

29 March 2015

To whom it may concern.

My name is Janna Okorokov. I am an English teacher in A.D. Gordon elementary school in Givatayim, Israel. This year our 4 grade students learned to dance. They took part in the "Dancing classroom" program with a wonderful dance teacher Avichai. I was lucky to attend some ballroom dancing lessons, to get fully involved in the practice and to be a part of this great event outside the dancing classes. From the very first lessons I realized that dancing lessons helped my students solve social problems. It helped them to learn about honor and respect, treat others carefully, improve self-confidence, cooperate, listen to the others and accept the different. The pupils learned to behave in "a lady- gentleman" way even outside the dancing lessons. Students were taught the vocabulary of various dances in a classroom setting. The vocabulary was presented and taught in English that made the dancing program multidisciplinary. There was a unique and successful combination between English lessons and dancing practice. Each class was introduced new steps, reinforcing what had been previously learned through dancing practice and repetition the vocabulary in English. The kids wrote a story with "dancing plot" in Hebrew. I translated it into English and the 4 grade student Ella Gavor brilliantly illustrated it. This is how the scrapbook "Everybody, dance now" came to life. It was successfully presented at the school dancing ball along with the other materials in English and Hebrew that were created in the classes who took part in the dancing program.

For me as an English teacher ballroom dancing was an unforgettable experience and a new challenge because aside from it being a discipline and practice, it was also a fun activity. The unique and skilled combination of several school subjects made it the most learning, inspiring and impressing school event ever!

Thank you for your enthusiasm, energy and professionalism you invested this year in the 4 grade students! I wish you good luck in your great work!

Sincerely,

Janna Okorokov

The English teacher

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