



# NEWSLETTER

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## Israel's Ministry of Education

There is nothing more rewarding for an educator than to have students engaged and looking forward to learning. It is especially rewarding when the teaching methodology used not only broadens the students academic abilities but also broadens their worldly experience. While this is something we wish for all our courses, this is something very hard to achieve.



Israel Connect manages to achieve all these objectives. While students gain a tremendous amount in their use and knowledge of the English language, something critical for the survival of our country, at the same time, students gain perspectives and experience that will help them throughout their life. Despite all the learning

happening, the students look forward to their learning sessions every week. You cannot imagine how exciting this is for any educator!

I am beyond thrilled with the outcome of this program, and I am excited for the future anticipated growth we get to take part in.

Dr. Tziona Levi  
Chief inspector - English Language Education

zoom replaces skype

We will be contacting you for training shortly.

This newsletter is coming to you with particular love from one of our schools that we have randomly selected to highlight.

Harel School is located in Lod, Israel, South-East of Tel-Aviv.



Harel School, Lod.



Hanna Mastorov, Principal.

## A special note from Sarah

As we approach a new year, I am excited by the wonderful opportunities that lie ahead. Israel Connect has come such a long way, and has had such a profound impact on Israel's next generation, simply because of the love and care of individual volunteers.

Israel is a country that was built of the cumulative effort of Jews from all over the world. Every action and every person is meaningful. Together, every person and every action, slowly adds up, piece by piece, to build something truly magnificent. Historically, that is the only way things get done. No general, no matter how great has won a war. No leader no matter how dynamic has changed a country. Only the cumulative effort of many people, working in one direction with love, has ever created change. This past year most students who partook in the Israel Connect program received over a 90% on their English oral exam! No small feat. This is simply a manifestation of the hundreds of individual volunteers, teachers and Ministry staff who spent day after day, week after week, giving of their time. As we look to this coming year, a year filled with even greater growth and the opportunity to affect more lives for the better, I feel so lucky to be working alongside such devoted volunteers, teachers, students, inspectors, and the Ministry of Education. All united in their love and passion to create change and an even better future for our children.

Thank you and I am looking forward to a wonderful year..

### **From one of our Israeli Teachers, Ofira Mor:**

“Last year I got an e-mail from the inspector informing me that there is a special project on Skype with volunteers. I was interested and called Sarah and the rest is history.

Sarah sent us earphones and we were connected to volunteers from Canada, U.S.A and England. Every Thursday our students got into the computer room and started to connect with the excellent volunteers. We got technical help from Galia and the pupils improved a lot in English and learned about different places in Israel. It was a great year and we are going to continue the project next year.

Thank you Sarah, dear volunteers, Galia and to all the people from IsraelConnect. It was a pleasure.”



**From one of our students, Ben Vais:**

“At first, I was quite nervous about attempting to have an English conversation with a stranger from another country. However, the conversation went better than I had thought. Our first conversation was learning about each other, my age and grade at school and about my family. Then I learned about Erik’s life in Canada. I gradually became more fluent in English and learned more English words becoming more comfortable with our English conversations. As we talked, I learned more about my own Israel as my vocabulary increased. I even got to brag to Erik about some of my marks that were all above 85%, with 10 of them, including English, a cool 100%. I am now looking forward to a new school next year where I hope to learn more about Biology and Computer Programming.”



**From one of our volunteers, Erik Haltrecht:**

“As this is my third year, Ben, from Harel School in Lod, is my third student that I have spoken with via our Israel Connect Skype link. We started off the year just after Rosh Hashana, with some rather shaky English (and, of course, my Hebrew is pre-Bar Mitzvah Hebrew (read "non-existent"!)) from some 100 years ago. So, I was in no position to help Ben with a Hebrew rendition of what I was trying to say to him in English. However, the "curriculum" saved our shaky conversation and, somehow, Ben's English improved with every weekly discussion. By the end of the year we had a wonderful 40- or 50-minute candid conversation about anything that came into our minds. Canadian geography vs Israeli geography; Julian calendar vs the Hebrew calendar; Solving quadratic mathematical equations; or even something as mundane as where we went for a holiday and Ben's family's trip to Eilat. All in English with no sub-titles! I learned a bit about life in Israel from a student's perspective and Ben learned more than just English. I think that he actually became a better conversationalist. To be honest, I was quite impressed (and, yes, proud, too) when Ben told me that he got 100% in English! Next year Ben goes on to High school to study Biology and Computer programming, all requiring a good grasp of the English language. “

