

YOUNG DETECTIVES CLUB

OPENING EVENT

November 19, 2008

WHO IS TO BLAME?

The 130 students, teachers and regional coordinators who arrived at the Israel Center for Excellence through Education's Schusterman Campus found a complete simulated accident scene; hit and run casualties, a painted crosswalk and many clues to the disaster!

The students worked cooperatively to decipher the facts - which car caused the event, the speed of the driver, and how to reconstruct the accident. Using their math skills, they had to measure skid marks and use the "friction coefficient" to figure out speed and trajectory of the car. When all of the "facts" were analyzed, they discussed how it would all be presented in court.



This exciting program, collaboratively presented by the Center for Excellence in cooperation with the Israel Police Force, is an advanced level of the Excellence 2000 Educational Enrichment Program.

As in past years, students learn to apply mathematics and science in crime scene investigation, data encryption and protection, finger printing and other police tools. Traffic accident investigation involves the physics of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Newton's Laws form the basis for understanding evidence. Unlike other types of forensic investigation which take place mainly in the lab (decoding DNA, matching fingerprints, etc.), the bulk of traffic accident investigation takes place in the field.

The still new Young Detectives special program, initiated in 2006, continues to be a high honor and reserved for students that show considerable motivation and excellence in their studies.

After their initial experiment, participants heard from Mr. Moish Berdichev, Director of the Excellence 2000 Program, and Deputy Major General Noam Bigensky, of the Police Department.



Deputy Bigensky told the students that evidence "tells a story," described a previous real investigation in which there were fatalities, and shared his hope that these preventable accidents will diminish with a generation of more "cultured, knowledgeable" drivers.

This year's theme, the investigation and interpretation of the scene of traffic accidents, will help students think twice when they are behind the wheel themselves. Traffic accidents are an important issue on Israel's national agenda. More than 30,000 people have been killed in traffic accidents since the establishment of the country, and many groups have begun actively lobbying the government to do something about declining levels of traffic safety. Reporters from several Israeli radio stations attended the event, intrigued by young people stepping up to do their part in the fight to make our streets safer.

Students, educators and the community will benefit from this year of experiencing the reality of the dangers on the road!

Schools participating in the Young Detectives Club include:

Makif Het School - Beer Sheva

Kfar Ganim Yeshiva, Petach Tikvah

Alliance School, Tel Aviv

Regional High School, Megiddo District

Kiryat Ganim Middle School, Rishon LeZion

Katzir Middle School, Holon

Zeev Middle School, Herzliya

Lady Davis School, Tel Aviv