

“Hakarat HaTov-ia”

The hakarat hatoviah was a showcase for all of the Ilanoters to show off their talents while concentrating on hakarat hatov. There were 7 groups of kids: one song group, one art group, one story group and four play groups. Since they needed time to prepare, the day before all of the kids told their counselors which of the groups they wanted to be in, and the counselors filled out a form with all of the choices. The point of this was for all of the kids to be in their first choices, hence the reason for four play groups. The groups were assigned based on the choices, and the four play groups were assigned at random, with roughly the same number of kids in each group.

The day before the hakarat hatoviah, during behirot, the kids split up in their groups to prepare. The point was for the kids to do these things by themselves instead of being told what to do; therefore they wrote the song, designed the poster, created the story and dreamed up the plays. All of it was their own work, and then they took the rest of the time to learn it.

The night of the hakarat hatoviah the groups split up again for about 10 minutes to do some last minute preparations. After practicing their plays and presentations, all of the kids came back into the moadon and performed for one another. All of the groups were extremely well received, and most of them had a lot to do with the chosen topic, hakarat hatov. Overall, the peulat erev went very well.