

# A WORD FROM KEDMA'S TEAM

The past year has been very complicated: the coronavirus broke in Israel and severely impacted its educational system, which was already plagued by wide gaps and inequality among the widest among OECD countries.

Despite the many uncertainties, concerns and difficulties, we at Kedma, were well-positioned to heed the new reality: our educational teams were wholeheartedly involved, equipped with the creativity, tools, and knowledge to meet the challenges.

This brief report is designed to offer an overview of the work, successes, and innovation. Links are embedded in the text for further details ( look for  ).

Looking back at the year, we wish to thank you, our partners and friends, for your priceless support of our work to empower Israeli students and teachers, and for giving us, the Kedma team, the backing we need to face new challenges.

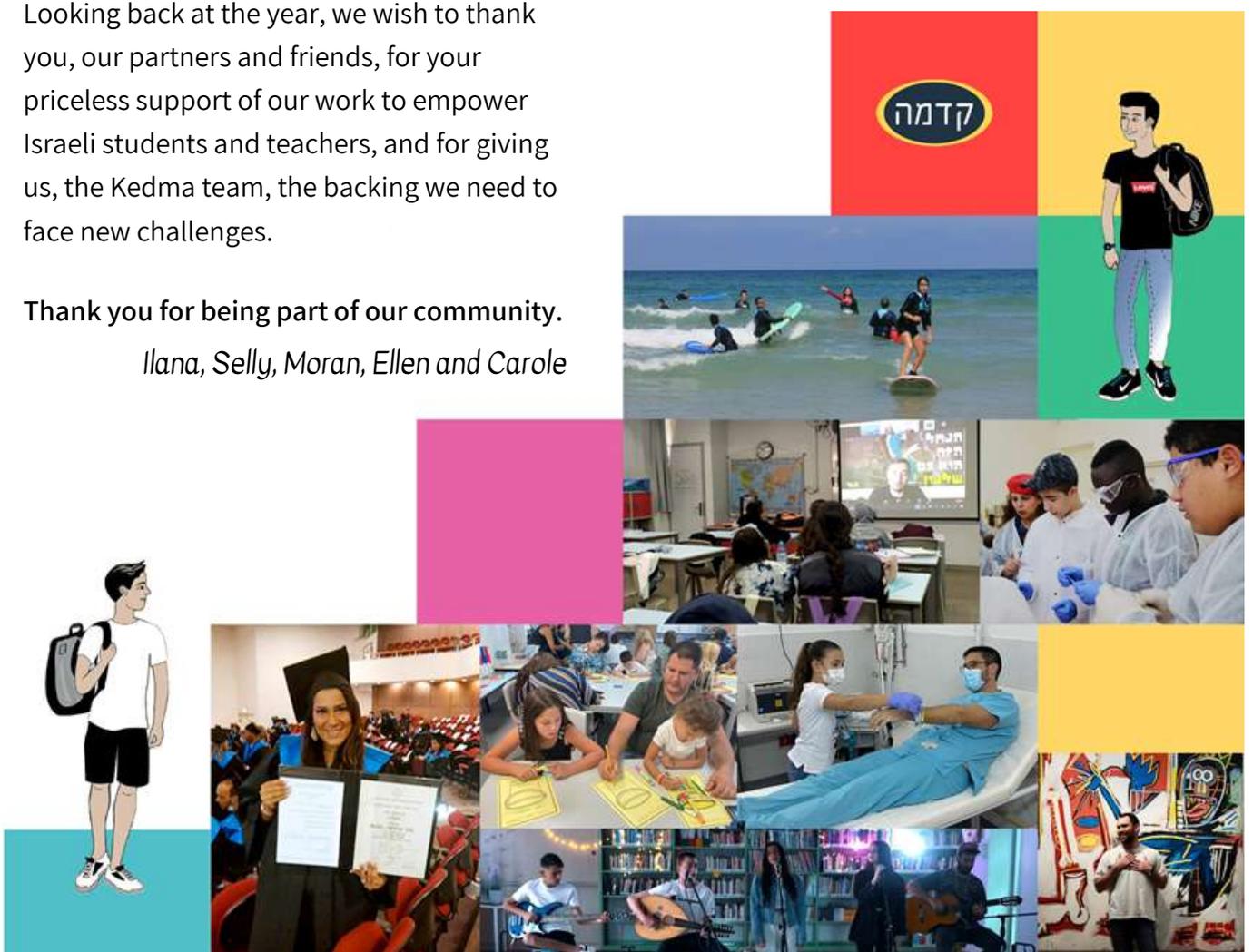
Thank you for being part of our community.

*Ilana, Selly, Moran, Ellen and Carole*

## 2020/2021 year in a nutshell

In the two partnering schools - Kedma and Neve Hof - personal and social ties were strengthened without giving up on academic achievement.

