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Ariel School-2012-2013

Name of program

Ariel School

Year of activity

2012-2013

Name of the report's writer

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Function of the report's writer

Principal

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Status of program

This is the second year of a three-year grant program. The school population is characterized as underprivileged, and of lower socioeconomic status. Three major projects have been undertaken and completed: the renovation of laboratories (Summer 2012); the distribution of financial assistance scholarships to needy students and their families (during school year); and the awarding of Merit Scholarships (end of school year). A dramatic change has taken place in our school as a result of project implementation—the new work areas and scholarships are encouraging and supporting positive learning experiences, and helping to create an improved school atmosphere.

Project Implementation: Year 2

A. Construction and renovation of laboratories

New furniture and advanced equipment were purchased, and classes were designed in

keeping with the school's progressive learning environment.

B. Scholarships to fund basic learning needs: textbooks, school trips, cultural and social activities

An amazing momentum was created within the school. The students and their parents were extremely grateful "that people (Matanel Foundation) we do not know personally support us, trust us and give us a chance to prove ourselves" (students words). This year, 32 students received financial grants and scholarships for excellence.

C. Merit scholarships

Some students received scholarships for high academic achievement, and other students in recognition of their efforts and continuous improvement throughout the year.

Student selections were based on the opinions of the educators, and considered the student's background, academic achievements, economic and social constraints, and accomplishments during the year.

The scholarship award ceremony was held at the end of the school year– excitement was especially high among the teachers and students. We believe that the student recipients will be an encouragement for other students to strive harder.

D. Encouragement prizes

Encouragement prizes have been awarded to students for outstanding achievements in the academic field, for significant behavior changes, and for competing in regional and national contests. Thanks to the scholarship fund, we could afford to send outstanding high school students to study academic courses at the University of Haifa, Tel-Aviv University, and the Technion. Another use of project funds was to transport an outstanding group of students to the graduation ceremony of soldiers in the Israeli Air Force. Our students returned to school enthusiastic and excited.

E. Scholarships to students who demonstrate financial need

Financial aid scholarships were distributed to students and their families; to assist them through financial difficulties, and to relieve their emotional stress. The recipients were provided with a positive learning experience in school integration. Each grant was discretely delivered by a courier to protect the privacy of the recipient and to avoid any inconveniences.

On Sukkot, we distributed food parcels to underprivileged families that included: oil, sugar, flour, pasta products, chocolate cream, fish, meat, and so forth. A few weeks before winter began; warm blankets and other items were distributed to needy students.

Throughout the academic year, we also had to solve some emergency crises. We paid the electric bills for students who lived in homes where the electricity was cut-off due to debts. We bought diapers for babies, as well as bags, clothing, and shoes for students. We supported a student's family whose brother died, by purchasing supplies for the week of mourning so the family could receive visitors during Shiva. We borrowed special equipment for a student with poor eyesight to help him cope with school tasks. We provided sandwiches to students that do not bring food to school on a daily basis. Dozens of kosher food packages were distributed during Passover to needy families in the school, and the wider community.

In closing, I wish to share a special story about an Ethiopian family that lost their house in a

fire on an especially cold and wintry night. With the support of the Matanel Foundation, we were able to purchase for the children, who study at our school, emergency items; and to assist the family while their parents were in the hospital. Later, we purchased new furniture and a stove for the family –helping to bring an end to their traumatic experience.

Main achievements during the last year of activity

Matanel's financial support of these projects has created a dramatic change in our school – from both the physical aspects and the social aspects. The improved atmosphere allows our students to invest their personal resources toward social and academic improvement.

While maintaining the confidentiality of the Fund (both from the students and the authorities), I have managed to make a big difference with the resources which put the Foundation makes available.

I established a committee, consisting of an educational counselor and a chief secretary.

Scholarships: Naturally, the participants and main beneficiaries of the project activities are the pupils. The report focused on educational intervention activities for our students. However, the pupils' family benefit from their children's growth and well-being.

Some of the students who received scholarships during the school year were recognized for academic achievement. While other students received scholarships In recognition of their general improvement over the year. Scholarships were also given to students who contributed to the community.

We want to encourage values. We believe that promoting a consistent environment, giving personal attention, and providing rewards will help encourage many students to realize their ability and do their best work.

We have managed to advance our students towards success by proving to them that good people care about their well-being and success.

We discussed the value of gratitude throughout the school year. Therefore, we managed to create an expectation for further development among the students.

Others

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

I hope to continue introducing significant changes next year. I intend to set up smart learning centers.

The Merit Foundation will continue to encourage students to strive to excel and realize their dreams. The desire to establish a robotics team that could take part in regional and national competitions is still one ambition I am trying to realize. The Charitable Foundation will continue to support families of students in the spirit of what has been done this year.