



MATANEL FOUNDATION
ACTIVITY REPORT – Performing Arts and Scholarships at the Mae Boyar High School

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Summary

The Society for the Advancement of Education would like to express its gratitude to the Matanel Foundation for its continued assistance to students at the Mae Boyar High School in Jerusalem. During the past academic year, funds from the Matanel Foundation's donation were used towards upkeep of the auditorium, enabling a wide variety of events to take place there. As in previous years, the funds allocated towards scholarships assisted 20 needy students during 2017-2018. The following report details the work done on the auditorium and some of the events hosted there, as well as information regarding the students who received scholarships.

The Mae Boyar High School

The Mae Boyar High School in Jerusalem, established in 1964, is one of Israel's leading schools, renowned for its emphasis on academic and social excellence. The school is innovative in providing students with broad choices and combinations in their focus subjects, and for its new "octopus" model. The "octopus" comprises Interdisciplinary, research-based study within a flexible environment, both in terms of physical structure and schedule. Thus students are exposed to different perspectives and diverse disciplines, enabling them to develop understanding of complexity, integrated thinking, and critical reflection. Boyar's alumni include prominent individuals in a wide variety of positions in Israeli society.

Achievements – The Auditorium

During the past academic year, the Matanel Foundation's generous donation once again provided for upkeep of the school's multi-purpose auditorium, central to the school's activities for both students and guests. The donation facilitated the following repairs and maintenance:

- Repairs to the wooden stage planks, which were broken and unsafe
- General maintenance of the auditorium, such as electricity work, general repairs, and plumbing
- Maintenance of the air conditioning system which is old and in need of desperate repair



Events at the Auditorium

The Boyar auditorium is a venue for a wide variety of events. During 2017-2018, these included:

Panel with Jerusalem's Mayoral Candidates (September 2018): A month and a half before the municipal elections, a panel with mayoral candidates was held for 11th- and 12th-grade students, and teachers. Five mayoral candidates – Zeev Elkin, Ofer Berkowitz, Yossi Havilio, Moshe Leon and Rachel Azaria – participated in the panel, answering students' questions seriously and comprehensively. The students had prepared for the panel by reading candidates' platforms, researching problematic issues in the city, and formulating questions to ask during the discussion.

Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony (April 2018): Last year, Boyar's Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony focused on youth in the holocaust. It included the screening of a film about the lives of Jewish youth in the diaspora before WWII, readings, communal singing, and more. The ceremony conveyed the clear message that preserving the memory of the Holocaust is the responsibility of today's youth.

Meeting with Members of the Beitar Jerusalem Soccer Team (February 2018): Many of Boyar's social activities and lessons strive to help students understand that, through determination, one can effect significant positive change in society, and that we must use our willpower in this way. This message was greatly strengthened when members of the Beitar Jerusalem soccer team met with students in the Boyar auditorium, devoting their time, energy, and their great influence over the youth to advocate for tolerance and against prejudice. The school's staff is most grateful to the participating players for the most interesting discussion they held with the students.

Meeting with "Black Panther" Reuven Abergel (January 2018): Boyar's 12th-grade students had the rare opportunity of meeting with Reuven Abergel, one of the leaders of the Black Panthers, to speak about social activism, initiating change, and civil involvement. It was a fascinating discussion, perfectly complementing civics lessons that focused on the limits of legitimate protest, and tools for creating social change.

Theater Productions: During the 2017-2018 school year, the 12th-grade students produced four plays, working on them for months, rehearsing, preparing props and backdrops, and designing costumes. They were very proud to present the plays to audiences of family and friends. The plays included: The Egg Defense War, Menashe's Aunt, Riki's Kindergarten, and Black Comedy.

Band Night: Each year, students in Boyar's music track present a performance night for all the school's students, which is the fruit of the year's labor. Each band prepares a number of pieces under the guidance of the music teachers. This year, the bands and the vocal ensemble presented a total of 18 pieces.

Cohort Evenings: Each cohort of the 8th-12th grade students living in the Boyar Residence writes and presents a play, in which the students not only write and act, but also take care of all aspects of production. These evenings are among the year's highlights for residents, and the process that the groups undergo is enabled by the possibility of presenting the plays in the school's auditorium.



