

# Ruach Reflections

The Newsletter of Gray Academy of Jewish Education

May/June 2011 Iyar/Sivan 5771

## Mazel Tov Grads of 2010 - 2011



It is hard to believe that this is the fifth and final edition of Ruach Reflections for this year. Each edition of this newsletter only reinforces the multi layered community that we are.

They say "It takes a village to raise a child". Gray Academy Of Jewish Education is one piece of that village – Staff and Administration. Students, Parents, Alumni, The Winnipeg Jewish community and the Greater Winnipeg community are also very important components of the "Village".

To our students - You have worked hard this year both in and out of the classroom and I applaud you.

To our teachers – Thank you for seeing each student as an individual.

To our parents and grandparents – Thank you for your commitment to a Jewish Day School education. I cannot thank you enough.

The picture at the top of this page is our recently graduated Grade 12 class. They are a group of thirty five individuals who are now about to embark on a whole new world. They are this year's "Village Graduates" shaped by all of us ready to take on a new chapter in life.

I wish everyone a very relaxing summer.

L'Hitraot,  
Joyce Kerr  
Vice Principal

## In This Issue

Grade 12 Trip to Italy and Israel	2
Mazel tov...	3
Look Who Came To Visit	4
Out and About	6
Celebrating Milestones - Creating Memories	8



Volunteering with Leket Israel

# Gr. 12 Trip to Israel

Only three days after watching 35 graduates cross the stage of the Shaarey Zedek, I had the pleasure of accompanying 18 of them on their three-week grade 12, grad trip to Italy and Israel. Almost none of us had been to Italy, and amazingly, all but four students had previously visited Israel.

We started our trip touring Milan (and getting over our jet lag!). Following Milan we were fortunate to see the beautiful town of Sirmione, a place where a resident of Milan might spend their summer. Followed by a quick stop at Juliet's balcony in Verona, and plenty of gelato along the way, we arrived in Venice. Venice is home to the first Jewish ghetto in existence, dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Having the opportunity to tour this ghetto, eat in a kosher restaurant that is able to exist there today and see the beautiful synagogues was an important experience for us all...and according to our tour guide Marchella, watching the group play soccer in the courtyard of the Jewish ghetto was an authentic Italian experience! We then took in Venice by boat, with a stop in Murano to watch a glass blowing demonstration. Then, we were off to Florence. What can I say about Florence? Touring the amazing synagogue and climbing up to the top of the Duomo by day, meeting the cast of *Jersey Shore* by night. I think I can speak for the entire group that this was one of the best days of the trip. After Florence we trekked down to Rome, with a quick stop to climb the leaning tower of Pisa. In Rome we enjoyed a tour of site such as the Vatican, the Jewish quarter and the Coliseum. I think that after Rome we had all eaten enough cheese to last us the rest of the trip and were ready to head of the Israel for some falafel and schnitzel.

For our "goodbye Rome and welcome home" theme of the day, we arrived in Tel Aviv the next day and fit right in. We had an eye-opening experience in the dark, and spent much of our time at the beach and practicing our bargaining skills at the Carmel market. We even had the chance to snorkel over Roman ruins in Caesaria. After our stay in Tel-Aviv, we traveled up North to visit our friends at Danciger High School. It's been four years since I've visited Kiryat Shmonah, and longer since I've been on P2K, but it was a beautiful site to see how strong the connection between our two schools remains. Up north we stayed in the beautiful Kibbutz Gonen, where we were very appreciative of their beautiful pool during the heat wave we were experiencing. It just so happens we were also right near Israel's "hike of the week" which led to a beautiful fresh water spring where we could enjoy a refreshing dip. Jeeps took us down the Golan Heights and by the end of the day we had floated in the Dead Sea and ridden camels at the Bedouin tent, Han Shayarot. Our time in the desert was filled with activities, from extreme paintball, an early climb up to Masada to watch the sunrise and a hike through an ancient Nabatean city. Lucky for us, we arrived in Jerusalem in time to celebrate Yom Yerushalayeem. The streets were filled with people singing and celebrating. We spent our days digging up the past in an archeological dig, picking onions for Table-to-Table, an organization and feeds the hungry, touring Yad Vashem and taking in all the old city has to offer. We actually lived right in the old city, which quickly became a very comfortable neighbourhood for us. We even found our own bakery to visit each morning. The time flew by, and it was time for us to say goodbye, but not without one last fun night on Ben-Yehuda Street.

