

# PDS SPIRIT



SUMMER 2008



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN THE POWER AND IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDSHIP



## FROM THE HEADMASTER

As a school, PDS focuses great energy on academic achievement and preparation, and we are very proud of the learning and growth of our boys. But PDS is about so much more than knowledge, skills and grades, and this edition of the *PDS Spirit* touches on two non-academic areas: friendships and alumni in the ministry.

Our alumni often tell me that their closest friendships as adults are ones that were established and nurtured at PDS. PDS alumnus Mclean Wilson '90 spoke to the 6th grade boys this year about the importance of developing godly friendships, and we share the text from that talk. The magazine also features several alumni who are serving in the ministry, and how their days at PDS played a part in that career path.

I hope this edition of the *PDS Spirit* reminds you of friends and fun times from your boyhood and that it deepens your gratitude to those who have dedicated themselves to advancing God's kingdom.

Lee Burns  
Headmaster

SUMMER 2008



## 20 ALUMNI NEWS

Find out the latest births and accomplishments of PDS alumni.



## 4 MINI-FEATURES

PDS boys finish 8th in the nation at math contest, we ask the boys: *How Does the Internet work?* and more!

## 24 MANDARIN MANIA AT PDS

It's now the most common language on the planet. Find out how it's impacting PDS.



*About the Cover:*  
*Members of the PDS Class of 2009.*

PDS SPIRIT is published by Presbyterian Day School  
4025 Poplar Avenue • Memphis, TN 38111  
(901) 842-4600 • www.pdsmemphis.org



9

## ALUMNI IN MINISTRY

These men have made it their life's goal to glorify God through mission work, active involvement in their church, and leading others as ministers of their faith.

12

## FACULTY IN MINISTRY

Boys aren't the only people that PDS faculty members teach and serve.



12

## ALUMNI LUNCHEON

On February 19, 2008, PDS held its first ever Alumni Luncheon. Pitt Hyde '55 was our inaugural recipient of the *PDS Distinguished Alumnus* award.

Headmaster  
Lee Burns  
Assistant Headmaster  
for Teaching and Learning  
Susan Droke  
Principal of Elementary  
Mark Fruitt  
Head of Early Childhood  
Debbie Isom  
Director of Athletics and  
Operations  
Dennis Smith  
Chief Financial Officer  
Jill Kauffman  
Chief Advancement Officer  
Steve Hearn



13

## TEACHER FEATURE

PDS boys interview PDS  
Chaplain Braxton Brady.

### PDS SPIRIT STAFF

Director of  
Communications  
Winston Baccus  
Managing Editor  
Lauren Keras  
Photography  
Jim Kiihnl, Robin Hood,  
Lisa Buser

PDS maintains a  
nondiscriminatory policy with  
regard to race, color, and  
national or ethnic origin.

# MINI-FEATURES

Have some news for a future issue of *PDS Spirit*?  
Send it to [info@pdsmemphis.org](mailto:info@pdsmemphis.org)

## BOYSPEAK

*We asked our boys:*

### How does the internet work?

The internet has completely transformed commerce and our culture more rapidly than any other invention before it. Technology at PDS is expanding every day. The boys start as young as Junior Kindergarten learning to maneuver the desktop and keyboard. Our 6th grade boys use technology instead of textbooks while studying science and social studies. There are 39 SMARTBoards and 700 laptops at PDS. So this month, we decided to ask our boys the question: just how does the internet work?

The internet works by “leekchrisidy” that goes up into space and hits the satellite and goes back to the computer.

– Jonathan, 1st Grade

I think the internet works by our solar system. I bet the solar system shoots a laser down at the computer, and then it works.

– Will C., 1st Grade

I think the internet is sort of like a big brain. It almost gets you everywhere you want.

– Isaiah, 1st

The internet works from the power. You can email a person. Don't grow trees near a power line.

– Jack, 1st

I think the internet works like this: there's this base in each continent that collects all of the data. Then it goes place to place. Also, the internet works because there's a person that gives data to people for a big price. Also, cables help it to get to the correct place. I will faint if I don't have internet.

