daughter Anna

This photo encouraged the pupils to guess and try to discover who the women were and why their photo was uploaded to the internet. It raised their curiosity and made them more interested to the topic.

**Step 2:** A competition is launched and the pupils are divided into groups of three and are given a list of links to surf in and to gather the maximum of details about these two famous women. Each time a group finds an important detail they write it on a board. Finally, when time is up the

pupils meet and try to share the information they got.

### A Mothers Day Tribute



*"Mothers Day is in honor of the best Mother who ever lived--the Mother of your heart" - Anna Jarvis*

- [Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis, the Mother of Mothers Day](#)
- [Anna Jarvis, the Founder of Mothers Day](#)
- [The Anna Jarvis Birthplace, Webster, Taylor Co., WV](#)
- [The International Mothers Day Shrine, Grafton, Taylor Co., WV](#)
- [The Carnation, Symbol of Mothers Day](#)
- [The Jarvis Family](#)
- [Anna Maria Reeves Jarvis \(compiled by WV State Archives\)](#)
- [Mother's Day \(on WIKIPEDIA\)](#)
- [Mother's Day \(on Conservapedia\)](#)
- [Church Bulletin, May 8, 1910 of the Bethany Temple Church](#)

*Taylor County, West Virginia is honored to have been  
the home of the inspiration and founder of Mothers Day.*



Some of the important

words the pupils wrote were : mother's day- America – memorial – second Sunday – May- campaign – President Woodrow Wilson – mother and daughter...



The pupils are exposed to a word cloud about The Mother's Day to help them remember the different details they came across while searching about the famous American women Ann and her daughter Anna. They tried to use the words to produce correct sentences. For example: "Anna Jarvis wanted to honor her mother through the Mother's Day." Another pupil added to the sentence by saying "": "Anna Jarvis wanted to honor her mother **and all the world's mothers** through the Mother's Day."

**Step 3:** The pupils **watch a video about the history of the Mother's Day. It's about Anna Jarvis workplace home.** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsttKrFyk0o>

### **Creating**

The pupils were asked to create something to give as a present to their moms. Some pupils referred to the net and followed instructions to create a box in which they put famous sayings for mothers . others put some of Jarvis quotes like

Its whiteness is to symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying. When I selected this flower, I was remembering my mother's bed of white pinks.

