

Ruach Reflections

Summer, 2007

Gray Academy of Jewish Education

Av/Elul 5767

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Upcoming Events

September 5	First Day of School
September 6	Board Meeting @ 7pm
September 7	Kabbalat Shabbat
September 10	Student Council BBQ Family Fun Fair @ 4-7 pm
September 11	Picture Day
September 12	Erev Rosh Hashanah
September 13 & 14	Rosh Hashanah
September 18	Parent Orientation
September 20	Alumni Meeting @ 7pm
September 21	Erev Yom Kippur
September 25	PAC Meeting @ 7:30 pm
September 26	Erev Sukkot
September 27 & 28	Sukkot - No School

Chaggigat Ha-Siddur

On May 30, the Grade 1 students celebrated Chaggigat Ha-Siddur at the Berney Theatre by performing with songs and dancing in front of family and friends before they received their own personal Siddurim that they created.

The following day, students recounted their personal experiences by writing their thoughts down, and as one student summed up: "My grandma came to watch me. First we sang songs. Then we did our dance. Next I got my siddur. Finally I got treats."

Part of the Judaic Studies curriculum for Grade 1 is to create learning situations that connect students with their Jewish heritage through a love for Israel and the acquisition of the Hebrew language; their year of study culminates in Chaggigat Ha-Siddur.

By this point in the school year, students are able to read from the Siddur, discuss their connection to G-d, and begin to develop a sense of spirituality and represent these feelings through art, drama, song and dance.

Yasher Koach to the Grade 1 students!!

Grade 3 Imaginary Trip to Israel



On Friday, June 8, the Grade 3 students participated in a variety of activities including t-shirt designing, passport making, security checks, army training, falafel lunch, art and swimming.

Here are some highlighted personal accounts below:

"I felt happy and surprised when we came off of the El Al plane and walked into the school because all the people in elementary school (including the teachers) were all there waving flags. I recommend more food on the plane and maybe even a drink too." - Sari

"In the morning I felt excited in the beginning. We were sitting on the floor sharing our suitcase treasures and waiting to board. I couldn't wait till we started." - Yael



"I liked my job (Cargo) because I took the kid's luggage before they boarded the plane. I recommend the teacher's not change anything because it was just perfect." - Mati

"I felt excited when we went to the security gate. One of my favourite parts was swimming in Eilat." - Matthew



Dragon Boat Race

On Sunday June 3, our dragon boat team, Gray Matter, competed at the Manitoba School Dragon Boat Challenge organized by the Manitoba Paddling Association with proceeds going to KidSport.

We placed third in our category with a time of 2:20:55 and thank all participants for a job well done:



Benji Winestock, Josh Fineblit, Sam Fineblit, Allison Marmel, Syke Kneller, Mitchell Billinkoff, Lindsay Kerr, Maia Nelko, Jonathon Ripstein, Adeena Cooperband, Jessica Donen, Josh Morry, Aden Benarroch, Shea Lerner, Albert Cohen, Samantha Shalom, Rebekah Rittberg, Melanie Baruch, Danit Hassan, Maria Konikov, Johanna Reinberg, Chava Rosemblit, Dalit Leitman and Jorel Minuk.



Yom Ha'Atzmaut Song Festival

The 34th annual Song Festival, which celebrated Israel's 59th, was held Monday, April 23 and is a competition for students in Grades 5-12. Here, students have the opportunity to write an original song (with original lyrics and original music) based on a Jewish theme and are judged in two separate categories (Junior: Grades 5-8 and Senior: 9-12) on Jewish content, musical appeal and performance. Songs can be in English, Hebrew, Spanish, Russian or a combination of languages.

The hosts for the evening, Steven Baker and Josh Morry, were entertaining and provided humorous anecdotal stories in between performances.

The Song Festival judges David Greaves, David Borzykowski and Judy Tennenhouse were presented with an amazing array of talented students, and along with musicians Ariel Posen (guitar), David Landreth (Bass), Matthew Leibl (piano) and Ryan Voth (Drums), had the audience wanting more!

Mazel tov to all our Junior Category entries: Arielle Block, Josh Glow, Alexis Koffman, Sami Miller, Dylan Silver, Jenna Zimmer, Lexie Zimmer, Noah Palansky, Cassie Ackerman, Jana Elazar, Morgan Shalom, Melanie Skiarski, Daniel Kroft and Elliot Lazar.

Junior Category: 1st Place – Noah Palansky and 2nd Place – Jana Elazar and Cassie Ackerman

Mazel tov to all our high school entries: Sarah Sommer, Dalit Leitman, Oksana Potapchik and Chava Rosemblit

Senior Category: 1st Place – Sarah Sommer and 2nd Place – Dalit Leitman, Oksana Potapchik and Chava Rosemblit

Naming Manitoba's Newest Holiday

Students in high school voted to submit **Spirited Energy** to the Manitoba 4 Youth Committee for naming



the province's latest statutory holiday in February. If Spirited Energy becomes the new name, our school will receive \$1,000 for our library.

