



**Israel Center for Excellence  
through Education**

המרכז הישראלי למצוינות בחינוך

## The Gildor Family Projects and Inventions

2009/10



Israel Center for Excellence through Education  
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The worldwide technological revolution is dramatically changing and impacting the kind of problems faced by society. Presented with a mission to tackle a real-life dilemma, the Gildor Family Projects and Inventions competition inspires talented middle school students from all over Israel - and now abroad - with a new challenge each year. Students are asked to combine creativity, scientific knowledge, and problem-solving skills. The ongoing support and sponsorship of the Gildor family has enabled the Israel Center for Excellence through Education to dramatically upgrade the educational experience of all participants in this project, students and teachers alike.

Organized by the Israel Center for Excellence through Education, this challenging competition fosters thrilling exploration and excitement among excelling 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students are encouraged to use the invaluable skills they acquired in the program to design and build an original invention to solve a problem faced by society.



### **THE 2009/10 CHALLENGE**

The remarkable challenge for the 2009/10 school year was to design a **Device for Recycling Grey Water for Agricultural Purposes**. Lack of fresh water is a critical problem in Israel and many other parts of the world. "Mekorot", Israel's national water company, and the Israel Water Authority collaborated with the Center for Excellence to guide the schools in understanding the issues and obstacles.



Dozens of schools participated in this inventive competition throughout the school year; notable stages included: brainstorming, research, trial, error, and re-trial. Following a rigorous judging process, eight schools made it to the finals at the Israel Center for Excellence through Education campus in Jerusalem on July 8, 2010. The solutions showed a wide and impressive range of creativity; some projects using physical filtration

processes, and others chemical formulas for replacing ions, etc.

### Israeli Teams Participating in the Final Competition:

- ◆ Alonei Yitzhak Youth Village
- ◆ Ben Gurion Middle School, Herzliya
- ◆ The Baptist School, Nazareth
- ◆ ORT Alon School, Nazareth Elite
- ◆ Ramot Yitzhak Middle School, Neshar
- ◆ ORT Yad Leibowitz, Netanya
- ◆ Albetuf Middle School, Arabeh
- ◆ Kiryat Ganim Middle School, Rishon LeZion



### ***AN INTERNATIONAL FLAIR***

For the past three years, a unique and exciting addition was made to the Gildor competition, sponsored by the Gruss Life Monument Funds in the United States.



The Semi-Finals stage for the American teams took place on June 6<sup>th</sup> in New York. The judges were impressed with all four teams and especially praised the schools for their high level of knowledge regarding the science behind their respective devices.

The extremely high level of the teams' projects did not make the judges' job easy. Though usually only one American school is invited to the Final Stage of the competition in Israel - it was decided that **two** teams had earned this privilege. Both the RTMA/Jewish Educational Center of Elizabeth, NJ and the San Diego Jewish Academy, CA were selected as the winners, and the students could not have been more excited about the opportunity to travel to Israel to participate in the Final Competition.

During their stay in Israel, the students spent a day in Rishon LeZion becoming acquainted with students at the Kiryat Ganim Middle School, who also made it to the final round of the competition. By the time the final competition began, the students felt like old friends; cheering each other on, exchanging email addresses, and chatting between rounds of judging.



Ice Breakers with the students in Rishon LeZion

## ***CELEBRATING SUCCESS***

The final competition ended with a moving and inspiring closing ceremony. After a full and energizing day of set-up, demonstrations, and judging, the hundreds of students, teachers, and family members in attendance filed into the auditorium.

Several of the Gildor competition's organizers spoke about the exemplary level of this year's entries. Mr. Nir Hacoheh, Director General of the Israel Center for Excellence through Education addressed the young inventors and especially thanked Mr. Ephi Gildor on behalf of all the participants, for making the invaluable and inventive competition possible. Ms. Judy Lebovits, Director of Gruss' Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education (CIJE) spoke about the importance of perseverance and her hope that all of the participating students will be able to benefit and grow from the Gildor Project's unique learning experience.

Finally, after great anticipation and an extremely close competition, the winners for the 2009/10 Gildor Projects and Inventions were announced.

**Congratulations to all of the winners!**



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**  
**Kiryat Ganim Middle School,**  
**Rishon LeZion**  
7,000 NIS



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize (in a parallel judging)**  
**San Diego Jewish Academy**  
**San Diego, CA**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (tied)**  
**The Baptist School,**  
**Nazareth**  
5,000 NIS



**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (tied)**  
**Ben Gurion Middle School,**  
**Herzliya**  
5,000 NIS



**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** (in a parallel judging)  
**RTMA of the Jewish Educational Center**  
**Elizabeth, NJ**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**  
**ORT Yad Leibowitz, Netanya**  
**3,000 NIS**

During the ceremony, the 2010/11 Gildor Projects and Inventions topic was announced: **Development of a "Smart" Electric Car**. This topic will involve robotic elements, as the cars will be required to perform several specific tasks. The project will also address issues of alternative energy, with teams receiving a significant bonus for incorporating solar energy. Once the topic was announced, one could see minds already focused on this new challenge; every indication that next year's competition will be as meaningful and inspiring as this one.



\*Funding and prizes for the Israeli teams provided by the Gildor Family Projects and Inventions.

\*Funding and prizes for the American teams provided by the Gruss Life Monument Funds.