

Negba's Evaluation Committee: Measuring the Progress of Each Child

Twice a year each child at Negba is assessed by Negba's Evaluation Committee to gauge his or her academic progress. The committee- consisting of Negba's senior staff and social workers, and municipal social workers assigned to each child's family- reviews questionnaires completed by each child's teachers, counselors and the children themselves, and then compares the data with previous assessments. The results of the recent committee sessions demonstrate a significant improvement in most of the children's academic achievement in comparison to last year. However the committee did discover a small number of children who did not progress as well as anticipated, and a customized plan has been designed and implemented for each of these children to offer more targeted assistance in the appropriate areas.



Grappling with Violence against Children

Negba's educational staff attended an important in-service training seminar on identifying signs of abuse, offered by the pedagogic institute of "Beit Lynn," a child protection center offering assistance for children and youth who suffer from physical or mental abuse. The workshop equipped Negba's staff with skills to both recognize behavior patterns resulting from abuse, and to deal with traumatic situations, which will no doubt serve them well in their work with Negba's children. Negba also collaborates with the *Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Support Center of the Negev* which assists and supports victims of physical violence, particularly sexual assault. Negba's social workers are in constant touch with the center, and seminars are offered to Negba's children to raise awareness about appropriate physical and verbal behavior among the children.



National Service Volunteer Applicants for 2015-2016 Reach All-Time High at Negba



Hundreds of high school seniors submitted applications to Negba to serve as *Sherut Leumi* (national service) volunteers for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year. Though only ten were selected from the many qualified applicants, the flood of requests is a testament to the quality placement the young women expect to experience at Negba. The ten selectees will join eight others who will return for a second year of national service. Negba is grateful to these committed volunteers who offer so much as role models and as counselors to Negba's children.

Sea of Fun at Negba on Purim

Sharks, fish and other oceanic creatures greeted Negba's children as they entered Negba's Houses of Hope last week. No, they hadn't bypassed Beersheva and arrived at Eilat's Underwater Observatory Marine Park. Negba's national service volunteers surprised the children in celebration of the Purim holiday, and transformed Negba's premises into oceans of fun, literally. "We were wondering how the Houses would be decorated this year," said Liam, 8. "When we opened the doors, everything was blue, like in an aquarium. It was so much fun!"

The festive Purim atmosphere permeated throughout the entire week, including a Purim carnival run by Negba's teens, activities with the Air Force Technical High School students, and joint programs for Negba's parents and children. And the Beersheva firefighters even joined in the fun by distributing Mishloach Manot, allowing the kids to "dress up" in firefighter gear, and providing a demonstration on how to use a fire hose and other equipment.

But the icing on the cake (or should we say Hamentaschen?) was the annual Negba Purim Party and Staff Performance of the Story of Esther, which evoked lots of laughs from Negba's kids. Rumor has it that representatives of the Habima National Theater were in attendance and are attempting to recruit some of Negba's top talents. Purim Sameach!



The smiles of the month:

Or and Liane, 8

*"Helene & Nathan Samuel" House,
Beersheva*

