

"Those concerned with days, sow wheat; those concerned with years, plant trees; those concerned with generations, educate people" (Janusz Korczak, 1942)

Launching of the International School Twinning Network

Thursday, 22 December, 26 Kislev

Ramada Hotel, 6 Jerusalem, 3rd Night of Hanukah

(Translation from Hebrew)

Rationale:

To position the school twinning enterprise as a major platform for Israel-Diaspora relations; The conference will feature presentations of programs and projects operating successfully in schools, technological developments that facilitate meaningful interaction, parental and school community involvement, and more. *The conference is designed for teachers involved or interested in cultivating educational ties with Diaspora Jewry.*

Conference goals:

1. To launch the school twinning network
2. To position the network as a major factor in Israel-Diaspora relations
3. To familiarize/mobilize for the project: schools, partnership activists, partner organizations
4. To provide those active in the field with tools and relevant material;
5. To begin develop a shared language
6. To foster networking & peer learning
7. To offer added value to the schools and to those active in the field
8. To recognize the contribution of those active on a day-to-day basis

Conference schedule

9:30 – 10:30 Opening Session::

- From Peoplehood to Partnership, Mr. Natan Sharansky, Chairman of the Executive, Jewish Agency for Israel
- Between Jewish Peoplehood & School Twinning, Mr. Avraham Infeld
- What Is An International School Twinning Network? Andrea Arbel, Director Partnership Unit, Jewish Agency for Israel

10:45 – 13:00 Shared Learning: Workshops

אנדריאה ארבל
מנהלת היחידה לשותפויות

Andrea Arbel
Director of Partnership Unit



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13:15 – 13:45 Live Joint candle-lighting the “Tchiya School in Moscow”, Noam School in Zurich, and Jewish Community in Australia

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Workshops:

- **Early Childhood Curricula:**

An early childhood networking program??? If you're wondering what that might mean, come and see how kindergarten teachers and children can be put into contact with each other; learn about the major programs currently operating in this area. In this workshop we will think about how meaningful and ongoing relationships can be fostered in the early childhood sphere, and we will learn from successful initiatives in the field.

- **Primary School Curricula:**

How can meaningful curricula be incorporated into Diaspora primary schools? The session will generate discussion and dialogue focused on pedagogical/curricular issues, and will introduce participants to leading primary school curricula. Material suited to the primary school age group will be distributed.

- **Post-Primary School Curricula:**

Roundtable discussion to focus on the post-primary age group and on creative ways of developing varied study materials relevant to Israeli and Diaspora schools. The session will offer skills for developing educational materials using film and media. Several programs active in the field will be presented.

- **Beit Midrash for Parents and Children**

How can we enlarge the circles of school dialogue? How can we involve parents in the unique experience that pupils undergo when placed into contact with the partner school? In this workshop participants will gain skills and ideas for how to involve parents in the educational, ideological and experiential processes that an educational bridge generates.

- **Holidays and Festivals as Opportunities for Contact**

In this workshop we will focus on how to develop joint Jewish holiday-themed programs.



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- **School Twinning from the Perspective of the Community Overseas**
(session in English)

A robust partnership begins with getting to know the partner on the other side of the Atlantic. In this session we will provide an overview of Jewish education in the Diaspora, and discuss how meaningful relationships can be cultivated with schools overseas. How can we cope with the difficulties and challenges that arise when working with after-school programs and Sunday schools? During the session we will meet a school principal from Los Angeles, who will give us a first-hand account of how he developed the educational relationship in his school and the creative methods that he employs to involve the community as a whole.

- **Projects Involving Technology**

We will take a close look at the technological means available to us in our school twinning activity. We will see how, by the press of a button, we can generate contact. The workshop will focus on several projects involving technology that are successfully supporting contact between Israeli and Diaspora schools.

- **From Vision to Reality ...**

This session invites you to be partners in the dream – the creation of an international school twinning network. During the session we will think together about what the network vision is, what its goals are, what added value it offers and how we want to view its activity. In cooperation with the Reut Institute.

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