



Israel Center for Excellence  
through Education  
המרכז הישראלי למצוינות בחינוך

## Exploration Camp Summer 2010



The Israel Center for Excellence through Education  
1 Koltz Street  
Jerusalem, 96408 ISRAEL

## "The Cream of the Crop" Exploration Camp 2010

### **Welcome Campers!**

One hundred and one talented, motivated and thoroughly excited youngsters converged on the Schusterman campus of the Israel Arts and Science Academy (IASA) on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 for a never-to-be-forgotten experience at the Exploration Summer Camp!

The recent 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates from all over Israel spent nine intensive days exploring and discovering new talents in the sciences, the visual arts and music. Selected from among over 250 applicants, the one-of-a-kind camp brings together bright students from Israel's North and South, cities and *kibbutzim*, including secular, religious and Arab students. The campers were busy attending classes, participating in special lectures, going on stimulating field trips and outings, and preparing for the final exhibition and concert to be held on the last day of camp. Campers got a real taste of what the stimulating life is like at the Academy.



Exploration campers visit Gan Yehoshua

### **Energy and Excitement!**

Under Jerusalem's perpetual blue skies campers got a taste of IASA's campus and were able to imagine what it would be like to spend their high school years there. Many of those dreams become reality; one third of our campers are inspired to become IASA students and half of the camp counselors are IASA graduates. The counselors are available to the Exploration campers 24 hours a day, and they are always there to answer questions about life at the Academy. *"The campers have lots of questions"*, reports counselor Lotan. *"They ask what it's like to live in a dormitory far from home, what the day-to-day schedule is like. Most are really interested in studying here."* This year a special focus was directed toward youngsters from marginal and disadvantaged communities, who represented 30% of the camp population.



Discovering in the Science Track

### **Every Year A New Experience**

Living in the IASA dormitories was a new experience for all. Following breakfast in the dining hall and 'morning meeting' Exploration Camp

participants were given an opportunity to spend the next three or four hours in the stimulating concentration of their choice. These included:

- ❖ **Science** - campers in the science track explored:
  - Astrophysics, including dazzling night-time observations of the skies which put their newfound knowledge to practical use.
  - Brain research, including a fascinating trip to the Neurology Department of the Hadassah Ein Karem hospital.
  - Geo-chemistry, a new choice this year. This challenging field allowed campers to get their hands dirty, exploring geological phenomena taking place in the ancient, multi-layered rock face, right on our campus.

- ❖ **Music** - Studies in the music department are divided between investigating music theory and creative music composition. Campers spent considerable time playing instruments: flutes, guitars, pianos, clarinets, violins, xylophones, cellos, and just about every other instrument imaginable. Additional selections included an inventive "listening" class, as well as exploring music history, with an introduction to music from a variety of interesting time periods.



- ❖ **Art** - Students can select from the two main concentrations: sculpture and drawing. Sculpture class participants learned to work with cement blocks and also created imaginative castings of their own faces in plaster and clay. The drawing concentration began with a focus on perspective and went on to explore the mediums of ink and oil, not to mention printing with etched linoleum. The sessions were highlighted by a special and encouraging trip to visit the ceramics and animation exhibits of graduating artists at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design.



### **Busy, Busy, Busy**

The afternoon and evening hours were dedicated to trips off campus, unique interdisciplinary workshops, and social activities. The campers chose from a variety of stimulating workshops, including drama, volleyball, computer games, theatrical make-up, "survivor", and 3-D memory.



## **Nighttime Fun**



Sharing at the Talent Show

After an initial night of ice-breaker games, evenings found the campers alternately at a science lecture, a movie night and a night of amusement-park fun on jumping castles. Of course, no Exploration Camp would be complete without the traditional talent show!

## **Last But Not Least**

On the last day of camp, the students eagerly made their last-minute preparations for their exhibition and concert. In the afternoon, the campers' parents and family members arrived and were in awe of the creative and inspiring works that can be realized in only nine days. The exhibits included works from each of the three disciplines:

- ◆ Campers from the music track entertained their fellow campers, and family members with a concert that featured classic works as well as original pieces.
- ◆ The art room was filled with samples of the students' creations, including pencil sketches, silverpoint (a drawing technique widely used in Renaissance-era manuscripts), paintings and sculptures.
- ◆ The “young scientists” used PowerPoint presentations to reveal their understanding and grasp of their own original projects and experiments.

## **Only Exploration Camp**

There is no substitute for a camp that provides a unique and ingenious opportunity for young people to learn about themselves and the world around them. Surrounded by bright and motivated students who share their curiosity, drive and enthusiasm, campers develop a thirst for knowledge. The Israel Center for Excellence through Education promotes a fun and stimulating summer experience that encourages striving for excellence, and promotes the discovery of the joys of living in unity and respect.

