

## Report on 2021 Brincat IASA Summer Camp July, 2021

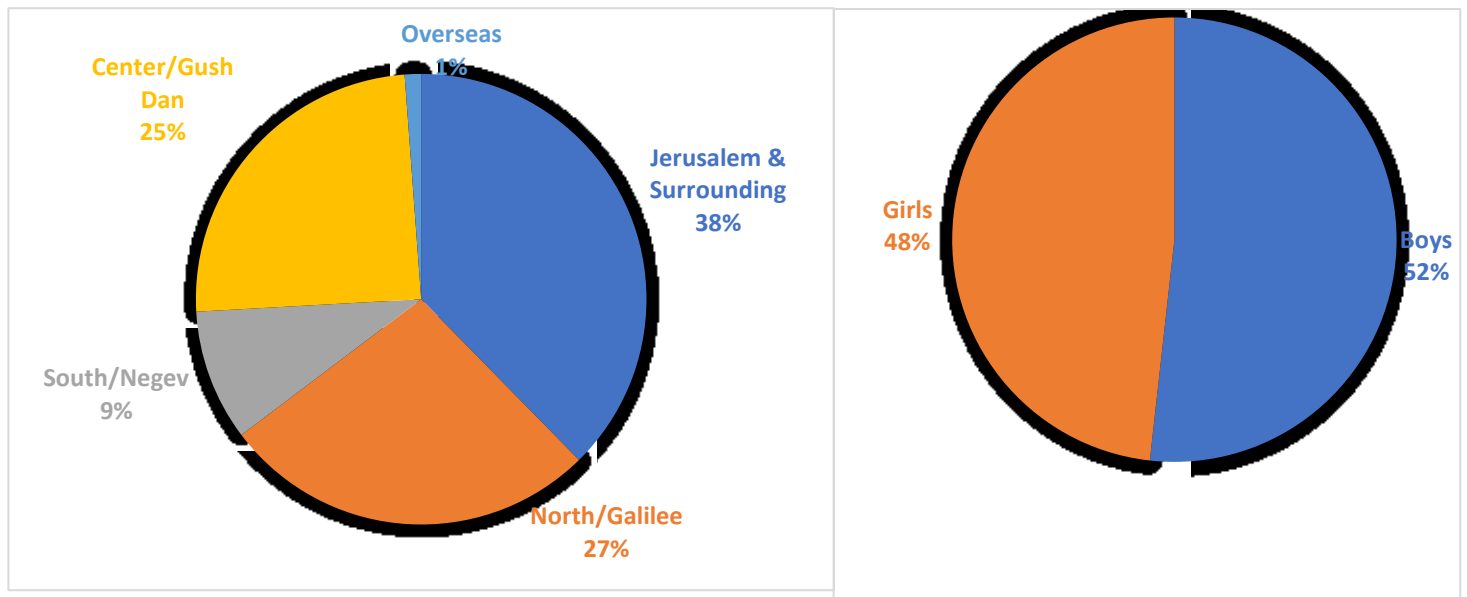


*Though the masks made it clear that we were not yet done with COVID-19, it was as if the pandemic was but a distant memory in every other way.*

On Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 85 boys and girls from all over the country concluded the 8<sup>th</sup> grade school year by spending a week at IASA's Brincat Summer Camp. The best and brightest of their schools and communities, they came from a diverse mix of regions and backgrounds, from the Galilee to the Negev (*see Table 1 below*), including religious and secular, Jews and Arabs. A student with special-needs was also among the participants.

Table 1: Participants, by Region

Participants, by Gender



**Brincat Camp** offers four educational streams: Music, Art, Science and Humanities, providing campers the opportunity delve deeply into their field of interest – for some, this is their first high-level, hands-on experience that are unique to IASA’s programs.



*As in previous years*, camp faculty was made up of IASA's renowned teaching staff alongside teachers from the Excellence Educators Institute that operates IASA's nationwide STEM teacher training programs. The opportunity for these bright young people to learn from educators who are also professionals in their fields is one of the major draws to the Brincat camp, attracting students from all over Israel.

**Day one** kicked-off with campers arriving at 10am. They were introduced to Brincat Camp’s Director, Ofer Zaguri and staff. Following, was an open session for students and staff to meet and mingle freely.

Campers then separated by discipline for the afternoon, exploring new ways to “learn”. After reuniting for dinner, a special teambuilding activity was held in IASA’s gym. Students had to collaborate on complex challenges that could only be solved through coordination and teamwork.



