

# PRESS RELEASE

## DISABILITY AWARENESS WORKSHOPS BRING LIFE LESSONS TO STUDENTS WITH DYNAMIC SPEAKER SERIES

November 14, 2008 – Gray Academy of Jewish Education is pleased to present **Disability Awareness Week** from November 17-21 for all students of the school. The impact of this annual event in the community has been very positive since its inception in 2006, and this year the programming has been expanded to a full week of workshops. A significant number of new presentations will include: life-size puppets that engage younger students, a guide dog, and residents from Shalom Residences - a non-profit organization that provides care in community-based homes for adults with intellectual disabilities.

“We are proud to be running our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Disability Awareness program which continues to bring new opportunities for our students to learn from a variety of individuals in the greater Winnipeg community,” said Lori Binder, Vice-Principal.

The following schedule lists the various workshops and the date of event:

Workshop Description – Shep will talk about being visually impaired and how his guide dog helps him on a daily basis. He will also talk about Braille.

Date – **Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop Facilitator – **“Kids on the Block” Puppet Show**

Workshop Description – The puppet show will include three different educational puppets that will engage students in a variety of issues surrounding disability awareness for young children.

Date – **Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop Description – Scott will talk about being visually impaired from birth and the adaptations he made in school. He will also read in Braille.

Date – **Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop Description – Shira will talk openly about being diagnosed with OCD in Gr. 5

Date – **Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**

Workshop Description – Ava will speak about “Invisible Disabilities” along with her sister Barb.

Date – **Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop Description – Mar is a Hearing Impaired/Deaf facilitator for the province of Manitoba. She will demonstrate ASL (American Sign Language) and will answer questions about living with a hearing impairment.

Date – **Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop Description – Peter, an 18-year old graduate from Grant Park will discuss what life is like for people with Asperger Syndrome. He will present along with his mother and will share his experiences of being diagnosed with both Asperger Syndrome and Tourette syndrome to promote understanding and ways in which students can help.  
Date – **Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop Description – Marlaine has Cerebral Palsy. She will talk about her experiences in school and her successes today. She will touch on bullying as well as the career path she took.  
Date – **Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop Facilitator – **Nancy Hughes – Executive Director of Shalom Home with Residents of Shalom Home**  
Workshop Description – Students will learn about Shalom Home in our community and also meet one or two residents of Shalom Home and learn about volunteer opportunities.  
Date – **Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop Description – Judy will be talking about FASD (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder) and how it affects people born with it and what can be done to prevent it.  
Date – **Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop Facilitator – **Manitoba Wheelchair Sport Association**  
- Bill Johnson - Assistant Coach 2008 Paralympic Women's Basketball team in Beijing  
- Kim Park – Played in the Canada Games  
Workshop Description – Learning about wheelchairs and a demonstration of the sport of wheelchair basketball. Students will have an opportunity to use a sport wheelchair.  
Date – **Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**

**All workshops take place at:  
Gray Academy of Jewish Education  
123 Doncaster Street**

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For further information on the room location and time of workshops, please contact:

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