

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *The Fund for Innovative teaching*

Year: *2014-2015*

Name of the Program: The Fund for Innovative teaching

Year of activity: 2014-2015, school year

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State of the program:

Matanel supported during the school year of 2014-2015, 15 initiatives in 15 different schools. All these program are categorized as Principles direct involvement in leading a team of teachers together to success. Each program has a different specific agenda to change or develop something in the school. The common aspect of all these projects is the concept that as a team of teachers who include the principle has a greater chance of success in developing new programs and making changes in the school.

The main achievements during the last year of activity:

- 1) Innovative School for Sciences, Daliyat al-Karmel
Initiative: "Computerized Language Learning Center"
Age: 6-12

Principal: Mr. Saeed Chalbi

The Computerized Language Learning Center seeks to enrich the students with hands on learning experience, while equipping the student with technological skills. The goal of the initiative is to improve the students writing skills and expand their vocabulary. Each

student selects two languages with which he writes an essay on a subject of his choice, and in the end of the process the essays are combined into a digital book.

2) Elnajach Elemntry School, Bu'eine

Initiative: "Art as a tool for preserving tradition and strengthening sense of community"

Age: 6-12

Principal: Mr. Machmood Saliman

Throughout the initiative the students are exposed to the unique roots and values of the community and village, and thus strengthening their cultural and social identity. The heart of the initiative is the field of art, and the rest of the core subjects connect to this main field of study. The main activities occur through group meetings of students, parents and members of the community visiting various community establishments, in order learn more about the unique tradition and local crafts of the village.

3) Ntsech Yisrael Ha'Mitchadesh, Tiberias

Initiative: "Space of good deeds"

Age:6-12

Principal: Mr. Kobi Vakneen

At the heart of the initiative stands a beautiful space that attracts students and teachers to discuss matters regarding good deeds and social action. Students, guided by teachers, use the space to plan and implement the activity. The goal of the initiative is to work on a variety of issues, for example: self and group empowerment, motivation for positive action, dialog, reduction for violence and constructive self-reflection.

4) Peace School, Abu Gosh

Initiative: "Promoting the value of mutual respect"

Ages: 6-12

Principal: Mrs. Miriam Herev

The initiative attempts to strengthen the foundations of mutual trust between all those who attend the school: between the principal and the teachers, teachers and teachers, teachers and students and also between the students themselves. Additionally, the initiative helps strengthen the connection with the community, especially with the parents who take an active part in the school. As part of the initiative program, various social and educational structures were created in order to implement the values of mutual respect and understanding into the general school discourse, i.e.: student parliament, arranged student-teacher dialogues etc.

5) Elroa School, Manshiya Zabda

Initiative: "Walking towards independence"

Ages: 7-21 (Special Education)

Principal: Mr. Farid Grifat

One of the main goals of any special education school is to equip their students with the tools needed in order to lead a full, independent life with all the difficulty it entails. In order to practice basic home skills, the Elroa principal set on creating a full size apartment model. The model enables the students to practice the day to day chores needed to maintain a home of their own. The activities expand beyond the boundaries of the schools, and take place also in the homes of the students. The school sees the student's family as a full partner in the process of educating and training the learner in leading an independent life, where the sky is limit.

6) Ami Assaf Elementary, Dimona

Initiative: "Art museum in relation to core subjects"

Ages: 6-12

Principal: Ms. Shalhevet Bar-Sheshet

Throughout the program the student researches various topics that are part of the core curriculum of the school, i.e.: Math, English, Science etc. At the end of the research, the student presents his topic using various methods of art. This process enables the student to enjoy a meaningful and interdisciplinary learning experience. The art projects are then

presented in an open art museum in the school, where the entire school community may visit- students, teachers and parents. The goal of the initiative is to create a holistic curriculum, where the students combine the various subjects that are taught and are actively involved in the learning process.

7) Alfardos Elementary, Rahat

Initiative: "Grandma Remedies"

Principal: Mr. Machmood Abu-Abed

The initiative focuses on strengthening the intergenerational connection in Rahat, through the research of traditional herbal remedies. The program participants experience a meaningful way of learning, by combining classic scientific knowledge together with the traditional wisdom of the community elders. In recent years, the tradition the acquired knowledge will allow the students to produce the home remedies, just as their ancestors have been creating for generations.

8) Meromay Sade School, Achuzat Barak, Izrael Valley

Initiative: "Turmus- coaching tools"

Principal: Ms. Daniela Elkon-Chori

The principal of the Meromay Sade School saw that many of her students experience difficulty in expressing their personal and unique abilities in the complicated school atmosphere. In order to create a more calm and accepting atmosphere she decided to integrate the field of coaching into the everyday school curriculum. In a designated room for the initiative, the students' learned various tools from the fields of coaching and NLP, guided imagery and dialog circles. The tools were then implemented into the various classrooms and used by the teachers on a day to day basis.

9) Taha Chusain School, Ar'ara

Initiative: "Television for Life"

Principal: Ms. Samhar Abu Sharkia

In the beginning of the project, a few students with an array of artistic talents were selected by the principal. Throughout the year the selected students undergo a year long process of empowerment and development of their unique talents. This process is filmed by other fellow students, and edited into a full length documentary. The documentary is finally presented to the entire school, thus sharing the power of personal growth and of believing in one's own abilities

10) Yitshak Sade School, Dimona

Initiative: "Expanding the Circle of Leadership"

Principal: Ms. Mina Eshtmaker

The goal of this initiative is to encourage the students to take more responsibility on their own education, motivation and assessment. The program enables the student to be aware of his strong and weak points, and according to those points decided on the best educational goals, social goals and behavioral goals that will all lead him to effective personal growth. In addition, the students lead extra curriculum activities for fellow students.

