

# PRESS RELEASE

## VISITING ISRAELI STUDENTS SHARE THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES ABOUT THE WAR IN LEBANON

November 27, 2006 – Gray Academy of Jewish Education welcomes six students from Kiryat Shmona, Israel for our Partnership 2000 (P2K) program with Danciger High School. From November 26 to December 6, these visiting students will be participating in a variety of activities over the course of 10 days along with their teacher.

For the past five years, Gray Academy of Jewish Education has been sending a delegation of students to Kiryat Shmona in Northern Israel for Partnership 2000, a **program sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg**. The participants are billeted with students from Danciger High School, one of Gray Academy's sister schools. By the time students graduate, they have formed a connection to Danciger High School and for many Gray Academy students, Kiryat Shmona has become a second home.

"We are very excited to once again host another delegation of students from Danciger High School. For close to ten years our two schools have developed a close relationship exemplifying the strong connection between Jews in the Diaspora and Jews in Israel. We know that Gray Academy will be infused with energy and spirit during their stay, reminding us of our brothers and sisters in Northern Israel at a very important time following the events this summer," says Lori Binder, Vice Principal.

This past summer the lives of our friends in Kiryat Shmona were deeply disrupted by the conflict with Hezbollah. Unfortunately, Kiryat Shmona and the surrounding area were hit with over 4,000 ketusha rockets from Lebanon. Sadly, three of these rockets hit Danciger High School and some former students and members of current student's families lost their lives. The front of the school, gym and many other parts of the school were severely damaged. During the few weeks before Danciger High School opened for the start of the school year, repairs were being made 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

***Please join the community in welcoming students from Kiryat, Shmona, Israel as they recount their personal experiences from the war in Lebanon, and present a video on their school that was filmed only weeks after the ceasefire:***

**Wednesday, November 29, 2006  
7:30 p.m.  
Berney Theatre  
Asper Jewish Community Campus  
123 Doncaster Street**

Since 1997, the Canadian “Coast to Coast” communities (Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Ottawa and the Atlantic Region) have been matched with the five municipalities in Israel's Galilee Panhandle. P2K involves a variety of *Living Bridge* programs developed to strengthen Jewish values and to foster a connection among elementary and high school students and teachers in the Galilee Panhandle and in Canada. This is achieved through innovative educational projects, video conferencing and reciprocal visits.

“The participants in this program are selected through certain criteria some of which are their leadership skills and community service, and ultimately what the Jewish Federation hopes to achieve is to build strong relationships and the leaders of tomorrow for the future of our community and Israel's community,” says Elaine Goldstine, Director, Financial Resources Development, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg.

“Succession is important and these students are the leaders of tomorrow. As the Diaspora is a key factor in the survival of the state of Israel, this program builds a visceral link and ensures its connection.”

Co-sponsored by the 2006 Combined Jewish Appeal/Women's Campaign and the Partnership 2000 committee, ***this emotional and engaging evening will present a side of the war in Lebanon not seen or heard before in the media – the perspective from students.***

**The P2K Student Committee** is devoted to keeping the Partnership 2000 program active and maintaining strong ties with Israel and is chaired by students Cara Katz and David Coodin. “After learning the history and geography of Israel for our entire high school careers, P2K gave us a personal connection to the students at Danciger and to Kiryat Shmona, and we have developed a passion to further the goals of the P2K program,” Cara and David enthused.

Funding for Partnership 2000 (P2K) is supported by the **Jewish Federation of Winnipeg.**

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