

PRESS RELEASE

MAYOR SAM KATZ JOINS STUDENTS IN CELEBRATING “THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS”

December 19, 2006 – Rory Paul, Head of School and CEO and Hart Sera, Principal, for Gray Academy of Jewish Education would like to announce that His Worship, Mayor Sam Katz, will be participating in a candle lighting ceremony at the school.

The Jewish holiday of Chanukah is an eight day festival that celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem in 165 B.C.E. after years of pagan defilement. It commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian-Greeks who ruthlessly prohibited the observance of Judaism.

It is called the ***Festival of Lights*** because Jews around the world light candles to commemorate the kindling of the “menorah” (candelabrum) for the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. When the Jews sought to rededicate the Temple by lighting the menorah, only one small flask of pure oil was found. It held enough oil to last for only a day, and yet the flames of the menorah burned for eight days – sufficient time to manufacture more oil for the menorah.

Chanukah is a festival of light, celebrating religious freedom and renewed dedication and hope; this year it is celebrated from December 15-23.

“This is a special time of year for all Winnipeggers and I look forward to sharing a holiday tradition with the students at Gray Academy of Jewish Education,” says Mayor Katz.

The Mayor will be sharing in the Jewish tradition of candle lighting and reading a Chanukah book to students from Junior Kindergarten to grade 3.

“We are honoured to have the Mayor of our city light the Chanukah candles and share a Chanukah story with us,” Joyce Kerr, Vice Principal, said today.

Please join Mayor Katz and Gray Academy elementary students:

**Thursday December 21, 2006
3:00 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room
Gray Academy of Jewish Education
123 Doncaster Street**

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.

For further information, please contact:

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