

Vision

The goal of the Lajee Center Kindergarten is to create a loving environment for pre-school children within the Aida community, fostering a culture of respect and inclusiveness.

The kindergarten will support a student population that includes children with low- to moderate-special needs, cognitive and physical.

The curriculum of the kindergarten is based on the premise that each child can be supported by trained teachers to build on their own lived experience to develop an understanding of their place in the community and the contributions they can make to it.

Experiential teaching that fosters a spirit of enquiry and creativity will guide each child in gaining skills in numeracy, literacy, critical thinking and social responsibility. Special emphasis will be placed on learning in both Arabic and English.

The design of the kindergarten will create a physically and psychologically safe and secure environment, open to nature. Classrooms will be bright and colorful, and spatially flexible to support dialog between teachers and students singly or in groups. The classrooms will be open to fresh air and natural light as much as possible, with close proximity to generous outdoor play space.

The progress and support for the student will benefit from the active and consistent support of parents and community in partnership with teachers.

The school itself, along with the Lajee Center, is designed as a community asset, providing spaces where parents, families and community groups can meet to discuss the social and educational needs of their children.

The Lajee Center Kindergarten

in Aida Refugee Camp,
Bethlehem, Palestine



An investment in a brighter future



Donations to the Lajee Center Kindergarten can be made to 1for3 by check (payable to 1for3) and by credit card online at 1for3.org.

<https://www.classy.org/give/108654/#!/donation/>

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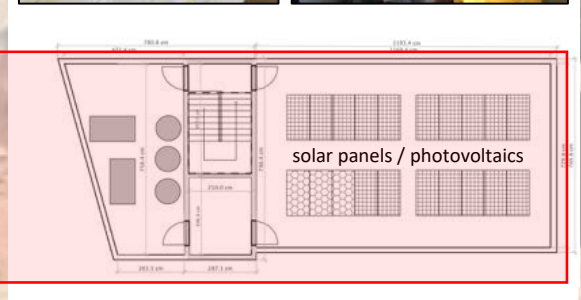
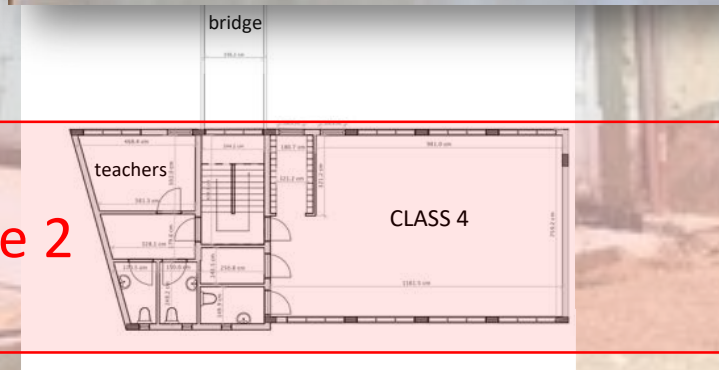
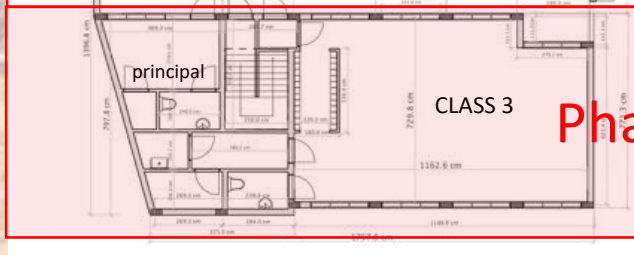
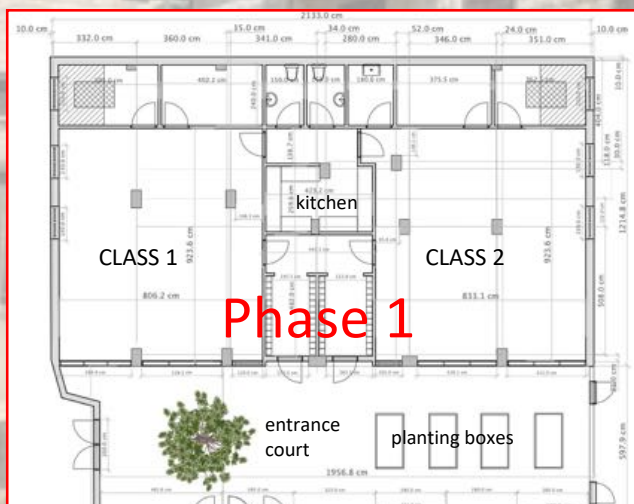
Program

When fully developed the Lajee Center Kindergarten will provide a pre-school education for 100 children, from Aida and al-Azzeh refugee camps. There will be four classes in mixed age groups: two classes of 3-4 year old children and two classes of 4-5 year old children. A child graduating from the Lajee Center Kindergarten will be prepared intellectually and socially to enter primary school and to engage constructively with family and community.

Responding to need, the aim is to open the school as soon as possible, aiming for September 2020; and to expand the program gradually as a full teaching team is assembled and trained. For these reasons the school will be developed in two phases: Phase One will consist of a build-out of the ground floor of the existing building, accommodating Classrooms 1 and 2 and a landscaped entrance court; Phase Two will consist of a new building accommodating Classrooms 3 and 4 as well as offices for teachers and administration.

A curriculum workshop held at the Lajee Center in July 2018 brought together parents, teachers, educators and academics from Aida, Bethlehem and beyond. From visits to local schools, discussions of educational theory and hands-on demonstrations, a pre-school curriculum for 3 to 5 years olds has been developed, enhanced by many of Lajee's existing programs in community health, water monitoring, roof gardens and music.

Appointment of teachers is planned for early 2020 so that they can undertake training and be ready for the first classes in September.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SECOND FLOOR PLAN