

We are here today to officially unveil the new turf with the special logo honoring Ezra. The #2 was Ezra's baseball number. His number has a special significance in remembering him as it signifies his hard work, commitment and dedication to his own baseball skills and to his brothers and teammates skills. Maimonides has retired Ezra's # for everyone other than his brothers Hillel and Avi. They both feel pride and the desire to make Ezra proud when they wear the #2.

Ezra attended Maimonides and graduated in June of 2015. These walls hold so many special memories for Ezra and his friends, as it does for all of you. Maimonides is not just a school it is a community. It is hard to appreciate that while you are in the middle of it but if you take a minute and think about all your friends and all the knowledge you gain, and all the support you get and all the fun you have each day-you will see your community.

Ezra was smart but he often struggled to sit in his seat and listen to his teachers. He was, however, very lucky that he had great friends, Rabbis, teachers and coaches who helped him succeed. Ezra was friendly and inclusive. He was also aware of his good life and he was appreciative. He was a friend that could be fun and silly but also responsible and serious. Ezra was always sure to tell his friends that he cared about them and loved them. He was aware that his friends were precious.

The Maimonides community was there for Ezra and for our family after he was killed. I remember Rabbi Huff standing in my kitchen that Thursday night, November 19th 2015. We watched an adorable video of Ezra from camp. Ezra was singing a song that Rabbi Huff taught him so that he could remember the 39 malachot. Rabbi Huff was at my house because he loves Ezra.

Sunday morning when Ezra arrived back to Boston on the airplane from Israel on the day of his funeral Rabbi Ehrenkranz and Merv Algae met the airplane and stayed with Ezra for hours. They did that because they love Ezra.

We asked Rabbi Huff and Ezra's baseball coach, Josh Prybyla, to speak at Ezra's funeral. We asked them because they love Ezra and Ezra loved them.

After shloshim at the end of December our family went to Israel and on New Years Eve Dec 31st 2015 we planned a get-together with all of Ezra's Maimonides classmates that were in Israel for the year, many of them had come back to Boston for Ezra's funeral and shiva but we wanted to be together and share stories and memories. They all came. We have a picture, it was nearly Ezra's entire grade. They all knew him so well and all had great memories with him. This was very special for us to feel their love and to hear about Ezra's relationships with each person. His classmates came to meet us because they love Ezra. Many of Ezra's friends continue to visit us and share memories and thoughts. They want to be with us because they still love and miss Ezra.

They are his friends, his community and they went to school with him in this building. These were Ezra's friends who played football and baseball and just hung out in the courtyard on the turf which was no doubt one of Ezra's favorite places here at school.

Maimonides was and is Ezra's community. His community includes his family, his friends, his mentors and all of you. All of you that are here today remembering Ezra with us and all of you that play on the 'Ezra Schwartz field'.

Each time you see the #2 on the logo you will remember Ezra and hopefully you will think about your family, your friends, your Rabbis, your teachers, your coaches and remember that this is your community and you are loved.