Good luck!

Student Athletic Awards Dinner

On June 5, Gray Academy honoured their student athletes at the first Athletic Awards Dinner with special guest speaker Thomas Steen, former Winnipeg Jet. Thanks to Physical Education teachers Kevin Abrahams and Grant Buckoski, families enjoyed pizza and ice cream and delighted in the evening presentations.



The following awards were handed out:

- Grade 7 Boys Basketball Leadership Award: Jeremy Hecht
- Grade 8 Girls Basketball Co-MVP: Sheara Raber & Meira Raber
- Grade 8 Boys Basketball MVP: Ross Book and Coaches Award: Daniel Meyers
- Grade 9 Boys Basketball MVP: Brayden Bernstein and Coaches Award: Zee Lubocki
- Varsity Boys Basketball MVP: Jesse Garber and Co-Coaches Award: Jordan Vine and Aden Benarroch
- Junior Varsity Girls Basketball MVP: Yael Kaplan and Coaches Award: Jessica Donen
- Girls Soccer MVP: Lauren Slusky and Coaches Award: Mia Nelko
- Boys Soccer MVP: Joey Frohlinger and Coaches Award: Jordan Vine
- Varsity Girls Volleyball MVP: Lauren Slusky and Coaches Award: Jessica Donen
- Varsity Boys Volleyball MVP: David Coodin and Coaches Award: Jesse Garber
- Grade 8 Boys Volleyball MVP: Asher Billinkoff and Coaches Award: Josh Donen

Student Athletic Awards Dinner

- Grade 7 Girls Basketball Leadership Award: Lauren Yusim
- Golf Team MVP: Jorel Minuk
- Curling Team MVP: Justin Lasker
- Grade 7 Co-Ed Flag Football MVP: Griffin Bernstein
- Badminton Zone 12 MVP: Jonathon Ripstein and Coaches Award: Mitchell Billinkoff
- Pembina Trails MVP: Yale Selchen and Coaches Award: Deby Cohen
- Grade 8 Co-Ed Football Co-MVP: Sheara Raber & Meira Raber



- Grade 8 Athlete of the Year: Asher Billinkoff and Sheara Raber & Meira Raber
- Junior Varsity Athlete of the Year: Zee Lubocki, Jessica Donen and Yael Kaplan
- Varsity Athlete of the Year: Jesse Garber and Leah Pfeffer

Congratulations to the 123 student athletes for great sportsmanship all school year round and for representing Gray Academy on the athletic stage!!

Please look for future announcements in the fall when we unveil our **new** Wall of Athletic Excellence!

Manitoba Marathon

Along with running coach Mrs. Connor, five students ran the relay in the Manitoba Marathon held Sunday, June 17: Jared Ackerman, Andrew Worb, Elliot Lazar, Saul Shrom and Haley Rabb. Great team work!!

Student Participates in Inauguration of C.F.B. Shilo's Faith Centre

Last summer, LCdr D.F. Ohs CD, Base chaplain of C.F.B. Shilo, asked community relations director Shelley Faintuch if an artist in our community might be willing to provide a painting depicting the essence of the Jewish



faith for the new Faith Centre Art Gallery. He stipulated that the piece had to be "a gift of love" and that it would be on permanent display and under the protection of the Base Commander. Faintuch commissioned a work from Gray Academy student Maxim Berent.

Maxim is an aspiring and inspired artist whose works have been featured at art shows at the school and whose art was prominent in the sets of this year's musical "Urinetown". His family moved to Winnipeg from Israel two years ago. He is currently a Grade 11 student at Gray Academy.

The Faith Centre of C.F.B. Shilo was Officially Opened on the 16th of May 2007 by Brigadier General Stanley Johnstone CD OSJ, the Chaplain General and by representatives the Baha'i, Buddhist, Aboriginal, Islamic and Jewish Communities. Rabbi Lawrence Pinsker, Associate Rabbi of Congregation Shaarey Zedek Represented the Jewish community at the inauguration service. Maxim's 8' x 5' painting has a prominent place in the centre. "My painting represents the Jewish people through history, their political situation in Israel and the Holocaust. The work incorporates important symbols of Jewish life. If you look closely, you will see the shape of the Magen David (for me the most important symbol) embedded into the work." In addition to Maxim's art, well-known photographer and businessman Keith Levit also donated some of his Judaic photographs to C.F.B. Shilo for the Centre.

The ceremony was presided over by Base Commander LCol J.J. Schneiderbanger CD and organized by Base Chaplin LCdr D. F. Ohs.

- Shelley Faintuch, Community Relations Director, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg

Grade 6 "Giving" Theme Continues

The Grade 6 classes continued their Shabbaton theme of "Giving" on May 3 at the Gwen Sector Creative Living Centre. The students and teachers planned a program for the seniors who are part of the Holocaust Survivors group who meet biweekly at the centre. They participated in an afternoon of art, song and small group conversations. The students heard poignant personal stories that deepened their understanding of the Shoah. The program was a great success and much appreciated by the participants.