– Lee, 1st

The internet works by everyone in the world because people can just add stuff to it. There is someone in the world who made the internet, and I do not know where he lives.

– Walker, 1st

Look for more answers from PDS boys on subsequent pages.

## GRADUATION 2008

The Class of 2008 concluded a wonderful PDS career with their graduation on May 23. Sixth grader Stephen Pacheco, winner of the Motsey Hutson Speech Contest, delivered his winning speech at graduation. Pastor Rocky Anthony delivered the commencement address on the topic of choices. Fred Schaeffer '82, President of the Alumni Association, welcomed the newest graduates to the 3,300 member alumni community.

The graduates will be matriculating at five different local schools: 61 to MUS, 3 to St. Dominic, 2 to White Station, one to St. George's, and 1 to Fayette Academy. Two boys will be home-schooled, and three boys are moving out of town with their families.



## 2008 HEADMASTER'S LIST

The Headmaster's List recognizes the sixth grade boys who have achieved a yearly average of 95 or better in their core area subjects and S+ or above in all other areas, including conduct/responsibility.

This year's honorees are: (L to R) First row: Nicholas Beals, Molitor Ford, Jordan Samuel, Stephen Pacheco. Second row: Chris Galvin, Eason Taylor, Ben Ormseth. Third row: Shivam Bhakta, Reed Harrison, Josh Douglass, Grant Lewis.



## PDS INVITED TO JOIN ATLANTA TECHNOLOGY GROUP

This past year, several of the Atlanta independent schools, including Westminster, Lovett, and Trinity, asked PDS to join 20 select independent schools in a one-year professional development program with two nationally-known experts on learning practices for the 21st

century. The year included a series of meetings, dialogue, and projects as these schools worked to build a community around best practices using web-based technologies for 21st century learning. "It was an honor for PDS that these great schools in Atlanta would seek us

out to join their group," says Technology Director Cathy Kyle. "We gained many good ideas, as well as were affirmed in the creative ways we at PDS are already using these web-based technologies to add value to the learning process."

## PDS BOYS GET FIRED UP ABOUT MATH AND PLACE 8TH IN NATION!

PDS finished the *World Maths Day* competition in 8th place among American schools, having answered 260,881 math facts questions correctly during the challenge, held this spring.

The 425 PDS boys who participated competed against more than a million students from more than 20,000 schools in 150 different countries. The average improvement in mental arithmetic by PDS boys over the course of the challenge: 182.5%!

PDS will receive a \$500 award for being in the top ten in the United States.

"I really like trying to beat my high score. At the start of games, I like seeing who I am going to play, like people from Singapore, Hong Kong, China and so on." - Jack Crosby

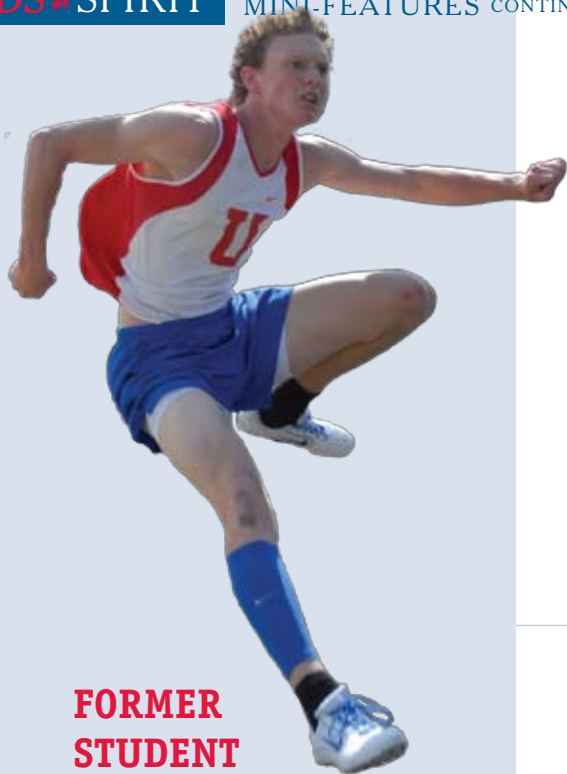
### Top 5 in Questions Answered:

Trent Scull, Paul Stevenson, Preston Roberts, Shivam Bhakta, Jack McCaghren

### Top 5 in Scoring:

Jack Crosby, Trent Scull, Tejvir Vaghela, Burch Baine, Jack McCaghren





## FORMER STUDENT PERSERVERES

Lee Moore, PDS class of '01, began a brilliant track career at Ole Miss in the Fall of 2007. During a November 2007 track practice, he broke both elbows trying to break a fall. He was out for almost three weeks, returning to the hurdles for the third indoor track meet at Arkansas State. During that meet he pulled his hamstring and was finished for the rest of the indoor season. Lee's attitude was that of perseverance. Instead of being discouraged, he focused on the positive. He wore a wrist band with the beginning of Psalm 28:7 which reads, "The Lord is my strength..." He focused on the positive and recouped for the spring outdoor season. At the Drake Relays in Des Moines, he ran his first regional qualifying time. In Fayetteville, Lee ran a 50.64 during the preliminaries of the 400 meter hurdles, qualifying him for the NCAA Outdoor Championships.

## PDS CLASS OF '02 RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL MERIT PROGRAM

Seventeen members of the PDS Class of 2002, now seniors, were recognized this year as either National Merit Finalists, Semi-Finalists, or Commended Scholars based on their high PSAT scores. Recognized as finalists were Austin Beckford, Roger Chu, Scott Edwards, Robert Hoehn, Will Pryor, and Malcolm Wood. Smir Sheth was a Semi-Finalist. Commended Scholars were Hudson Atkins, Christopher Bloodworth, Michael Cross, Watson George, Nelson Graham, Jack Heflin, Will Mays, Bill McCann, Mark McLeod, and Blair Wright.



## PHILIP AIKEN '07: CANCER-FREE AND EXCELLING

by Tricia Aiken, Philip's Mom



Philip Aiken was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a type of bone cancer, in August 2006, days before the beginning of his sixth grade year at PDS. For the next 12 months, Philip received chemotherapy every three weeks and received six weeks of radiation therapy.

Philip completed his cancer treatment in August 2007 and dove headfirst into life at MUS as a seventh grader. He has had a fabulous year, rarely slowing down long enough to ponder the difficult previous year. He played on both the football and lacrosse teams for MUS and gave wrestling a try. Thanks to the dedication of the PDS teachers in preparing him for MUS, he has excelled

academically and was inducted into the Order of the Owl honor society. A highlight of the year was his "wish" trip, a moose hunting expedition with his father in Maine, a trip made possible by the organization "Hunt of a Lifetime." His trophy now hangs in our library.

Philip has been through three sets of scans, one every three months since being released, and all have shown him to be cancer-free! Both PDS and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital continue to hold precious places in all of the Aiken family's hearts. The love and commitment of the PDS community, including the teachers, administration, other parents and students, sustained Philip and our family in a way that truly showed Christ's love. We can never thank you enough.

## “EXEMPLARY” TEACHING AT PDS

Sixth grade's *Project Someday - Is War Ever Justified?* selected for upcoming book on teaching

In the summer when students and parents are enjoying the break from the rigors of academic life at PDS, teachers are thinking ahead to the next class that will sit before them, anticipating an exciting and rewarding year. Teachers can't just turn off their minds; they can find a lesson to share with students in many things that touch their daily lives. This is what occurred in the summer of 2007.

One day, when veteran history teacher Jean Nabers was not really thinking about new curricular lessons one just fell into her lap. Mrs. Nabers's son Michael, a talented composer and producer, emailed her a new song about war that he had been working on. The song, *It'll Matter Someday*, occupied her thoughts.

As she listened to the lyrics to the song, she had an idea about how to use her son's song to teach a history lesson. She asked Michael if he would be willing to work with her class on extending the song by adding a fourth verse that would be written by her sixth grade students. Michael was receptive to the idea and thus began collaboration where the boys became recording artists, songwriters and producers.

