

Gray Academy  
OF JEWISH EDUCATION



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TEACHERS AT GRAY ACADEMY OF JEWISH EDUCATION  
RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARD**

September 13, 2006 - Rory Paul, Head of School and CEO for Gray Academy of Jewish Education and the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education are pleased to announce that Joyce Kerr and Rochelle Gamliel are the recipients of the prestigious Jewish Education Service of North America Inc.'s (JESNA) seventh annual national **Grinspoon-Steinhardt Awards for Excellence in Jewish Education.**

The Grinspoon-Steinhardt Awards for Excellence in Jewish Education are designed to recognize teachers in communities across North America that make a commitment and demonstrate exceptional achievement in the field of Jewish education. The awards honour outstanding classroom-based teachers in formal Jewish educational settings (early childhood through grade 12).

Lori Binder, Vice-Principal at Gray Academy of Jewish Education, believes Joyce Kerr embodies teaching excellence in all of its form. "She is a teacher who works with passion and love in everything she does. What makes Joyce unique is that she has dedicated her career to Early Childhood Jewish Education and she has continuously sought to bring 'best practice' of education into the classroom." Joyce has introduced outstanding Jewish curricular initiatives with a Grade 1 T'filah Program and the creation of a Rosh Chodesh Program.

When asked to describe her personal thoughts as a Jewish educator, Joyce says she is "always overwhelmed with excitement at seeing and being a part of young children learning. Seeing the sparkle in their eyes when their pride in being Jewish is expressed is a feeling everyone should experience."

In nominating Rochelle Gamliel, Lori Binder notes that “Rochelle expands the walls of her classroom by involving her students in experiences in the community at large, including the planning of a Holocaust Awareness Symposium, the creation of a museum exhibit on Jewish Roots, and the utilization of community resources including guest speakers, the local Jewish community newspaper and organizations.” Rochelle has been instrumental in the development and implementation of a Grade 12 Holocaust Studies Program and the Grade 7 "Roots" Program.

When asked to describe her unique contributions to the field of Jewish Education, Rochelle Gamliel passionately responds: “I encourage my students to speak out in class, to challenge me and themselves in order for them to learn and grow as Jewish youth who will later take an active role in our community. I want them to appreciate who and what they are so that they can be proud, knowledgeable Jews in today's global society.”

Joyce Kerr teaches Grade One Judaic Studies as well as being one of the school’s vice-principals; Rochelle Gamliel is a high school Judaic Studies teacher with a specialty in Holocaust Education.

The awards were first established by the Grinspoon Foundation in 2000, and joined by Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation in 2002.

Gray Academy of Jewish Education is a JK-Grade 12 university preparatory school that places equal value on Jewish and General academic programs, and provides opportunities to nurture the emotional well-being and spiritual development of all students.

Recently accredited by the Canadian Educational Standards Institute (CESI), Gray Academy is one of three schools in the Winnipeg area to receive this distinctive honour.

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