

High Schools

Harishonim, Herzlia

Hayovel, Herzliya

Harishonim Harishonim High School, Herzliya

Peace Network — Youth, the Internet, and Coexistence

Ora Shnabel

Young people, the future leaders and world citizens, can make a difference. In this project, they use the Internet to break down barriers between different cultures, and pave the way to coexistence.

Peace Network is an educational project, which combines the use of the Internet with conflict resolution strategies. Students begin their relationship by exchanging letters of introduction; they proceed with intercultural surveys on topics like manners and politeness, the generation gap, body-language and non-verbal communication. They meet face to face, study the same literary pieces with a message of tolerance, discuss topical matters, learn conflict resolution strategies and at the end of the process, hold an Internet relay chat on a real conflict, trying to come up with creative solutions.

Since 1997, Jewish students have worked with Israeli Arabs from Tarshicha and other places, and with Palestinians from Beth-Lehem, from The Hope Flowers



School. Last year two Junior High Schools, a Jewish and a Druze, from Herzliya and Abu-Snan started to cooperate. They are continuing the project this year. The Druze school won a special prize from the Israeli Teachers' Organization for participating in the project. By doing so they promote cooperation and coexistence.

Students active in the project also participate once a year in The International Middle Eastern United Nations Conference, which is organized by the American International School in Kfar Shmaryahu. The conference helps students develop deeper understanding concerning our problems in the Middle East and worldwide.

The vision is to spread the net and build a chain of schools for peace and democracy in the Middle East. By getting acquainted with other cultures, barriers and prejudices will disappear, and by learning conflict resolution strategies students will be able to resolve conflicts in a creative way.

The website, which will appear in English, Hebrew and Arabic, will reflect the work done in the field, and will be so sophisticated and creative that politicians will visit it from time to time to get ideas.

Oshnabel@netvision.net.il

[Come.to/harishonim](http://www.geocities.com/reshetshalom/)

<http://www.geocities.com/reshetshalom/>

<http://www4.diburim.co.il/cgi-bin/forumsdb/intraforum.cgi?forum=5452>

Hayovel High School, Herzliya

Averil Shulman

10th, 11th and 12th grade classes and ten teachers are involved in these projects.

1. **Homeward Bound** — the school is involved in the struggle to bring home the missing soldiers and/or the bodies of those killed, to their families for burial in Israel. In early December, in connection with **Human Rights Day**, pupils write letters to the International Red Cross, to Kofi Annan, to the Prime Minister of Israel, to the Secretary of State of the USA, to the Council of the European Union, and the European Parliament.

2. We have ongoing **e-mail exchanges and visits** with Nezirot Arab School in Haifa. The main theme is: Rights of the Child.

3. Another ongoing project involves **exchange visits** with Amal School, Nazareth, a Druze school.

Community elders accompanied their last visit to Hayovel.

4. The school is participating in an ongoing three-year **River/Water Project**, organized by Connecticut University. A biotechnology class is cooperating with an Arab school in Jaffa. Hayovel School won first prize this year.

5. New project. The entire school is taking part in a **Water Conservation Project (Won't Waste Water)** with students responsible for saving water.

6. This year the school has again joined **SCHOOLS ONLINE**, and the 11th grade microbiology class has paired with Byron Arab High School in Northern Galilee. The project is entitled **A Study of Water Pollution and Human Ecology in Israel**. The teachers have

met at a preparatory workshop and the first meeting for all is scheduled for January 15, 2002. The pupils interact via e-mail and meet three times on organized field trips. The teacher in charge is Dr. Ruth Lenz. The aim is to continue building an academic bridge between Jewish and Arab teenagers through science and high tech. We believe that the application of science and technology through collaboration and working together will help replace prejudice with open-mindedness and tolerance on both sides.

7. Four students participated in the **Model United Nations Assembly** at the American School. After the September 11 tragedy in the US they visited the school and presented a wreath in memoriam. They wrote the following:

On behalf of the principal, the faculty and the students of Hayovel High School, we wish to express our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy at this time of national tragedy for all Americans. We were shocked and dismayed at the sights and sounds of what happened, and can only imagine your own state of mind. Although words cannot possibly convey the depths of the disaster, all of us in Israel embrace you and add our best wishes for a speedy recovery to those who have been injured, and our prayers for the victims and their families.

You, the students and faculty of AIS, who are our neighbors and share our fate in this land, have been



experiencing the uncertainty and duress of life in Israel in these turbulent times alongside us. You probably understand better than anyone in America, how deep and pernicious are the roots of the evil that struck there on Tuesday. Now, more than ever before, our peoples stand together close at heart.

But, despite the difficulty and the gloom, we must always have hope, and we wish to convey some of ours with the following biblical verse intended for all peoples of the world, all those created in the divine image.

Hayovel students are participating in another **Model United Nations Assembly** this year.

8. Bridging the gap between high school pupils and people living in **golden age homes**, a new project has been initiated, and meetings, debates and activities are planned at Beit Protea (in English) and a municipal golden age home (in Hebrew).
9. In the summer, pupils participated in a joining **CISV-ASPnet international meeting** in Israel.
10. Also in the summer, a group of pupils took part in a **Sport for a Culture of Peace** gathering in France.
11. The school maintains ongoing **student exchanges** with Germany (Norwalde and Sachsen Anhalt).
12. The organization "**Pirhei Refua**", (**Flowers of Healing**) have approached the school to send biology pupils to volunteer to work in India in the summer. They will first undergo a preparation course in first aid.
13. Two teachers and their pupils have agreed to take part in **Bridges for Human Rights**, an organization based in the Czech Republic. Hayovel pupils will be paired with those in another country to exchange information, about their needs and wishes, and to discuss school materials and subjects taught.