

Gray Academy
OF JEWISH EDUCATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GRAY ACADEMY OF JEWISH EDUCATION
ANNOUNCES NEW EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS**

October 3, 2006 – Rory Paul, Head of School and CEO and Hart Sera, Principal, for Gray Academy of Jewish Education and the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education are pleased to announce the appointment of four new educational assistants (EAs): Lara Rykiss, Debbie Erickson, Erin Kravetsky and Gordon McMillan for the 2006-07 school year.

Lara Rykiss is a Special Needs Educational Assistant at the grade 8 level with a B.A. Honours in Religious Studies (Biblical Studies), who spent the past year at Gray Academy as a substitute EA. Prior to her new position, Lara was a regular volunteer at the school at the grade 6 level; she has a daughter, Michaela, in grade 2 and a son, Jaron, in Kindergarten. Lara says enthusiastically that, “with every job I was given, I always felt that by doing it, even if I wasn't in my own kids' classes, I was helping the school be the best it could be...for my kids and my community. I have been blessed to work with some of the greatest in our school. Each kid has enriched my life.”

Debbie Erickson has a B.A. in Developmental Studies from the University of Winnipeg and has been working as an Early Childhood Educator for 20 years, in addition to raising five daughters. She has been in the field of special needs for five years and is currently training to be an RDI (Relations Development Intervention) program certified consultant, an autism remediation therapy program. Presently, Debbie is working one-on-one with a special needs child in Kindergarten. “I am loving the energy at Gray Academy and all of the wonderful children and staff. I am very happy for this opportunity to work at Gray Academy – it’s a great place!”

Erin Kravetsky is a 2002 graduate of Gray Academy and is working on her undergraduate Honours Degree in Psychology. Her thesis is in the area of addictions research with

plans to graduate this coming April. She is also working as a Teacher's Assistant at the University of Winnipeg and at the Clinic Community Health Centre. Erin is a Special Needs Educational Assistant for the grade six students, primarily in the Judaic Studies Program. "As a past graduate of the school, I am thrilled to be a part of the Gray Academy team."

Gordon McMillan is completing his Bachelor of Arts at University of Manitoba this school year with a major in Psychology and a minor in Classical Studies. Gordon attended high school at St Paul's, and plans to pursue a career as a physiotherapist upon graduating from university. Gordon is also a familiar face at the Rady Centre where he has worked for the last five years, and most recently was the Assistant Director of Day Camps. He is presently a Special Needs EA at the Grade 8 level. "I really like the close knit community at the Asper Jewish Community Campus. It's only been three weeks but I really feel welcome by the staff and the students alike."

Michael Benarroch, President of the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education, congratulates Lara Rykiss, Debbie Erickson, Erin Kravetsky and Gordon McMillan on their respective positions, and welcomes them to Gray Academy of Jewish Education.

Students at Gray Academy receive enriched program opportunities and are introduced to a variety of teaching methodologies and learning environments; at the core of its uniqueness is the combined General and Judaic Studies curriculum. Gray Academy also offers Hebrew, English as an Additional Language and Special Education, with a Guidance Program that focuses on study skills, relationships and healthy lifestyles.

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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For further information, please contact:

Lisa Abram
Director of Advancement
Gray Academy of Jewish Education
(204) 477-7514
labram@aspercampus.mb.ca