

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



Our Mission, Vision and Values

Gray Academy of Jewish Education brings together nearly 500 students and their families to learn, grow and excel in a warm community environment rooted in Jewish values. The Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education (WBJE) is the trustee of the mission and vision of Gray Academy and the primary policy-making body for the school.

Mission

Gray Academy prepares students to reach their full potential as empowered global citizens by providing educational excellence framed by Jewish identity, community and values.

Vision

To provide an education environment of academic excellence, strong Jewish values, spiritual and physical wellness, and proud global citizenship.

Our Beliefs and Values

Respect	כבוד הדדי
Tolerance	סובלנות
Diversity	רבגוניות
Leadership	מנהיגות
Community	קהילה

Our Commitments

Academic Excellence	הצטיינות אקדמית
A Community School	בית ספר קהילתי
Jewish Identity	זהות יהודית
Future Leadership	מנהיגות עתידית אורח
Healthy Living	חיים בריא
Israel	ישראל

Our Accreditation and Affiliations

As an independent school, Gray Academy is committed to maintaining rigorous academic standards, fostering a warm and inclusive community and pursuing continuous whole-school improvement. Our accreditation and network affiliations are vital tools that help us meet these important commitments, as we focus on the learning, growth and development of every child.

Gray Academy is:

- a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg;
- approved by the Government of Manitoba; we follow the provincial curriculum set by the Department of Education for Kindergarten through Grade 12, and all Judaic studies courses are approved for high school credit towards graduation;
- accredited by the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS), a community of independent schools that meet and exceed rigorous national standards;
- a member of the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools (MFIS), the umbrella organization for funded, non-profit independent schools across the province;
- a member of Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools, a network that provides professional development, research data and resources for Jewish day schools across North America.

Beneficiary Agency of the
Jewish Federation
OF WINNIPEG



CAIS Canadian
Accredited
Independent
Schools



PRIZMAH
Center for Jewish Day Schools



Manitoba Federation of
Independent Schools
CHOICE • DIVERSITY • EXCELLENCE

From Our President



It's certainly been another eventful year for the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education. When I wrote my 2021 letter, the pandemic felt like it might have been on its way out, only to come back with a more contagious vengeance in December. The board, as it had done so many times during the previous year, sprang into action, with our pandemic response committee meeting, planning and ensuring the school could continue to operate in an unknown future.

Fortunately, the meticulous planning the school and the board had done previously – from social distancing to masking to the vaccine mandate – allowed us to remain open and keep our kids learning safely. Thankfully, by the end of the year, life at Gray started feeling almost normal again.

Now, students can once again gather for assemblies, parents can connect at GAPA-run events, and our board can meet in person and focus on the jobs we originally signed up for: ensuring Lori and her team can provide, as our vision statement says, “an educational environment of academic excellence, strong Jewish values, spiritual and physical wellness, and proud global citizenship.”

While the pandemic dominated my time as board chair, it was never our sole focus. We spent a lot of time preparing for our CAIS re-accreditation, which we successfully achieved; we began a new strategic plan, which will set the board and the school's priorities for the years ahead; we're discussing ways to celebrate Gray Academy's 25th anniversary and new fundraising opportunities; and we continue to think more broadly about how we can help the school innovate and evolve.

If I have learned anything over the last two years as board chair, it is that you cannot have a thriving Jewish community without a strong Jewish school. Whether our students are learning at home or in-person, Gray Academy has remained focused on building the Jewish leaders of tomorrow. I am constantly inspired by what our kids, supported by our incredible faculty and staff, have accomplished, and I am proud of what the board and the leadership has done to set this school up for continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan'.

Bryan Borzykowski
President

From Our Head of School and CEO



While the 2021-2022 school year was our second operating in a global pandemic, it was also the year in which we began to re-connect in person in ways we had not been able to since the spring of 2020. Throughout the year, we marked many grade-specific milestones, holidays and special moments – many together in school, others remotely from home, some a combination of the two.

A moment that stands out for me is Yom Ha'atzmaut. It was a beautiful sunny day that saw all students and staff, from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, gather together outside to raise the Israeli flag, sing Hatikvah, dance and celebrate, unrestricted, under a bright blue sky. This was the first time our whole school was together in two years.

This was a turning point, after which we were able to welcome families back into our building to experience once again the vibrancy of milestone moments at Gray Academy. At our Elementary musical, Kindergarten Shabbat, Chaggigat HaSiddur, Chaggigat HaTorah, year-end celebrations and Grad, being together in person brought so much joy to our entire Gray Academy family.

Even more important, the full range of school experiences came back to life for students. Our Athletics program drew students back to the ice rink, the basketball court and the Ultimate field. Grade 5 and 6 students wowed family and friends with a new Elementary musical. Band and Drum Line students returned to the live concert stage. Field trips, Shabbatons and camp overnights brought back opportunities to bond with peers while learning outside the classroom.

I am incredibly grateful to the WJSTA, our teachers, educational assistants, support staff and the leadership team for caring for our school community through another historical school year. Your unwavering dedication to our students, in and out of the classroom, is what makes our Gray Academy family so unique.

Thank you to all our Gray Academy families for your deep trust in us, especially during another challenging year. We are grateful to partner with you in your children's educational journey.

Thank you to the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education for your commitment and support through another unprecedented year, especially during our re-accreditation by the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS). Even with pandemic-driven delays and virtual-only visits from the accreditation committee, this process was rewarding and enlightening for our entire team.

Our CAIS accreditation is a signal to Gray Academy families and the wider community of our deep commitment to continual school improvement, including innovative approaches to education, caring for student wellness and ensuring our long-range financial strength. The feedback we received from CAIS is now forming the backbone of Gray Academy's next strategic plan.

I am eternally grateful to Bryan Borzykowski, whose entire two-year term as President took place during the pandemic. While most of your term was coloured by virtual meetings and pandemic-related matters, you did not let that stop you from bringing positive energy to your leadership and ensuring we were always looking ahead to the future.

As Bryan transitions to the role of Past President, we say goodbye and thank you to outgoing board members Bruce Caplan, Evgeny Gotfrid and Sean Shore, the longest serving President in WBJE history. Sean will now broaden his volunteer contributions by serving on the national CAIS board. I thank you all for your valuable contributions to the school.

With all the reimagining, replanning and shifting we have undertaken, often in very short order, we have never lost sight of our top priority – caring for our students academically, socially, emotionally and Jewishly. While we would never have chosen the events of the past three years, we have gained invaluable perspective on the role of connection, community and Gray Academy in the lives of our children.



Lori Binder

Head of School and CEO

Our Finances

Prepared by Diane Shindleman, Treasurer

The Finance Committee continued its focus on financial stability and sustainability, while managing through another year with COVID-19. We are pleased to share that the 2021-2022 financial statements were within a small margin of our budget, with a deficiency of \$99,249. We had budgeted for a small deficiency to maintain our goals and our commitment to offer students an excellent year.

We also continued working on a four-year budget plan in support of our financial sustainability goal and our requirements under the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS) financial standard. The CAIS review provided excellent guidance for meeting the school's financial goals. We introduced a new donation ask on our enrollment form as another step towards financial sustainability, which was welcomed by our families. We thank all our families who donated.

AJCC License Agreement

We continue to operate under an Asper Jewish Community Campus licence agreement that expired in 2017. Further steps to finalize a new agreement were slowed by the pandemic.

Pandemic Expenses

We continued to experience financial effects from the global pandemic. We are grateful for the emergency grants received from the Provincial Safe Schools Grant, which allowed us to keep students learning safely together at school for the year. As noted in the financials, the pandemic had a lesser impact on the WBJE financial position this year than the previous year.

Community Support

We acknowledge with gratitude the support we receive from the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg (JFW). These funds are used specifically for our needs-based bursary program, which enables more families to access Jewish education for their children. We are also grateful for the grants we received from the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba and the Province of Manitoba. Finally, we have been able to continue with some fantastic programs and support for our families thanks to donations received during the year. We thank all our donors for their generosity and support. We thank everyone on both the Finance and Audit Committees for volunteering their time and expertise.

