

Gray Academy of Jewish Education

Ruach Reflections

A Weekly Bulletin

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GRAY ACADEMY OF JEWISH EDUCATION WELCOMES STUDENTS FROM KIRYAT SHMONA, ISRAEL FOR PARTNERSHIP 2000

We would like to welcome seven students from our Partnership 2000 School (P2K), Danciger High School in Kiryat Shmona, Israel to Gray Academy from November 26 to December 6 along with their teacher Iris Wolfin. These visiting students will be participating in a variety of activities over the course of 10 days.

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 most students graduate, they have formed a connection to Danciger High School and for many Gray Academy students, Kiryat Shmona has become a second home.

For the 2006-07 school year, a delegation of senior students from Gray Academy will be visiting Danciger High School following the Pesach vacation.

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. Sadly, three of these rockets hit Danciger High School (go to www.grayacademy.ca to view the images). 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.

“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. This is the school’s first visit in the winter and we hope to give them a “warm” Winnipeg welcome,” says Lori Binder, Vice Principal.

A fundraising event spearheaded by Gray Academy students Tali Aziza, Eyal Kraut, Danit Hassan and Ellie Tennenhouse to support Danciger High School recently raised over \$2,800 to send to our sister school in Kiryat Shmona. Parents and students had an opportunity to purchase flowers from *A Flower Affair* for \$25 whereby bouquets were either sent home with students or delivered to the Sharon Home. Direct donations were also accepted. The student-led committee is pleased to announce they exceeded their goal by \$1,200, and take pride in knowing that Danciger High School will greatly benefit from this outpouring of generosity from our student and parent body.

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 (grade 12) and David Coodin (grade 11).

While visiting Winnipeg, some itinerary highlights for the Danciger students will include a tour of our school and visiting classes, participating in a Jewish Federation program at the Berney Theatre where Danciger students will share their personal stories from this past summer, experiencing Shabbat with their respective host families as well as at the Shaarey Zedek synagogue, having a tour of the city, and visiting South East College to learn about Aboriginal culture and heritage among many other activities.

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

For further information on the arrival of Danciger High School students and/or to help out, please contact:

Lori Binder
Vice Principal

Gray Academy of Jewish Education
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GRAY ACADEMY OF JEWISH EDUCATION RANKS HIGH AT RUPERT'S LAND DEBATING TOURNAMENT

At the recently held Rupert's Land Debating Tournament at Balmoral Hall on Sunday November 12, Gray Academy of Jewish Education placed 3rd in the Overall School Category. This event was a qualifier for the National Public Speaking Championships.

At the competition, each competitor must enter ***Parliamentary Debating*** plus either ***Persuasive Speaking*** or ***Impromptu Speaking***. Gray Academy students chose to compete in Impromptu Speaking as the elective, whereby each speaker drew three topics, which were words, quotations, phrases, statements or some combination of the four. They had two minutes to prepare, during which time they had to decide which of the three they would speak on and then prepared their comments.

The following students placed at the Rupert's Land Debating Tournament:

Best in Gray

- Josh Fineblit

Impromptu Overall

- 9th Michael Schwartz
- 8th Josh Morry
- 5th Josh Fineblit

Top Overall Debating

- 9th Josh Fineblit
- 8th Jonathan Ripstein
- 6th Josh Morry

Top Overall Individual

- 10th Josh Morry
- 8th Josh Fineblit

"These debaters are competing at the senior level for grades 10-12, and most of our students are in grade 10, and are placing extremely well on the provincial level. I know we can expect great things from them at upcoming tournaments, says Andrew Kaplan, Debating Teacher.

At the SJR Jr. Parliamentary Debate held November 7, speaking times for all debates were a maximum of six minutes for constructive speeches and three minutes for rebuttals. Points of information were allowed in the open category.

The following students placed at the SJR Jr. Parliamentary Debate:

Best in Gray

- Daniel Breslauer

Top Overall Novice Individual

- 6th Max Erenberg
- 3rd Sarah Levi

Top Overall Open Team

- 8th Saul Werier & Zev Ripstein
- 7th Zev Faintuch & Daniel Breslauer

Top Overall Novice Team

- 6th Daniel Kleinmann & Max Erenberg
- 4th Sarah Levi & Brittany Silverstein

Financial support is provided by the **Gray Academy Debating & Public Speaking Fund** through **The Jewish Foundation of Manitoba**.

For further information on the Debating Program, please contact:

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UPCOMING SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR BENEFITS GRAY ACADEMY AND THE COMMUNITY

Once again, we are excited about sharing the joy of books with our students and from November 20-23 you are invited to this year's Scholastic Book Fair.

The hours of the fair being held in the music room are:

Monday November 20 – 2-8 pm
Wednesday November 22 – 2-8 pm
Thursday November 23 – 9 am – noon

In spring 2006, Scholastic Books held a Book Fair at the school and raised \$1,117 with the support of students, staff and families by purchasing books. Scholastic Book Fairs donated 50% of this amount in books on behalf of Gray Academy to the local Children's Hospital as part of the Children's Miracle Network.

This year's goal is to sell \$5,000 of which 60% goes back to the school in books.

Please join us next week at the ultimate book event! It's a fun way to raise funds, as a portion of the sales will benefit our school, while encouraging children to read.

BONE MARROW DRIVE THIS WEEKEND AT THE ASPER JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS

Young Adult Division (YAD), of the **Jewish Federation of Winnipeg**, presents "*Giving the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Donor Drive*", co-chaired by Alumni Committee member Steven Hyman, at the Asper Jewish Community Campus on Sunday November 19 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the Kroft Boardroom.

The purpose of the drive is to help raise awareness of the need for the Jewish community to be tested and placed on the bone marrow registry. Since tissue type is inherited, like eye or hair color, a patient's best chance of finding a genetic match lies with those of similar ethnic ancestry.

What makes the "Gift of Life" unique is its mission to increase the representation of the Jewish people in the international donor pool. While they welcome volunteers of all ethnic backgrounds, its recruitment strategy targets Jewish communities in order to overcome the continuing effects of the Holocaust.

"This event is one of great importance to our Jewish community and many other Jewish communities throughout North America, and it is a tremendous mitzvah for all to be part of this Bone Marrow clinic," says Steven Hyman.

Students Joey Frohlinger, Bailey Winestock, Ariel Melamedoff, Aliza Lerner and Julieta Dascal from Gray Academy will be volunteering their time to assist **YAD's Tikkun Olam committee.**

For further information on the weekly bulletin, please contact:

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