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## Ottawa Modern Jewish School *Newsletter* *Spring 2008*

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### End of year ceremony

The end-of-year and graduation ceremony will be held June 15. The past few years it has been at Sir Robert Borden High School. **This year it will be held at OMJS in our school gym**, which is now air conditioned. The ceremony begins at 9:30. It will be followed by cake and other nice things to eat, and a chance to socialize. Let me repeat: the end-of-year/graduation ceremony will be held at OMJS (in the Hillel School building). **Not Sir Robert Borden.** Got that? No? Read on...

### End of Year Ceremony and other things....

It's hard to believe that this year has gone by so quickly! It was just Tu'B'shvat; then Purim; then Passover; Yom Ha Shoah, Yom Ha Atzmaut; and just this past week, Lag B'Omer! The year filled up quickly and then was gone. We had a wonderful Purim party with lots of games and fun. There was an amazing educational component with the Grade 7's (Kita Zion) exhibiting their History Projects! Ya shar Coah (*all the strength*) to them! The mock Passover Seder went extremely well, with the

students participating according to grade and leading it, was our own graduating class! I've been receiving the entries for the **Dr. Norman Barwin** Essays and have been absolutely amazed with the diversity and efforts that have been offered! Again, Ya shar Coah and Mazel Tov to our Kita Zion!

We are now gearing up for the **End of Year Ceremony** that will be held **at our school** this time. While the venue may not be as formal as Sir Robert Borden's Auditorium, I'm quite sure that we will make it "Haimmish (lovely)!" The "Progress Reports" will be given out on that day as well.

To all the parents and families of OMJS, I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your continued support throughout this year, and wish you well in the upcoming months! Remember, September is right around the corner! Please check our website for news, pictures and details!

All the very best, Principal Miri ☺

### Walkathon

The Walkathon will be held on June 1. We will congregate in front of the school and walk as a group. If you have an OMJS T-shirt, wear it proudly! If you don't, don't worry; we'll have our OMJS banner.

Registration is done on a personal basis, as is getting sponsors to raise money for the Jewish Community.

### Registration for 2008-2009

Early registration for next year will take place after the end-of-year ceremony. There is no change in tuition fees, but there are improved discounts for new families, and greater discounts for families referring new students to our school. Do you have friends or neighbours who might be interested?

Early registration has its benefits, not least of which is a discount. Details and registration forms will be available shortly. They will be available for download from our website, they will be in your children's knapsacks, they'll be at the graduation ceremony.

### **Graduation trip**

The 2007 graduating class (Grade 7) and parents have planned a field trip to the National Archives to visit the Jacob Lowy Collection of rare Hebraica and Judaica, followed by dinner at the always elegant Nate's deli. If your child is graduating, you'll be contacted shortly with details about the date. Jonathan is organizing.

### **B'nai Mitzvah**

Some parents have brought to the OMJS Board of Directors their interest in having a B'nai Mitzvah Group as part of (or supplemental to) the Grade 7 program. A preliminary discussion raised some ideas, such as: having a group meet outside of the current 3-hour program with specific teaching instruction; having the student complete a meaningful project with direction and presenting it at the end of the year at a ceremony separate from the graduation ceremony. (Since the grade sevens already write an essay, the B'nai Mitzvah project might include extending or presenting it.) Family and friends would be invited to attend this ceremony. A secular, rather than religious approach has been suggested.

Some areas to consider:

- would the ceremony be part of the end-of-year ceremony or separate?
- could it be supplemental to a Bat/Bar Mitzvah for students who will have a formal one anyway?

- could it be an alternative for children who would otherwise not celebrate a B'nai Mitzvah?
- would it be a group project or individual?
- what would be the nature of the preparatory study?
- what would we be aiming to achieve?
- is there enough interest from the parents?

This is a large undertaking and input from parents is very important to assist in making the Program something that all families, whether affiliated with a synagogue or not, could find meaningful.

Further pursuit of such a project requires sufficient interest from more than a few parents. If you have particular interest or other ideas for such a program and are willing to attend a discussion some Sunday morning, please let us know and we will organize it. Speak to us, or send email to **webmaster@omjs.ca**  
- Brenda, Faren and Lionel