Audit

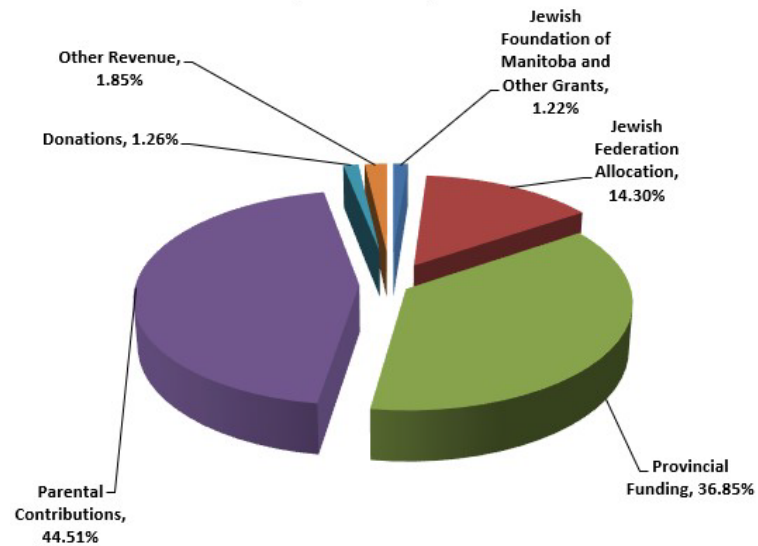
The WBJE financial statements included in this report are audited by Booke and Partners.

Statement of Financial Activities

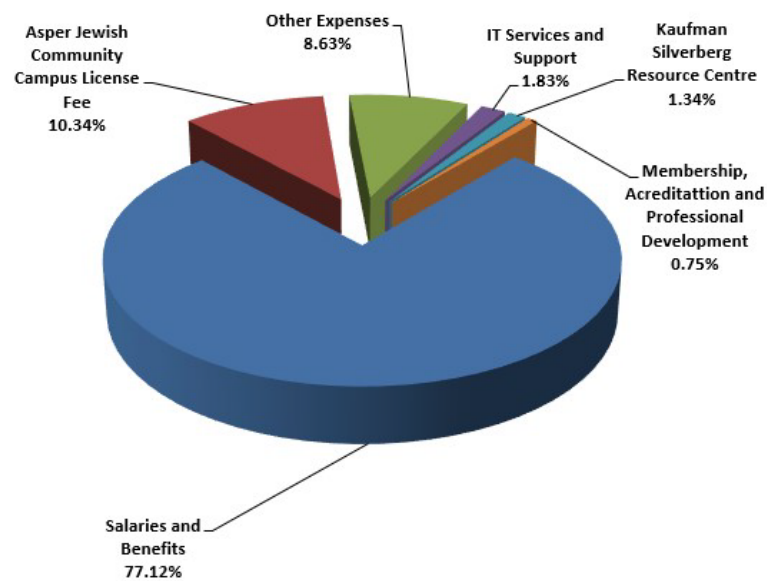
The school's main sources of revenue are parental contributions, provincial grants and the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg allocation. Balance Sheet Net assets for the year were \$489,670, representing the balance in the equipment, operating and reserve funds.

Revenues and Expenses

Revenues



Expenses



Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education Inc.
Summarized Financial Statements
June 30, 2022

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Report of the Independent Auditors on the Summarized Financial Statements

To the Directors of
Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education Inc.

Opinion

The accompanying summarized financial statements, which comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2022, and the statements of financial activities and changes in fund balances for the year then ended, and related note, are derived from the audited financial statements of Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education Inc. for the year ended June 30, 2022.

In our opinion, the summarized financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.

Summarized Financial Statements

The summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summarized financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated October 12, 2022.

Management's Responsibility for the Summarized Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summarized financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summarized financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Booke & Partners".

Winnipeg, Canada
October 12, 2022

Chartered Professional Accountants

Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education Inc.
Statement of Financial Activities
Year Ended June 30

	<u>Secular</u>	<u>Religious</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>Combined</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>Combined</u>
Revenues				
Parental contributions	\$ -	\$ 3,333,557	\$ 3,333,557	\$ 3,168,647
Junior Kindergarten program	136,790	-	136,790	167,415
Grants				
Province of Manitoba				
- instruction	2,562,476	-	2,562,476	2,613,762
- Safe Schools and Restart	144,857	-	144,857	316,061
- special education	140,489	-	140,489	80,260
- curricular materials	25,110	-	25,110	26,190
Jewish Federation of Winnipeg				
- regular	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	984,000
- administrative	75,000	-	75,000	75,000
- resource centre	40,000	-	40,000	38,500
Jewish Foundation of Manitoba	95,326	-	95,326	190,610
Donations	98,516	-	98,516	76,895
International student program - net	-	-	-	26,090
Interest & miscellaneous	18,101	-	18,101	10,163
Student fees	<u>126,409</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,409</u>	<u>61,032</u>
	<u>4,463,074</u>	<u>3,333,557</u>	<u>7,796,631</u>	<u>7,834,625</u>
Expenses				
Education	3,568,786	2,518,413	6,087,199	5,688,167
Office	896,421	785,851	1,682,272	1,656,420
Student programs	<u>75,845</u>	<u>50,564</u>	<u>126,409</u>	<u>60,120</u>
	<u>4,541,052</u>	<u>3,354,828</u>	<u>7,895,880</u>	<u>7,404,707</u>
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ (77,978)</u>	<u>\$ (21,271)</u>	<u>\$ (99,249)</u>	<u>\$ 429,918</u>

The complete financial statements, including notes to the financial statements and the independent auditors' report, are available upon request by contacting the organization's office.

Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education Inc.
Statement of Changes in Fund Balances
Year Ended June 30

	Equipment <u>Fund</u>	Operating <u>Fund</u>	Reserve <u>Fund</u>	2022 <u>Total</u>	2021 <u>Total</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 153,684	\$ 165,825	\$ 269,410	\$ 588,919	\$ 159,001
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses	(89,088)	(10,161)	-	(99,249)	429,918
Interfund transfers	<u>(25,783)</u>	<u>25,783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 38,813</u>	<u>\$ 181,447</u>	<u>\$ 269,410</u>	<u>\$ 489,670</u>	<u>\$ 588,919</u>

The complete financial statements, including notes to the financial statements and the independent auditors' report, are available upon request by contacting the organization's office.

Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education Inc.**Statement of Financial Position**

June 30

2022**2021**

Assets**Current**

Cash	\$ 1,406,272	\$ 1,347,447
Receivables	652,909	523,807
Prepays	437	-

2,059,618 **1,871,254**

Long-term investment

20,135 **27,571**

Property and equipment

161,574 **246,118**

\$ 2,241,327 **\$ 2,144,943**

Liabilities**Current**

Payables and accruals	\$ 1,075,781	\$ 1,051,751
Deferred revenue	352,881	302,486
Deferred contributions	200,234	109,353

1,628,896 **1,463,590**

Deferred contributions for capital assets

122,761 **92,434**

1,751,657 **1,556,024**

Fund Balances

Equipment	38,813	153,684
Operating	181,447	165,825
Reserve	269,410	269,410

489,670 **588,919**

\$ 2,241,327 **\$ 2,144,943**

Approved by the Board



Director



Director

The complete financial statements, including notes to the financial statements and the independent auditors' report, are available upon request by contacting the organization's office.

Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education Inc.
Note to the Summarized Financial Statements
June 30, 2022

1. Basis of preparation

The summarized financial statements have been prepared from the audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2022 on the following basis:

- a) The summarized financial statements include the major totals and subtotals from the related complete financial statements dealing with matters having a pervasive or otherwise significant effect on the summarized financial statements.

