

Ottawa Modern Jewish School Fall Newsletter (December 2011)

Busy, busy, here at OMJS – Holiday programs, Gr. 6/7 Being Jewish Program, Adult classes, guest speakers as well as the regular exciting classes.

No longer can your child get away with the answer “NOTHING” when asked – “what did you do at Jewish School?”

The responses to our teachers’ email updates have been fabulous and well accepted. Please check out our website to find all the class update. Enjoy this newsletter which highlights some of our exciting programs.

As always, feel free to contact me with any suggestions and feedback.

L’hitraot,

Janet

K-1 Letters, Hebrew vocab, synagogue skills, as well as Bible stories are the vibrant sounds emanating from Morah Miriam’s class. Work stations are set up to accommodate the varying grade levels. A good time is being had by all.

Partnership with Hillel Lodge

Our jk-3 classes totally enjoyed visiting, singing, and playing with the Bubbies and Zadies at Hillel Lodge. The smiles and promises of more activities reinforced the importance and pleasure of this activity. More to come!



Important Dates:

Dec. 18 – Financial statements for 2010/11 school year review and approval followed by

Chanukah celebration 10:15 am at the JCC Social Hall

Dec. 25 – No school winter break

Jan 1 – No school winter break

Jan 8 – 1st day back at school!

Yiddishkeit

All students are once again enjoying learning Yiddish songs and stories from our beloved Judy. You will get to hear and join in these songs at our Chanukah celebration.

P.S. We will also sneak in a Sephardic (Ladino) song!

Gr. 2-3 A small yet mighty class is concentrating this fall on gratitude. In addition, they are practicing their Hebrew reading skills, synagogue skills, and Morah Yehudis is showing how Bible stories are still relevant in 2011.



Gr. 4/5 – Jewish History

Archaeology has been highlighted by Morah Kami this semester – the students created their own oil lamps. Different cultures within Judaism are also being explored.

Adult Classes with JET

Already 2 sessions were completed this year, Jewish Holidays and Essential Judaism. Those who attended thoroughly enjoyed them. Keep your eyes open for the next series in the winter.

Being Jewish Program

Being Jewish Gr. 6/7 are exploring the life cycle of being Jewish and what it means to them. We invited Dr. Lisa Rosencrantz to speak to the class and parents about the ancient history and tradition of Brit Milah (circumcision). Not only was she informative, she was also very entertaining. We are looking forward to more speakers and outings next term.

Succah Hop

Our annual succa hop was successful despite the wind blowing the roof off of one of the succahs. Edible succahs are as popular as ever at OMJS.



Hebrew Language

The themes covered in gr. 2-7 in Hebrew language have been colours, fall clothing, and food.

In the younger grades Morah Ilona teaches vocabulary, and in the older grades she builds on this vocabulary by adding verbs and adjectives.

In addition the older grades have been learning about different cities in Israel through videos.

Gr. 6/7

Yohoho and a bottle of Manischewitz represents Jewish Pirates in response to the Spanish inquisition. This is a popular unit that Morah Kami explores with her students. On Dec. 4 – those pesky pirates were put on trial at OMJS; the parent jury could not reach a verdict!



...and for the Parents

On Nov 27 parents got together for an informal sharing session on planning for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. They learned that it is never too soon to start thinking about the meaning and technicalities of this milestone. They discussed the diverse ways of celebrating this coming of age. We also welcomed parents to our meet and greet and school year discussion on Oct 30. We plan to have more informal parent discussions. If there is any topic you would like to have shared please let us know.

