

THE BRINCAT CAMP

AT THE ISRAEL ARTS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY - SUMMER 2019

JUNE 24 – JULY 2, 2019

This summer **Brincat Camp** was the place to be for young teens who enjoy learning and sharing new ideas and interests with other like-minded teens. With a national reputation for offering intellectual challenge and youth empowerment within a fun filled framework of social activity and esteem building programs, 2019 was yet another success. Eighty-nine 8th grade boys and girls from all over Israel participated in this year's summer camp and enjoyed two weeks of intense learning, camaraderie, and other unique experiences.



From the time the **Brincat Camp** moved from the Weizmann Institute to IASA in 1990, opportunities for continued learning have been offered to Israel's brightest middle school students. Each student can select his or her field of interest from the following four tracks: Music, Science, Visual Arts, or the Humanities. Each offers a “total immersion” for the duration of their camp participation. This summer enrichment is so enticing, not only to the campers, but also to many of IASA’s faculty who choose to return to the school during their summer vacation, in order to teach these amazing youngsters. The campers, in turn, benefit from learning from some of Israel’s top educators.

This year 31 campers chose the science track, while 26 opted for visual arts, 15 for music, and 17 for the humanities. The Music track experienced the largest jump in registration – 50% more than last year’s registration in the Music track. We were excited to welcome back 22 campers who were eager for more time at IASA after their experience last year. More than half the campers came from outside of Jerusalem to participate in the unique Brincat Camp experience.

The Science Track attracts teens who are eager to learn and discover the world of science. This is not just an academic exercise in learning what is already known – but it is the action of exploration and discovery. They learn to become “science detectives” – by putting into action the fundamentals of scientific investigation. IASA Science educators – who are experts in their own fields – guide the youngsters through the process of scientific investigation and allow them to truly become engaged in the process. At their disposal are top-notch laboratories, software and technology.



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A passion for art characterizes the teens who participate in the **Visual Arts Track**. Often, these are the youngsters who think “differently” and do not perform as well in the “normative” academic studies. Brincat Camp offers them the freedom to explore their ideas in their own way, providing them with professional grade materials and creative art studios. Additionally, our teachers are top Israeli artists – who are also adept at the art of educating youngsters in the field of visual arts. From conception to

implementation, these campers not only enjoy using their incredible imagination, they also produce fine works of art which, at the end of the camp session, are put on display in IASA studios for viewing by family and friends.

Music Track – Because of the doubling in size, more opportunities were available. Many of the participants live in the periphery where access to quality musical instruction is limited or non-existent. This track often is the gateway for these youngsters for serious musical study. Some of Israel’s top composers and musical performers offer lessons and experiential learning to the Brincat campers. Participation in the **Music Track** often encourages the youngsters to pursue musical studies in high school, which is the next step up in the pursuit of a life rich with music. Music theory, musicology, playing new instruments, and composition all play a role in their learning. At the end of the camp session a concert is performed for the enjoyment of the campers, family, and friends.



Humanities, which is the study of cultures and society, offers each Brincat camper in this track, a window into history and worlds which are different from their own. They delve into various works of literature, learn the history behind the literature and try to understand the cultural norms which produced or are described in such literature. Comparing those to their own lives helps them develop new perspectives and opens them up to “new and different” cultures. Much of this leads to philosophical study, discussion, discovery and reflection. The educators in the **Humanities Track** are among some of Israel’s finest. Best of all, campers are encouraged to

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write their own original literature, which are then shared with their peers. Much of this engagement increases student's analytical skills and self-confidence.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Every year Brincat Campers enjoy various special activities and field trips and this year was no exception. A guided tour of the Israel Museum's Youth Department was a highlight this year. There, they discovered a unique and magical place, where artistic and cultural dialogue and endeavor, inspired by the original works housed in the Museum, took place. A visit to the Zoo where they enjoyed traipsing about, viewing animals of all kinds, provided an afternoon of exercise and entertainment.



Brincat campers also had the opportunity to participate in various workshops – such as volleyball, drama, and art. Teambuilding, storytelling, self-expression, and self-esteem are the “byproducts” of these workshops and the teens thoroughly enjoy all of them.



Social activities are equally important at Brincat Camp. Campers enjoyed various social events, organized by the instructors, such as a team building evening, playing in inflatable environments, a dance party, and more. These youth, who may be marginalized due to their strong intellectual capabilities, are drawn out of their shells, their shyness dispelled, and within the framework of this group setting, bonds between the teens are formed, helping to build community.

BRINCAT CAMP STAFF

Camper's and staff alike have benefitted from the outstanding leadership of Ofer Zaguri, now in his 16th year of directing **Brincat Camp**. Brincat's staff bring with them not only their high academic credentials but also their dedication to nurturing excellence among the campers themselves. This is what makes **Brincat Camp** so special. The camp counselors, too, bring their own mark of excellence to **Brincat Camp** in creating a fun and exciting camp experience.

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THE FINAL EXHIBITION

At the end of the camp session campers have the opportunity to showcase their work – through the Grand Final Exhibition and Concert – in which all campers, staff, counselors, and family and friends participate. This is their moment to shine and to show off what they can accomplish. It is at this moment that many parents are impressed enough with the results to express this to the camp staff. It is our fervent hope and desire that our campers will carry with them the new skills, and newly discovered self-confidence into the coming school year and further on into the future.



THANK YOU!

It is with profound gratitude that we thank

THE BRINCAT FAMILY

for being part of this incredible experience. Your support provides magical opportunities for young people from all over Israel – of various cultural and religious backgrounds – to actualize their own potential. They are able to meet their peers and to form friendships based on shared interests and passions.

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The Parents Speak:

"Ofer, A big THANK YOU for a week of so much fun (our daughter did not wish to speak with us on the phone – an excellent sign!), this was a quality investment for her.

It is a great pleasure for such a possibility to be available for her. Your hard work is evident in the photos, as well as in Noam's stories.

Greatly appreciated,

The Stavi Family (Noam's parents)"

"Thank you very much for your organization of the camp and the responsibility for everything that goes on at Brincat. Tamar returned home much happier than we had seen her in a long time. She created social connections and enjoyed both the educational and social content which was offered.

The first thing she announced upon her return was that she would like to go again next year and the year after that. Can you please update us when registration for next year's camp session is opened?

Thank you,

Ella and Avraham Halo"

"Dear Ofer, Thanks for a wonderful week. Daniella is back full of experience and confidence. She wants to return again next year! It seems that this week was varied and well adapted to the campers.

Well done,

Inbal ben Gal"