—Anna Jarvis

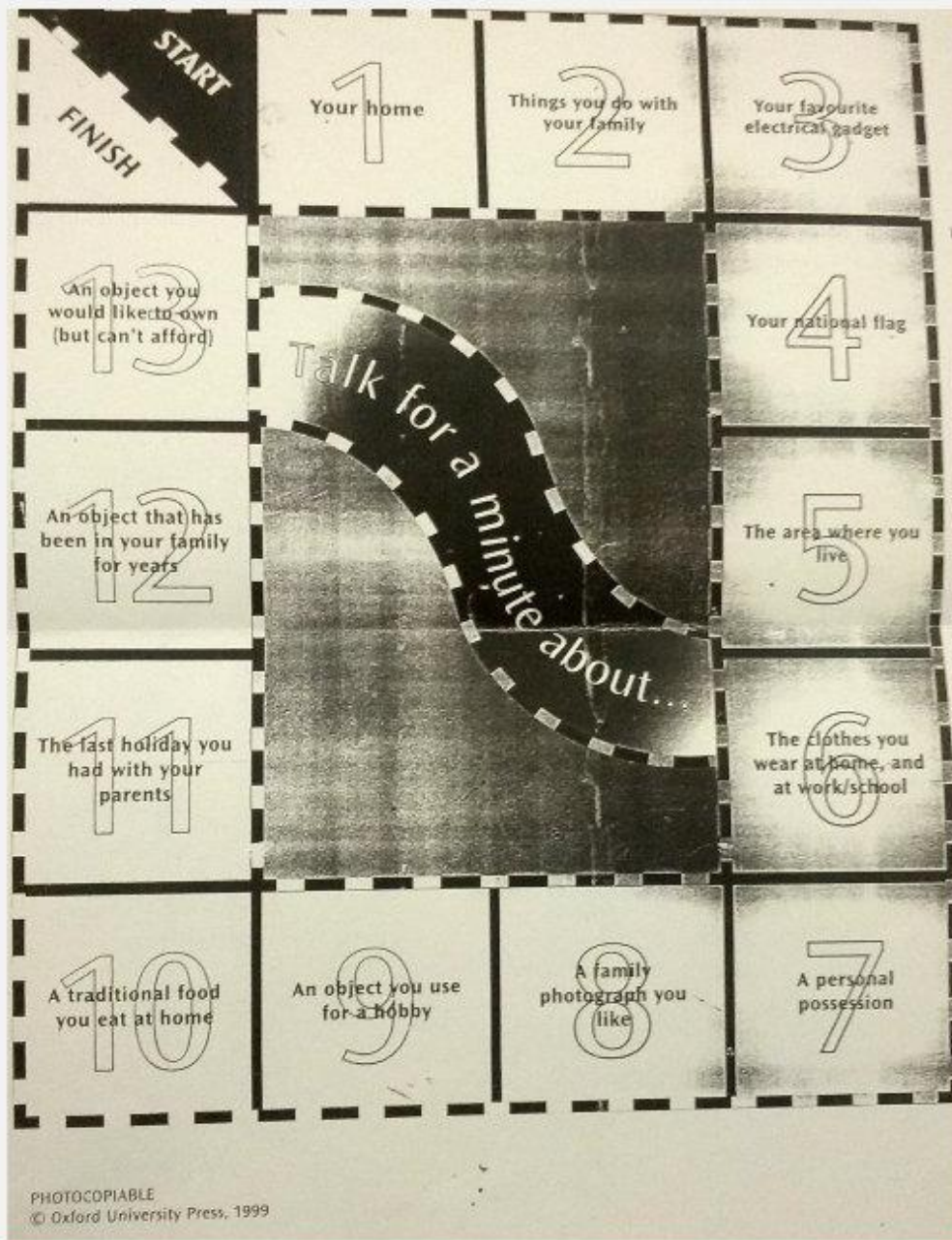
A printed card means nothing except that you are too lazy to write to the woman who has done more for you than anyone in the world. And candy! You take a box to Mother—and then eat most of it yourself. A pretty sentiment.

—Anna Jarvis.



### **Speaking activity-->creating a new board game**

To develop fluency, I gave them random numbers from 1 to 13 qs on the board game, they talked about their topic with peer correction, then they were asked to come out with new board game of their choice which they did perfectly. Here is one example prepared by Manel Bousarsar





<p>1</p> <p>- American Holiday</p>	<p>START</p> <p>FINISH</p>	<p>13</p> <p>- the most memorable event in your life</p>
<p>2</p> <p>- 30 words that start with "B"</p>	<p>Talk for a minute about..</p>	<p>12</p> <p>- a person that changed your life</p>
<p>3</p> <p>- dream job</p>		<p>11</p> <p>- your childhood memories</p>
<p>4</p> <p>-casual and formal clothes</p>		<p>10</p> <p>- your future plans in life</p>
<p>5</p> <p>- vision of the world in 2050</p>		<p>9</p> <p>- <b>yourself</b></p>
<p>6</p> <p>- the behavior of a good citizen</p>	<p>7</p> <p>- Tunisian flag</p>	<p>8</p> <p>- favourite <b>pasttime</b></p>

June 2014

## One-week skills development training with 'More than Words' Group

### Learning, sharing and leading



For four hours each morning during the week of June 23-27, More Than Words: Consulting in English - Tunis branch, along with their 7 American University Student interns, held an American-style English camp with Space of Wisdom's 60 Access students. All the daily activities revolved around each day's theme about building character as follows: Monday: **Honest** is the best policy.

If I lose my honor, I lose myself; Tuesday: **Respect** is understanding that someone or something has value; Wednesday: **Compassion** is being aware of others' distress and the desire to physically help them; Thursday: **Forgiveness** is a gift that erases the wrong and sets you free; and Friday: **Responsibility** is taking care of what is important to you, others, and the world around you. The students were broken up into three teams. Each day, the whole group met together to sing some silly songs, learn the daily memory bit, see a skit or video, and do a team challenge.

