

## **Staying connected... Ilan Ramon Kesher**

Kesher in Hebrew means connection.

The alumni students and families are the connection to the history of this incredible community that is known today as Ilan Ramon Day school.

Ilan Ramon Kesher is a group of dedicated alumni parents and alumni students who have been building this school with hard work, passion and love over the past 18 years.

As Jewish people, we have a strong connection to our heritage...to our history. At the same time, we have an even stronger drive and sense of responsibility to make the future bright for the next generation. Ilan Ramon Kesher has some wonderful stories to share with you. Each month, you will have the opportunity to read about the students and families who make up Ilan Ramon Kesher.



**It's amazing how far children can go, but even more amazing is how they stick to their roots. Joshua Bachner, was in the first TK class at then Heschel West and is a case in point. Josh is now a college junior majoring at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and minoring in Near Eastern Studies. His worldview has been shaped by Jewish education and today is reflected in his approach to academics and life.**

**"I have always gone about my work and studies with the ideals I learned from Heschel West (Ilan Ramon) - I don't accept the world as it is, I try to make it better (Tikkun Olam.) I have dedicated my studies to learn about the problems facing the global community and develop practical solutions. I hope to make a career out of this in the near future either through Consulting, Entrepreneurship, International Development, and/or Politics."**

**Experiential learning during college is a hallmark of students benefitting from an early Ilan Ramon education. During college, Josh worked closely with the Afghan Ambassador to the US in Washington, DC during a summer 2010 internship, and last summer lived and interned in Amman, Jordan through a prestigious Endeavor Global fellowship. This semester finds Josh studying abroad at Oxford University (pictured).**

**No matter how far afield he goes, Josh is still connected to his Heschel West (now Ilan Ramon) classmates. His best friends to this day are the ones he met 16 years ago in TK. Though they are all in different areas of the country (and the world this past year), they stay in touch regularly. Josh will spend his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday with classmate Max Cutler, this year in Las Vegas on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, continuing a celebratory tradition started long ago.**

**What's especially gratifying is that when Josh reflects on his early education he says, "I don't know if I would be where I am today without the guidance of Heschel West. I am forever grateful for the lifelong friendships that have grown from my time there." Wherever it takes them, an Ilan Ramon education is a strong foundation from which to explore the world.**