



Newsletter

From Israel's ambassador to Canada

Since my arrival in 2016, I have had the great pleasure and privilege of meeting and working with Canadians from across the country, who through both their words and deeds have exhibited a deep love and passion for the people and State of Israel. As a diplomat who has served in postings around the world, I understand the importance of having a strong command of the English language.

As we celebrate Israel's 70th anniversary, we recognize that our story is an inspiring one, but that it is a result of the hard work of Jewish communities, and their friends, in both Israel and the Diaspora, that choose to dedicate their time and energy to building our strong and vibrant country. Thus, it is so heartwarming to see the work and volunteer hours that go into Israel Connect and the great success the program has been for students across Israel.

On behalf of the State of Israel, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your tireless volunteerism and invaluable commitment to Israeli students and their education. Your generosity of spirit has no doubt made a significant impact on our nation's youth.

Sincerely,
Nimrod Barkan



Nimrod Barkan
Israel's ambassador
to Canada



Dr. Tziona Levi
Ministry of
Education, Israel

Ulpanat

Hashomron



Elkana, Israel

100%

OF TEACHERS AND
STUDENTS WOULD
RECOMMEND ISRAEL
CONNECT

95%

OF TEACHERS SAID
STUDENTS' GRADES
IMPROVED
SIGNIFICANTLY

100%

OF TEACHERS AND
STUDENTS SAID
VOLUNTEERS CARED
ABOUT THEIR
ACADEMIC SUCCESS

From Israel's Ministry of Education

As we set out to close our 2017/2018 school year, I am turning to you, a dedicated volunteer of Israel Connect to acknowledge and thank you for your commitment to our students in Israel. I fundamentally believe that the future of any nation strongly depends on the strength of its education system. This has turned teaching into a passion for me, to ensure that every student is given access to be part of our future and story.

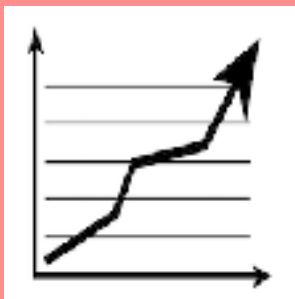


With the introduction of technology, we find ourselves in a very exciting time. Our society is moving and changing at such a rapid pace. As educators, we must realize our duty to ensure that the students, who have been entrusted into our care, are relevant and competitive in tomorrow's world. Yet they need the skills of English, both receptive (reading and listening) and productive skills (writing and speaking). Your contribution as volunteers is vital in providing support necessary for the enhancement of all 4 skills in English which is a foreign language to the majority of the students.

I would like to thank you for the giving of your time and of yourself to help educate future generations, but even more importantly, thank you for being brave enough to pioneer a model that will lead education into the next century. Thank you for helping Israeli students learn English in a meaningful way.

With all my respect,

Dr. Tziona Levi
Chief inspector, English Language Education



This year we have grown from servicing 15 schools to servicing hundreds of students in over 45 schools.

Some Israel Connect students were prepared to write their English exams a year early!

Volunteers meet their students



Talia, Shachar and Shaked got an added bonus in June when Doreen and her husband came to visit our school.

Talia: "The Israel Connect program was amazing! I had a great time with my partner and I improved my English very much in this year."

Shachar: "I really enjoyed talking to Doreen mainly because while I was talking to her I learned a lot. I learned how to talk and also I learned many kinds of interesting subjects we talked about. I recommend that everyone join this program , it's a really interesting and a fun way to learn English!"

Shaked: "The volunteers we talked with were soooo nice. Besides the enjoyable English learning, it was really really nice to talk to them. And it has improved my speaking."

Halle: "I had a great time in Israel Connect. My partner is really nice and I like talking to her. I think my English got a lot better because of this program!"

From the volunteers

Doreen and Matt Skolnick visited Israel and met with the students they connected with all year.

It was a wonderful, memorable, and enlightening experience for us to meet Talia, Shachar and Shaked at their school during our recent visit to Israel a few weeks ago. We spoke weekly and I was thrilled to see their English improve week after week, I always looked forward to their video conferencing calls. Our trip made those calls come alive, and feel so real.

This experience was so worthwhile and inspiring, for both me and my husband, Talia, Shachar, and Shaked. Hopefully, other volunteers, when in Israel, could feel the joy we felt this day. It was a blessing to all of us that we could share our stories together. Thank you Israel Connect for making this happen,

Doreen and Matt Skolnick

From the teachers

This year was Ulpanat Hashomron Elkana's second year working with Israel Connect. The computer room has been fully equipped with personal computers for each participating student, individual headsets, cameras, and an addition this year based on our previous experience, an acoustic ceiling to improve the sound.

Students who wanted to prepare in advance received the weekly article before they had their online meeting whereas others had a sense of adventure as they got their first glance of the texts about sites around the country when they entered the room, learning lot of new vocabulary related to places that were so close to home.

Israel Connect has been made possible by the exceptional, warm, and generous volunteers that "Zoom" with our students weekly. These interactions have turned into meaningful and real life connections between volunteers and students. Students do not only learn an enormous amount of English but they also acquire memorable relationships and learn bountiful lessons for life. Thank you for another successful year !

Tami and Rachelle

