

Gray Academy
OF JEWISH EDUCATION



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**GRAY ACADEMY STUDENT QUALIFIES FOR WORLD
DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP IN SOUTH AFRICA**

October 25, 2006 – Rory Paul, Head of School and CEO, and Andrew Kaplan, Debating Teacher, Gray Academy of Jewish Education, are proud to announce the activities of senior students taking part in extra-curricular debating.

In Toronto last weekend at the International Public Speaking and Debating Competition, three grade 12 students, **Shira Lerner, Cara Katz and Michael Schwartz**, along with teacher Greg Beddome, represented Gray Academy. As a result of an outstanding performance at the tournament, Shira has qualified to compete as part of the Canadian Team at the World Individuals to be held in South Africa in April 2007. Mazel Tov!

The Public Speaking and Debating course at the school focuses on skills that are gained whereby students learn how to deliver effective oral presentations as individuals and as members of a team. They analyze topics, listen to others, and learn to refute arguments. This course provides students with the opportunity to present prepared and impromptu speeches and to participate in parliamentary and cross-examination debates.

Last week, four teams of two students in grade 9 took part in a debating tournament after school: **Josh Donen and Sharna Nelko, Jonah Brown and Zev Ripstein, Daniel Breslauer and Ramy Penner, and Saul Shrom and Saul Werier**. Notable mentions to:

Jonah Brown and Zev Ripstein – Ranked 2nd Overall Team in the Novice Category

Daniel Breslauer – Ranked Top at Gray Academy for Best in School

Next month in Montreal, six Gray Academy students will be in competition at McGill University in the High School Tournament: **Jessica Donen, Michael Schwartz, Josh Morry, Jonathan Ripstein, Sam Fineblit and Josh Fineblit**. Josh Morry also qualified to debate in the Western Debating Seminar in Moosejaw, SK.

Gray Academy has been quickly establishing our school as a leader in debating throughout the world. In spring 2005, grade 11 student Susan Schipper took part in the ***World Individual Debate and Public Speaking Championships*** held in Cyprus and competed against High School debating champions from many countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Israel, and Pakistan. Susan performed well consistently throughout the different types of debating competitions and was ranked seventh overall.

In Susan's graduating year in 2005-06, she placed second in Debate at the World Individual Public Speaking and Debate Championship held in late March 2006 at the Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut.

Financial support is provided by the **Gray Academy Debating & Public Speaking Fund** through The Jewish Foundation of Manitoba.

Michael Benarroch, President of The Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education, congratulates all debating students for their commitment to excellence, and wishes them continued success as they proudly represent Gray Academy of Jewish Education in Winnipeg and abroad.

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