The complete financial statements, including notes to the financial statements and the independent auditors' report, are available upon request by contacting the organization's office.

Our Board

WBJE Directors 2021-2022

Executive

Bryan Borzykowski ('98), President
 Laura Kravetsky-Chisick ('99), Vice President
 Josh Weinstein ('89), Secretary
 Diane Shindleman, Treasurer

Directors

Bruce Caplan
 Jenn Dimerman
 Evgeny Gotfrid ('13)
 Richard Hechter
 Cindy Lazar ('87)
 Rabbi Matthew Leibl ('03)
 Jonathan Strauss

Ex-Officio Members

Sean Shore, Past President
 Lori Binder ('91), Head of School and CEO

Chief Financial Officer

Carlos Benesdra, CPA, CMA, Chief Financial Officer



Our 2021-2022 Board of Directors

(Left to right): Richard Hechter; Jennifer Dimerman; Bruce Caplan; Evgeny Gotfrid; Diane Shindleman; Bryan Borzykowski; Josh Weinstein; Cindy Lazar; Carlos Benesdra; Lori Binder; Rabbi Matthew Leibl. Missing from photo: Dr. Laura Chisick; Sean Shore; Jonathan Strauss.

WBJE Committees

Audit

Diane Shindleman, Chair
Evgeny Gotfrid
Jacob Smolack
Jonathan Strauss
Carlos Benesdra
Lori Binder

Finance

Diane Shindleman, Chair
Bruce Caplan
Sean Shore
Jacob Smolack
Carlos Benesdra
Lori Binder
Janice Brigden

Governance

Sean Shore, Chair
Laura Kravetsky-Chisick
Jonathan Strauss
Lori Binder

Negotiations

Cindy Lazar, Chair
Richard Hecter
Lori Binder
Carlos Benesdra

WBJE Representative to the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg

Bryan Borzykowski

WBJE Representative to the Asper Jewish Community Campus Board

Josh Weinstein

Thank You for Your Service

We are grateful to the following WBJE directors who are completing their terms:

Bruce Caplan
Evgeny Gotfrid
Sean Shore

Kol HaKavod

In June 2022 the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg presented its Kavod Evening at Congregation Shaarey Zedek, honouring 2020 and 2022 awardees.

The WBJE was delighted to have two long-serving volunteers honoured at the ceremony:



Evan Roitenberg, 2020



Sean Shore, 2022

Evan Roitenberg ('84) served on the WBJE for nearly a decade. During his tenure, Evan served on several committees and on the Executive, including terms as Secretary and Vice President.

Sean Shore holds the distinction of longest-serving President in the history of the WBJE. He joined the Board in 2010 and served on numerous committees, focusing primarily on the finance and governance portfolios.

Mazel tov to the many members of the Gray Academy family who were honoured with awards:

Israel Binnun - past Gray Academy parent; beloved member of the AJCC maintenance crew

Susie Freedman ('92) - Gray Academy graduate; current parent

Ari Hanson ('05) - Gray Academy graduate

Emily Kalo ('18) - Gray Academy graduate

Edith Kimelman - educator at Talmud Torah (Gray Academy founding school); past Gray Academy parent and grandparent

Ellie Silver - current Gray Academy parent

Danial Sprintz - current Gray Academy parent

Anita Wortzman - past WBJE president; past Gray Academy parent

Our CAIS Re-Accreditation



Gray Academy is accredited by the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS). CAIS accreditation assures students and their families that our school meets or exceeds rigorous national standards in our education programs, operations, school culture, support systems for students and much more. CAIS accreditation demonstrates Gray Academy's ongoing commitment to self-evaluation, whole-school improvement and accountability to our students, families, staff, board and community.

Background

In 2004, Gray Academy became the first Jewish day school in Canada and the second school in Manitoba to be accredited by CAIS. Today, Gray Academy is one of three independent schools in Manitoba and one of more than 90 independent schools across Canada accredited by CAIS. In November 2021, Gray Academy staff, students, alumni and board members participated in a four-day accreditation review with a CAIS Visiting Committee, as we worked toward our third accreditation.

The Accreditation Process

The CAIS accreditation process, which typically takes place every five to seven years, combines a rigorous internal self-assessment and an intensive external peer review. The process usually includes approximately 12 to 18 months of intensive self-evaluation, deep discussions and internal research, which are used to create an Internal Evaluation Report that answers detailed questions about CAIS National Standards. A CAIS Visiting Committee, comprised of volunteers from other CAIS schools, then visits the school to meet with members of our school community and to observe the school's practices in action.

Our 2021 CAIS Visit

A CAIS visit would usually involve welcoming a CAIS Visiting Committee, comprised of volunteers from other CAIS schools across Canada, to our school for tours, observations and discussions. With the pandemic curtailing travel, the Committee joined us virtually from November 14-17.

Students prepared a special Monday morning assembly and video performances to give the Visiting Committee a virtual view of learning and student life at Gray Academy. The Visiting Committee met and chatted with members of our school community to observe the school's practices in action and ask questions.

CAIS Visiting Committee Observations

At the end of the four days, our Visiting Committee shared some of their observations with our Head of School and WBJE president:

- their overall experience in our school was incredibly positive;
- one committee member expressed that they enjoyed the school so much they “didn’t want to leave”;
- they described Gray Academy as an “outstanding school in a unique community environment”;
- from their meetings with students, staff, parents and alumni, the committee gained a strong feel for Gray Academy’s strong and long-lasting reciprocal relationships we share with our constituents;
- from their meetings with alumni and parent groups, in particular, the committee saw clearly that “creating *menstches* is a hallmark of the school”;
- the committee noted that Gray Academy plays an essential role in Winnipeg’s Jewish community;
- committee members shared that students resoundingly feel cared for by teachers and staff and the family feel of the school that is enjoyed by students, staff and parents alike.

Next Steps in School Improvement

Following their school visit, the CAIS Visiting Committee provided a Peer Review Report and School Improvement Action Plan early in 2022. The Peer Review Report and School Improvement Action Plan was shared with us and used by CAIS decisionmakers to confirm our re-accreditation. Just as we did following our last accreditation in 2012, we are using the School Improvement Action Plan to develop a new strategic plan.

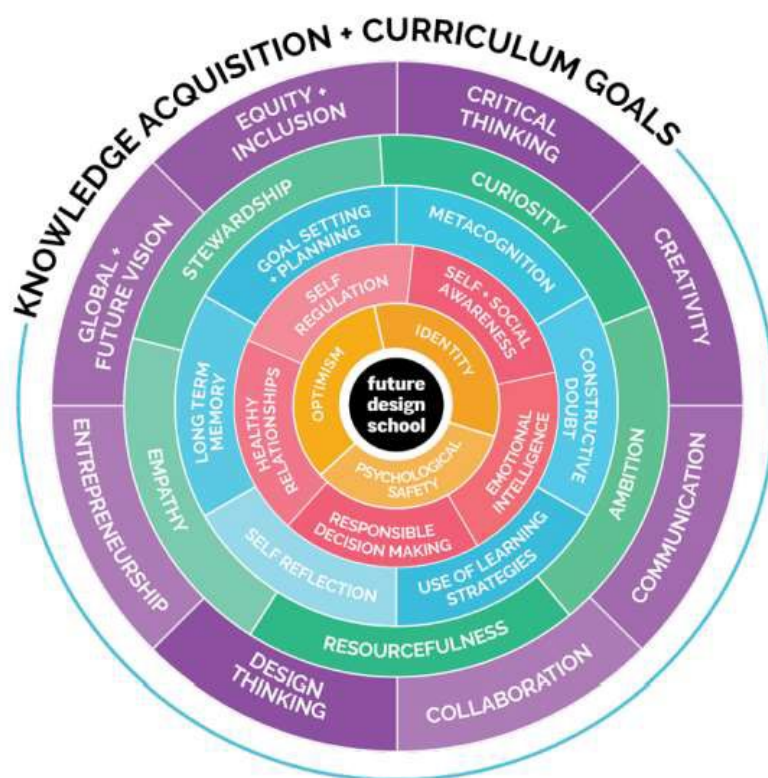
Our Focus on the Future

In spring 2022, we began working with Future Design School, a consultancy with expertise in education, to develop the roadmap that will guide our priorities for the years ahead. Future Design School has worked with hundreds of schools across North America and Europe to improve school culture, increase admissions, enhance leadership capabilities, measure student progress, advance assessment practices, enhance student career readiness, strengthen instructional practices, develop new funding strategies and more.

