



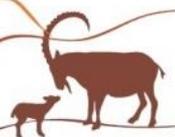
Points about Zin School

- The Zin School is a small and unique school that mostly caters to the local population, including the surrounding communities. The philosophy of Zin School is to meet the students' individual intellectual needs as much as possible and develop the students' ethical, social and educational values. At the heart of this idea stand the ideals of love, faith, respect and education.
- The school strives to provide an education that focuses on the multi-faceted views of the students' personalities, in order to let them develop in their own way. The three main goals are to develop: "as individuals putting themselves into action, as citizens that are involved and caring, and who contribute to society as people with wide knowledge about Israeli culture and human culture in general" (Aloni N. , 1998 'being human'). The school sees itself as a place that educates as well as fosters humanistic, Jewish and universal morals.
- Today the school has over 330 students, the majority of whom live in Midreshet Ben Gurion and as well as the Ramon military base and from nearby farms. The school is run by Ramat Negev Regional Council and follows the council's policies and values.
- The school emphasizes environmental awareness, which is reflected in the activities and projects of the Green Student Council. The biggest project is Environmental Week, which is dedicated to learning about recycling and the local desert surroundings. During that week, teachers and parents do various activities with the students in special workshops. Students also teach other students about environmental subjects during that week.
- In addition, Zin School is one of three schools in the entire country that was purposely constructed in accordance with environmental values. For example, it was built in such a way that the sun's rays are at an angle that allows light and warmth to flow naturally in all the classrooms.





- The schools' unique location encourages many hikes and short trips throughout the year. Winter flash floods are a particularly interesting time to show the students the wonders of nature first hand. We are in constant dialogue and interaction with nature, at all seasons of the year.
- The school's connection to cultural activities is very much felt throughout the year. Each month in the Jewish calendar has special qualities and values associated with it. These values are taught to the students with the program "Key to the Heart" (Maftach HaLev). Every month a different value is emphasized. The students learn these values in class discussions and experiential exercises. This usually begins with a ceremony that opens each month and celebrates the value associated with it. Each class is assigned a month and the students are in charge of the ceremony. In addition, each month ends with the Key to the Heart Ambassadors, when students teach other students and sum up what they have learned.
- The value of giving is emphasized during the Give From the Heart Fair (Yarid mehaLev), in which artistic creations of the children are sold to the local community in order to raise money for Holocaust survivors in the nearby city of Beersheva. During the last two years, the money raised was enough to purchase several computers for the survivors, which allowed them to improve communication with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
- The school prides itself on being a home away from home, on relating to each and every student with warmth, attention, sensitivity and care. In return, the students feel free to turn to the staff with the knowledge that they will get what they need for their intellectual and emotional development, and that each and every member of the staff will see them for who they are.





Other interesting facts about Zin School:

There is a petting zoo in which students take responsibility for the animals' care, as well as learn about them.

There is garden in which the pupils plant vegetables, flowers and herbs. This gives them an opportunity to learn and discover agriculture and vegetation unique to our desert climate.

There is the Educational Greenhouse, where the students have the opportunity to perform agricultural experiments. The greenhouse is in association with Ben Gurion University.

Independent learning is encouraged with the computer program "A Password for Every Student" (Seisma leKol Talmid), in which students can learn in light of the 21st century.

Outdoor learning is an integral part of the Zin's education program.

Students have the opportunity to reach significant levels of learning during the many hikes and outdoor activities that take place here.

Zin School's pedagogic conceptualization is based on differential teaching that takes into consideration different learning styles, different kinds of intelligence and students' various levels and abilities. We strive to integrate intellectual learning with emotional and cognitive functions.

The Main Building: The principal's office, the secretary's office and the teachers' room.

