



Israel Engagement CoP

Thursday, November 29, 2007

יט כסלו תשסח

Israel-US School Partnerships A Case Study from Los Angeles and Tel Aviv

Facilitator: *Marion Gribetz*

Guests: *Deb Engel Kollin* Pressman Academy, Los Angeles, CA

Yoram Amir, Magen School , Maoz Aviv NorthTel Aviv



Conference Call Etiquette

- Please press * 1 to mute your phone, press *1 to unmute to participate
- Please do not put your phone on hold during the call

Goal of the Call

- Overview of Pressman-Magen Program
- Comparison to your own programs
- Sharing/Learning from each other
- Identify topics for ongoing conversation

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Presentation of Magen-Pressman Partnership
- Next Steps for our CoP
 - Including PEJE Assembly April 2008

Meet Our Guests

- **Deb Engel Kollin,
Pressman Academy**



- **Yoram Amir, Magen
School**



What is the LA Jewish Federation's Tel Aviv/Los Angeles Partnership?



The Partnership Mission

- To foster and create relationships and dialogues between the citizens and institutions of Tel Aviv and Los Angeles for the benefit of both communities.
- To continue the tradition of a shared Jewish identity and a shared Jewish destiny.
- To transcend the traditional “charity” model and move towards a Partnership of equals.

Strategic Goals

- **Deepen, expand and intensify relationships between Israeli and American Jews, based on reciprocity and person-to-person connections, leading to greater understanding of each other.**
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- **Deepen Jewish-Israeli identity and a sense of Jewish peoplehood in both communities.**
- **Strengthen interdependent ties between our communities and impact community life.**
- **Strengthen and enrich sponsoring institutions through their involvement with Partnership.**
- **Maintain the partnership as a long-term, evolving process of Jewish life.**
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- **Motivate and mobilize influential people in both communities.**
- **Establish activities that position Tel Aviv and Los Angeles as a model of excellence to other communities.**

18 School Twinnings: Tel Aviv- LA

- Heschel - AD Gordon
- Pressman – Magen
- Hillel-Zeitlin
- Adat Ari El – Nitzanim
- LA Hebrew High - Ironi Daled
- Ner Tamid – Ironi Hey
- Temple Judea – Ironi Yud Daled
- Kadima – Teva
- Brawerman – Usishkin
- VBS - Bloch
- Wilshire Blvd. Temple - Gymnasia
- Milken – Shevach Mofet
- Milken - Lady Davis
- Maimonides – Etzion
- New Jewish Com HS - Ironi Tet
- New Jewish Com HS – Tichon
• Hadash
- TIOH - Zahala

Pressman – Magen

- Part of the TA-LA partnership from the beginning
- Exchanges for 10 years
- Students and Parents
- Life Friendships made
- Two Schools – One Community
- Mentor for Brawerman- Usishkin

Teacher Participation

- Joint Teacher Seminar
 - Yearly 10 day seminar with teachers from Tel-Aviv and Los Angeles
 - During Hannukah vacation
 - Learning, discussing, touring
 - Alternates between Tel-Aviv and Los Angeles
 - Different teachers participate yearly

Classroom Exchanges

1st – 6th Grade Curriculum

- Entire school – Rosh HaShanah greetings
- 1st Grade – My Siddur
- 2nd Grade – My Shabbat
- 3rd Grade – My Hannukiyah
- 4th Grade – Rambam & Tzedakah
- 5th Grade – Family Trees
- 6th Grade –International Book Sharing Project
(*Island on Bird Street*)

Culmination

- **6th grade student and parent exchanges**
- **12 days**
- **Students stay in homes**
- **Parents in hotel or homes**
- **Joint and separate itineraries**

Follow-up Programs

- Lady-Davis - Milken
- 7th-8th Grade Pressman – Yom Hazikaron Program
- Future Plans- 7th -8th grade Israel Action Committee

Tekes B'not Mitzvah in Israel



Choosing Students at Magen

- 3 Stages of Selection Process:
 - Invitation sent to all
 - Application process
 - Decision making and matches

Preparation at Magen

- 6 Mandatory Meetings (outside of school time) (90 minutes)
 - Streams of Judaism – to prepare for the “Conservative” Community of Pressman
 - Preparation for traveling to a foreign country – “What happens when I wake up in the middle of the night...”
 - Meeting with “graduates” of the program, students, teacher and parents.
 - Together with Security representative of the Municipality of Tel Aviv
 - Administrative meeting about flights and other technical details
 - Focus on purpose of delegation visits
- Must attend Friday morning T’fillot

Feedback Strategies

- Diary (during the exchange)
- Reflective meetings
- Questionnaires
- Exchange of feedback

Formal Evaluation

- Federation is using a professional research company – Vital Research to conduct a long-term study of the impact of the program

Finances

- The partnership is subsidized by the Los Angeles Jewish Federation
- \$30,000 for delegation visits
- \$9,000 for administrative costs, split between the two schools
- Private money is raised by Pressman for both Magen and Pressman student scholarships
- Financial difficulty is not a reason why a student would not participate in the program

Challenges

- Financial
- Purpose of visits
- Age of students
- Cultural Change
 - Food; i.e., “Aruchat Eser” vs. snack
 - Supervision
 - Attitudes and behavior

Group Discussion

- Ask clarifying questions
- Any other questions?
- Discuss challenges

What are you taking away from today's call?



Before

During

After

Future CoP Activities

- Next CoP Call: Thursday, January 3, 4 pm Eastern time
- PEJE Assembly, April 6-8, 2008, Boston
- (a chance to meet in person)
- Online discussion:
 - [http:// community.peje.org](http://community.peje.org)

PEJE wishes to thank the sponsors of the Israel Engagement COP:

*Andrea and Charles Bronfman
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