Along with varied social activities emphasizing the values of activism and solidarity, teachers initiated creative learning projects



At the Kedma Association, the corona crisis, the eruption of violence on the border and inside the country, were used an opportunity to ignite change:

## Development and Publication of Educational Content

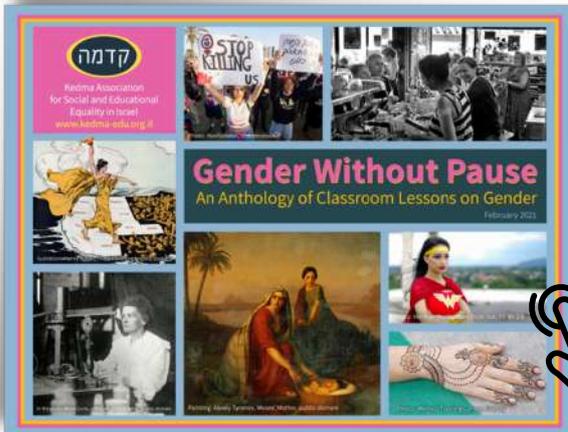


“Inequality in Education:” ahead of the International Education Day, Kedma published dozens of lesson plans that deal with the issue from various angles: the right to education, groupings of children of similar proficiency levels, disparities exacerbated during COVID19, a future picture of equality, and more. The collection was distributed to tens of thousands of educators across the country.

**Kedma in Arabic:** In response to the growing demand of Arabic-speaking educators, this year, for the first time, Kedma started translating its quality lesson plans into Arabic.



·“Gender Without Pause:” emphasizing the need to engage teen boys and girls in the discussion about gender equality, in 2020 we published a collection of 40 lesson plans and background materials on the subject.



## Collaborations and Coalitions

- The Coalition of Organizations for the Implementation the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) in Israel
- The Ministry of Justice Forum of Civil Society Organizations Against Racism
- The Mofet Institute Forum for Thinking and Development on the Subject of Reducing Inequality Through Teacher Training
- The Alumni Communities Managers Forum

## Conferences and Forums

- An Emergency Educator’s Conference - A National Conference of Jewish and Arab Educators about the eruption of violence in the mixed cities.
- The Struggle of the Mizrahi Jews. In the 3-day conference, Kedma staff presented their innovative perspective of a pedagogy emphasizing Mizrahi awareness and pride.
- “Education and Community in a Changing Reality:” An experts’ panel about building connections between the family, the school, and peers.
- “Gender and Sexuality in the Digital Generation:” In the event Kedma’s content developer and facilitator, presented our practices.



Large Zoom events were held and attended by hundreds of students and teachers from across the country. Discussions elaborated on materials and lesson plans published by Kedma over the year.

# KEDMA HIGH SCHOOL



## A National Medal of Excellence

Kedma School was one of the top 16 high schools in Jerusalem selected by the Ministry of Education for the 2020- 2021 school year. The selection was made based on a series of indicators of social and educational values and on the improvement rate.



## Unique Science Projects

Science studies in Kedma were vibrant. Middle School grades studied with the Science Museum in Jerusalem via Zoom. Ninth graders participated in the Physical Space project - a learning sphere combining physical and digital learning about space, plants, birds, and more. They collaborated with researchers and scientists from the Technion (Israel Institute of Technology) and even took an active part in civilian research of data collection and birdwatching.

## A Winning Combination of Talent and Hard Work

The Music Department's students released two video clips, one of them participated in a Ministry of Education video clip competition.



Students also participated in a young ensembles' competition along with teams from 30 schools in Jerusalem, and won third place!



## Alumni Spotlight

Oriah Weil, Kedma's graduate, awarded a District Medal of Excellence for her volunteer and community activities in Jerusalem. Her activities include an initiative to refurbish old computers and distribute them to children who do not have one.

## National Debate Workshop in English

Ninth graders participated in a weekly workshop about public speaking, critical thinking about social issues, constructing and presenting arguments, body language, self-expression, persuasiveness and, written and oral English proficiency. The workshop was attended by representatives from the Israeli Debate.

## Cooperating with an Arab School

Students from Kedma school and Issawiya studied English together in a special program designed to facilitate joint learning, familiarity and reduction of bias and suspicion. The project is an experiential, quality and well-planned study meeting in a language that is neutral, free of associations and in which neither side has an advantage over the other.



## Community Project: "For Israel's Generations"

Students, led by Kedma's graduate, adopted a local nursing home, renovated the garden, baked cakes, prepared holiday packages, and visited with the residents.

# NEVE HOF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Personal Morning meetings

When lockdowns were lifted, and studies resumed, the need to motivate and strengthen the students became very clear. Therefore, personal morning meetings over chocolate milk and cookies with pupils (grades 1-3) were added to the weekly schedule.



## Excellence Project

Sixth graders with an evident desire to learn, chose a personal field of interest and paired by the school with mentors from those fields. Unlike other excellence programs that usually target students with high academic achievements, the Neve Hof excellence program was open to any student who wanted to participate.



## The Sharing Circle

Weekly assemblies of students who come together to discuss an issue of concern and resolve conflicts. Groups vary in size and composition and facilitated by teachers.



## A Garden and a Language Vision

Born from a teacher's deep connection to nature and the environment, a pilot gardening project was launched in the school. Alongside the practical work and informal study of nature, the project also involves language and science studies.



## The First Textbook in Israel about Leading Women in Sports

A question of a sixth grader about women in various branches of sports was the catalyst for an amazing feat. Challenged by their sports' teachers, students researched and gathered names of leading women sports. They wrote about them and even met with some of them. The outputs were assembled and printed as a textbook!

Thank  
You!



Kedma – For Social and Educational Equality in Israel

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