And these are only some of the highlights of the trip! The three weeks were packed with activities. We could all go on for pages. But I think the tired, yet smiling faces of the whole group upon arriving home say it all.

To the group of amazing students that I traveled with, I wish you a wonderful summer and I'm so happy that I was able to help you celebrate your graduation.

Cara Katz (Madricha, Class of '07)

# Mazel Tov...

## Retirees:

### **Teachers:**

With a combined total of more than 150 years of teaching between them, Gray Academy would like to say *Todah Rabah* to the six staff members that retired this year. Thank you for your skill, expertise and commitment to our students and their families on a daily basis.

May your next journey be filled with all that you hope for.

Come back and visit, the door is always open.

### **Secretary: Sandi Peterson**

After 23 years in the WBJE system we know you deserve a break from, answering phones, sending emails, fixing boo boos and and and...

Enjoy Your Retirement



Back Row L to R: Grant Buckoski (26 years)  
Sandi Malamud (36.5 years)  
Bob Knight (6 years)

Front Row L to R: Ruthie Soudack-Mamn (15 years)  
Bonnie Rafaeli (21 years)  
Alison Mendres (13 years)

## Gr. 6 Farewell

On Tuesday June 28, the Grade 6 classes said farewell to their elementary years at Gray Academy. The students sang an 'Israeli Medley', received their Certificate of Completion of the General and Judaic Studies programs, sang their class composed Farewell Song that showcased their eight years at Gray, and danced the night away with Barry Kay - Cherry Tree Productions.

In honour of Morah Ruti's retirement from Gray Academy the students presented her with an 48 squared personalized Shabbat Tablecloth. Each square representing something near and dear to Ruti's heart. Prior to the surprise presentation Morah Ruti and Morah Sherry sang a special prayer blessing their Grade 6 students.

Awards were presented for Highest Academic Achievement in General Studies and Judaic Studies and Sportmanship and Leadership. Thank you to Wendy MacKenzie for coming to present the Wanda Neill Toolboom General Studies Award and Richard Pollock for presenting the Raymond Pollock Sportsmanship and Leadership Award.



Gr. 6 Farewell At Shaarey Zedek



L to R: Shoshana Cook-Libin, Stephanie Kalo,  
Bennett Garber, Micah Grubert Van iderstine,  
Samuel Kroft, Brett Koffman

# Look Who Came To Visit ...



## Israeli Ambassador To Canada - Miriam Ziv

Her Excellency Miriam Ziv, Israeli ambassador to Canada, met with our grade-11 students on Monday, May 31, and answered their many questions on current affairs in Israel. In a spirited discussion, many topics were covered: The threat posed by Iran, the peace process with the Palestinians, nuclear weapons in the Middle East, Israel's image in the media, the plight of Gilad Shalit, Israel's economic successes. Ms. Ziv also spoke about her work as ambassador and how young Jews in Canada can be ambassadors for Israel as well.

## Senator Linda Frum

On Thursday, April 28, Senator Linda Frum was a guest speaker at Gray Academy. She spoke with high school students, and engaged them in a thought-provoking discussion on the importance of voting and participating in the governing of our country. She answered a variety of student questions, ranging from the role of women in Canadian politics, to the budget, and Canada's relationship with Israel. Senator Frum remarked that she was very impressed with the depth and quality of the questions of the students, and their knowledge and interest in politics.



Back L to R: Michael Kowalson, Marty Morantz, Joyce Bateman, Senator Frum  
Front Row L to R: Anna Binder, William Pitch

## Jack London, C.M., Q.C.

On June 3, Jack London (Michaela and Jaron Rykiss's Saba) came to speak to the Gr. 6 students about The Canadian Charter Of Rights and Freedoms. "Mr. London started us off by playing us a song called: "Respect" by Aretha Franklin. At the end of it he told us that the point of having us listen to that song was because basically the point of the charter of rights and freedoms is for everyone everywhere to be given respect. He read to us a list of different places around the world where peoples rights are taken from them and the government tortures or even kills them for doing something, for example: protesting against the government, because in those countries, the civilians don't have the right of free speech. Then he summarized to us all the different parts of the charter and what it protects. He also told us about probably 5 different cases he was involved in or has heard of where people challenged the court because their rights were taken away. His presentation was very interesting to listen to and he made it very easy for all of us to understand. After listening to his presentation and hearing all his stories, everyone who was there listening to him, including me, felt very lucky to be able to live in Canada where we have so many rights!"



