



MATANEL FOUNDATION



ACTIVITY REPORT

School: Mitzpe Ramon Elementary School for Torah and the Environment

Academic Year: 2014-2015

Name of the School: Mitzpe Ramon Elementary School for Torah and the Environment

Name of the Director: Efi Tzohar

Academic year of activity: 2014-2015 (5775)

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First Project: Development of School Yard and Construction of a Playroom:

We were pleased to extensively develop the school yard in the previous year (5774) with the help of the **Matanel Foundation** (the development included a garden that was planted and tended by children, pergolas, synthetic grass, etc.). This year (5775), we declined to develop the garden as it is a Shmita Year and we invested in fencing, fitness equipment and completing the installation of synthetic grass all along the entrance of the school. Thanks to these activities, which would not have been carried out without the support of the Foundation, the school yard has become full of life every hour of the day and in every corner you can find children enjoying its charming shaded areas. In addition, the remarkable change in the external appearance of the school, made possible by Foundation's generosity, imparts a pleasant feeling to all who enter its gates.

We are also proud that this year we were able with your help to open a new unique **educational playroom**. This playroom is a real educational resource for the school's remedial teaching staff. Social play, moderated by a teacher, is a complementary tool to the process of remedial education that many children in the school undergo. The playroom is also used for social relaxation activities during and after the school day. The playroom includes social games, motor skill games, creativity corner, a costumes corner, and more.

Second Project: Excellence

As part of the educational perspective of the school to educate children according to their path, we believe that attainment of true excellence is the proper exploitation of the

powers of the child. We are making great efforts in the many systems of the school to bring out the most from each child.

This year, we have extended the study campaigns in various subjects to additional classes. The campaign reached an extraordinary participation rate in excess of 90%(!) and the children were indeed ecstatic about the campaigns. Therefore, this year, instead of a single round, we held two rounds of study campaigns: one mid-year and again at the end of the school year.

The children were full of motivation and reached impressive achievements. We awarded travel prizes in these campaigns to encourage familiarization with our wonderful country.

In addition, we conducted a new education campaign on the Humash for girls. We believe that true Torah study brings prosperity as in the words of the verse: "and I give your rain in season" - so the prizes for the campaign were identified with winter and included branded umbrellas and hot drink mugs. The participation rate in the campaign was close to 100%. The feedback survey carried out after the program found that both the girls and the teachers asked that the campaign be repeated next year, citing the great contribution that the campaign made to the educational atmosphere and the girl's personal realization of their potential.

Third Project: Welfare

With the understanding that a student whose home is stable in terms of family and finance is a student who can attain high self-fulfillment, we are grateful that the **Matanel Foundation** enables us to support families in these matters and thus affect the child's family envelope. In addition to its true Hessed, this is a real educational tool. Over the course of the year, teachers turned to the school administration when they identified students with deficiencies in their homes in such basic things as textbooks, writing instruments, winter clothing, healthy learning environment and more.

The major finding that we learn from the teachers regarding this activity is that during the months following the Foundation's support, the personal, educational and social conditions of the child advanced considerably and he is more relaxed, more open to learning than before and is reaching higher levels of achievement. Of these children, who were usually not up to the standard expected of their grade, 80% were able to close the gap and reach their grade level.

When we discreetly investigated the conditions of one of the families that had been referred to the administration (and this without the family's knowledge) we discovered that living conditions in their home, and in particular in the kitchen, were disastrous. The kitchen was unusable, with rotting cabinets and a broken sink. We were no longer surprised that their children were having so much difficulty at school. It was hard to believe how seven children functioned in those conditions. With the Foundation's support, the family received a new kitchen, which not only caused a physical transformation but also a shift in consciousness and a pleasant feeling in the home. And that's just one story...

Over 280 students in 16 classes will study at the school in the next school year. The parallel track of Rotem students, who learned with us until the current academic year, has greatly increased in size and with our blessings they have moved to another framework.

Looking Ahead To the Coming Year, 5776:

Further to our meeting with Ami Bouganim and Johanna Cohen, we will invest in social services in two areas in the coming year: Half of the amount will continue to be for the assistance of families and the other half will be given for specific educational assistance to children who underwent the complex processes of returning to the faith. We see how returning to the faith leads families to break up and rebuild and these children need assistance during this period. There are dozens of such children in the school.

In the area of excellence we will continue with the bold, unique and original study campaigns.

In the area of development we are very excited about the establishment of **the Matanel Music Room** for use by the school's music project. We will invest heavily in its acoustics so that the children will be able to spend the music hours provided by the music project playing quality instruments in the professionally equipped Matanel Music Room. Since we introduced the music field to the school, we see children who are "finding themselves" in this area and flourishing greatly.