B”H **Matanel Gan Menachem - Cyprus.**

Progress Report. March 2013 – January 2014

Shaindel Raskin – Director of the Kindergarten. Learned teaching in Israel and Toronto Canada. Teached in Israel, South Africa and Cyprus.

Rifka Levitin – A Jewish Israeli kindergarten teacher who has taught in Israel and since 2013, has been teaching here in Cyprus.

Linoya Sidiv – Teaching Assistant

Penina Katz – Pedagogical Counselor for the Kindergarten. While being a kindergarten teacher trainer. Coached students, who were studying to be teachers from various seminaries.

In our kindergarten every Hebrew and Jewish tradition teacher, teaches and is responsible for Jewish tradition: Holidays, Shabbat, the weekly Torah portion as well as Hebrew language and its connection to Israel. In addition, there is an organized program to teach reading in Hebrew. The children are ready to read towards the end of nursery school.

1. Note - The children’s names and dates of birth that are up todate.

2. Activities outside school hours:

Pre festival workshops are held on a Sunday. These workshops are for the children and also their families. The children create things with their parents, the other children and the kindergarten teachers. Learning together, baking and cooking together as well as, presenting a show and dance, using different Jewish topics according to the time of the Hebrew year and its seasons. For example, Before Passover, baking matzo and for Chanukah they prepare foods with Olive Oil. The Rosh Hashanah Shofar factory. As well as looking ahead for the upcoming Jewish festivals.

Sunday school – Once a month 10:30-13:00. Hebrew reading and writing Jewish studies, music, arts and crafts and Jewish topics.

3. Description of program of daily activities.

Activities in the institution are primarily educational and academic and are learned 5 days a week, in Hebrew and English. Topics that are learned follow an organized curriculum as described in the main application form:-

Every morning the teacher uses eurhythmics with Jewish songs on various topics like seasons of the year, times of the day i.e. morning, afternoon and evening. Every child has a person booklet with songs. To teach the material the kindergarten teacher also uses video tapes to make the stories and concepts learned more concrete. As well as additions: A patach with the letter chet at the end of a word, the yud as a vowel letter and the yud as a consonant (the same with the letters vav and aleph) the final chaf at the end of a word with a kamatz or shva. The children print and practice towards the end of the year, preparing to write with different types of aid, such as body movement straight and crooked lines etc…

The aleph-bet in order and in reverse. Integrating vowel sounds using facial and mouth expressions, either open or closed. Writing and Reading one's own name and identifying the names of friends and that of the kindergarten teacher. Also teaching the children again, about the love for Eretz Yisrael.

Morning prayers on Circle Time. Mainly educational, 4.5hrs a day in Hebrew Language, colours, fruits, vegetables, clothes, feelings, months, parts of the body ie Head, hands, toes etc…. Hebrew nouns, vowels and punctuation.

Teaching words like :- You, me, he , she etc… Torah stories, Torah studies in song, puppet shows, drama and plays. Teaching mathematics. Watching C.D's, video's and playing musical instruments. Teaching the children the Hebrew alphabet and working 1 on 1, according to the child's level.

Teaching the children All The Jewish holidays and Special Israel Important Remembrance Dates, Eretz Israel.. With this, we will incorporate activities for the children to get a better understanding. Purim, where the children will put on a play and tell the stories of Purim. Pesach, how to make a Sedar, explaining the items and meanings of the items on the plate and letting the children make and eat their own Matzos that they have made. These are just examples of what the children will be doing.

Every week the teacher goes through a limited number of mitzvoth that are briefly discussed weekly. Getting to know the characters in the verses: Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rivkah…Stories of the Torah in the order they appear in the Five Books: Genesis & Exodus, using songs, books and illustrations as well as finger puppets… The children learn about primary and secondary figures in the Torah and try to identify with them and also the Torah portion of the week.

The children learn and experience via creative means before every holiday and are active exhibitors and partners.

Purim – February 2013. The children learned about the story in the Megillah and presented part of it in front of the other children with the assistance of the teacher. Every child received the name of another child by drawing lots and had to prepare mishloach manot (food items to one's fellow) for that person. The children learned about the notions of Megillah, festive party, alms for the poor. We discussed the idea of charity. The Purim party was a joint venture of all the kindergarten teachers, together they made things for the important themes - Sending food and drink to your fellow, Megillat Esther etc..

Passover – March 2013. The children are learning while singing the signs of the Seder and together with the teacher make the Seder table while tasting from the Seder Plate. They will also learn "Ma Nishtana". The children will also learn the story - After many decades of slavery to the Egyptian pharaohs, during which time the Israelites were subjected to backbreaking labor and unbearable horrors, G-d saw the people's distress and sent Moses to Pharaoh with a message: "Send forth My people, so that they may serve Me." The children will also learn about NO CHAMETZ - To commemorate the unleavened bread that the Israelites ate when they left Egypt, we don't eat—or even retain in our possession—any chametz from midday of the day before Passover until the conclusion of the holiday. Chametz means leavened grain—any food or drink that contains even a trace of wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt or their derivatives, and which wasn't guarded from leavening or fermentation. This includes bread, cake, cookies, cereal, pasta and most alcoholic beverages. Moreover, almost any processed food or drink can be assumed to be chametz unless certified otherwise.