After that, they split up and rotated for the next few hours to: 1) **Learn it!** where they reread the skit or video history and learned new vocabulary, 2) **Use it!** where they discussed how to apply it their lives and the challenges they face, and 3) **Create it!** where they worked on a craft that gave them a souvenir to remember that day's character.

Finally, they all returned to large group where team points were given, the skit was re-enacted out by the students, more silly songs were sung, and high-fives were given as everyone departed for the day.

It was truly a memorable opportunity for both sides.

Khadija, one of the Access students, commented on one of the initial Facebook posts, "We spent with you nice time, you're great! We love you really ! The first day was unforgettable."





## Access Program Summer Camp: July 2014

For the first time this year, ACCESS students from the Space of Wisdom held their summer camp in SAADA residence in Bizerte from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of July. It was a good opportunity for all the participants to practice and improve their English as well as enjoy themselves in a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

The **organization** was carefully thought of. The staff used to have a daily meeting and talk about the day's happenings and prepare future events and activities. During the morning session of the first day Access students took an **evaluation test**

The students were divided into four different groups according to their scores. Each group was composed of fourteen to sixteen members with similar abilities and mastery of the English language. This procedure was extremely useful as it allowed us to form homogeneous groups and work in good conditions.



We have opted for the system of swapping groups so that by the end of the week the four teachers had seen all the participants on three different occasions. This system was an opportunity for the students to have a chance to meet different trainers and get familiar with different approaches and teaching techniques.



### B/ Program organization, content and planning:

The working days were divided into three major periods but all the time, we had to bear in mind the fact that: "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" so we made sure to include fun and entertainment in most if not all the activities.

**The morning sessions:** We included two ninety-minute sessions in the mornings from 9.30 am to 11.00 am and from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm with group swapping after break. These periods were reserved to teaching. We tried to make it student based and giving a chance to everybody to take part in discussions. The emphasis was put on speaking, sometimes written support and visuals (short texts or proverbs or pictures) were used as a springboard to enhance conversation. Vocabulary and grammar were implicitly included.

**The afternoon sessions (from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm)** were occasions to take part in competitions and games related to the topics of the day ( successful teamwork building/ planning group work/ overcoming obstacles/ good leadership / problem solving / winning spirit ) These games and competitions were performed under the supervision of the trainers on the beach, around the swimming pool and in the water. They were also occasions to practice and rehearse for a role play)

**The evenings(9.00 pm to midnight)** were occasions for students to perform in front of their fellow audience and present something they worked on during the day. It could be a song, a dialog, a role play, a sketch, a riddle, a poem, or a game. There were also moments for a more passive type of exposure to English language and relaxation with a TV program, an English film or a world cup football match. And to make the enjoyment complete there was also another type of animation with a D.J and his nightly 90-minute show till midnight: time for music and dance to the beat of their favorite pop songs.

### **Extra Activities**

During our meetings with the students, we have constantly encouraged them to contribute to the **Camp magazine** with stories, riddles, poems, pictures, caricatures, jokes and also share their comments and suggestions about the different activities.

Another activity worth mentioning and which the students liked very much was **the painting activity**. The director invited a famous painter in Bizerte and under his guidance and supervision the students succeeded in producing four great paintings. To everybody's surprise they were masterpieces and we all had great moments of joy and pleasure. Some students discovered hidden skills and talents in them.

Last but not least, on one occasion we took all the participants on a guided bus tour around Bizerte to offer the participants good panoramic views of the city followed by a walk along the narrow and winding roads of the old town and on the banks of the old harbor. The walk included a visit to the market place, the old harbor, the Spanish fortress, the mobile bridge, and other monuments and historic places.





**Team building activities**



**Access students learning and creating**



**Access students having a walking tour in Bizerte**







Welcoming More Than Words' Group



## Politics and Presentation skills (Nehal Panday)

Students in my class practiced and improved their presentation skills. They also learned about the importance of non-verbal communication and the use of visuals to help captivate the crowd and keep their attention.

Also, students learned about different governmental systems and discussed what they thought the role of government is in the lives of its citizens. Students raised different issues that they believe are plaguing Tunisia and need to be addressed in the upcoming elections. The topics they raised ranged from security to education, unemployment to women's rights, freedom of religion to pollution and everything in between.