Strategic Work

At the end of the school year, members of the Future Design School team visited Gray Academy to talk with parents, WBJE members students, staff and faculty. Our final In-Service of the school year was dedicated to small- and large-group work by our faculty, staff, board and leadership. This work is foundational to assessing where we are today and next steps for school improvement, educational improvement and ensuring we are preparing our students with the tools they need for future success.

Portrait of a Future-ready Student:



Next Steps

Together with Manitoba Education's new K-12 Education Action Plan, our strategic plan will continue to drive innovation and educational excellence, with an emphasis on helping every Gray Academy child discover their strengths and an unparalleled sense of belonging.

Our new strategic plan will be released in 2023 and will guide our operations and aspirations for the next five years and beyond.

Our Four Key Pillars Remain

In the meantime, we continue to focus on the key pillars of our previous strategic plan:

Enhancing Our Culture of Innovation and 21st Century Learning

Not only new technologies but also innovative approaches to teaching, learning, integration and assessment.

Strengthening Community Perception

Ensuring Gray Academy is well-known in the community, well-regarded as a top educational choice for families and well-regarded as foundational to Winnipeg's Jewish future.

Maintaining Critical Focus on Admissions and Retention

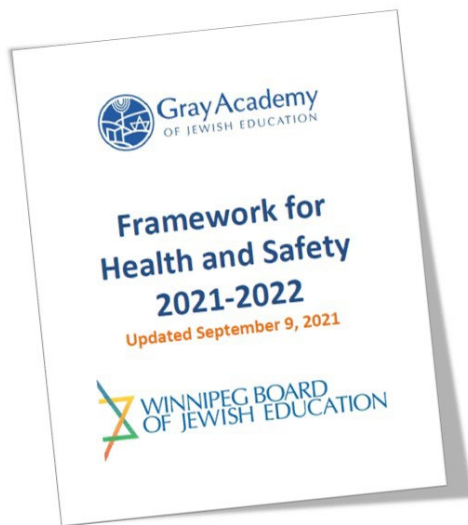
Welcoming new students and enhancing school life for current students and families.

Securing Financial Sustainability and Community Support

Putting sound measures in place to ensure Gray Academy remains a strong, thriving institution for generations to come.

Our Operations During a Pandemic

For the second consecutive full school year, teaching, learning and day-to-day operations moved forward with pandemic restrictions in place. With recommendations from the Pandemic Response Committee, the WBJE made careful, evidence-based decisions to protect the safety of students and staff.



In September 2021, we were very pleased to welcome all students, Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12, back to the Gray Academy building for in-school learning. In keeping with Gray Academy's mission, vision and values as a Jewish day school and with the health and safety of the entire school community as our top priority, the WBJE implemented mandatory COVID-19 vaccine policies for staff and students.

The WBJE developed and approved these policies with tremendous care, based on extensive research, in consultation with the Pandemic Response Team, medical experts and legal counsel. These policies remained in place until the end of June 2022.

The vaccine policies were part of Gray Academy's extensive COVID-19 health and safety protocols designed to protect all members of our school community, particularly our children and especially our youngest students who were not yet eligible to be vaccinated. The policy supported the mitzvah of *pikuach nefesh* (saving a life), the Jewish value that preservation of human life is of the utmost importance.

We supported our families with Parent Café events featuring expert panels discussing the merits of vaccines for children, as well as two COVID-19 vaccine clinics at school, open to students and the community.

We were able to maintain in-school learning throughout 2021. Following winter break, in January 2022, all Manitoba schools were mandated to shift to remote learning for two weeks. With Gray Away still in place, we were fully prepared to pivot and to welcome students back to in-school learning for the remainder of the year.

We continued with all additional protocols, including mandatory masks, distancing and daily health screening for the school year. We also implemented a new COVID-19 dashboard on our website, which made it easy for families to monitor the latest updates at school.

Our Generous Supporters

Allocations, Grants and Gifts

We are incredibly grateful to the organizations and individuals who supported Gray Academy during the 2021-2022 school year, especially in a year that saw continued pandemic-related expenses, along with new investments to enhance student life. New tools on our website made it easier to give, which translated into a substantial uplift in direct donations to Gray Academy from our school community and beyond.



JEWISH FEDERATION OF WINNIPEG

We are especially grateful to the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg for its annual allocation of \$1,000,040 for 2021-2022 – \$1,000,000 to Gray Academy and \$40,000 to the Kaufman Silverberg Library. These funds, which come from generous donations to JFW's annual Combined Jewish Appeal campaign, are used specifically for our needs-based bursary program and library. The bulk of these funds ensure no family is ever turned away from Gray Academy for financial reasons. The contribution to the library ensures this valued resource remains open to the community.

COMBINED JEWISH APPEAL DESIGNATED GIFTS

Gail Asper & Michael Paterson

Ruth & David Asper – Literacy through HOOT Reading

Morley Bernstein

Marla & Adam Levene – in support of the Gray Academy-Tough Duck Community Ice Rink

Reva & Allan Micflikier – in support of innovative student programming

Sheree Walder Morantz & Richard Morantz – in support of English as an additional language (EAL) programming

Mira & Matthew Narvey – in support of the Gray Academy-Tough Duck Community Ice Rink

Heather & Norman Silver – Ron Silver Award

Mara & Shane Silver – Ron Silver Award

Ellie & Michael Silver – Ron Silver Award



JEWISH FOUNDATION — OF MANITOBA —

DISBURSEMENTS THROUGH THE JEWISH FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA

Mona and David Rich Family Fund

For the development of the Gray Academy-Tough Duck Community Ice Rink

Gray Academy Endowment Fund

Thank you to all the individuals who contributed to our Gray Academy Endowment Fund and to our Debating Endowment Fund during the year. We are excited to have created the “Honouring Our Educators Fund,” in honour of dedicated service to Gray Academy upon retirement, and the “Gray Academy Class of 2022 Fund,” created by the graduating class of 2022. During the year the endowment funds also grew through our participation in the JFM Bervin Fund Match program.

Grosberg Family Fund

In support of the Edith and Samuel Grosberg Award and supporting Student Mental Health and Wellbeing.