Sixth graders study 20th and 21st century wars and how they have shaped the history of the United States. Part of the process of teaching for understanding and not memorization is coming up with an essential question—a question that students can't just look up the answer in a book or on the internet. So she wrote on the board in her room this essential question: is war ever justified? The boys worked on an answer to that question and responded to it on their final history exam. Mrs. Nabers guided them throughout the semester using various activities that require the students to support their answer to the question.

The war-themed song, *It'll Matter Someday*, was introduced to the students via the Internet, and they were charged with working in cooperative groups to write and record a new verse for the song. The students formed “bands”



In the Spring of 2008, *The National Association of Independent Schools* selected *Project Someday* as one of the case studies to be featured in their upcoming *Stories of Excellence: Case Studies of Exemplary Teaching and Learning with Technology* publication.

and worked together on creating lyrics. Next, they had to record their verse, making sure it fit the tempo and beat. The “bands” also designed CD covers to illustrate the theme of their verses. Then Michael and Sean, the lead guitarist in Simple Groove, visited PDS to hear the boys' songs. They had a hard time deciding on the winning verse, but finally narrowed it down to four finalists. The boys found out who won when Michael sent an email to the class with the song re-recorded with the new fourth verse.


**Winning Lyrics by *The Ruff Ryderz*** (Von Churchwell, Michael Turley, and Ellis Kennedy):


*Pain and sorrow, yes  
But we've been blessed  
Heroes' memories kept alive  
Our war will end  
And peace will begin  
It's time for this to end.*

**No. 1 CD cover artists:**

*SBSB* - Stephen Pacheco, Ben Ormseth, Shivam Bhakta and Bud Harris

## SOURCES OF PRIDE

 The PDS Primary Chess Team won second place in the state tournament that took place in Cookeville, TN, in April.

 Science Teacher **Kim Bullard** was one of a small number of teachers from around the country selected to help the Educational Records Bureau (ERB) work on a national science test that can be administered at leading independent schools. She and her colleagues spent several days in Texas helping to evaluate the new test.

### Harvard Bound

27 teachers, plus Early Childhood Head Debbie Isom and Assistant Headmaster for Teaching and Learning Susan Droke, will be spending part of their summer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where they will dialogue with educators from around the world and learn from some of the world's leading thinkers on education, curriculum and child development.

### Beating The Toughest National Competition

Way to Go, Graduates! How does PDS stack up against the other leading independent schools around the country? Our 6th graders' ERB scores were 32% higher than their peers' scores. We benchmark our boys against students at the country's outstanding private schools, and the PDS boys rise to the top.

### 6th Grade Beats St. Mary's in Battle of the Books

The 6th grade boys had a fun and successful day in competing

with the 6th grade girls at St. Mary's in a live competition entitled Battle of the Books. The PDS boys and St. Mary's girls were asked questions about books they had read, and the PDS boys earned a one point victory. All the 6th graders participated.

### A PERFECT SCORE FOR THE TEACHERS

100% of the PDS faculty and staff made a gift to the PDS Annual Fund, which provides PDS boys with additional resources, curricular opportunities and instructional supplies that tuition dollars alone don't provide. "What a testimony to the dedication and commitment of the teachers that each of them would invest part of their personal income in the PDS boys," says Director of Annual Giving Lee Rantzow. The Annual Fund closes on July 31.



PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL  
2007-2008 ANNUAL FUND





*Building Boys, Making Men (of the Cloth):*  
**ALUMNI IN MINISTRY**

According to the goals set forth in the PDS motto, the following men are the epitome of the PDS boy...just all grown up. These men have made it their life's goal to glorify God through mission work, active involvement in their church, and leading others as ministers of their faith.

**BILL MURRAY '86**, son of longtime PDS library teacher Carolyn Murray, remembers his seven years at PDS fondly. Murray started at PDS in 1979, the same year as beloved former headmaster Dr. Sumner. He especially remembers chapel and Mrs. Ruffin's Bible class, and he was honored to lead the chapel service on Sumner's final day as headmaster. Thus, it is no coincidence that Murray was recently hired as the rector of St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church in Bartlett.



