
Projects in Darca Schools

Presented to The Matanel Foundation

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Thanks to the generous support of the Matanel Foundation students throughout Israel's socio-economic periphery were fortunate to participate in a number of enriching projects. These projects provided students with opportunities to develop English fluency, gain new perspectives on Israeli society and develop leadership, team working and project management skills in a number of different scenarios.

Unfortunately, due to the disruption to school activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic three of our planned projects were not able to go ahead. These were: School Radio Channel, Coexistence Dialogue with the Bedouins of the Negev and Social Innovation.

In place of these three projects Darca's Model UN program expanded with a surge in demand from schools to participate, recognizing the value to students for learning about negotiation, diplomacy and geopolitics in an environment where they would be forced to practice their English.

We thank the Matanel Foundation for your support and are pleased to send you this report about the impact of the projects you supported in the last year.



1. Intergenerational English Lessons

Participating School: Darca Menachem Begin High School, Gedera.

This is our second year running the program which empowers students to out into the community and teach English to retirees. This year's 12th graders have continued where last year's students left off, with 30 retirees now learning English from Darca students. This program is a great way for students to practice their English language skills and develop leadership skills. Every week a different student is selected to as the weekly Principal to make sure the program runs smoothly and deals with any problems for teaching groups.

2. Schools' Newspaper

Participating Schools: Darca Menachem Begin High School, Gedera, Darca Ilan and Asaf Ramon, Gedera.

During the pandemic, our English language newspaper transitioned to a digital format. Students took full advantage of this shift producing written and video content for this monthly publication. A particular highlight was students' coverage of Israel's most recent elections with their own satirical interviews of candidates, with students playing both roles. Other notable content produced included interviews with Darca's own burgeoning musical talent and a literary review. As in-person learning resumes this year, this year's editors are planning to produce a paper copy of the newspaper which will be enclosed with each students' report card which they'll take home to their families.

3. Community Based Learning Project

Participating Schools: Ashkelon Makif Hey, Lehman Dimona, Darca Begin, Darca Yarka, Darca Ramon.

Our Community-Based Learning Project took place in the middle of the lockdown and shifted totally to a virtual format. Darca's own metaverse, a virtual space provided the venue for students' avatars to interact directly. Students from across Israel were, therefore, able to meet ten times over the course of the academic year, although due to the complex situation caused by the pandemic and other pedagogic considerations, different schools took part than originally planned.

4. Model UN Club

Participating Schools: Shitim Darca, Makif Hey Darca Ashkelon, Makif Vav Darca Ashkelon, Darca Druze High School for Science and Leadership — Yarka, Darca Ilan and Assaf Ramon, Gedera, Darca Dalit el Carmel, Achva Darca High School, Dimona, Darca Menahem Begin, Gedera, Rene Cassin Darca, Jerusalem

Darca's Model UN Club is one of Darca's most prolific programs with 10 Darca schools participating rather than the three we originally planned. Each school prepares for the Model UN individually, and we were delighted, that thanks to fortuitous scheduling, we were able to hold the Model UN itself, the program's peak event, in person. We were honored that the First Secretary of the Indian Embassy to Israel and the Cultural Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy to Israel addressed the delegates as keynote speakers. Darca has pioneered the introduction of the Model UN program in Israel. The program is conducted entirely in English for students to improve their mastery of the language. The program introduces geopolitics, diplomacy and negotiation. The Model UN program is supported by a teacher training course so teachers have the highest ability to support and encourage their students.



5. Communication between various populations in Israel who are autistic

Participating School: Maxim Levy Darca, Lod.

Students from Darca Schools went on joint trips with Autistic students. This experience gives Darca students agency and helps them break out the mindset of victimhood that can be pervasive among teenagers living in some areas of Israel's periphery. Darca's students took part in course to learn about autism and to prepare them with challenges and strategies for supporting an Autistic person.

6. Tolerance in Israeli society and knowledge of its streams

Participating Schools: Geon Hayarden Darca High School, Shaked Darca High School, Appleman Darca High School, Daliyat El Carmel High School.