Ridding our homes of chametz is an intensive process. It involves a full-out spring-cleaning search-and-destroy mission during the weeks before Passover, and culminates with a ceremonial search for chametz on the night before Passover, and then a burning of the chametz ceremony on the morning before the holiday. Chametz that cannot be disposed of can be sold to a non-Jew for the duration of the holiday.

Lag B'Omer – April 2013. Teaching the children and having a workshop for the children and their families. Teaching them about Vat Israel & the passing of Rabbi Shamon Rashbi.

Yom Hatzmahut – May 2013. Special program of Eretz Y'israel 7 what we learn about Israel.

Shavuot – May 2013. Festival of Weeks, commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Receiving the gift of Torah & Mitzvah of respecting the parents from the 10 commandments. The second of the three Pilgrim Festivals. The name 'Shavuot' means 'weeks' because it occurs 7 weeks after the 2nd day of Pesach. It falls on the 6th day of the Hebrew month Sivan. The children learnt that - Shavuot is also the anniversary of the day when the Torah was given to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai. That day was a very unusual one, with lightning, thunder and the earth shaking. Moses came down from the Mountain, face glowing, and read the Ten Commandments to the Children of Israel.

Bicurim - June/July 2013. Teaching the children about the fruits of the Holy Temple. Names of Holiday Hag A Shavout, Hag Ma Torah, Haga Tziel, Hag A Borim and tradition of diary food. Explaining about Kibud Hoream. Jerusalem and it's gates. Also, teaching the children about the dangers of the Sun, swimming etc.. All about protecting themselves in the summer time. Sheep shearing, before summer time and the Mitzvah of washing of the hands.

Summer School – July/Aug 2013. 3 week summer school and teaching the children in week 1, A brief outline of all the Jewish Holidays. Week 2, Mitzvah Week and the final week3, 7 Days of Creation.

Rosh Hashana - September 2013. The Jewish New Year. The children was taught that, the Jewish New Year festival, held on the first (and sometimes the second) day of Tishri (in September). It is marked by the blowing of the shofar, and begins the ten days of penitence culminating in Yom Kippur. The children enjoyed Apple and Honey, as well as a shofar factory and being taught how to make their own shofars.

Yom Kippur - September 2013. Day of Atonement. Taught the children about the importance of Yom Kippur and explained that it is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. Jewish people traditionally observe this holy day with an approximate 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services.

Sukkot - September 2013. The children was taught that, Sukkot were the huts in which the Jewish people lived during their years in the desert after they left slavery in Egypt and before they arrived in the Promised Land (Israel). Sukkot begins two weeks after Rosh Hashanah, on the eve of the 15th day of Tishrei. Inside Israel we celebrate it for seven days. Sukkot is a joyful festival and one of the Three Pilgrim Festivals. During Sukkot we remember when God freed us from slavery in Egypt. Sukkot was also an autumn harvest festival, celebrated at the time when the Jewish people gathered the crops from the fields and the fruits of the orchards.

Simchat Torah - September 2013. The children learnt about the Day of Celebrating the Torah. The festival where we finish reading the Torah and start again from the beginning. Its name means 'Rejoicing of the Torah' being happy about the Torah. Dancing with a Torah scroll, make Hakafot and dance with the Torahs. On Simchat Torah the hakafot include special dancing with the Torahs held up in the air. Children often join in and ride on their fathers' shoulders during this. Honour Members of the Congregation: Chatan Torah and Chatan Bereishit

Chanukah – November 2013. The children learned about the story of Chanukah. The children fashioned creations for Chanukah and recognized the main signs: Donuts, potato pancakes made with olive oil, tops and a menorah. There was a Chanukah party for parents and children. The children presented a nice show on the theme of Chanukah to the parents and together made snacks and a kosher menorah.

Tu B'Shevat – January 2014. In the class room, the children was taught that. The 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar, is the day that marks the beginning of a "New Year" for trees. This is the season, in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. The children learned about how to prepare the soil and planted new baby trees in the grounds of the kindergarten. The children marked the day of Tu B'Shevat by eating fruit, particularly from the kinds that are singled out by the Torah in its praise of the bounty of the Holy Land: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. The children were also told, this day we remember that "man is a tree of the field" and reflect on the lessons we can derive from our botanical analogue.

The donation from the Matanel Foundation has helped and will continue to help the children and their teachers. The kindergarten is growing as with, every child's knowledge of Judaism and the Jewishness. Continuously teaching the children about the Holidays and the commemorative /important dates, in the history of the Jewish Nation. Together, we will give the children pride of knowing Judaism and the continuing Love for Israel.