JEWISH FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA GRANTS

Breakout EDU - Collaborative Learning

Elementary Sensory Paths

Hebrew as a Living Language: New Approaches to Teaching in the 21st Century

High School Resource Spaces

JET Fund – COVID-19 Support

Multiple Intelligences Learning Centres in Junior Kindergarten

Student Life Programming – Multi-Year

Youth in Philanthropy

ASPER FOUNDATION

Support of Debating and Public Speaking Program with the Asper Cup

Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Trip to Washington (Gr. 9 '20 rescheduled to Sept. 2022)

Direct Donations to Gray Academy

\$25,000 +

Diane & Sandy Shindleman

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Daniel Friedman & Robert Dalglish - Friedman Dalglish Family Fund (The Winnipeg Foundation)

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Anonymous

Bayview Construction

Diane & Sandy Shindleman – In Honour of Annie's Graduation; for Staff Appreciation

The Laing Foundation – In honour of Harvey, Annette and Jeff Klasser –for Student Support

Diane Shindleman

\$5,000-\$9,999

Paula and John Motkaluk

\$1,000-\$4,999

Bryan Borzykowski & Lainie Filkow

Rob Dalglish

Jonathon and Karly Leipsic – Coleman and Rose Silverman (z"l) Immediate Needs Bursary Fund

\$250-\$999

Anonymous

Jennifer Jensen

Evan & Audra Roitenberg – In Honour of Jillian's Graduation

Allison, Jonathan, Nathan and Noah Strauss – New Initiatives & Innovation in Education

\$180-\$249

Anonymous – Student Health & Wellness

Carlos Benesdra

Bruce Caplan

Jen Dimerman

Richard & Ella Hechter

Rafaela & George Legoff's Tzedakah Box

Evgeny Gotfrid

Matthew Leibl & Heather Wadsworth, Hugo and Felix

Joan & Seth Marks – In Honour of Sarah's Graduation

Emily, Josh, Scarlett & Cody Nozick – Staff Appreciation

Sandra Selter – In Honour of Jerry Cohen's 2nd Bar Mitzvah

Sheryl Singer, Kevin Segall, Justin & Hayden – In Honour of Justin's Graduation

\$100 to \$179

The Benevity Community Impact Fund – From Robyn Braha Friesen

Dr. Kerry Gertenstein

The Hamelins – Staff Appreciation

Oscar Li and Family

Mendel Malkin

Sergey Toropov

Tracy White – Staff Appreciation

Up to \$100

Anonymous

Jacqueline Copp and Sandy Friedman – In Honour of Jerry Cohen's 2nd Bar Mitzvah

David Earn & Sigal Balshine

Dinah & Jay Goldenberg

Ella Greenshtein - Staff Appreciation

Bonnie & Michael Helper

Claire Hoffer - In Honour of Jerry Cohen's 2nd Bar Mitzvah

Megan Meltzer

Juliana Pfeffer – Enhancing Jewish Programs

Piche Family

Wendy Wilder

Tribute Cards

Thank you to everyone who recognized milestones and offered condolences through the Kaufman Silverberg Resource Centre and Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education Tribute Card programs.



CELEBRATING MILESTONES, CREATING MEMORIES

Thank you to our families who supported specific milestone programs:

Grade 1 Chaggigat Ha Siddur

Bryan Borzykowski & Lainie Filkow

Andrea Kohn

Corrine Patterson

Julie & Aaron Pfeffer

Grade 2 Chaggigat HaTorah

Cheryl & Alon Altman

Valerie Benevet & Daniel Matzkin

Courtney & Jonathan Feldman

Ronit Kantarzhi & Benjamin Goldenberg

Marli Leibl & Josh Vickar

Leticia Parana & Luiz Fernandez

Grade 6 Celebration & Tzedaka Box Sponsors

Cheryl & Alon Altman

Heather & Jeff Koplovich

Azriel Kravetsky & Carrie Palatnick

Cal Reich

Rana & Morris Shenkarow

Strauss Event & Association Management

Kathy & Shane Taback

Elementary Musical

Bryan Borzykowski & Lainie Filkow

Anna Dublin

Iona Gruskin

Tara Kozlowich & Paul Shur

Heather & Jeff Koplovich

Tracee & Aaron Mellon

Arnold Permut

Melissa Vickar

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

GIFTS TO THE KAUFMAN SILVERBERG LIBRARY

\$100 - \$250

John & Terri Lee Farber

NEW! Sefer Shelanu Birthday Book Club

In 2021, we introduced an exciting new program allowing families to honour their child's birthday. With a minimum donation of \$18 towards, the library acquired a new book and affixed a special bookplate inside recognizing each child's contribution.

Thank you to all the students who joined the Club during the 2021-22 school year:

Emma Ansarian
William Ansarian
Lillie Catellier
Coco Catellier
Asher Goldenberg
Nathaniel
Goldenberg
Isabelle
Goldschlager
Joshua Klein

Sammy Klein
Aaron Koplovich
Addison Koplovich
Rafaela LeGoff
George LeGoff
Scarlett Nozick
Donald Paterson
Patrick Tashiro
Jack Tyrrell

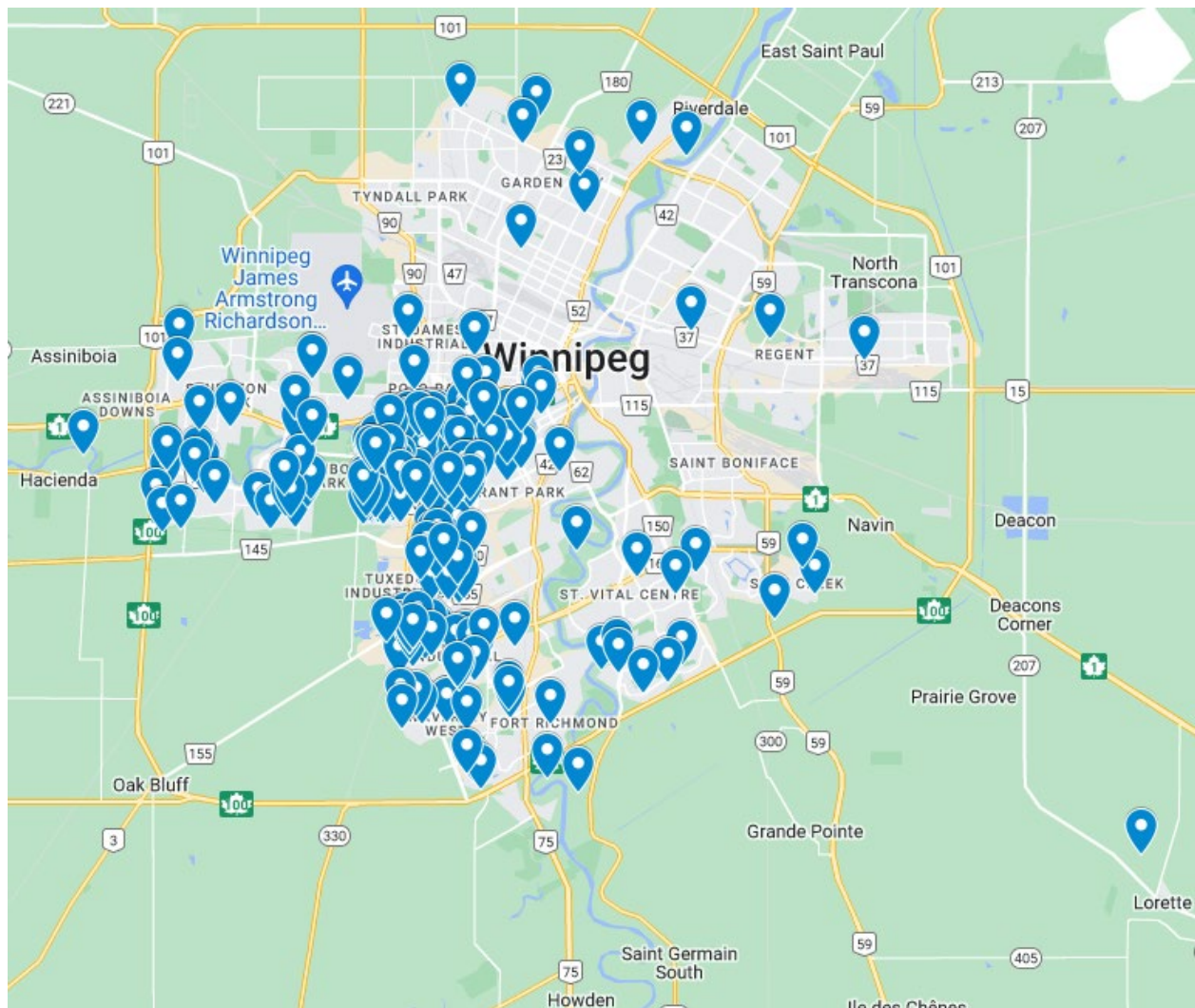


Our Reach across the City

A century ago, Winnipeg's Jewish community was definitively concentrated in the Core and North End of the city. Throughout the decades, our community has evolved, migrated and spread to new areas.

