



Yahadut Zmaneinu, Moreshet Ha'am

YOZMA

AN ISRAELI JEWISH INITIATIVE IN MODI'IN



Chanukah in the YOZMA-Tali Elementary School, 5770

The central Chanukah motif in Israeli society is that of renewal of our national memories. Memories connect us from years past to the present and for the sake of the future. In the special Chanukah prayers, we recite: "for the miracles and the heroism, the praise and the battles that you performed for our fathers in their time in this season". The sages knew that without consciously connecting ourselves to the past, this present celebrations are meaningless and will slowly become folklore and insignificant.

In our Chanukah programming we integrate the knowledge (cognitive), the experience (emotion) and the activity (action). Without this thread the student receive only a partial picture. To transform an educational program into live consciousness we stimulate all of the many levels in a child's spirit. We involve the mind, the heart and even the hands and feet in the educational process, expanding the journey so it is not just the means to an end.

It is important to also bridge between the experiences at school with those occurring in the student's home. These are not identical, each with its own emphasis, so communication, acknowledgement and mutual respect are key to successfully teaching such complex topics such as the Jewish holidays. We aim to recruit the family as a full partner in the children's academia.

Our school's Chanukah activities include Jewish tradition as well as the Israeli and universal experience. We use many tools including classic storytelling of the olive oil miracle, historical legends and regional tales.

Our first-graders took an emotional and physical "journey" through light and darkness, to the olive harvest, and olive oil production. In art class they are producing candles that will be lit at the school's ceremony.

Our second-grade class activities celebrate the success of the few over the many: they have read books in this genre and acted out scenes during group activities with their parents.

YOZMA - Judaism of Our Time, Heritage of Our People

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PROGRESSIVE
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The theme of our third-grade class is nothing stands in the way of one's intention, and we are studying the story of Helen Keller as inspiration.

The fourth-graders are exploring the idea that it is worthy to live for the sake of our country and are using the story of Joseph Trumpeldor and his comrades as an example. In addition, they will be building a replica of the Tel Hai courtyard in our schoolyard.

"One candle lights the darkness, but all of the darkness cannot extinguish even one candle" (Haim Hazaz)

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