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Matanel Scholarships: Experiencing Science-2013

Name of program

Matanel Scholarships: Experiencing Science

Year of activity

2013

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Status of program

During the summer of 2013, Matanel scholarships enabled 173 boys and girls of Ethiopian origin to participate in science oriented summer camps run by 12 universities, academic institutes, colleges and regional councils.

Main achievements during the last year of activity

- Ben Gurion University (BGU), Beersheva: 33 students, all of whom had graduated 7th – 10th grades, participated in the over-night summer camp offered by BGU and held at Kibbutz Sde Boker. Students came from cities in Southern Israel: Kiryat Gat, Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Kiryat Malachi.
- Madadarom – Beersheva: In contrast to previous years, Ben Gurion University in 2013 did

not operate a youth science camp, and as a result, the Steering Center approached Madadarom. 15 students, all graduates of 3rd through 5th grade participated in various camps held by Madadarom at the BGU campus – such as "Science with Pleasure", "Mathematical Summer" and "Website Building".

- Weizmann Institute, Rehovot: 21 students, all graduates of 4th and 5th grades and from Bat Yam and Rishon Letzion participated in "Science with Pleasure", "Science Experts", "Photography" and "Communications" camps at the Weizmann Institute.
- Technion, Haifa: 13 graduates 7th through 10th grades from Kiryat Bialik and Kiryat Yam in summer camps for mathematics, architecture, biotechnology, animation, chemistry, computers, robotics and mathematical thinking.
- Tel Aviv University (TAU): 20 students, all graduates of 7th through 12th grades from Bnei Brak, Petach Tikva, Or Yehuda and Rishon Letzion participated in TAU summer camps. Of these, 18 students participated in day camps with courses in "Young Lawyers", "Social Psychology", "Neuroscience", "Astronomy" and "Introduction to Psychology" and "Game Theory." Two additional students in 11th grade) participated in a five-week overnight camp at the University.
- Tel Aviv University, Erica Landau Institute for Engineering: 15 students in 5th grade from Netanya participated in the "Learning for the Future" program.
- Yasa Camp, at the Arts and Sciences High School, Jerusalem: Five students that had completed 7th grade from Jerusalem and Lod participated in a six-day overnight camp. One additional student from Bet Shemesh attended a 10-day overnight camp.
- Hebrew University, Jerusalem: 12 students, all graduates of 6th through 8th grades attended academic programs for medicine, chemistry, moon studies, and astronomy at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.
- Horizons and Spaces School for Gifted Students: Three students attended the day camp run for graduates of 5th grade.
- Oranim Academic College: 12 graduates of 5th and 6th grades from Afula participated in a biology course entitled "Animal Life", a history course entitled "the Vikings" and a course in economics.
- Ashdod Municipality: Six children in 4th and 5th grades participated in day camps run by Ashdod Municipality at the local Eshkol Payis center, one entitled "Robotics" and the other "Science with Pleasure."
- Technoda Hadera: 14 children who graduated 1st through 5th grades attended the "Science with Pleasure" summer camp offered in Hadera.

Evaluation

- Methodology: Students who participated in "Experiencing Science" were identified by a network of mediators and liaisons operated by the Steering Center nationally, and via recommendations from school teachers. The Steering Center ensured that parents of all participants understood the goals of the project, and gave written consent for participation. Steering Center staff accompanied all the students for the duration of the science oriented summer camps, and administered questionnaires at the end of the summer.
- Feedback from participants: According to feedback collected from the students via questionnaires, the scholarship winners thoroughly enjoyed participating in the science oriented summer camps. For many it was the very first time they had visited an academic institution or taken part in informal educational programs focused on science. The Ethiopian students integrated fully into the summer camps, which were attended by Israeli children from

all population groups.

Others

Experiencing Science in 2014

In the coming year, the Steering Center will use Matanel Foundation support to enable 300 children from the Ethiopian-Israeli community, aged between 10 – 17 years, to participate in science oriented summer camps during the summer vacation (July-August 2014.)

Since 2014 is the final year of Matanel Foundation support for this project, the Steering Center and the Society for Advancement of Education, Jerusalem (SAE) will utilize the summer months to showcase this successful and meaningful project to other philanthropic partners.

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