

## THANKSGIVING

Our family arrived in Canada from Damascus, Syria on March 2, 2011. We had a warm welcome from people in Resurrection Parish. They brought us to our new apartment on Othello. Over the next few weeks, Karen, Cathy, Donna and others helped us settle into Ottawa. We opened a bank account, registered for school, learned to travel by bus, where to buy groceries, where to do laundry, etc.

Lara attended St-Pat's High and Yara McMaster now St-Pat's Intermediate. Samira & I began English lessons and our son O'Neal went to daycare, now McMaster.

We adjusted to our first Canadian winter, made snow angels on the Rideau Canal with Karen, and visited the museum of Science & technology with Donna, Tulip Festival with Cathy, and began attending the 11: am mass. We received a warm welcome at the Knights of Columbus breakfast on March 20.

The girls studied and made new friends. Samira and I made new friends at the school as well. Samira loves to cook and is becoming well known for her cookies!

Our classes ended in June. Lara attended summer school to improve her English. As a family, we made many trips to Mooney's Bay during the hot summer days, were invited to parishioners for BBQs, went to Parliament Hill for the sound & light show.

In June 7 I found a part-time job as a locksmith. Later in July, I was able to get another part-time job as a baker at the Middle East store on St-Laurent. I walk to work for 5am.

The children were happy to start school again and O'Neal takes the bus to attend morning kindergarten.

We are in communication with our families in Syria, Iraq and miss them terribly but are relieved to be in a country where we are safe and our children will have opportunities.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we wanted to thank the parishioners of Resurrection parish & Fr Paul for your support both financial and spiritual. We are blessed to have been welcomed into such a caring community.

Thank you...

*YALDA'S FAMILY*