

Project Week 2020

Israel Arts and Science Academy

January 29, 2020 - February 9, 2020

Project Week at IASA showcases perfectly what makes IASA a unique learning environment. It is the highlight of the academic year. All classes are put on hold, allowing students to take responsibility for their own education and develop naturally into leaders and thinkers. We provide the opportunities and learning tools, they add their enthusiasm and creativity. A wide variety of potential research projects are presented to the students. Students may also apply for approval of their own self-designed project. University professors, researchers, alumni and industry executives are among the large array of mentors made available for each student. To complement this independent learning process, students travel from our campus on field trips, special lectures, and creative activities that all become part of this outstanding learning experience. This unique activity provides the students with unparalleled opportunities.

Here are some highlights of this enriching and exciting experience.

Art Students

Animator Daniela Kupler gave an interactive opening lecture to the entire art department, offering insight into her international productions that examine the complexity of Jewish and Israeli identity. She sparked enthusiastic engagement among IASA's diverse group of students.

The 10th and 11th grade Art students toured the **Israel Museum**, including learning to use the Museum Library as a source for art history research.



10th-grade students bridged the gap between art and science during an alternative photography workshop using emulsions. The students engaged in unusual projects and the results were fantastic!



The 12th grade students enjoyed three important art exhibitions in Jerusalem:

- **The Drawing Biennale at the Jerusalem Artists' House:** Senior IASA students joined the ranks of professional Israeli artists at the Jerusalem Artists' House, exploring the wide range of expression through drawing.
- **Photopoetics:** Students encountered the intersection of photography, video, art, and poetry at the Naggar School of Art and Society in the Musrara neighborhood, a focal point of Jerusalem's art culture.
- **Exhibit of work by Chen Marish:** Students traveled to Beit Ticho, former home of the well-known artist Anna Ticho, to see the work of a contemporary Israeli artist giving local interpretation to modernist expressionism.



Thanks to Project Week's pause from regular classes, the 12th grade students enjoyed long hours to prepare their own artwork in anticipation of the end-of-year exhibit, when they will be critiqued by prominent guest artists.

In addition to all the hands-on activity, they also made time for a trip to the Hebrew University Library to conduct research for their final research thesis.

Biology Students

Israel is known for leading global agriculture research and innovations. The **Volcani Agricultural Research Organization**, is one of Israel's prime research centers. IASA's biology students experienced firsthand, some of Israel's fascinating cutting-edge agricultural research. As a result of Israeli research, cows in Israel are known to produce almost double the amount of milk per-cow, than anywhere else in the world. Dr. Uzi Moalem demonstrated how his team gathers long-term information on cows, in order to study and improve efficient milk yield while taking economics and viability into account and maintaining the Ministry of Health regulations. Dr. Guy Tamir showed how Israeli agronomists have managed to grow crops in Israel that are native to very different climates. Mr. Zachariah Tanami explained strawberry hybridization and disease resistance—and everyone had a delicious taste!



Students interested in conservation loved the **Israel Plant Seed Bank**, where Dr. Ofer Cohen showed them how scientists collect, treat, assess, and preserve indigenous Israeli seeds. They then moved on to the **Ariel Sharon Park** to learn how a waste dump was transformed into a public green space. Students came away empowered with the will to find practical solutions to the social-environmental issues they care about.

Chemistry Students

This year's 11th and 12th grade tours introduced these future industry leaders to high-tech companies developing chemistry-based technologies.

At **Sol-Gel**, a company that researches treatments for skin diseases, students toured research labs currently developing cutting-edge technology to encapsulate medication in tiny glass spheres.



Researchers at **Landa-Labs** introduced IASA students to the growing field of nanotechnology. They visited the production hall and observed use of innovative nanoscale ink.

10th grade students also focused in on the details as they toured the **Weizmann Institute**, where they enjoyed a laboratory activity on nanoparticles, and learned to work with an electron microscope.

Back at IASA, the 11th grade students worked intensively in the school laboratories, making big advances in their independent research projects.

Proving that chemistry is relevant to everyone, the 12th grade students designed and operated a chemical "escape room" which contained creative puzzles and mysteries for the whole school to have fun solving.



Humanities Students

In central Tel Aviv, students participated in a "**Learning Walk**," a learning process used to gain deeper understanding of a geographic area. Groups of 4 students received a map and walked independently within defined boundaries. Using their smartphones, each group researched and documented what they observed and presented their new knowledge to their classmates. The day ended with a visit to the **Tel Aviv Museum of Art**.

Students expanded their definition of literature at a **Poetry Slam workshop** with award-winning Spoken Word artist Zvia Margalio, a visual image workshop for texts with designer Dov Abramson, and a conversation with poet-composer Ronnie Ish-Ren about the connection between music and texts.



Tying modern Israeli food culture into the history of the Middle East, **food writer Ronit Vered** talked with students about the history of hummus and tahini. The day ended in the kitchen, preparing hummus from a medieval recipe. They shared their culinary success with the rest of the school at the annual "White Night", an all-night learning event.

In anticipation of their trip to Prague, 12th grade students met with a representative of the **Czech Embassy in Israel**, who spoke about the relations between the countries. They also read a novel by renowned 20th-century Czech author **Bohumil Hrabal**.

Latin students stepped into a linguistic time machine at the Israel Museum, putting their translation skills to the test on a Latin Inscription Decoding Tour led by Dr. Avner Hecker. Others flexed their language muscles at a Philosophical Writing Workshop in English.

Back in their native Hebrew, students enjoyed a performance of the Khan Theater's production of "**A Tale of Love and Darkness**," a play based on Amos Oz's autobiographical novel.

Physics Students

The 11th grade physics class toured the **Soreq Nuclear Research Center**. They learned about the nuclear fission process and the impact of the space environment on electronic materials and components. They also visited the **National Center for Advanced Photonics**, where they met some of Israel's finest technical and scientific researchers in the field of fiber optics and laser semiconductors.

The 12th grade physics class visited the **Tel Aviv Science Museum's** inflatable planetarium, as well as the Da Vinci exhibit to solve puzzles and learn about unique optics phenomena. The planetarium guide was blown away by their in-depth knowledge of astrophysics.

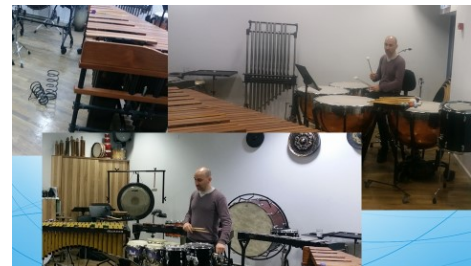
Music Students



At the **Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance**, IASA music students met with prominent Israeli composers Bette Olivero, Chaim Fremont and Yinam Lief. They listened to a concert by the Jazz Department composers at the Interdisciplinary Academy. IASA's music program focuses on classical training, so Project Week offers a wonderful opportunity for diversification.

The **Tremolo Percussion Center's** director Tomer Yariv demonstrated an astounding range of percussion instruments, discussing their technical specifications and opening the students' ears to new musical insights.

The students participated in songwriting and film writing workshops, as well as a master class led by 85-year-old pianist Jonathan Zack, who is one of the most important musicians in Israel.



Encounters with active musicians helps students envision taking the step from classroom training to professional performance.

This report is a snapshot of the unique and exciting week (10 days), which also included activities for the entire school body. Prominent educators, high tech leaders and alumni provided lectures and demonstrations. Social and innovative activities were also held during Project Week, adding to the students' enjoyment. Project Week began in the first year of IASA, in 1990. It has continued to be refined and developed over these years by the students, faculty and school administration and is a unique educational experience.