Scholarship Assistance

Thanks to the generosity of the Matanel Foundation, 20 needy students from Boyar, who have proven academic progress, received a scholarship of 500 NIS each. The students were chosen by a committee comprising members of the management of the Boyar school, as well as SAE officials. Students are selected considering a combination of need and academic potential. Below are stories of two students who received the scholarship.

Tom Levinsky. When Tom arrived at Boyar, it was clear that he was talented, but that he also had social and learning difficulties. During the past year, the scholarship that Tom received enabled him to go through a significant process of social development at school, and to acquire the skills necessary to meet and make friends, and to work with them on studies.

Academically, Tom succeeded in fulfilling his natural curiosity and thirst for knowledge, and he is constantly working to improve his study skills. Today, Tom's high academic potential can be easily recognized, expressing itself in discussions and lessons, and he continues to work hard in order to succeed and realize his potential, in exams and in general.

If Tom continues to advance at his present rate, as he has since beginning 10th grade last year, he is bound to excel in his studies, and will finish high school equipped with all the necessary tools to succeed in the next stages of his life.

Mika Nandeza. Mika was an 8th-grade student last year. She arrived at Boyar in 7th grade, with significant difficulties in dealing with complex tasks. She experienced great anxiety, which prevented successful learning. The Matanel Foundation's scholarship enabled Mika to settle into the school comfortably and optimally. Through an extended process, which involved educational staff on an ongoing basis, Mika learned and acquired many skills that provided her with confidence and helped her blossom in the school environment socially, personally, and academically. Mika continued to develop her abilities, and we are now reaping the fruit of her progress. Continued support for Mika will enable her to grow even further within the school framework, and to develop herself as a successful student in the future, and to contribute significantly to Israeli society.

Evaluation

Students are evaluated through examinations and scholastic achievement, as well as participation and discussions with the teachers. At Boyar, success is multi-disciplinary, and not exclusively academic. The school emphasizes social responsibility, leadership, and excellence in a wide variety of fields (academics, sports, arts, etc.).

All purchasing of equipment was monitored internally by the Building and Safety inspector, Mr. Itzhak Dahan.

Advancement of the Program

As it has for over 50 years now, Boyar will continue to foster academic, personal, and social excellence amongst its students, producing well rounded graduates equipped to take on important roles in Israeli



society. Upkeep of the auditorium is an important aspect of the school program, enabling exposure to a wide variety of cultural events and inspirational people, and providing the students with a venue in which to present the products of their creativity. The scholarships will continue to assist needy but promising students to realize their potential in all ways, providing them with an opportunity they would not otherwise receive, to become the best students and citizens that they can be.

The Society for Advancement of Education, Jerusalem, and the staff and students of the Mae Boyar High School, would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Matanel Foundation for providing such opportunities to the school's students. *Todah Rabah.*

Financial Report

Performing Arts at Boyar - Auditorium upkeep

Project Expense	Actual (in US\$)
Stage Repairs	\$ 2,364
General Maintenance	\$ 2,187
A/C Maintenance	\$ 5,455
Total Project Expenses	\$ 10,006
Project Income	
Matanel Foundation	\$ 10,000
SAE	\$ 6
Total Project Income	\$ 10,006

Scholarship Assistance

Project Expense	Details	Cost in NIS
Matanel Scholarships	500NIS x 20 students	10,000
Other Scholarships	214 students assisted in total	193,153
Total Project Expenses		203,153
Project Income		
Matanel Foundation		10,000
Marmamet (Ministry of Education)		48,000
SAE		145,153
Total Project Income		203,153



Boyar Students who received Matanel Scholarships (CONFIDENTIAL)

1	Adam Vandemu	8th Grade
2	Avigail Vandemu	8th Grade
3	Hodaya Vandemu	8th Grade
4	Binyamin Nandeza	8th Grade
5	Mika Nandeza	8th Grade
6	Netanel Vorkenach	8th Grade
7	Avraham Jamber	9th Grade
8	Guy Nuvo	9th Grade
9	Kami Kisling	9th Grade
10	Tamesgan Ashta	9th Grade
11	Yasu Maharat	9th Grade
12	Mali Rata	10th Grade
13	Neta Nandeza	10th Grade
14	Tom Levinsky	10th Grade
15	Uri Miles	10th Grade
16	Shlomo Shalev	11th Grade
17	Stav Ben Lulu	11th Grade
18	Hadas Shabtai	12th Grade
19	Helen Mologeta	12th Grade
20	Ron Miles	12th Grade