Here are excerpts of some of the student's thoughts:

"One of the important lessons he taught me was to never stop learning. He said that learning is the only thing that people can't take away from you. Whenever I talk to a survivor or hear their story it always puts things into perspective." - Jana Elazar



"When our Holocaust survivor was talking he told us that no matter what anyone says you should be proud to be a Jew. After that I thought, I don't care what anyone says I am proud to be a Jew." - Jeff Chochinov

"During this experience I felt so many emotions I felt happy, sad, excited, disappointed and even confused. During the time we had I felt all of these emotions and probably more. At one point I felt all of these emotions at once." - Sara Thompson

The students presented the Gwen Sector Centre with one of the "Mizrachim" that they made for Shabbaton.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Krispy Kreme Fundraiser

Gray Academy's 2nd Student Council Krispy Kreme Fundraiser was a smashing success! Over 1,600 delicious glazed and crème-filled donuts were sold and enjoyed, and a \$400 profit was raised for Student Council.

I want to thank our committee: Skye Kneller, Allison Marmel, Josh Morry, Steven Baker, Meirav Nepon, Jessie Margolis, as well as teachers Mr. Hammell & Mrs. Lavy, and Mrs. Sera and Mr. Paul for their tremendous support, enthusiasm and hard work! I also wish to thank all the students, staff, and parents who bought donuts. We hope to continue this very successful program!

- Michael A. Schwartz, Interim President, Student Council, & Head, Krispy Kreme Ad-Hoc Committee

Kavod Evening

Mazel Tov to teachers Rochelle Gamliel and Joyce Kerr for receiving the Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish Education at the recently held



Kavod Evening at Congregation Etz Chayim. This annual Jewish Federation of Winnipeg event honours people who have made a difference in the community. Mrs. Gamliel and Ms. Kerr also received recognition for this award at the General Assembly in Los Angeles last Fall. Yasher Koach !!!



Did you Know?

Hollywood Comes to the School - Lights, camera, action! We will be filming a video in September with a production company that will highlight all the wonderful aspects of our school.

The Miller Thomson Foundation - Gray Academy Governor General Award winner Cara Katz ('07) is one of 200 recipients for The Miller Thomson Foundation's 2007 National Scholarship that is given to students in their graduating year of High School from across Canada. Mazel Tov Cara on another outstanding performance!!

Tuition Draw (Licence # MGCC 4439RF) - Congratulations to Mia Elfenbaum (ticket #21) who won the raffle draw and free parental contribution for one year for one student.

Teacher Innovation Award - Kindergarten Teacher Nancy Margolis was presented with the Teacher Innovation Award on June 13 at the University of Manitoba for "Science Stations for Student Engagement" by The Imperial Oil Academy for the Learning of Mathematics, Science and Technology. Yasher Koach Nancy!!

Retirement - We wish these teachers a wonderful retirement and thank you for your years of dedicated service to the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education: Janet Gould, Miriam Coodin and Phyllis Slayen.

Goodbye! - We wish Grade 6 teacher Andrew Kaplan all the best in his career and will miss his enthusiasm and passion for teaching.

Yom Yerushalayim - On Wednesday, May 16 we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. Activities included: a short presentation on the P.A., building the Gates of Jerusalem (K-3) on classroom doors, a Jerusalem mural (Gr. 3 – 6) which is now hanging in the hallway, the Kotel and notes (JK), Hora Jerusalem (Gr. 3 and 4) and a sing-song at the end of the day (K-3).





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Alumni Shabbat Fund

On March 31, the Alumni Committee held a Shabbat Service and Kiddush open to all Alumni and their families. We would like to thank the following donors for their support of this program:

Al Benarroch	Cara Kroft
Avrom Charach	Neal Lerner
Ben Cohen	Gary Margolis
Brenda Dahle	Naomi Palansky
Laura Diamond	Sheldon Permack
Pearl Globerman	Stephen Rosenfield
David Gurvey	Jackie Winestock
Jack Hurtig	Cindy Yusim

JWC Class of '77 Endowment Fund

During the May 4 weekend, the Class of '77 held their 30th anniversary reunion and had a wonderful time kibitzing and catching up with old friends and classmates. We thank them for their support of the school's Endowment Fund. One of the goals of the Alumni Committee is to raise money through reunion giving for the **Gray Academy Educational Endowment Fund**.

Michael Benarroch	Evie Tole
Terry & Shalom Coodin	Lev Gonick
Lesley Corne Wolman	Sharna Searle
Ronda & David Erenberg	Western Scrap Metals
Dr. M. Feierstein & Dr. L. Fishman	

Fall issue: Watch for our thank you to donors and sponsors in Shore for the 2006-07 school year and much more when we return!

*Editor: Lisa Abram
Director of Advancement
Phone: (204) 477-7514
Email: labram@aspercampus.mb.ca
Website: www.grayacademy.ca*