Stephanie Kalo (Gr. 6)

# CNIB'S Shades Of Fun Day Team

On May 26, Gray Academy JK – Gr. 3 students and staff joined people all across Canada in the second annual CNIB Shades of Fun Day. This day is designed to heighten the awareness of people with vision loss and how important it is to for everyone to take care of their eyes. We were fortunate to have Shari Fages (Jordan and Hannah Garber's mom) who works at the CNIB office in Winnipeg and Brianna Fuellbrandt and Snickers (her companion dog) and Brenda Pankhurst visit the JK- Gr. 3 students. Brianna is an Independent Living Skills Specialist at CNIB. Brianna presented a workshop to the JK students showing them the many aids available to assist blind people in leading an independent life. We were all amazed by her black magic wand. Students in K – 3 participated in a "Sensory Olympics" workshop. The students rotated through three sensory stations: **Hearing** (students had to guess the sound that came from Brianna's sound machine, **Touch** (students were blindfolded and had to guess what various objects were from a bag, **Smell** (students were blindfolded and had to guess what smell they were smelling (lemon, banana and maple) and **Taste** (students had to guess the color of the Mike and Ikes they were given by the matching taste). **We are proud to say that JK – Gr. 6 students raised \$417.67 for this worthy Tzedakah project.**



Top: Sensory Olympics - Smell Station  
Bottom: Sensory Olympics - Touch

## Shira Applebaum

On Friday, June 3, Shira Applebaum shared her story with our grade-10 and 11 students. Shira is a paramedic with David Magen Adom. In 2003 her father, Dr. David Applebaum, and her sister, Naava, were killed in a suicide bombing in Cafe Hillel in Jerusalem. Naava was about to be married the next day. Instead of a wedding, there were two funerals in the family. Dr. Applebaum had structurally changed emergency room medicine in Israel and made it much more efficient. Naava Applebaum volunteered with young cancer patients and wanted to work on finding a cure for this disease. Like her other family members, Shira chose a career in the medical field and became a paramedic. She spoke about her work, about daily activities and about David Magen Adom's response to a terrorist attack. Although she cannot undo the past, Shira sees her role as to provide the best emergency care possible and she shared how she and her team have been able to save lives. She also pointed out that students from abroad can volunteer with Magen David Adom, as some of our students have done. Our students were deeply impressed by this young unassuming, efficient and articulate woman who is so passionate about her work.



## Alumni Happenings...

*Accepted Into...*

**Medical School @ U of M:** Serena Nelko (Class of '06), Kylie Bernstein (Class of '06) Cara Katz (Class of '07), Jordyn Lerner (Class of '07), Yael Shrom (Class of '07), Aaron Micflikier (Class of '08)

**Nursing @ U of M:** Aaron Yaffe (Class of '06) Maia Nelko (Class of '09) (Nursing)

**Yeshiva University Azrieli School of Jewish Admin and Ed Masters Program:** Avi Posen (Class of '06)

**UND Law School:** Leah Leibl (Class of '06)

**Mazel Tov** - Erica Lasker (class of '07) for being awarded the 'Program Medal' for highest standing in Arts Advanced Program @ U of M – June 2011

Alumni news to share... email [jkerr@grayacademy.ca](mailto:jkerr@grayacademy.ca)

# Out and About

## Gr. 7 - A Night At the Museum

Sleeping over at the museum was an amazing experience. At the beginning of the sleepover we brought our belongings into the museum, and played in the "Touch the Universe" gallery. Then we went into the planetarium where a storyteller told us a magnificent story about a kingdom in the land of Nod. Afterwards several jaw-dropping science experiments were conducted, which consisted of a series of explosions! After the science experiment we were given a snack and a chance to sit and talk for a bit before our next activity. When we were all finished our snacks, our group leader Gaby gave us a tour of the whole museum. We visited many different exhibits, including the new "Deep Sea" exhibit on the Hudson's Bay, and the Nonsuch. Afterwards we went to the planetarium and watched a fascinating display of stars, planets and constellations. We then got ready for bed. Once we were ready, we were split into small groups and went on a tour of the whole museum again, but this time all of the lights were off and we only had our flashlights to guide us! After the tour, we could either watch "Night At the Museum" or go to bed. In the morning we ate breakfast and went back to school. This field trip was the best one that I've ever been on!

