

[Come September – It's Back to School](#)



With expectations running high especially among the new 1st graders, a sigh of relief from parents after a long and hot summer vacation... the new school year started for Israeli kids on September 1st.

[Education at Matzuva](#) – At the beginning of the last school year we opened an additional kindergarten for toddlers and also a new baby house to address the need for the best facilities for an ever-growing amount of children resident at Matzuva. We are fortunate to have a well-trained and professional band of educators who care for all our toddlers and pre-school kids from 7 a.m. until the parents collect them at around 4 p.m. in the afternoon. The educational day includes gathering together, field trips, workshops and romping in the courtyard full of all sorts of interesting junk and play corners. The kids eat their meals there and have music and movement lessons. Festival celebration and birthdays and joint parties with parents are held as well as joint activities for the entire infants and pre-school age group. All this with special emphasis on community and ecology. The new school year brings new challenges with new children's houses opening and the provision of advanced refresher courses for our devoted kindergarten teachers and assistants. All this contributes to a healthy and well organized educational system providing a sense of security and well-being for both the children and their parents.

[Informal Education at Matzuva](#) – The debate is on how to solve the puzzle about the "Children and teenager population's extramural activities" at Matzuva. Much thought and creativity as well as a lot of good-will and patience is required to supplement their day after school. After a long vacation of activities together the old dining room will now be used as a temporary base for informal education. The "Anna Frank" building will be vacated and renovated in the not too distant future and will become the permanent home of Matzuva's informal education hub.

[60 years ago](#) the very first 1st-grade class was opened at Matzuva – it signaled the setting up of the elementary school. In those days the children slept in children's houses away from their parents and were looked after by a children's nurse during the day until going to their parental homes in the late afternoon. The first teacher was [Elisheva Carmi](#) who later taught Hebrew to hundreds of [Ulpan](#) students over the years. This event took place during the latter stages of the Israel War of Independence. There were 12 pupils aged 6 and 7 years and a 4 room building was earmarked for the school. Showers and toilets were outside. One room was used for resting, learning and as a dining room. Food was brought from the kibbutz dining room. Gradually the building was extended to include a veranda and isolation room (for a sick child). There was no hot water and showers were taken at the kibbutz communal shower room. Among the subjects stressed in the curriculum was the connection between the school and the community. The children learnt about and helped in the agricultural branches – in those days cotton growing as a commercial crop was one of the main branches. Kids would jump into the cotton

trailers to press down the cotton! The affinity to nature was an important part of their education and each week a field trip took place. Both the teacher and the children's nurse were partners in the education of the children and worked in harmony for the benefit of the children. There was a piano at the school and a love of music was integrated into the lives of the children in singing and participation in parties, festivals and events.

Each year a traditional end of vacation party is held at the swimming pool on August 31st to welcome in the new school year. [The writer of these lines is none other than Edna Nathans who was a 1st-grade student then and a teacher in adult life and the editor of the Matzuva bi-weekly newsletter today].



[The Chocolate Workshop "About Chocolate and Love"](#) – The workshop is catching and appetizing. The workshop is run by Chef Avner from Kibbutz Bet HaEmek and has attracted up until now about 80 participants and is also a good 'ice breaker' as it's a mixture of kibbutzniks, community villagers and other residents at Matzuva.



The workshop is organized within the framework of the "Saturday Team" who plan various cultural activities throughout the year.

[In the Footsteps of the Founding Fathers](#) – 70 years ago 20 young and determined people left the Hanita Tower and Stockade to the north and arrived at a spot a few kilometers to the south that is known to us all as Matzuva. At the start of the 70 years Matzuva celebrations there is to be next weekend a reenactment of this groundbreaking trek that brought in its wake the setting up of a new community in the Western Galilee.



[On Friday September 11th](#) there will be an official opening of the 70 Years Matzuva celebrations at the auditorium next to the swimming pool. Every resident at Matzuva will receive a present of honey, chocolate and a specially designed "70 Years Matzuva" calendar. The Jewish New Year begins a week later.

[Housing](#) - families continue to move over to their new homes at Stage A of the Matzuva community village thus vacating their temporary apartments on the kibbutz itself. There is however no chance of a vacuum as apartments are being filled up with future home owners in Stage B. Meanwhile, the housing complex at the site of the former children's farm on the south side of the kibbutz is now taking shape and younger members of Matzuva will take residence in their new homes in the coming months.

Wishing you all a good week.

Best Regards

Baruch