



## “SCIENTIFIC OFANIM”

### PROGRAM REPORT 2013

#### INTRODUCTION

The Scientific Ofanim program took place, as in previous years, in - two locations - in laboratories located at Technion's Youth Center and in the “Ofanim Bus” mobile laboratory.

There continued to be 102 participants from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades (11 and 12 years of age) who came from schools located in two different cities.

#### SEMESTERS

The first semester began in October 2012.

Every Sunday, 53 participants from *Tahkemoni* and *Reut* Schools (located in Tiberias) commuted to the Technion. They were accompanied by a chaperone whose task was to supervise the students during their commute and their activities. Students were divided into 3 groups and studied in the Youth Center laboratories. An additional 49 participants from *Eshkol*, *Gordon* and *Al Manara* Schools (located in Akko) studied in the Ofanim Bus.

The second semester began in February 2013 when all participants exchanged locations: the students from Akko began commuting to the Technion and those from Tiberias studied in the Ofanim Bus.

Altogether thirteen meetings took place in the Youth Center laboratories. These meetings provided an introduction to the world of science and engineering. Each meeting was two academic hours (100 minutes) and was based on a “fun” experimental activity.

Students were divided into small groups and were supervised by our skilled instruction team, made up of selected Technion students from different majors. Subjects and concepts studied during these activities were taken from the students' everyday life and enriched them beyond their schools' pedagogical program.

Thirteen meetings also took place in the Ofanim Bus. These meetings provided an introduction to the world of robotics. Students were again supervised by our skilled instruction team made up of selective Technion students from different majors who not only instructed the students but also maintained the equipment, accessorized the bus correctly, and planned the curriculum of the course.

## PARENTAL MEETINGS

At the end of each semester, a meeting was held with the students' parents.



This meeting included a short introduction about the Technion and presented the Technion Youth Center activities. After the meeting, the parents were invited to a lecture that presented chemistry demonstrations. At the end of the lecture the parents joined the students in the laboratories to conduct an experiment using all the knowledge the students had accumulated up to that point.

## ASSESSMENT

There is very little absenteeism and the students come for the whole year with a journey of one hour each way. This is an indicator in itself of the success of the program. Furthermore the client, the Ofanim Association requests an extension to the program on an annual basis (see below).

At the end of all activities each student is asked to complete an assessment. The assessment contains twenty questions to which the students are asked to respond through allocating a rating of between 1 to 5, five indicating the most satisfaction. An analysis of the questionnaires returned indicated an average rating of 4.2.



The comments received also rated the activities as interesting and enjoyable and indicate a high level of satisfaction.

### **THE FUTURE**

Due to the success of the program, the Ofanim Association has again requested that the Technion Youth Center expand its activity.

The Technion Youth Center appreciates its success in the program. and would like to expand its activity next term.