



## ***Ottawa Modern Jewish School Newsletter Fall 2006***

### **Shalom OMJS Families**

**A couple of items to look forward to in December!**

#### **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Next week **in lieu of classes**, we are participating in the city-wide "**Mitzvah day**" – a day when different segments of the Jewish population collaborate in performing *Mitzvot* (good deeds) for the local community of Ottawa. (Please see attached explanation). Many other Jewish supplementary schools are participating as well as people from all ages across the community! I would ask that you **bring your children a little earlier (9:15 AM)** next week so that we can all walk over to the SJCC together and participate in the **kick-off Breakfast that will be free** to all!!!! **All families are encouraged to stay and help out during the morning as we need many volunteers** to help facilitate this wonderful event. Our OMJS students will be participating in activities at the SJCC or at Hillel Lodge:

- Sewing challah covers in support of the program *Shalom Bayit*
- Working on crafts to decorate Hillel Lodge (paint a tile for a mosaic that will be constructed at the Lodge)
- Painting Kiddush cups for the program *Shalom Bayit*
- Sewing garment bags together to be put on the backs of wheelchairs/walkers for the seniors at Hillel Lodge.

Throughout the morning, there will be face painting, balloon creations, fake tattooing, etc... and a general light-hearted spirit of the day.

We really do need many parent volunteers to help the children (especially the younger ones) in their crafts; in walking from one building to another – well, plainly stated: **as many extra hands as we can get!!!!** If you are interested in this, **please e-mail me** at [mlerson@rogers.com](mailto:mlerson@rogers.com) and I promise I'll let you know the co-ordinates!

#### **December 10<sup>th</sup>**

We have invited **Stacey Segal** to talk to the children about conflict resolution and bullying – defining what *Shalom Bayit* is all about. Stacey comes to us highly recommended. She is a social worker at Jewish Family Services, part-time, dividing the rest of her time between various hospitals working primarily with children. Stacey and her team are also spearheading a campaign to send out "Shabbat Kits: candles/candlesticks/challahs – complete with challah coverings, etc" to all **women's shelters throughout the province**. Throughout the year (I will let you know the dates!!!), Stacey will return to facilitate activities on this theme: "discussions/activities will include statements from the Torah/Talmud about individual responsibility for *pituah nefesh* (saving/helping a life); keeping *Shalom Bayit*; and, forgiveness when there is *Teshuva* (repentance/remorse)."

**I invite all parents/guardians of OMJS students to stay on that day and attend this mini-lecture series.**

The children will be divided up into different groups so as to ensure that age & theme-appropriateness is facilitated and maintained. Should you have any questions and/or concerns about this lecture series, please don't hesitate to contact me! This is in support of our theme this year of "Community!!"

Principal Miri ☺

## As cometh Hanukkah...

Hanukkah is just around the corner! We have many new items, at affordable prices. We will be selling them on Dec 3, 10 and 17 from 11:45 to 12:45. This is a fundraiser for the school and OMJS parents have always been generous.

Thank you for your continuing support.

## ...so cometh the Hanukkah party

Hanukah Party time is December 17. Parents are invited, welcome, and wanted. The party will be preceded by a short business meeting, at which we will review and approve financial statements. We invite your interest and require your participation!

## OMJS is looking for...

The OMJS office is in need of a gently used computer monitor. If you have one or know of one, could you please let Miri know?

[principal@omjs.ca](mailto:principal@omjs.ca)

We would also like some more small items for the Treasure Box. It is such a delight for the children to choose a treat from the box. So any small cars or inexpensive little toys (Fast Food toys), would be greatly appreciated.

## JNF Trees

Trees symbolize life, give life and preserve life. Over the last 100 years, the Jewish National Fund and its supporters have planted over 240 million trees in Israel. Each tree costs around \$22 (\$15 US), and OMJS children are collaborating by sponsoring leaves on our OMJS JNF tree. Each leaf is 25¢. Send your child with a quarter or two next week to add to our tree, and we'll have our first OMJS tree in Israel.