Students were then asked to form political parties. In addition to addressing specific issues they felt were important, students were tasked with developing party names, slogans, and logos all to be presented **at the mock election** that was held during their final performance.



After only two days of developing their parties, researching various political issues, and practicing the presentation and public speaking skills, the results were amazing. The students' passion for the issues and hard work within their groups left the audience with a difficult decision to make. As their teacher, it was wonderful to watch these students work together in teams to inspire one another to build the best presentation. The students' hard work not only made for a wonderful exercise, but also got students excited about their own upcoming elections. While not everyone will be allowed to vote in the elections set for later this year due to the age restriction, they will be more attentive to specific issues as well as the manner in which these issues are presented in the coming months. Their

energy and excitement were contagious. As they inspired each other, they also inspired me and left me feeling very hopeful for future generations of Tunisia.



August 2014

### **Access Green Day**

#### **Access Students in the Island of Kerkennah: A voluntary Clean up Activity**

At the of the summer holidays, Access students met and planned a trip to Kerkennah to clean the beach there and have some fun. They spent the time on the ferry interviewing people about pollution and completing a questionnaire about the environment.





October 2014

### Access Sheep

Access Students putting what they have learned into action and bringing smile to a poor family offering them a sheep for Aid.

### Fund raising:

First: Meeting at the Space of Wisdom to agree upon the strategies to adopt to collect money and find a poor family that badly needs a sheep for the Aid



Second: Going to the market to get an idea about the cost of a sheep and bargaining the price that fits our budget.

Third: after finding the appropriate sheep we called it "ANTAR" which means the HERO.

After that we bought fruits, vegetables and all what the family needs to celebrate the Aid. Finally we managed to find someone who volunteered to take the sheep to the family's house.

In the sheep market



One hand, one dream...



## JS موقع الصحفيين التونسيين بصفاقس

14:34:48 الجمعة 14 نوفمبر 2014

آخر الأخبار حجز 24 بتدقية صيد بميناء

### نبض المدينة صفاقس: مبادرة تلمذية جديدة بالتنويه

7 أكتوبر 2014 18:33

في بادرة تذكّر فتشكر و بعيدا عن "أكياس اللحوم الانتخابية" قامت مجموعة من تلاميذ المعاهد الثانوية بصفاقس بجمع تيرعات من أساتذتهم و أصدقائهم ثم توجهوا يوم عرفة إلى سوق المواشي و اشتروا أضحية العيد و قدموها هدية إلى إحدى العائلات المعوزة.

رغم بساطتها لاقت هذه الحركة إستحسان الأساتذة، الأولياء و التلاميذ أنفسهم عندما رأوا البسمة على وجه عائلة في أمس الحاجة إلى الإعانة و ليس إلى النعوت الانتخابية... كل الشكر إلى هؤلاء التلاميذ الذين تحلوا بروح المبادرة و المواطنة و إلى الأساتذة الذين أشرفوا على هذه الحركة و هم الأستاذ مراد رمضان، هنده كمون و حاتم الرباعي أساتذة الإنقليزية الناشطين في إطار برنامج العالمي الذي يهتم بترسيخ القدرات اللغوية في الإنقليزية مع التركيز على تنشئة التلاميذ القيم الإنسانية .

محمد





**A**chieve your dreams  
**C**reate your future  
**C**hange the world  
**E**scape routine  
**S**hare your experience  
**S**ucceed in your life



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### **A Special Thank You to the US Embassy in Tunisia**

**I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to Ms. Katherine Hall the Cultural Affairs Officer and Mr Hafedh Zanina Public Diplomacy Assistant for their huge contribution, for being patient, and for all the painstaking efforts they have made for the success of the Access Microscholarship Program in our language centre.**

**Thank you Kate and thank you Hafedh for your willingness to respond to our requests and proposals and for striving to establish a long lasting and a strong partnership between the US Embassy in Tunis and the Space of wisdom in Sfax.**

### **A Special Thank You to all Access Teachers at the Space of Wisdom**

**Without you this success would not be possible.**

**Access Program Coordinator**

**Dr. Salwa Mrabet-Abid**