
WINTER 2005



Staffing News

Thanks and good wishes to **Iris Belchatovsky** who is unable to continue with us this term. We are very grateful to **Janet Kaiman** who has agreed to take over the Grade 2-3 class on short notice with her characteristic enthusiasm! We are also pleased to welcome **Avi Weiss** who has joined our staff as a Grade 6-7 History teacher. It is Avi's love of Jewish History and teaching that has attracted him to our school while completing his PhD in aerospace engineering. The children are quite engaged by the parallels he draws between the ancient history under study and contemporary issues. Welcome aboard Avi!



The Chanukah Table



The Chanukah table was a success again this year. We made a profit of about \$350.00. We made \$92 on the Chanukah chocolate calendars. I am interested in knowing what you thought of them and whether we should get them again next year. Was \$10 each a good price if ordered in advance? We make money on the Chanukah table by buying items we manage to find on sale and selling them to you at a slight increase over what we paid. If you see a good sale, call me anytime at either my cell 797-3216 or home 828-7081 and let me know so I can snap them up. We all like a bargain don't we? Let me know what you would like to see in the sale and I will see if I can find them. For instance, I did not get candles this year because I couldn't compete with the Loblaws price of .89 a box. Please feel free to give me your feedback at srivier@rogers.com or call me. Finally, are you getting emails from me occasionally? If you haven't been, let me know and I will make sure you are on my list

-Shelley Rivier

Campus Security Update

Charles Brazeau (Director of Campus Property Management) and Jamie Gagnon (Security Supervisor) accepted our invitation to discuss campus security – and security for our children in particular – with the OMJS Board of Directors. In addition to our Board members the session was attended by several parents (and even the parent of a Talmud Torah student). Areas discussed include the need to have emergency procedures in case of fire or some other threat, and to have evacuation plans rehearsed. We do have such procedures, and have followed up with a fire drill.

Remember, Parents that it is obligatory for us sign in when we enter the school, even if just to socialize in the lobby while waiting for our kids. Signing in slows down access and gives the security guard the opportunity to watch who comes and goes, and is considered a useful part of our security routines.

-Lionel Moser, Security

We Hear You!

Some parents have expressed disappointment that the Chanukah event was not more inclusive of families. The Board favours holiday events that include the entire school community and it is gratifying to know that many parents share our point of view. We appreciate your feedback and plans are already underway for Purim and Pesach events which will include the whole family!

-Marlene Rivier on behalf of the Board

What's Happening at OMJS

By Principal Miri

It's hard to believe that the months are flying by so quickly and the first semester is drawing to a close. OMJS celebrated Chanukah this past year in rare style with an experiential approach to the holiday. Our theme was CHANUKAH: THEN AND NOW. The children were asked to do various activities that showcased the differences and similarities of how we celebrate Chanukah in the present and in "the days of yore". It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm as the children went from station to station, sampling the variety of things to accomplish. I believe it was a meaningful and challenging experience. At the end of the morning, we invited the parents to join in with refreshments served. I would like to thank all the parent volunteers that lent a hand in making the morning so successful!!! As well, in December, we were very fortunate to have as a guest speaker: Jacques Shore. Mr. Shore is a lawyer in town who wrote a wonderfully acclaimed children's book interweaving the theme of the Holocaust with a Chanukah story. The reading ended with a question and answer session. We are indeed very grateful for Mr. Shore's kind and informative visit.

Tu B'Shvat

Since our return to school after the winter break, we have been busy with challenging our students to work studiously on their language skills as well as enjoy the wonderful offerings of the life cycle. With our theme being Israel, this year, we made a point to reinforce what the holiday of **TU B'SHVAT (arbour day)** would be like, if we were to celebrate it in Israel. An "arbour day" in the middle of a **Canadian** winter is a hard sell. So, combining with the SJCC, VERED, and TALMUD TORAH, we set out to make the morning of the 23rd as **green** as could be. THE ISRAELI SHLICHA spoke about what Israel's climate is like at this time of the year, and offered the children a cornucopia of smells and tastes that the **Holiday of the Trees** brings. The children were busy at the six different stations with refreshments offered on the side. It was truly a great sight to see all the wonderful artwork and obvious enjoyment. We were very lucky to have our **new "moreh" - AVI-** facilitating the "squeezing of oranges" into juice by the children. *(It was a testament to his fortitude that the smile never left his face even though he was constantly spritzed there!)*

Upcoming Events!

We are now gearing up for the next part of our program. We are thinking of a Purim program where the parents and children will participate to create a nice "Mishloah Manah" (traditional Purim treats) and go over to the Hillel Lodge to deliver them to our seniors. We will be learning some songs specifically to entertain our seniors at this time. As well, Passover is being discussed and in keeping with our community spirit, we are planning to have one large seder for all the grades. Parent participation is invited and encouraged! Any parent who wishes to participate or offer input on any one of these holidays, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school or by e-mail.

On a last but most important administrative note, it would be very **encouraged if the children would bring shoes or slippers to school and not have to wear their boots all morning**. If you wish to leave them at the school, you may do so - in a bag with their names clearly marked and we will keep them in the office so they will have access to them on Sunday mornings.

As well, look to the early part of February for the children's Progress Report.

In the meantime, remember the Israeli saying when **anything** gets to you. - "**CA CHA ZE.**" In other words, **that's the way it goes**...keep warm!