

Teachers at the Olympic Academy: Robyn Gaynor, Celine Azoulay and Janice Geary.

(Left to right) Kristin Wilson, Aileen Brunton, Amber Armano and Cathy Peters.

# Jerusalem Mayor Speaks to Kids

By Craig McGuire

Ehud Olmert, the Mayor of Jerusalem, breathed a bit of inspiration into the lessons of students at the Shulamith School for Girls, 1277 East 14th Street, when he spoke recently to faculty and pupils of the

all-girls school. The packed auditorium remained hushed as Olmert explained to the girls the significance of Shulamith, and schools like it. "Perhaps the most important aspect of this place is not that it is a Jewish

school or that it teaches Jewish studies, but that you learn Hebrew," said Olmert, a father of four. Olmert, 48 years old, explained that Hebrew can provide each student with "a bridge to the State of Israel."

Olmert encouraged the students to use language and tradition to sustain and promote ties between Jewish Americans and Israel.

Olmert also pointed out that further understanding of the culture and the language will benefit the girls when they eventually journey to Israel.

"There is something about Jerusalem that is uniquely universal," explained Olmert, slowly raising his voice. "There are many important cities, bigger, more populated, but there is none like Jerusalem."

Olmert commented on the symbolic importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish people.

"For thousands of years, every Jew has been turning his face towards the east, towards Jerusalem," said Olmert.

Olmert frequently travels to other countries to appear on panel discussions, primarily as a representative of the Israeli point of



Mayor Olmert speaks to a crowded auditorium as the faculty at Shulamith look on.



Ehud Olmert, mayor of Jerusalem, speaks to the students at the Shulamith School for Girls about the importance of tradition and promoting ties between Jewish Americans and Israel.

Photos by Arthur DeGaeta

Continued on page 19



Shulamith-students applaud the speech made by Mayor Olmert.