While the largest concentration of Gray Academy families can still be found in neighbourhoods surrounding the Asper Jewish Community Campus, we proudly attract families from diverse areas, including Transcona, St. Vital, the North End, Bridgewater, and even outside the city limits.

A snapshot of where our families reside:



Our Parents

Gray Academy parents are active partners in building an exceptional school community. Even when we could not invite parents into school for celebrations or even to volunteer, our Gray Academy Parent Association (GAPA) carefully coordinated programs for students, staff and the school, including hot lunches, challah and fundraising activities from a safe distance.

In 2021-2022, GAPA directed extra funds and efforts to expressing appreciation to our faculty, staff and students. From unexpected bagel breakfasts in the staff room, to special treat deliveries throughout the school year, GAPA volunteers went the extra mile to make sure our teachers and staff knew just how grateful all parents were for their incredible dedication to their children.

We are especially grateful to Jennifer Dimerman, who completed her three-year term as GAPA president at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.



Our Faculty and Staff

At Gray Academy, caring for children is at the centre of everything we do. This commitment begins with our team of dedicated teachers and educational staff. In a school year like no other, our faculty and staff remained instrumental in ensuring our students continued to learn, grow and connect. We are incredibly grateful for their hard work, professionalism, dedication and passion in and out of the classroom.

New Faces at School

In a landmark year for Gray Academy, we welcomed new and returning teachers, educational assistants and support staff to our team, including Gray Academy graduates, parents and past faculty. In 2021-2022, we were very pleased to welcome 12 new staff members.

New Leadership Roles

Director of Learning and Innovation



In 2021, a new full-time leadership role was created to advance Gray Academy's goal of Educational Innovation, as outlined in the WBJE Strategic Plan.

We were thrilled to welcome Ronit Amihude, an experienced and passionate Jewish day school leader and graduate of our founding school Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate ('93), to the Gray Academy Leadership Team in this new role.

Ronit is now leading our efforts in key areas, including:

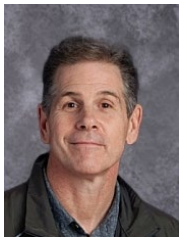
- Overall educational programming, including Manitoba Education requirements, CAIS standards and Gray Academy goals.
- Engaging with Jewish day schools across North America to shape and enhance our students' Jewish, cultural and Hebrew language learning experiences.
- Exploring opportunities for integration of learning outcomes in General and Judaic Studies.
- Leveraging the latest research in education and child brain development to shape our approach to teaching and learning across all subjects.
- Supporting faculty in innovative instructional and assessment strategies that engage, challenge and meet the needs of learners.

**Lainie Filkow, Early Years Coordinator**

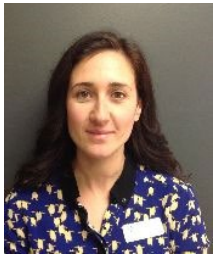
Lainie continued to collaborate with our Early Years teaching team to ensure an excellent start to each child's learning journey. We were excited to expand Lainie's role, as she developed our Early Years Discovery Room and introduced innovative new classes for Junior Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grade 1, with a focus on enhancing literacy and fine and gross motor development.

**Heather Micflikier, Student Support Services Coordinator**

Heather collaborated closely with faculty, staff and the entire Student Support Services team in Elementary and High School to coordinate and support individualized educational programming for students. Heather continues to bring her expertise working directly with students to this vital role.

**Jamie Kagan, Athletics Coordinator**

Jamie Kagan oversaw Gray Academy's Athletics program, in addition to teaching High School math and science. While the pandemic impacted these opportunities, Jamie and his team continued to pursue creative avenues for students to play and compete safely, within provincial health guidelines. Together with CAIS, the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association and Zone 12, our students had opportunities to take part in competitive sports.

**New Student Life Coordinators**

Last year, we were very excited to introduce the new role of Student Life Coordinator in Elementary and High School. In addition to their classroom teaching, Ronit Kantarzhi and Andrew Kaplan worked together with staff and students to enhance existing programs, bring new clubs and activities to life and enrich students' day-to-day experience at school.

Mazel Tov on Your Retirement!

At the end of the school year, our faculty and staff had the great pleasure of gathering, at long last, to honour and celebrate all the amazing Gray Academy educators who retired between 2020 and 2022. The Honouring Our Educators Fund was created to recognize these educators and all future Gray Academy faculty upon their retirement.

It was important to us to wait until our staff and retirees could be together in person to share stories, laughter and gratitude. We were even privileged to welcome beloved and long-retired teacher Lil Zentner to celebrate with us! Thank you all for countless years of teaching, nurturing and inspiring students at Gray Academy and our founding schools.



Mazel Tov!

Pictured left to right:

Maureen Pollock – Elementary General Studies

Sherry-Wolfe Elazar – Elementary Judaic Studies; High School General and Judaic Studies

Laurence Goldstine – High School Judaic Studies

Gregg Bedomme – Elementary and High School French

Sandy Rosenberg – Elementary General Studies

Janet Simon – Elementary General Studies

Absent from photo: Karen Richter – High School Judaic Studies

Our Class of 2022

To say we were overjoyed to return to in-person grad festivities would be a dramatic understatement. For the first time since 2019, our Grade 12 students were able to celebrate in person with teachers, family and friends.



Our Class of 2022 completed the final steps in their Gray Academy learning journey with a whirlwind of activity. Ethical Wills, Grad Shabbat, Grad-Staff Luncheon, Time Capsule, Progressive Dinner and Convocation... our grads, their parents and Gray Academy staff were aglow with pride.

The excitement concluded with the grads dressed in their party best for their long-awaited dinner-dance. Now that all the festivities have come to an end, this amazing group of students is ready to take the next steps on their life path.

מזל טוב!

We are incredibly proud of our graduates and wish them all the very best, as they embark on the next phase of their journey.

Igal Avimelek
 Ron Bazov
 Alexa Bresler
 Nicole Brodtkin
 Patrick Bueno
 Maia Caplan
 Emma Fingold
 Alix Ganetsky
 Milan Gelbish
 Yasmin Gelfman
 Lee Glass
 Amy Hazelton
 Adina Loxton

Ben Margulets
 Sarah Marks
 Zevi Nathanson
 Adrianna Nimmons
 Nir Pais
 Jillian Roitenberg
 Teddy Rubenstein
 Eytan Samphir
 Justin Segall
 Annie Shindleman
 Mattie Silver
 Mike Ulitsky

Our Milestones

Every Gray Academy school year is woven through with meaningful milestone programs that celebrate student growth, enrich Jewish learning and build memories that last a lifetime.

Celebrating Our Grade 6s!

We were proud to welcome parents to the Berney theatre to celebrate our Grade 6 students, as they completed their final days of Elementary and began their preparations for High School. Students sang songs, heard words of inspiration from their teachers and principals, and accepted their celebratory certificates and *tzedaka* boxes. After the formal proceedings with family and friends, the students enjoyed yummy treats and a dance party with Barry Kay and Cherry Tree Productions.





Celebrating Siddurim in Grade 1

We marked an important Grade 1 learning milestone with *Chaggigat HaSiddur*, a very special celebration when students receive the siddur they will use for the rest of Elementary. We were extra thrilled that Grade 1 students and families enjoyed their *Chaggigat Ha Siddur* in person this year! Students demonstrated their learning of *tefillot* and showcased the special covers they made for their siddur. Afterward, Grade 1 enjoyed some special treats together.

Bringing Torah to Life in Grade 2

Our Grade 2 students and teachers were thrilled to welcome families to the Berney Theatre for their *Chaggigat HaTorah*, a very special celebration marking the beginning of students' Torah learning at Gray Academy. With fun songs, dances and creative costumes, students were very excited to bring each of the six days of creation and even Shabbat to life in front of a live audience in the theatre and more family and friends who tuned into the livestream.