An anonymous donor has agreed to top up our donation to the next full tree.

## Family directory

In keeping with our theme of **Community**, the OMJS Board thought it would be nice to invite OMJS families to purchase space in the Family Directory. **For \$25 you may have a space in the directory for your business card.** As you know the family directory is a list of phone numbers and addresses of families in the school. This directory is produced for and distributed to our school community; we do not share this information with any other group.

We would love to share your various business ventures with our school community as well.

Please submit your card by Tuesday November 28 with a cheque or cash to OMJS. You can email me with your card or bring it by the office next Sunday.

**Shelley**

[president@omjs.ca](mailto:president@omjs.ca)

## OMJS Website

The OMJS website has had a makeover this year thanks to the efforts of Lionel Moser (parent, Board member, vice-president, webmeister, & newsletter editor). It's functional and presentable. Now when you meet parents of prospective new students you can direct them to our web site to get a good impression of our school.

## Link tip

The Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'Ir has been renamed the *Jewish Federation of Ottawa*. For information on programs and events in the Ottawa Jewish community, visit their website [www.jewishottawa.org](http://www.jewishottawa.org).

## Getting to know the Board

The new Board of Directors for 2006/07 is in full gear, working to support the Principal, Miriam Lerson-Hameiri, and the teaching staff to ensure that the school runs smoothly. This year we are particularly pleased to welcome new Board members Faren Hodgson and Danny Mazor. A number of returning members have taken on new responsibilities – Lionel Moser as Vice-President, Alan Diener as Treasurer, Janice Singer as Registrar and, of course, Marlene Rivier as Past President. Filling out the slate are returning members Eva Lazar, Recording Secretary, and Karen Beutel and Brenda Schwartz who are continuing to devote time and energy to the school as Directors. Parents are welcome to attend any of our monthly meetings (next one is December 10 in the teachers' lounge). We invite you to speak with us or any of the members to learn more about the Board and how you can get involved in the school.

Morrie Paul & Shelley Rivier  
Co-Presidents

[president@omjs.ca](mailto:president@omjs.ca)

## For Immediate Release

### Jewish Federation's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mitzvah Day to help those in need

(Ottawa - November 22, 2006) Improving the world one good deed at a time is the premise behind the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's **Mitzvah Day**. "Mitzvah" is the Hebrew word for "good deed".

On **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006**, the Jewish community of Ottawa will lend a hand in trying to make the world a better place by performing "good deeds" in and around Ottawa and helping those in need. *Mitzvah Day* registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with a **FREE Breakfast at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC)** located at 21 Nadolny Sachs Private. The SJCC is home base for the day. *Mitzvah Day* is sponsored by The Young Adult Division (YAD) of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. Young and old are welcome to participate.

A variety of "good deeds" are planned for December 3<sup>rd</sup>. They include: collecting food for the Kosher and regular food banks, donating blood, a teen basketball tournament for the Heart Institute, feeding the homeless, serving lunch at Shepherds of Good Hope, crafts for seniors, and painting a tile for Hillel Lodge to name a few. When the day concludes, all participants will be treated to a **Thank You Ice Cream Bash** held at **1:00 p.m.** at the **SJCC**.

"*Mitzvah Day* is about experiencing what it means to give without receiving anything in return except the knowledge that you have helped someone else," says Evan Zelikovitz co-chair of the event with his wife Lenora. "It is about understanding that one day it could very well be you who will need some help or just an act of kindness to make your life that much better."

YAD is a dynamic group of people (ages 25 to 45) who are committed to building a better Jewish community in Ottawa, Israel and throughout the world. YAD's goal is threefold: to connect young adults with each other and the Jewish community; to empower young adults to "Live Generously" (by giving their time, sharing their talents and contributing to their community); and to have a great time along the way.