



## Newsletter for English Teachers

JUNE 2021  
VOLUME 1  
ISSUE 5



STAY UP TO DATE



Dear English Teachers,

Welcome to the 5th issue of our newsletter.

This newsletter features the updates in our English teaching world here in Israel from the past month.

This will be the final edition of "Spread the Word" for this school year but watch this space for additional editions next year.

The annual bulletin will be published in July.

We invite English teachers who are interested in providing private online lessons to students to join the Ministry of Education's special project. If you are interested, please see the requirements and [click here to fill in the application form](#).

Any additional suggestions for our newsletter are welcome – please email [Gail](#) with any ideas you have.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and useful.

Best wishes,

Tziona

Dr. Tziona Levi,  
Chief Inspector of English



### STAYING ON TRACK TO LITERACY

Over 750 English educators attended our Mind the Gap webinars on Sunday 9th May 2021. Expert presenters Elaine Colman, Dr. Susie Russak and Aharon Gvoryahu delighted their audience with engaging and informative topics from teaching pupils how to recognize letters and read basic words at the beginning stages of EFL learning to vocabulary instruction and reading comprehension strategies.

[Click here to access the webinar recording and accompanying power point presentations](#)





### Bagrut Updates

You can read about all the Bagrut updates on the front page of [Stay Up To Date](#) under Bagrut.

Have any questions regarding the COBE?

1. Call me to set up staff or individual counseling sessions: 058-490-2765
2. Join my weekly COBE zoom sessions Sundays from 3:30-4:30 by clicking on the word zoom on:

[Beverly's COBE Helpline invitation:](#)

2. [For all official information including technical guidelines and practice material regarding the COBE.](#)

Thanks,  
Beverly Chazan  
COBE National Counselor  
Ministry of Education  
058-490-2765



State of Israel  
Ministry of Education  
Pedagogical Secretariat  
Language Department  
English Language Education

Take a coffee break and zoom into

### Beverly's COBE Hotline

Sundays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.\*

For official information and just to share

\*To schedule staff or personal zoom meetings at other times call:  
Beverly Chazan COBE National Counselor:  
058-490-2765

[Zoom Link](#)



For a lifetime of professional development  
Don't miss the ETAI summer conference:  
July 6-7.

Lessons Lived and Learned

Submit a presentation proposal [HERE](#)

<http://www.etai.org.il>

## SHOWCASE

Showcase will return next school year! Would you like to showcase your work? Your staff? A special teacher? An English event in your school? [Complete this short form](#) and we will contact you.

Spread the word about something important to YOU!



### **Visit the Site for Diplomacy and International Communication in English!**

On April 12 and 13, 28 diplomats came together with students from 35 Israeli schools to take part in the major's Diplomacy Marathon. The Marathon consisted of virtual meetings of groups of up to 15 students with Israeli, American, and Polish diplomats for a 1-hour discussion on Ambassador Samantha Power's 2008 TED talk about preventing genocide.

Amy Fields, Diplomacy teacher from Tichon Hamoshava in Zichron Yaakov, met with her students with Iddo Moed, the Head of the Bureau of the African Affairs Division for Israel's Foreign Ministry. Amy wrote to Mr. Moed afterwards about her students:

*"Although they were a little shy at first, your insightful questions sparked their interest and understanding. Definitely, the question regarding the moral dilemma of a photojournalist really inspired quite a dialogue. You helped them understand the speech from new perspectives, which is exactly what I hoped would happen. They found the experience very meaningful."*

Yishai Bar Yosef, a 12th grader from the Democratic School in Modiin wrote, "The conversation today was very interesting. I had the opportunity to hear other perspectives and views about the speech and the issue. I liked the way the conversation was moderated. Everyone had the opportunity to voice their opinions and I'm a lot more knowledgeable about the topic today."

We hope that in 2022 the Diplomacy Marathon will again take place in person at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem; however, we see that there have been many opportunities this year for meaningful remote exchanges between our students and diplomats and experts, and for this we are extremely grateful.