Our Mitzvot

At Gray Academy, learning lives beyond the curriculum and the classroom our students learn and live the vital Jewish values of kindness, *tzedaka* and *tikkun olam* by leading and participating in a broad range of activities throughout the year. In 2021-2022, students contributed funds, needed items, creative ideas and collaborative efforts to help those in need in our community.



Taking Part in Mitzvah Day

As part of National Council of Jewish Women's annual citywide Mitzvah Day, our High School students came together to make, package and deliver hundreds of sandwiches for [Main Street Project](#). Thank you to HaMorah Nancy and her Elementary Art students for decorating the bags with cheerful designs and words of encouragement. We are very proud of our students and our Student Council for their leadership on this important project for Mitzvah Day 2021.



Dropping the Gloves

Our students once again collected gently used hockey equipment for Drop the Gloves, an initiative created in 2020 by five members of the Gray Academy Class of 2021: Sam, Adam, Michael, Isaac and Seth. Drop the Gloves donated the items collected to The True North Youth Foundation, ensuring all kids in Winnipeg can access the gear they need to play Canada's game.

Record Success for our Annual Chicken Challenge

Last year our Chicken Wall of Fame was positively overflowing! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our families, we achieved record success with our annual *ma'ot chitim* Chicken Challenge. Funds raised go to Jewish Child and Family Services to ensure every Jewish family in Winnipeg has meals for Passover. Our final tally for the Wall of Fame was a whopping 300 chickens, crushing our previous all-time high of 242. Thank you to all our students and families who contributed.



Keeping it Clean for JCFS

For those who struggle to make ends meet, health and wellness essentials often fall way to the bottom of the priority list. Our students shared in the mitzvah of *tzedaka* by bringing personal hygiene and cleaning supplies to school for clients of Jewish Child and Family Services (JCFS).



Our Focus on the Arts

Arts and creativity are an integral part of learning and expression at Gray Academy. Last year, our students enjoyed visual arts and music education, along with optional opportunities to participate in band and drum line, the Elementary musical and art exhibitions.

Schoolhouse Rock Live Jr. was a Smash!

Under the direction of HaMoreh David Vamos, our Grade 5 and 6 superstars totally rocked three performances of our biennial Elementary musical. Based on the Emmy Award-winning Saturday morning educational cartoon series and pop culture phenomenon, Schoolhouse Rock Live Jr. may have been our most fun Elementary musical yet!

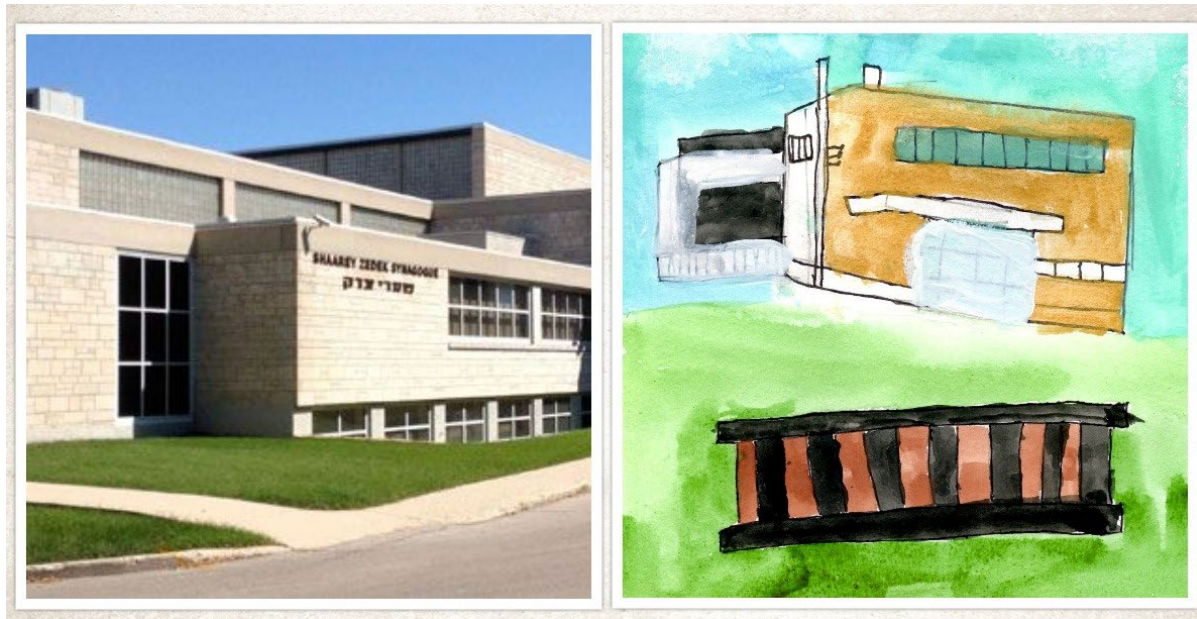


The Band Came Back!

After a lengthy pandemic hiatus, we were thrilled to present our Band and Drum Line performers, LIVE in concert. Fellow students enjoyed a special afternoon performance during the school day. Families, friends and music fans came out to enjoy the sunshine and the musical magic of our talented performers at the evening show. Thank you to our Band and Drum Line teacher, Mr. David Hasselfield, for his amazing work with our students all year.



Connecting with Jewish Heritage through Art



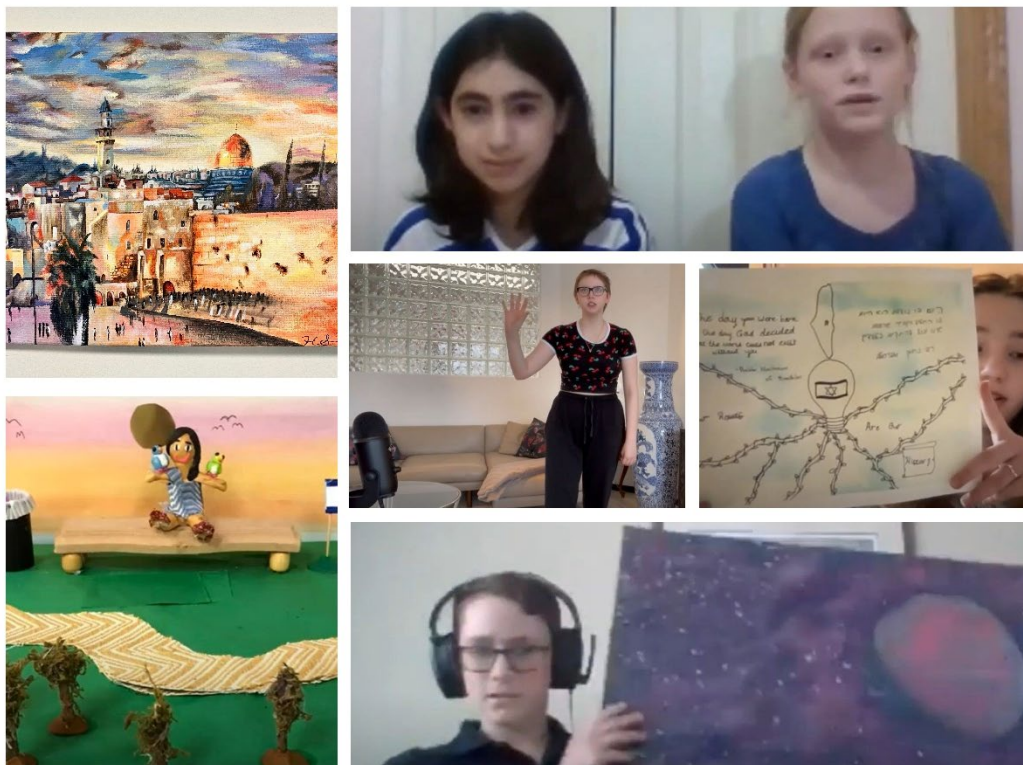
Gray Academy and the Jewish Heritage Centre were thrilled to team up once again to host their annual collaborative Student Art Exhibit. Based on archival photos from the Jewish Heritage Centre collection, Grade 4 students created their own interpretations of renowned Manitoba landmarks designed by Green Blankstein Russell (GBR), one of Winnipeg's most influential architectural firms.

