



Ottawa Modern Jewish School *Newsletter* *Fall 2007*



Breakfast with the Board on December 9

The Chanukah festivities will be taking place on December 9, starting at 10:30. Before that gets going, the Board of Directors would like to invite all parents (grandparents, aunts & uncles, too) for coffee, bagels (and more) and a chance to hear about what's going on at the school. We'll hear from our Principal about some of the interesting programs that have taken place so far this year and what's coming up; and provide you with updates on our financial situation, security issues, and whatever other school issues you'd like to hear about. It's also a chance for you to give the Board some feedback. Please join us in the Teachers' Room at 9:30 after you've dropped off your children.

Annual Chanukah Table

Our Chanukah table opens for business at 11:45 AM on November 25 and runs 'till December 2. Please think about your Dreidel, gelt (chocolate of course), wrapping paper, kaleidoscope and other Chanukah must haves that you absolutely must have. If you would like to take a turn at the Hanukah table, call Shelley 613-828-7081 or email me at srivier@rogers.com.

Chanukah party

Shalom to all OMJS Families!

It's hard to believe that Chanukah is fast approaching and that we have two and half months of school under our belt! Chanukah will begin early this year, with the first lighting of the candles on the evening of Wednesday, December 5th. Our Teachers have been busy getting our students ready for the Chanukah concert that we will have on December 9th, beginning at 10:30 in our Gym. The concert will be preceded by the all-parents meeting which begins at 9:30 in the teacher's lounge. I promise there will be dreidles, entertainment, and good things to nosh!

Mitzvah Day

Last year OMJS participated in Mitzvah Day for the first time. The purpose of this day is to promote the collaboration of different segments of the Jewish population in performing Mitzvot (good deeds) for the local community of Ottawa. The students enjoyed various activities (crafts, sewing) to support Jewish needs in the community, reinforcing the principle of giving back. OMJS parents were a great support and added much to the success of this event.

Once again parents' participation will be very much appreciated. This is also an opportunity to observe and assist our

students in participating in activities that are valuable for the local Jewish community.

Missing books

A follow-up to those who have/have not received the e-mail regarding our **Amnesty Program**. This year we have noticed a reduction in the number of text books available to our children. If you have any textbooks that belong to OMJS that your children are not currently using, **please return them** to the security desk addressed to me, or to the office – no questions asked! I would be most grateful! And so would the students!

Principal Miri ☺

Getting into the Chanukah Spirit

Thanks to our kindergarten students and our teaching assistant, Keila Paul, we have some lovely decorations to share with Jewish Family Services (JFS) for an upcoming Chanukah event for seniors. OMJS is pleased to be able to support JFS in its efforts to reach out to the Jewish community.

Holocaust education week

Two weeks ago, Grades 6 & 7 (vav & zion) students participated in a stimulating Holocaust Education Week program. The students were very receptive to Professor Gerry Cammy, who provided background of the time period; Anna Czjenisky, a child Holocaust survivor who spoke of her experiences; and Zev Kershman, a University student who had gone on the "March of the Living". Each of the speakers provided informative and insightful presentations and invited the audience to engage in discussion. As well, we watched a short film called "Benny's Story", about a young boy who eventually came to live in Ottawa after being a hidden child. This was followed by a hands-on art activity lead by Art

Therapist Claire Cohen, who facilitated the participants in putting some of their feelings down on paper through an artistic form. These heart-felt collages created by the participants were exhibited for the duration of Holocaust Education Week at the SJCC. It was a notable launch to a very successful week, and I thank all those who were extremely supportive of this program: the OMJS students, the OMJS Board and Teachers, the Shoah committee, the Jewish Federation and all the volunteers who came out to help. Yasher coah!

Principal Miri ☺

A couple of reminders!

As winter weather is here, please ensure that your children have proper footwear for school. Nothing is ickier than sitting with wet feet or near-sopping boots.

Also, please remind your children that as we share space with Hillel Academy day school, we must be conscientious to **not abuse or use anything in those desks that belongs to the other children** who use them during the week! Our catch-phrase this year is **Be a Mench!** If you see anything like this, please let someone know! We must always be respectful of others' property!

Email list

If you did not get an email from Shelley this week, it means that for some reason the email address is incorrect or we don't have one for you. Please let me know if you would like any changes or additions to the distribution list. I keep emails to a minimum. I am at srivier@rogers.com.