

PRESS RELEASE

GRAY ACADEMY STUDENT QUALIFIES FOR WORLD DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP – AGAIN.

March 10, 2009 – Gray Academy of Jewish Education is proud to announce that Asper Cup competitor and Grade 12 student Josh Fineblit will be competing at the World Individuals – long considered the Olympics of Public Speaking - that takes place in England from March 26 – April 3, 2009. Josh also competed in last year's Worlds and placed 13th overall at the **World Individual Public Speaking & Debate Championship** held in Germany in 2008.

The growth in debating at Gray Academy in the last four years has been phenomenal – with the school quickly establishing itself as a leader in debating throughout the world - and regularly qualifying students for the Canadian Team for the World Individual Public Speaking and Debate Championships.

In 2005, senior student Susan Schipper competed at the Worlds in Cypress where she placed 7th overall, followed by 2nd place overall in Debate at the Worlds in Connecticut. In April 2007, Shira Lerner, a Grade 12 student, qualified for the Worlds held in South Africa where she placed 15th overall in the combined categories of Debate, Persuasive Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, and Interpretive Reading.

“The World’s is a unique and exciting tournament where students compete against the very best while making friends with competitors from so many different cultures. It is wonderful to watch the mix and verbal exchanges amongst so many clever and knowledgeable young adults,” said Linda Martin, debating teacher and coach.

The Public Speaking and Debating course at Gray Academy focuses on skills that allow students to learn how to communicate effectively through oral presentation. 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 debates.

Since 2004, Gray Academy has hosted the *Asper Cup International High School Debate*, a prestigious tournament that in December 2008 had top debaters from every competing province across the country from Newfoundland to British Columbia.

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For further information and/or to interview Josh Fineblit and Linda Martin, please contact:

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