

Ruach Reflections

October 2007

Gray Academy of Jewish Education

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5767

Welcome back to school!!

Upcoming Events

October 2	Grade 8-12 Awards Evening - Shaarey Zedek @ 7 p.m.
October 3	Erev Shemini Atzeret
October 4 & 5	No school
October 8	Thanksgiving - No school
October 9	Board of Jewish Education AGM @ 7p.m. & Board meeting @ 8p.m.
October 11	University Presentations for Grades 10-12 in the MPR @ 7 pm
October 18	Gr. 12 Grad Meeting MPR @ 7 pm
October 23	PAC Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
October 25	Picture Retakes
October 29	Disability Awareness Week Begins
October 30	Alumni Meeting @ 7p.m.

Grade 7 Roots Project



The Roots Open House took place on Tuesday, June 12 from 4:30 – 5:30 in the MPR and the upstairs computer lab where parents, grandparents and extended family of the Grade 7 students were invited to attend. Students worked hard over the school year, and proudly displayed their family trees and roots research projects in creative and inspiring ways.



Grade 6 Farewell

On June 25, Vice-Principal Joyce Kerr welcomed family, friends, teachers and students to the Grade 6 Farewell held at Shaarey Zedek synagogue to celebrate the graduating class of 2007 from the Shore Program.

The theme for the evening and all year long for the students was "Giving", which was also celebrated at the Grade 6 Shabbaton.

Morah Joyce explained when she addressed the audience that over the years the students had many opportunities to give: at the weekly Kabbalat Shabbat; the Chanukah Toy Drive; packing Pesach Food Hampers for Jewish Child & Family Service; singing to seniors; or participating in a workshop with Holocaust survivors at Gwen Sector. The gift bags for the centerpieces were filled with items that were donated to Winnipeg Harvest.

"Giving is part of who we are and what we do," Morah Joyce summed up proudly.



As part of the evening's festivities, the students sang "Highlights of Shore" followed by a slide show called "Memories", and the presentation of certificates of completion of the General & Judaic Studies programs.

The highest Academic Achievement awards were acknowledged from each of the Grade 6 classrooms:

General Studies: Tyler Rubin, Matthew Gunn, Haley Yurman and Judaic Studies: Jeremy Short, Ben Meyers, Jordan Gertenstein.

A hearty Mazel Tov to all Grade 6 students!



Grade 12 Israel Experience Trip

What a fantastic way to finish Convocation week for the Grade 12 students who had the opportunity to spend a month in Israel with Gray Academy Educational Assistant and Canadian Madrich Hart Jacob.



From the moment they arrived in Israel on May 17 to the end of their trip in June, this experience was filled with non-stop activity that included: tree planting, a hands on archeological dig at Tel Marisha, a Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel, visiting Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery and the Ayalon Institute, and mountain biking through the Hullah Valley among many things.



The trip was organized according to the history and geography of the land of Israel with themes ranging from Beauty of the North, The Western Galilee, the Golan Heights, the Mysticism in the North, experiencing the vision of Ben Gurion, seeing Ancient and New; the Treasures in the Red Sea; and the Beauty of Eilat to name a few themes.

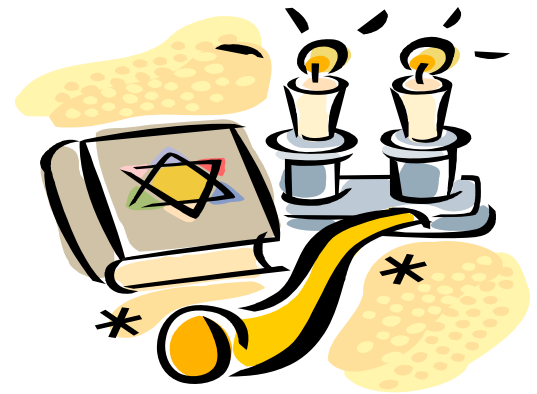
It was the trip of a lifetime with memories to last forever!!!

Elementary Hebrew Resource: An Interview with Minda Chaikin

You can feel the positive energy in the hallways as the school year unfolds for hundreds of students excited to be back at school. The curriculum in elementary is filled with a variety of diverse subjects in the General and Judaic Studies programs including the acquisition of new languages.

For Minda Chaikin who has been supporting elementary students in learning the Hebrew language for many years, her passion for what she does at the school comes through loud and clear.

The Elementary Hebrew Resource area is designed to support students to ensure their success in the Judaic Studies curriculum, and the goal of reading and writing Hebrew is achieved along with the classroom teacher and with Ms. Chaikin's expertise.



There are two approaches to assisting students in this area: one approach is *team teaching* whereby Ms. Chaikin will plan Hebrew lessons along with the classroom teacher to meet the learning needs of students who require it; and the second approach provides an opportunity for students to meet with her in a small group setting for pre-teaching lessons in her room.