Sari Glow (Gr. 7)



## Gr. 8 - Visits the Humane Society

The grade 8 Global Connections Class visited the Winnipeg Humane Society on Friday, June 3rd. The core philosophy of the Global Connections course is that students are encouraged to move beyond the self and reach out to the world at large. The WHS supports this notion with educational workshops which foster the nurturing of empathy toward animals. If a child learns to be more patient with animals it is thought that they will be more patient with their peers and ultimately less likely to be aggressive.

The students took a tour, asked many questions and interacted with a dog named Roger who was just returning from being fostered with a lovely family. The also had an opportunity to visit with a young lab puppy named Sandy who was waiting for his new adoptive family to come and retrieve him.

Ms. Buffie



## Gr. 1 - Forte Whyte

My trip to Fort Whyte was fun! First we went on the bus. Then we looked at some insects. Next we went to the bridge. Finally we went back to the bus. The best part was when we went pond dipping!

Zevi 1A

On my field trip to Fort Whyte I saw a chipmunk and geese and baby geese and ducks and baby ducks and baby groundhogs. They are so cute. Fort Whyte was awesome!

Leah 1A

Fort Whyte. I learned about trees. I saw interesting things. I Love Fort Whyte!

Melanie 1B



# Gr. 9 - Human Rights and Holocaust Studies

Our Grade 9 students and supervising staff returned Wednesday May 4 from an amazing four day trip to Washington, DC. The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies program is an annual trip that our students are fortunate to be a part of. The trip included a day at the Holocaust Museum to view the exhibits, partake in the daily workshops and speak with a Holocaust Survivor, walking tours to the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials, Washington, Lincoln and FDR Memorials, the play "Shear Madness" at the Kennedy Centre, The Newseum, four Smithsonian Institutes, standing in the dome at the Canadian Embassy and a bus tour "Washington by Night" to see the White House and Capital. We were at the White House on Monday evening an hour before the announcement was made about Osama Bin Laden. This group of students and chaperones can say they were in Washington when history was made. It was an absolute pleasure to be a part of the trip again this year. Our students represented us well from beginning to end.

For You I Remember, From You I Have Learned was the theme for this year's Asper Foundation for Human Rights and Holocaust Studies program as grade 9 students prepared for their trip to Washington D.C. which includes a day at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and many more memorials that represent human rights.

Gray Academy of Jewish Education grade 9 students were given the challenge to broaden their understanding of their role as they began their Holocaust Studies journey in the fall. Following a number of films and speakers, the students were invited to Gwen Secter Creative Living Centre to meet and interview members of Jewish Child and Family Services Survivors' Group. After preparations for developing meaningful interview questions, the students had their first opportunity to meet their "interviewee" face to face. Students' subsequent comments demonstrate that they have met this challenge admirably.

On Thursday, May 26, the grade 9 students returned to Gwen Secter to once again meet with the JCFS Survivors' Group. Through the video they produced and readings, the students expressed their thanks for the opportunity given to them to meet and interact with members of the JCFS Holocaust Survivors' Group.

On May 30, the grade 9 students will be participating in a culminating evening for the Asper Foundation for Human Rights and Holocaust Studies program where they will be presented with a Memorandum of Personal Responsibility.

Clara Roy (Teacher)



## For You I Remember From You I Have Learned

Throughout the duration of this trip, people have told me that I am the future. Be it teachers, museums, or individuals who have survived the atrocities of hell and back. I am told repeatedly over and over that I am the future. As a part of the future, it is hard to pick up the fragile ball in my hands and not fear breaking it. If I grasp too strongly it may shatter, if I am too gentle it will surely slip from my grip to the ground. How can I hold the future in my hands and be sure not to hurt it somehow? The future is such a vague word, yet it strikes home hard.

