



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GRAY ACADEMY OF JEWISH EDUCATION
ANNOUNCES NEW STUDENT COUNCIL**

September 27, 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 students to Student Council: Yael Shrom, Michael Schwartz, Josh Winestock and Saul Shrom for the 2006-07 school year.

Yael Shrom, President, is a Grade 12 student who is no stranger to student council life. In grade 9, she was the head of the fundraising committee, followed by the position of Secretary the next year, and was the Vice President in grade 11. Yael's goals for this year are threefold: The first is to establish a council that works as a connecting piece between the student body and the administration. Second, she would like the student council to remain the charitable council that it is, whereby they have already raised over \$1,000 for various charities such as Cancer Care, Shalom Residences, Magen David Adom, and others. And third, is to make student council a shaping force in each student's life with spirited pep rallies, celebrations of Jewish holidays and random fun days. "What I love about Gray Academy is that because there is a smaller atmosphere, I am able to take advantage of all of these opportunities, whereas at other schools, I would not be able to. How many people at a large high school can say that simultaneously, they were involved in student council, on the volleyball team, basketball team, soccer team, went on the Partnership 2000 trip, Model UN, March of the Living, a journalist for the school newspaper, a peer tutor and in band? At Gray Academy, the smaller, more nurturing atmosphere, allows for every student to excel in the activity/program that he or she chooses." *Yael is the recipient of the Special Contribution to School Life award.*

Michael Schwartz, a Grade 11 student is Vice President, and joins Student Council for the third year in a row having previously held the position of Secretary and Chair of the Krispy Kreme Committee in 2005. Prior to this, Michael was the class rep for Grade 9. As V.P., Michael's campaign promises include being a student advocate and bringing ideas forward to school administration; improving student council programming with fun activities such as a BBQ and free ice cream; and building on the success of last year's Krispy Kreme fundraiser which raised an incredible \$500! He enjoys being a student at Gray Academy because of the "nice people, good teachers, friendly atmosphere and

strong extra-curricular activities like Reach for the Top and curling.” *Michael is the recent recipient of the Tikkun Olam Award in honour of Rosalind Rosenberg Baker and the Special Contribution to School Life award.*

Josh Winestock, is a grade 12 student now elected to Student Council as Treasurer. This is Josh’s second time being on student council as he was previously the Vice President in Grade 10. He has also served on the Sports and P2K committees, and last year attended Student Council meetings as a guest. Josh’s vision is to have a strong year with lots of fun and charitable programs which will benefit the student body. While doing this he aims to do his best to spend money where it is needed while further strengthening the financial foundation for future student bodies. “For me, an ideal student council would be one where everyone works hard and then sees it all pay off with lots of school spirit and good times. Gray Academy is a great place to be since it gives everyone the opportunity to excel in many varied interests. GO RAIDERS!” *Josh is the recipient of the Chesed Shel Emes Recognition Award.*

Saul Shrom is a Grade 9 student and Secretary on student council and joins his sister Yael. The secretary is responsible for taking notes during student council meetings and posting them around the school so that students are informed. Saul’s vision is to ask students what they want student council to do this year; to bring the ideas forward in meetings because every opinion is worth being heard; and to make the school a fun place. Saul passionately states, “I love Gray Academy of Jewish Education. It’s a school that gives you so many opportunities. It teaches the general studies we need to succeed in Canada, as well as the Judaic side which includes many things that will help us fulfill our lives as Jews. The school offers sports teams, debating, Reach for the Top as well as many trips. These trips include the grade 7 trip to BB Camp, the grade 8 ski trip, the grade 9 trip to Washington where we see the Holocaust museum as well as other landmarks in the capital of the United States, Partnership 2000 to Kiryat Shmona, Israel, the grade 12 Israel trip and March of the Living, a very interesting and emotional trip. It is my love of the school that made me want to get involved with Student Council.” *Saul is the recent recipient of The Larry Rosenberg Menschlichkeit Award for Grade 8.*

Kevin Hammell and Michal Lavy, teachers responsible for student council activity congratulate Yael, Michael, Josh and Saul on the acceptance of their nomination, and welcome them to Student Council.

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