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מועצה אזורית חוף אשקלון - 64221					

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SOUTH

ASHKELON COAST INAUGURATES RELIGIOUS-SECULAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The **Hof Ashkelon** Regional Council inaugurated an elementary school this week for students of both the religious and the secular communities, the Local website reported.

The website quoted council head Yair Farjun as saying it was “a great privilege for me to establish another school for the community of Gush Katif evacuees.” He expressed pride that the school, which is located in the town of Be'er Ganim, “combines various sectors and educational values, quality and innovation.”

The curriculum includes environmental studies and arts and crafts, and distinguishes itself from other educational institutions in its integration of religious, traditional and secular values. This week, children from first grade to third grade began registering for the coming school year.

“The school in Be'er Ganim is familial and warm, and satisfies the needs of each pupil through a combination of creativity, art, environmental action and innovation,” the report quoted principal Ruth Lazar as saying. “I know the importance of the school to the community, and the community’s contribution to the school.”

The Beer Ganim school is the sixth elementary school to be built in the Hof Ashkelon Regional Council area.