



Ottawa Modern Jewish School Newsletter Winter 2007

Mitzvah Day Report

OMJS participated in Mitzvah Day on December 3, 2006. The purpose of this Day was to promote the collaboration of different segments of the Jewish population in performing Mitzvot (good deeds) for the local community of Ottawa. The day began with a wonderful kick-off breakfast that was enjoyed by all. The students then participated in activities at the SJCC that reinforced the principle of performing good deeds for others in their community. These included:

- Sewing challah covers and painting Kiddush cups in support of the Shalom Bayit program.
- Working on crafts to decorate Hillel Lodge (painting tiles for a mosaic to be constructed at the Lodge).
- Sewing garment bags together for the backs of wheelchairs/walkers for residents of Hillel Lodge.

There were fun activities in the gym that were run with the assistance of student volunteers, as well as face painting, tattooing etc. throughout the morning.

Thank you to all the parents that attended with their children and assisted with the activities. This support adds to the success of such an event. Overall, Mitzvah Day was a positive experience for the children, parents and staff of OMJS. It was a great way to incorporate and support the school theme of community.

Tax Receipts

Tax Receipts have been mailed to OMJS families covering the period from September - Dec 31, 2006. Please contact Alan Diener,

our Treasurer, if there are any problems (alan_diener@rogers.com).

Chanukah Table

Thank you to all who visited our Chanukah table in December. Some of you should get frequent flyer miles as you visited quite regularly. Although, it is not much of a money maker, it is a great way to socialise with OMJS families and to share the holidays with everyone. Keep your eyes open for any great sales on discontinued or clearance Chanukah products and I will buy them from you. I already have a nice little selection of items for next year.

Outreach

OMJS is always on the lookout for new students. Currently we offer a discount for students new to the school, as well as to families who refer new students. Just prior to Passover we will be doing some outreach by meeting potential OMJS families at such diverse locations as the **Capital Parent and Kids Show** at the Nepean Sportsplex (**March 31 - April 1**), and in the aisles of the **College Square Loblaws (March 22, from 4-8 pm)**.

If you can spare one hour of your time **we really could use your presence** at one of these locations. The more of us who participate, the less time each of us needs to commit. Currently, the Board is spread pretty thin and your time would be greatly appreciated. Just email me and I will happily give you a time to resource our table (srivier@rogers.com).

**For information on programs and events in the OMJS community
visit our website: www.omjs.ca**

Financial Update

On December 17 we presented the audited financial statement for the 2005/06 school year to parents. With our continuing efforts to find efficiencies and cut costs, and thanks to some generous donations, we realized a small surplus and an overall improvement in our financial picture over the previous year. While this is indeed good news, we cannot afford to be complacent.

Our enrolment is stable this year, but we are facing a rent increase so we need to continue to look for ways to keep our costs down. Our fundraising efforts -- sales at the Chanukah table in December and our planned sale of school t-shirts in the spring -- make an important contribution to the financial health of the school. Through these and other efforts the Board is working to manage the school finances prudently and maintain tuition fees at their current levels. For more information or for a copy of the financial statement contact Morrie Paul, Co-President, at morrie.paul@ec.gc.ca.

Purim celebration – please come!

Purim will be celebrated in a different way this year by all the children doing a “Purim Spiel” (a play about Purim). We encourage relatives and family members to come and be our audience – on **March 4, 10:45 AM in the Gym**.

March Break - please don't come!

There will be **no school on March 11th**, as it is March break; however, we will have school on March 18th ... and begin gearing up for our Passover Seder on April 1st.

Timeliness

Something extremely important I am requesting of OMJS families is to **ensure that your child gets to school on time**. The teachers work hard to be ready to begin teaching at 9:30 so that each child gets the full benefit of the three hours that they spend

here. Latecomers disrupt the flow of the class; we have such little time to spend with your children and we really do endeavour to give them our best. **We would so appreciate if you would support us by having your child ready to learn by 9:30. Please!**

Shalom to All OMJS Families!

The winter has finally arrived, albeit a bit late this year, but I do hope that you have enjoyed being “Canadian” with all that it entails! On Sunday mornings, we have coped extremely well, staying warm in the school and learning as much as we can as the days fly by.

In January, we had another session with Mr. Phil Kretzmar who led us in some wonderful **Israeli dancing!** The following week, we celebrated **Tu B'Shevat, the Holiday of the Trees**. Despite inclement weather, we spoke of the warm breezes that begin in Israel at this time and the planting that takes place. We had a Seder complete with different kinds of fruit, (symbols of seven kinds of fruit-bearing trees), blessings, plantings, and learning about why this holiday is so important. The students eagerly participated in our discussion about the importance of planting, renewal, and respecting nature; and how the Torah and Jewish traditions recognized this long ago. Wonderful and impressive comments were made! It was delightful to hear the enthusiasm and the extent of knowledge the children have with regard to ecological concerns! We are still striving to have our tree on the office door “bloom” and we ask you once again for your support! Please give a quarter or two in the name of your family members! Help make our tree grow!

By now, you must have received your child's **progress report**. If you have any comments or questions as to the progress reports of your children, do not hesitate to contact me, please!

Principal Miri ☺

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