**Day two** was fully dedicated to working within disciplines:

- **Music** students studied with composer and IASA–HS Music Department Head, Yisrael Sharon, taking part in classes on performance, theory, ear training/hearing development, music history, and composition.
- **Art** students were given access to IASA’s studio workshops, where they had the opportunity explore a wide variety of media, from brush-and-ink to

lithography and block-printing to sculpture and multimedia. In addition to specialized printing, drawing and sculpture workshops, students learned and researched various topics related to the history of art.



- Science** students alternated between Computer Science (part of an emerging new major at IASA) and Geo-Chemistry. Here, students learned about the elements that make up the earth, how the seas and continents were formed from them, and how they continue to change even today. The learning took place through experiments in our laboratory where they studied the composition of rocks and soils, and learned about the processes that led to their creation. Computer Science classes were designed to introduce students to C # programming. Students were taught the basic tools of the language and reached a higher level allowing them to create and program a game, including creating graphic applications.
- Humanities** students took part in classes in history, literature, and culture. The wide variety of texts used were all related to fantasy literature; beyond discussing these, students were assisted in producing an actual booklet created from their own writings (from critical analysis to fiction) in the genre. (At the close of the camp, all participants received a copy to take home and enjoy.)



Days three and four were again centered around work within disciplines until mid-afternoon, after which campers were taken on field trips: first to Jerusalem's Biblical Zoo and Israel Museum on Tuesday and the botanical gardens and water park in Tel Aviv's Ganei Yehoshua Park on Wednesday.



Upon returning to IASA's campus, students headed to dinner both nights, followed by social activities in the evenings.

Day five featured a final full day with students working within their individual disciplines. Each track concluded with the production of a final booklet showcasing aspects of their work over the week. For two of the tracks, these were integrated into wider visibility events, while the Music students concluded their week with a final recital, Art students arranged their linotype, sculpture and lithographic works as part of a group exhibition, which all students helped organize. The exhibition was followed by a group photo session and later in the evening, the camp's organizers surprised the campers with a party, replete with giant inflatables—giving them several hours to just relax and have fun participating in an event that lasted

through the evening. Brincat Camp ended on Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> with a farewell event in the morning, allowing kids to say goodbye to one another, after which they packed up, and headed for home.



From their own testimonials—and those of their parents—it is clear that what they took home was an experience that will stay with them for many years to come.

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## Some Testimonials

### *From the Kids themselves...*

“Camp was really interesting and a fun atmosphere. I really had fun and I met a ton of new friends and learned really interesting things. The counselors were really nice and considerate. It was really great.”

“It was really an amazing experience, I really had fun ♡ Thanks so much for giving me this [opportunity] to really enjoy the learning and also to meet such amazing friends.”

“It was amazing. The opportunity to meet people who think like me, to participate in classes with amazing teachers and experience learning in the best way possible is so special, I really had such a good time. Thank you for the experience.”

“Amazing fun, I will never forget.”

Camp was amazing!! I didn't think I would have a good time and I enjoyed it more than I ever imagined. The kids were amazing, so were the counselors and the staff. It really went beyond anything I would have expected. [...] Thanks for everything, I'm going to miss everybody and have a ton of memories that I'm going to take with me ♡ ♡

"Best camp ever."

*... and from their Parents*

"It was responsible, well-executed and left us wanting more!"  
It's clear you're professionals, and your hearts are in the right place. Waiting for the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Camps next year!"

"You guys are the best—We could hear [our son]'s smile over the phone 😊 and he doesn't stop talking about everything that happened. Thanks so much."

"Our girl comes back in tears. 'What happened, did you miss us?' 'No, I'm crying because it's over!' Well, I think that says it all 😊 Thanks Ofer—and the whole team!"

"[Our daughter] came back elated from the camp. Showed us the amazing things they made over the past week. Thanks so much for the learning experience, the connection, and all the dotting that you, Ofer, Gali and the rest of the team poured on the kids."

"Now that we've heard all about all the amazing experiences, I just wanted to thank you personally for the amazing and empowering experience. [My son] says he learned so much about himself, and music. He's really considering joining [enrolling in IASA] in the future. Thank you for everything."





The Brincat IASA Summer Camp 2021's Director, staff and campers kindly express their deep gratitude to the entire

## **Brincat Family**

for allowing youngsters to participate in this life-changing educational experience!

***THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE !!!***