Both models of learning are flexible in their appeal to students in Grades 1-5, and along with the Peer Tutoring course offered in Grades 9-12, senior students can also take an active support role in the Hebrew Resource area.

"When I see the confidence in their eyes, it's an exciting moment for me, when a student realizes they can be successful and they can do it themselves. That's why I love working with kids. I love when the learning becomes relevant to them," Minda Chaikin enthusiastically proclaims. "Hebrew Resource is designed to create the positive feeling that students can achieve their goal of reading and writing Hebrew."

Shetihyeh Lekulam Shana Tova!

Citizenship Court

On Thursday, May 3, Mrs. Connor's Grade 10 Social Studies class hosted a Citizenship Court in the



Berney Theatre at 1 p.m. This first time event for our students allowed them to witness Judge Miki presiding over the somber occasion as he welcomed applicants, their guests and our students to the ceremony

and prepared the guests for their oath of allegiance.



A Canadian Flag on a pole was positioned near the podium as 80 new Canadians were sworn in, and Judge Miki invited the rest of the audience to join in by repeating the words after him in both English and French. It was a very moving ceremony for all in attendance with Grade 12 students Lexi Leibl and Josh Winestock performing a couple of songs.

A reception was held in the lobby after the court proceedings with our senior students hosting.

Rotary Career Symposium

On Thursday, April 12 all Grade 11 students attended the Rotary Career Symposium at the Winnipeg Convention Centre for the morning. This is the most comprehensive symposium of its kind in Canada, hosting over 160 of Manitoba's leading industries, employers, post-secondary and trades associations. Speakers were on hand to provide factual information about career opportunities and parents had a chance to bring their children free of charge in the evening.

This informative symposium was also a wonderful opportunity for students who were still charting their respective paths. In fact, one of our students found the career he wants to pursue by attending the event and picking up a brochure!

Thank You to our Donors

We wish to thank the following donors in Shore for their support in the 2006-07 school year:

Kindergarten Shabbat

Alana Gunn & Steven Gall (Raeya)
Harminder & Sapna Walia (Rahul)

Grade 1 Chaggigat Ha-Siddur (*Siddurim*)

Kenny & Sharna Baron (Amy & Adam)
Jacqueline Freedman (Talia & Ethan Hrabinsky)
Rami & Tali Kleinmann (Jonathan)
Carrie & Ross Ransby (Jessica)
Cheryl & Sean Smith (Ryan)

Grade 2 Chaggigat Ha-Torah (*Breshit, In the Beginning. The Story of Creation Excerpted from Genesis*)

Grubert Van Iderstine Family (Micah)

Grade 6 Shabbaton

Fishman-Feierstein Family (Akiva)
Yurman-Wortzman Family (Haley)

Grade 6 Farewell

Thompson Family (Sara) - Shabbat books, Rm. 224
Sharon Bronstone (Morgan Shalom) - donation of Kiddush Cup and Challah Plate

Shem Tov Award

Mazel Tov to WBJE Past-President Faith Kaplan who



recently received a Shem Tov award from the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg for her dedication and commitment to the school.

JWC Class of '82 Class Reunion

Please join us in celebrating the **25th Class Reunion** of the Class of '82 from **Friday, October 19-Sunday, October 21, 2007** in Winnipeg. Highlights of the weekend include a Kabbalat Shabbat/Shabbat Dinner, a Havdallah Bash and a Family Event & Sunday Brunch. All events will be Kosher. For more information, please contact Al Benarroch ('82) at 477-7433.

The Guardian Angels 2007 Youth Awareness Forum

The Guardian Angels Benefit for Women's Cancer Committee – a fundraising arm of the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation – has raised more \$2.5 million in its sixteen-year history. A key component of the Guardian Angels mission is education of Manitoba youth. Since 2003 they have organized in-school presentations by breast cancer survivors and sessions on breast cancer research, sun awareness and skin cancer, and fitness.

This year they are delighted to join forces with West Kildonan Collegiate in presenting their groundbreaking in-class presentation, **Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT)**, a unique in-class workshop created and presented by students, for students. SWAT provides students with hands-on activities designed to encourage them not to start smoking.

The Guardian Angels are sponsoring presentations in 9 schools as well as a 2-day SWAT Leadership Camp, where selected students will be given the tools to start a SWAT team in their own schools. The date of the presentation to our Grade 5-6 students is Friday, October 12.

"We know that tobacco use is the single most important cause of preventable cancer deaths," says Johanna Steinfeld, Chair of the Guardian Angels Youth Awareness Form and teacher at Gray Academy. "The work these students are doing towards tobacco prevention is remarkable, and we are thrilled and proud to sponsor their unique presentation."

Did you Know?

Walking for a Cure - Nicole Freed completed the 60 km. "Walk for Breast Cancer" along with 1,100 other Winnipeggers, and Debra Nachtigall participated in the "Walk to Cure Diabetes" held in May. Great work!