After the first uttering of this responsibility I couldn't help but feel I would not live up to such a task. The future is, after all, a heavy weight on my shoulders. How could I be sure I would not fail? Would it not be easier to leave the task to someone else? However, then came the people of the past. The people who I would never meet and spoke silent wisdoms. Those whom I met in the present, and spoke of the past: those I felt awed with. How could they speak such a terrifying past? How can I expect to not repeat what I have been told?

I started this trip being told that I was the future. That, regardless of what would or would not happen, I would be to blame for it's outcome. I first felt fear, but now I believe I am ready. I have learned that with all responsibility comes fear naturally. I have learned that speaking up is the only sure way to this future I am given. A future I was once told to hold, now one I grasp with a certainty that I can only do my best. An assurance that my best will be enough. That at the end of the day, holding on is hard, but letting go would be far worse.

For YOU I wish to remember. I wish to remember and hold this past dear in the coming future. For YOU have taught me to always raise my hands cupped with the glowing flame of the future high. High enough for all to see and for future future's to grasp as well.

For you I remember, because, from you, I have learned.

Anna Binder (Gr. 9)

# MAZEL TOV

## CELEBRATING MILESTONES - CREATING MEMORIES

2010 – 2011

Todah Rabah for Sponsoring the Following:

### **Kindergarten: Kabbalat Shabbat Evening**

Jessica and Joel Cogan and Family  
Michelle Pollock-Kohn and Steven Kohn and Family  
Marla and Adam Levene and Family  
Mira and Matthew Narvey and Family  
Sari and Brian Rosenberg and Family

### **Grade 1: Chaggigat Ha-Siddur - Siddurim**

Brenlee and Michael Cantor and Family  
Sheri Winters and Bruce Caplan and Family  
Deidre and Arman Glojo and Family  
Nancy and Howard Pitch and Family  
Rana and Morris Shenkarow and Family  
Diane and Sandy Shindelman and Family  
Mara and Shane Silver and Family  
Kylie Cameron and Jonathan Wilder and Family

### **Grade 2: Chaggigat Ha-Torah - Torah and Book**

Karla and Meir Dahan and Family  
Karen and Rick Gall and Family  
Michelle Pollock-Kohn and Steven Kohn and Family  
Marni Wiseman and Shane Perlmutter and Family  
Carrie and Ross Ransby and Family  
Heather and Norman Silver and Family  
Fran and Shawn Yaffe and Family

### **Grade 3: Imaginary Trip To Israel**

Liz and Michael Boroditsky and Family  
Brenlee and Michael Cantor and Family  
Shawna and Allan Cogan and Family  
Anne and Max Feierstein and Family  
Danna and Joel Kaplan and Family

### **Grade 6: Shabbaton Project, Tzedakah Boxes**

Brenda Tessler Donen and Joel Donen and Family  
Liz and Michael Boroditsky and Family  
Beth Grubert and Family  
Leah Craven and Steven London and Family  
Lara and Les Rykiss and Family

***If you would like to be part of this program next year please contact Joyce Kerr at 477-7409***

## GRADE 12 GRADUATION

The Governor General's Medal  
The Harvey and Sima Kay Scholarship  
**Zev Riptein**

Gray Academy Gold Medal  
**Sharna Nelko**

Gray Academy Silver Medal  
**Mikaela Goldberg**

### **Valedictory Addresses**

**Sari Waldman** (Hebrew) **Max Erenberg** (English)

## GRADE 6 FAREWELL

Wanda Neill Tolboom Award  
Highest Academic Achievement - General Studies  
**Shoshana Cook-Libin** and **Stephanie Kalo**

Highest Academic Achievement - Judaic Studies  
**Bennet Garber** and **Micha Grubert Van Iderstine**

Raymond Pollock Memorial  
Sportsmanship and Leadership Award  
**Brett Koffman** and **Sam Kroft**

## What's Coming Up...

July 13 - Aug. 22: WBJE Board Office Closed (inclusive)

July 13 - Aug 22: School Office Closed (inclusive)

Aug. 24: Uniform Exchanges (New Items Only) 1 - 4 pm

Sept. 7: First Day Of School 2011/12 - Gr. 1 - 12

Sept. 9: First Day Of School 2011/12 - JK and K

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