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Mitzpe Ramon Elementary School for Torah and the Environment-2012

Name of program

Mitzpe Ramon Elementary School for Torah and the Environment

Year of activity

2012

Name of the report's writer

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Function of the report's writer

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Status of program

In the summer of 2012 the Mitzpe Ramon Elementary School for Torah and the Environment took over the contract for a large site that is on the school premises and proceeded to convert this site into the school auditorium. Thus, with a generous grant from the Matanel Foundation, this space was renovated and transformed into an auditorium and is currently the main assembly hall for the school as well as an active and vibrant after-school community center.

Main achievements during the last year of activity

The auditorium is used on a daily basis. It functions as the school's main place of assembly

and can hold up to 180 students. It is also used by the students for morning (shacharit) and afternoon (mincha) prayer services. Additionally, the auditorium caters to a variety of after-school activities, social gatherings of all ages and PTA meetings and, once a week, as a training space for university students who are studying education. It also hosts community functions such as post-wedding celebrations (shevabrachot), Shabbat kiddushes and “mothers’ nights”. Moreover, female students also use the auditorium for dancing and singing lessons. Thus, the auditorium has improved the overall functionality of the school, instilled in its student body a sense of pride and strengthened the connection the school has with the surrounding community.

Evaluation

Up until the auditorium was built, the school did not have an assembly hall. Hence, the introduction of a highly functional auditorium has substantially improved its ability to hold large, multi-class scholastic and cultural activities and events both during and after school hours. Moreover, the older members of the student body have taken it upon themselves to help maintain the auditorium, a task that affords them with self-worth, responsibility and feelings of accomplishment. Using the auditorium as its vehicle, the school intends to expand both its educational and social programs and activities.

Others

As a way of further connecting itself to its surrounding community, the school would like to increase the amount of after-school events taking place in the auditorium. Moreover, the school intends to purchase furniture and equipment needed to facilitate the various activities taking place in the auditorium. The school plans to hold a series of student-parent workshops wherein participants can create ornamental fixtures which will be used to decorate the auditorium. Furthermore, the school lacks a proper gymnasium and despite the characteristically hot summers and cold winters of Mitzpe Ramon, until now gym classes have mostly taken place at a different school’s gymnasium. Thus the school intends to use the auditorium as an improvised play-space until a more permanent solution is located.

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