The students' impressive work showcased the beauty of modernist structures in Manitoba. Each drawing and corresponding artist statement highlights students' learning not only about artistic technique but also about the rich history of design and building in our province.

Supported by:



Talent Shines at Yom Ha'Atzmaut Arts Festival



For the second consecutive school year, we were thrilled to have Gray Academy families and friends to join us LIVE, as students in Grades 5 through 12 celebrated Israel's 74th birthday by participating in Gray Academy's Yom Ha'atzmaut Arts Festival. Students prepared a broad range of works of performance and/or visual art, including instrumental performances, original songs, poetry, painting, sculpture, jewelry making and more. Students' work reflected timely themes, including love of Israel, Jewish holidays, Jewish identity and Jewish values.

Thank you to HaMoreh David Vamos and HaMorah Nancy Margolis for organizing Arts Fest and to our judges: Ian Dimerman ('88), Gray Academy dad, film producer and past Yom Ha'atzmaut Song Festival award winner; Shayla Fink, distinguished musician, educator and former Gray Academy parent and teacher; and Halley Ritter, local artist and director of Judaic programming at Camp Massad Manitoba.

Mazel tov to our award recipients:

Tzofi - original song/diorama
Sarah & Eva - song performance
Jonah - original painting
Miri - original drawing

Zoe - song performance
Haley - original painting

Honourable mentions

Sari - original sculpture
Benji - original song

Outside Our Classrooms

Gray Academy students have many opportunities to explore activities, discover their talents, develop skills and bond with peers. Athletics, arts, overnight trips, and more keep students engaged and learning in and out of the classroom. In 2021-2022, under the leadership and guidance of our new Student Life Coordinators, we also introduced a host of new clubs for students to enjoy at lunchtime.

Clubs for All Sorts of Interests

Thanks to the passion and hard work of teachers and student leaders, students gained access to a wide variety of new clubs to choose from. In Elementary, students enjoyed sewing, embroidery, art, dance, mathletes, woodworking, volleyball and more. In High School, students introduced clubs for just about every interest, including dance, comic books, photography, stock market, chess, science experiments, fantasy football and the list goes on. All these clubs offered opportunities to explore interests, learn new skills and spend time with friends.



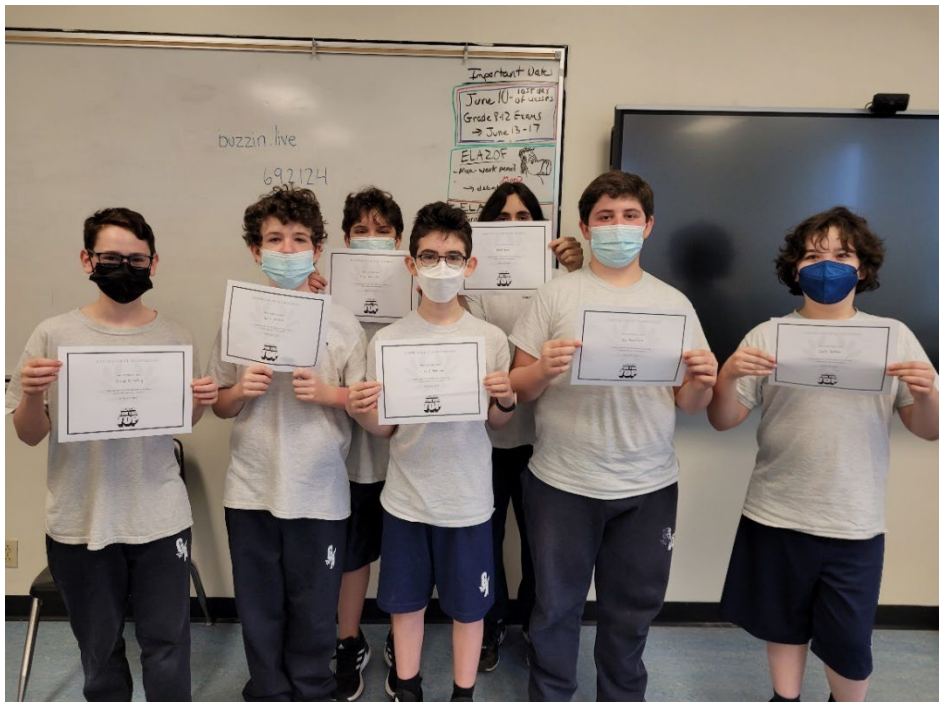
Debate and Public Speaking



Our students competed – in person and virtually – in several debate and public speaking competitions throughout the year, including Asper Cup, Acadia, Rupert's Land Public Speaking Tournament and Junior National Public Speaking Championship. With each outing, Gray Academy students performed exceptionally well, qualifying for several national and international competitions. Mazel tov to all our student debaters and to coach Andrew Kaplan. Well-done, debaters!

Reaching for the Top

Throughout the year, High School students take part in our optional Reach for the Top program. our Grade 7 and 8 players took part in the Reach for the Top National Championship, squaring off against teams from Alberta, Ontario, New Brunswick and Newfoundland over Zoom. Congratulations to Nico, Jonah, Ohad, Urie, Daniel, Zach and Jacob, who advanced all the way to the quarter-finals. Thank you to HaMorah Lauren Tennenhouse for her expert coaching.



Don't Worry, Bee Happy

For the second year in a row, our Grade 4-6 Spelling Bee was a great success over Zoom. Families were able to tune in to watch the tense competition, which saw students power through a record number of words before our two finalists emerged victorious. Thank you to our school Library Technician Tim Gereta for acting as our pronouncer.

Mazal tov to first-place finisher Lev and runner-up Ben:



Winter Wonderland for High School

In February, Student Council kicked off an exciting day of winter fun for all students in High School. Thanks to a day of mild temperatures, students enjoyed fun in the sun and snow, including outdoor football, skating, snowshoeing and a bonfire. Everyone had the chance to warm up with a hot chocolate. As part of the Winter Wonderland fun, students brought in additional donations for our collection of personal care and cleaning products for JCFS.

Grades 5 and 6 Enjoy Overnights at Camp Massad

Our annual overnight trip to Camp Massad is a highlight of every school year for Gray Academy students in Grade 5. Since our current Grade 6 class did not get the opportunity last year, we were thrilled to send two trips to Massad this time. This week each grade had the opportunity to head out to camp for two days and a night of totally unplugged fun and exciting outdoor learning adventures.



Thank you to HaMoreh Aleksandra Koroitor, HaMoreh Dale Diamon-Burchuck, HaMoreh Marcelo Moadeb, Mr. Neyedley, HaMorah Sharona Kravitz and Mrs. Spigelman for accompanying the students on their trips.



Fresh Air Fun for Grade 7 at BB Camp

Our annual overnight trip to B'nai Brith Camp Kenora is a highlight of every school year for Gray Academy students in Grade 7. We were thrilled students had the chance this year to enjoy three days and two nights of unplugged, fun and exciting outdoor learning adventures with classmates in Western Ontario. Thank you to Ms. Hanson, HaMoreh Max and Mr. A for joining the students on their trip.

Athletics

While pandemic restrictions kept students from enjoying regular seasons of all their favourite sports, they were able to get in a limited basketball season and compete outdoors in Ultimate and golf. Students learned new skills on the Gray Academy-Tough Duck Ice Rink and Grade 6 Volleyball Club. Thank you to Mr. Kagan, Mr. Bellan, HaMoreh Gil, Mr. V, Coach Kliel and all the staff, volunteers and parents who cheered on our teams. Go Raiders!





Gray Academy
OF JEWISH EDUCATION

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