We organized a Beit Midrash, Jewish learning program, with regular meetings throughout the year. The program's highlight was a two-day seminar in Jerusalem which featured speakers from all sides of Israel's religious and political mosaic.

7. Israeli identity and economy

Participating School: Geon Hayarden Darca High School.

12th-grade students visited Jerusalem on a three-day trip to gain a perspective on different parts of Israeli society that they would otherwise not be exposed to. Students visited affluent and poorer neighborhoods and discussed the factors that led to their existence. Students enjoyed a facilitated discussion about the relationships and challenges between Israeli Jews and Arabs.

8. Building of Motor Boats (for student with special needs)

Participating School: Shaked Darca High School.

9th Grade students from the Darca Shaked High School took part in this special project to help fishermen in Northern Israel deal with the problem of migrating pelicans eating their fish stocks. Darca students designed and build remote control boats to protect fish stocks by chasing migrating Pelicans away from fish farms and towards designated feeding areas set up for their long journeys. Students enjoyed the challenge of designing and building a boat, having to overcome the issues of buoyancy and keeping the electronic components dry.



Program Income and Expenditure 2021

Project	Pedagogical Area	School	City	Actual (NIS)	Budgeted (NIS)
Intergenerational English Lessons - English	Languages	Darca Menachem Begin High School	Gedera	4,000	3,500
Schools' Newspaper - English	Languages	Darca Menachem Begin High School, Netivei Noam High School, Darca Ilan and Assaf Ramon High School	Gedera	12,000	12,000
Community Based Learning Project - English	Languages	Geon Hayarden Darca High School; Shaked Darca High School	Emek Hama'ayanot	10,000	10,000
School Radio Channel - English	Languages	Darca Menachem Begin High School	Gedera	Project not implemented	12,000
Creation of Model UN Clubs	Languages	Shitim Darca, Makif Hey Darca, Makif Vav Darca, Darca Druze High School for Science and Leadership-Yarka, Darca Ilan and Assaf Ramon, Darca Dalit el Carmel, Achva Darca High School, Darca Menachem Begin, Rene Cassin Darca	Ashkelon, Gedera, Dimona, Jerusalem, Dalit el Carmel, Bat Yam, Yarka, Arava Tichona	47,000	10,000
Communication between the various populations in Israel with the one on the autism spectrum	Civics	Maxim Levy Darca High School	Lod	6,000	6,000
Coexistence Dialogue with the Bedouins of the Negev	Civics	Maxim Levy Darca High School, Shaked Darca High School, Lehman Darca High School, Bait Va'Gan Darca High School, Darca Sapir High School, Yitzhak Navon Darca High School, Mikveh General High School	Lod, Emek Hama'ayanot, Dimona, Bat Yam, Yerucham, Netivot, Holon	Program not implemented	7,500

Program Income and Expenditure 2021 (continued)

Project	Pedagogical Area	School	City	Actual (NIS)	Budgeted (NIS)
Tolerance in Israeli society and knowledge of its streams	Civics	Geon Hayarden Darca High School, Shaked Darca High School, Appleman Darca High School, Daliyat El Carmel High School	Emek Hama'ayanot, Dimona, Daliyat El-Carmel	15,000	15,000
Israel Identity & Economy	Civics	Geon Hayarden Darca High School	Emek Hama'ayanot	6,000	6,000
Social innovation	Civics	Daliyat El Carmel High School, Darca Druze High School for Science and Leadership, Darca Julis High school	Yarka, Julis, Daliyat El-Carmel	Project not implemented	8,000
Building of Motor Boats (for student with special needs)	Sciences	Shaked Darca High School	Emek Hama'ayanot	10,000	10,000
Income					
Matanel Foundation				100,000	
Darca Schools				10,000	
Total				110,000	100,000

I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of Darca Schools and the students who you have helped this year. Thanks to your support teenagers from underserved communities across Israel have benefited from a range of activities to improve their English fluency, communication and STEM skills. At your convenience, I would be delighted to discuss with you the potential to continue this successful partnership between the Matanel Foundation and Darca Schools.

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