The Power of Commitment - Ten years ago Special Education Resource Teacher Debra Nachtigall hiked the Grand Canyon with six other women. This year they celebrated ten years of adventure and friendship by gathering for a week of hiking in Riding Mountain National Park, and raising money to have a well drilled in the Gwembe Valley in Kenya.

Holocaust Education Symposium

On May 10, our students in Grades 9-11 attended a Holocaust & Human Rights Symposium that was organized by **The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada**, along with the participation of the University of Winnipeg, for over 1,000 high school students called: "**The Holocaust, Lessons Learned.**"

The principal objective was to educate students on the Holocaust and the consequences of hatred and intolerance. The primary speaker was Mr. Ken McVay who is a Canadian leader in developing and implementing community-based, grassroots strategies for countering the lies of those promoting hatred on the Internet.

The day began with a candle-lighting ceremony conducted by the students of the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program and recognition of local Holocaust survivors. The focus of the afternoon was break-out sessions with local survivors presenting their story to smaller groups.

New Wall of Athletic Excellence

Hart Sera, Principal for Gray Academy of Jewish Education, unveiled the school's first sports photo montage for the *Wall of Athletic Excellence* which is generously sponsored in part by **Western Scrap Metals**.

"The Wall of Athletic Excellence represents for us at Gray Academy the 'other' side of school. We strongly felt the need to recognize student achievements outside of text books. We've always had sports team, but now this wall gives us an opportunity to honour the student athletes who've contributed to the growth of our sports program. We are unveiling almost 20 team photos from the 2006-07 school year. It's about honour and recognition for our dedicated student athletes," said Hart Sera, Principal.

When asked what influenced his decision to sponsor the unveiling of the '06-'07 sports teams, Hart Kaplan, V.P., Western Scrap Metals said, "Every public school I've been to has pictures of sports athletes on their wall going back 15-20 years, and if they can do it, then we should do it. As a parent, I strongly feel kids should be recognized. It's a great thing for the school and the students to have pride in their accomplishments!"



Award Winning Judaic Studies Teachers Receive Prestigious Award

Rory Paul, Head of School and CEO for Gray Academy of Jewish Education and Anita Wortzman, President, Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education are pleased to announce that Anat Ekhoiz and Carol Leszcz are the recipients of the prestigious Jewish Education Service of North America Inc.'s (JESNA) 8th annual national **Grinspoon-Steinhardt Awards for Excellence in Jewish Education.**



The Grinspoon-Steinhardt Awards for Excellence in Jewish Education are designed to recognize teachers in communities across North America that make a commitment and demonstrate exceptional achievement in the field of Jewish education. The awards honour outstanding classroom-based teachers in formal Jewish educational settings (early childhood to Grade 12).

Anat has risen to the forefront of Hebrew language teaching and most recently been recognized through her position as an adjunct school consultant for the NETA Hebrew Program. Carol has successfully built a Junior Kindergarten (JK) program that integrates both General and Judaic studies in a theme-based program which centers around the Jewish calendar.

Anat Ekhoiz is a high school Hebrew and Judaic Studies teacher and projects her love of Israel through programming she has initiated for Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut. Carol Leszcz has brought the JK program to the forefront of educational excellence and made it one that is well thought of in our community.

Carol and Anat will receive their award in November 2007 at the UJC General Assembly in Nashville.

Community Announcements

SCHOOL GALA FUNDRAISER

Please join us on **Saturday, February 23, 2008** at The Fairmont Winnipeg as we **Celebrate One Hundred Years of Jewish Education in Winnipeg.** If you are interested in volunteering on the committee, please contact the Advancement Office at 477-7514.

TEMPLE SHALOM PRESENTS: Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl's Thing! - a provocative, informal educational program of Moving Traditions that uses Judaism to enrich the lives of girls at a time when they are navigating our cultures' risky and dangerous messages. Through discussion, arts and crafts, and drama, the girls integrate core Jewish values as they focus on the things they care about most-such as body image, friendship, competition, stress and family. This year's program is open to all Grade 7 & 8 girls in Winnipeg. *Meetings will be once a month on the Sunday closest to Rosh Hodesh (the 1st day of the new Jewish month).* For more information and to register, please contact Sherry Wolfe-Elazar at pelazar@shaw.ca or 453-1625. Go to the *It's A Girl's Thing!* Website: www.roshhodesh.org.

FLORENCE MELTON ADULT MINI-SCHOOL NEXT CLASSES – FALL 2007

A workout for the brain... A refreshment for the spirit... The Rady Jewish Community Centre presents The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, a two-year, once-a-week course which offers adults the opportunity to acquire Jewish literacy in an open, pluralistic and intellectually stimulating learning environment regardless of one's background or affiliation. There are no tests, no homework, and no grades. For more information, please contact Nora Sobel at 477-7508 or nsobel@aspercampus.mb.ca.

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