## From Aharona

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I share with you some of the wonderful work that special education teachers have done this past year of challenge. Rivka Feiner, who is the regional special education counselor for English in the Jerusalem district, encouraged the teachers in her special in service EFL/ Special Education/ Techno- pedagogy course to create a pamphlet chock full of surprises, innovative ideas, and creative projects. This is a highly professional venture and I hope you can all find something here that touches your heart or mind. As you browse through, remember – some of the students are blind or severely visually challenged. Note how their teacher worked with them during lockdown; some students have severe physical challenges making the use of the computer keyboard particularly difficult. Other students are particularly sensitive to change and upheaval, and we all know how difficult that can be.

Rivka explains: "Our Hishtalmut this year was organized by the English and techno-pedagogy counselors in the Jerusalem area. English teachers in special ed schools were presented with different models and digital tools for blended and hybrid teaching and were introduced to digital tools to adapt and implement into their lessons."



The newsletter presented here is aimed to share with you various examples of innovative, hybrid and optimal English teaching in special ed schools used during this year.

Each of the 15 schools is represented by an English teacher sharing one product of an English teaching process. The teaching methods used include multi-sensory learning, active learning, use of ICT, and diversity in teaching." Please note that each page offers a link into the product itself. [Click here to access.](#)

It is particularly exciting to see that students of all ages from kindergarten till the age of 21 and with a wide variety of physical, emotional, cognitive, and developmental challenges are studying English, one of the most important life skills that school can offer each and every learner!

Thank you, Rivka and colleagues, for this opportunity to learn from each of you.

I am looking forward to sharing more amazing creations and ideas with all our teachers. Please send them along to [gvaryahu@gmail.com](mailto:gvaryahu@gmail.com)

Best wishes for a healthy and productive month!

*Aharona*

## FUN TIME



- Read even more about DINGBATS
- See the answers from last time
- Try new ones (updated every issue).

Join our Whatsapp group and receive bi-weekly ideas and goodies on how to incorporate music and song in your lessons.

**LEARN IN TUNE**  
CLICK HERE

**BI- WEEKLY BROADCASTS**

## Chemed English Days

Very well done to over 170 Chemed elementary schools for holding English Days on the theme: We are Brothers. Check out this [website](#) to see photos of educational, super-creative and enjoyable English Days at our schools all over the country.



### GIVE & TAKE

Chemed English Elementary Teachers' Journal - Iyar 5781



Give & Take is a digest for Chemed elementary English teachers. Click on the link below (<https://www.smore.com/f0xe2>) to read our spring edition.

**ETAI Online Summer Conference**  
6th & 7th July, 2021

**Lessons Lived and Learned**

Interested in presenting?  
Go [here](#)

For more information, go to the [ETAI site](#).

Teacher Training and Development event in collaboration with Mofet Institute July 5th

**ETAI**





למידה בונה אדם  
המזכירות הפדגוגית  
אגף ספרי לימוד וחומרי למידה

מדינת ישראל  
משרד החינוך  
המזכירות הפדגוגית  
אגף ספרי לימוד וחומרי למידה

May 23, 2021

י"ב בסיון תשפ"א

Dear Teachers, English Department Coordinators and District Counselors,

We would like to bring to your attention that supplementary grammar books no longer appear in the file of approved books. Therefore, grammar books cannot be included on the book lists for the coming school year and cannot be part of the MOE book lending project. School funds cannot be used to purchase unapproved books.

Supplementary grammar books focus on form and drill the form of various grammatical structures. This approach to grammar teaching is not consistent with the current CEFR aligned English curriculum, Curriculum 2020. Please refer to the grammar foreword and to can-do statements in the curriculum and to the teacher's guide of curriculum aligned textbooks, as they are published, in order to adjust your grammar teaching accordingly.

Since we are aware that teachers often feel the need for approved supplementary booklets that can be part of the MOE book lending project, we have allowed for the approval of supplementary vocabulary booklets. These booklets will appear in the file of approved books as they are written, published, and approved.

Sincerely,

Hagit Herstig

MOE Books and Materials Approval Department Head

[hagither@education.gov.il](mailto:hagither@education.gov.il)

Cc:

Dr. Tziona Levi, Chief Inspector for English Language Teaching and Diplomacy

Miriam Ben, MOE Books and Materials Approval Coordinator for English and Languages

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