11) Efrata Talpaz School, Jerusalem

Initiative: "Implementing the English Language"

Principal: Ms. Sari Tavor

The goal of the initiative is to equip the students with high abilities in the English language. This is achieved by conducting a few of the core subjects' entirely in English, such as math, PE, and science. The pedagogical method that is used for this initiative is based on the SIOP model- Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol. In this model the learning modules are built around relevant questions that stimulate learning, while using various methods of language learning, such as: listening, reading, writing and creative activity.

12) Wadi Salame Elmentry School

Initiative: "The Bedouin Tent as a Classroom for learning and preserving Bedouin Heritage".

Principal: Mr. Aziz Suad

The Bedouin's rich history and culture is imbedded in the land and its people, while the Bedouin tent serves as a central symbol of their heritage. This initiative uses the traditional tent as a place of learning and intergenerational encounters between the students and the elders of the community. These sessions include activities revolving round Bedouin culture and also the standard curriculum of the school. The goal is on the one hand connect the younger generation with their heritage, and on the other hand conducting "ordinary" school activities in the tent thus making the tent a day to day part of the students life.

13) Bavli Yerushalmi School, Tel Aviv

Initiative: "In our Paths"

Principal: Ms. Sarit Packerman-Shachar

The initiative was formulated by the school faculty in order to "break" the confinements of the school walls and use the unique soundings of the school as a place of learning. By using IPad and smartphones, the teachers create an array of learning stations and activities in various areas in the neighborhood and around the city, while emphasizing different skills such as writing comprehension, research and creative thinking.

14) Ben Zvi School, Kiriyat Ekron

Initiative: "Social Theater"

Principal: Ms. Osnat Dolev-Cohen

The school faculty and principal identified an acute need for refreshing the social and life skills education. The program was built around four main values that were selected by the initiative team. The program creates a practical integration of tools from the fields of theater and social education. This kind of learning allows the students to experience

different situations and role playing and thus helps creating a school culture of respectful dialog and reduction of violence.

15) Uzi Chitman, Petah Tikva

Initiative: "From Creativity to Creation"

The school faculty and the students create a mutual venture of a production factory that produces and markets products that the students design themselves. The students experience the process of development, production, marketing thinking and finance, all of which empower the students and encourage independency. The products are created from recycled materials and the proceeds are donated to charity.

The evaluation:

While each initiative is separate and addresses different needs, different age groups and has beneficiaries who are unique to each project, the evaluation methodologies are similar. Each initiative's success was defined as follows:

- Principals' sense of personal and professional empowerment.
- Principals' success in implementing their project based on the goals and objectives set in advance.
- Creating an atmosphere for further education innovation in the school.

Evaluations were based on each school principals report – both verbal, via questionnaires and presentations that took place during site visits and the FIT's annual conference. FIT pedagogical mentors were also involved in monitoring the progress of each project and by noting the increase of innovation in the school as a result of the school principals' openness to educational initiatives in general.

In General, as a new project in the school, the initiatives experienced challenges at the beginning in implementation but were guided by FIT's mentors in developing work plans and the pedagogical aspects of each project.

FIT is continuously evaluating its work with schools, and we continue to work with The Institute for Democratic Education to help us with our evaluation by creating tools and objective guidelines for this important process.

Financial and Activity Report:

	<u>Name of Project</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Number of Participants</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Matanel Participation</u>
1	Computerized Language Learning Center	Innovative School for Sciences, Daliyat al-Karmel	286	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
2	Art as a tool for preserving tradition and strengthening sense of community	Elnajach Elemntry School, Bu'eine	195	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
3	Space of good deeds	Ntsech Yisrael Ha'Mitchadesh, Tiberias	100	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
4	Promoting the value of mutual respect	Peace School, Abu Gosh	336	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
5	Walking towards independence	Elroa School, Manshiya Zabda	170	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
6	Art museum in relation to core subjects	Ami Assaf Elementary, Dimona	100	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
7	Grandma Remedies	Alfardos Elmentary, Rahat	380	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
8	Turmus- coaching tools	Meromay Sade School, Achuzat Barak, Izrael Valley	104	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
9	Television for Life	Taha Chusain School, Ar'ara	278	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
10	Expanding the Circle of Leadership	Yitshak Sade School, Dimona	30	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
11	Implementing the English Language	Efrata Talpaz School, Jerusalem	122	₪25,000	₪ 6,000

12	The Bedouin Tent as a Classroom for learning and preserving Bedouin Heritage	Wadi Salame Elmentry School	478	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
13	In our Paths	Bavli Yerushalmi School, Tel Aviv	178	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
14	Social Theater	Ben Zvi School, Kiriyat Ekron	364	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
15	From Creativity to Creation	Uzi Chitman, Petah Tikva	130	₪25,000	₪ 6,000
		Total:	3251	₪375,000	₪ 90,000

Events

Participants / Notes

Orientation

Principals and related teachers

Winter Seminar

Principals and related teachers

Annual Spring Symposium at The David Yalin College

Principals and related teachers

Meeting with FIT Mentors and Site Visits

Principals and related teachers

Photos:

Attached 4 photos, each trying to capture a moment of true meaningful learning in an interactive enriched environment that FIT, together with Matanel Foundation helped make happen.