

# PRESS RELEASE

## DISABILITY AWARENESS WORKSHOPS BRING LIFE LESSONS TO STUDENTS

April 26, 2007 – Gray Academy of Jewish Education is pleased to present **Disability Awareness Days** on April 26 and 27 for all students of the school. This series will include several different presentations from a variety of individuals with a disability, including Wheelchair Athletes, students with a hearing impairment, a blind student, and students with Autism.

“We are very pleased to be able to partner with Gray Academy in planning these two days, and hope that this experience will be educational and will help increase acceptance and tolerance in the community,” said Janet Thompson and Sandy Sheegl, Co-Chairs, Persons with Disabilities Steering Committee.

### **Please join us at Gray Academy for the following workshops:**

**Brain Injuries:** Val Bergeron from the *Manitoba Brain Injury Clinic* will be sharing her experiences having survived two brain aneurisms.

**Visually Impaired:** Scott Best, a Grade 12 student will share his life experience and read a story in Braille to students in Grade 2 & 3.

**Autism:** Chuck Robinson, a teacher from Grant Park, will bring a high school graduate who will share his experiences as a student living with autism.

**Hands-On Sensory Awareness:** Meagan Scott, the Special Needs Coordinator at the *Rady Jewish Community Centre*, will lead students in a hands-on workshop which focuses on living with a variety of disabilities.

**Physically Impaired:** Athletes from the *Manitoba Wheelchair Sports Association* will demonstrate a variety of sports and participating Gray Academy students will have an opportunity to try a wheelchair.

**Genetics/Williams Syndrome:** Michele Feierstein, a physician, will talk about the role of genetics in human development and will specifically address Williams Syndrome.

**Hearing Impaired:** Two high school students Lauren Warren & Kiyoko Nishimura will share their experiences being hearing impaired with Gray Academy students who will be exposed to ASL – American Sign Language - in this presentation.

This event is co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg's Persons with Disabilities Steering Committee.

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

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For further information on the timetable of all workshops, please contact:

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Note: some workshops are only available on Thursday April 26 or Friday April 27.