**Bill Murray '86**

After graduating from MUS, Murray earned a BA in economics and English from the University of Memphis, along with an unofficial minor in antics as he cheered on his school as Pouncer, the beloved mascot. He then served as the youth director at Grace St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Midtown for five

and one-half years. He continued on to earn a master of divinity from the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA. He was then ordained and served as the transitional deacon at St. George's Episcopal Church in Germantown. In the spring of '08, he began as the head of St. Elisabeth's, an opportunity he describes as "wonderfully fun, engaging, exciting, and terrifying at the same time." He attributes his positive experience there to the parish and its high level of involvement. Murray was also honored to conduct the funeral for the husband of Mary Hearn Coleman, another former PDS teacher and administrator who is loved by all who know her.

**KENNON VAUGHAN '90** is the director of DownLine ministries, a discipleship training ministry which runs the DownLine Institute in Memphis. The institute seeks to



**Kennon Vaughn '90**



**Children's Time at St. Elisabeth's.** Bill Murray '86 shares a Gospel lesson with the children of St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church in Bartlett.

train and equip leaders to be effective in making disciples of Christ. Each year, they train approximately 100 local leaders as well as 50 college graduates who come from around the country to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime training opportunity. In addition to the curriculum training, the collegiate graduates, also called "Emerging Leaders," get hands-on training in one of 15 urban ministry partners around the city. They give their time for free in a ministry or church around Memphis while going through the Institute and being discipled by a member of the community.

Vaughan "hopes to see disciple-making restored as foundational into the local church today as it was in the New Testament church in the Scriptures." They are well on their way toward this goal, having already partnered with 26 churches in the city so far. You can visit

[www.downlineministries.com](http://www.downlineministries.com) for more information about Kennon's ministry.

When asked about his time at PDS, Vaughan recalls that his "days at PDS were, to say the least, amazing. Close friendships were forged that remain today, a standard for excellence and integrity was built into me by godly teachers, I was given a head start on a phenomenal education, and, most importantly, I was nurtured and encouraged in my Christian faith. I cannot overestimate the importance of those years in my own life, or the value of that kind of life training in the life of any young boy. While I believe it vital for those things to be built into boys first and foremost through the parents and in

---

**My years at PDS were a blessing that I will never take for granted.**

---

the home, having a school like PDS to reinforce the values and faith being taught in the home is crucial. My years at PDS were a blessing that I will never take for granted, and that I hope to extend to my boys as well."

**MURRAY GARROTT '79** serves on the ministerial staff at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Durham, NC, where he lives with his wife Liz and their two children. Growing up, Garrott never contemplated ministry as a career path. It wasn't until after graduating from Vanderbilt and then Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS, that Murray switched paths from counseling into ministry.

"I gradually changed gears as I began to grasp personally the magnitude of Christ's atoning sacrifice on my behalf. Specifically, I came to realize that Christ came into the world to save sinners. And Christ, being fully God, was alone able to accomplish my salvation. The concept of a personal faith in Christ had made very little sense to me until I recognized my own flawed condition before God in tandem with Christ's capacity to redeem and restore that relationship."

The idea that he could receive God's gift of forgiveness by grace through faith rather than good works and deeds deeply touched Garrott and led to his decision to seek a career in ministry. He felt that this message answered his questions regarding human suffering and death, and he felt compelled to share it with others.

Garrott says that his decision to become a minister, though intuitive, didn't seem to



**Murray Garrott '79**

fit with his prior life experience. Within months of returning from post-graduate work in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1996,

Garrott received a call to serve as a minister in Durham, NC, where he and his family have been ever since.

Garrott thanks PDS for a wonderful experience and many of the friendships he still has today. Specifically, he recalls the intramural sports program, field day, and Mrs. Neel's huge smile and energy during the Christmas program.

### BRET SPIEGELMAN

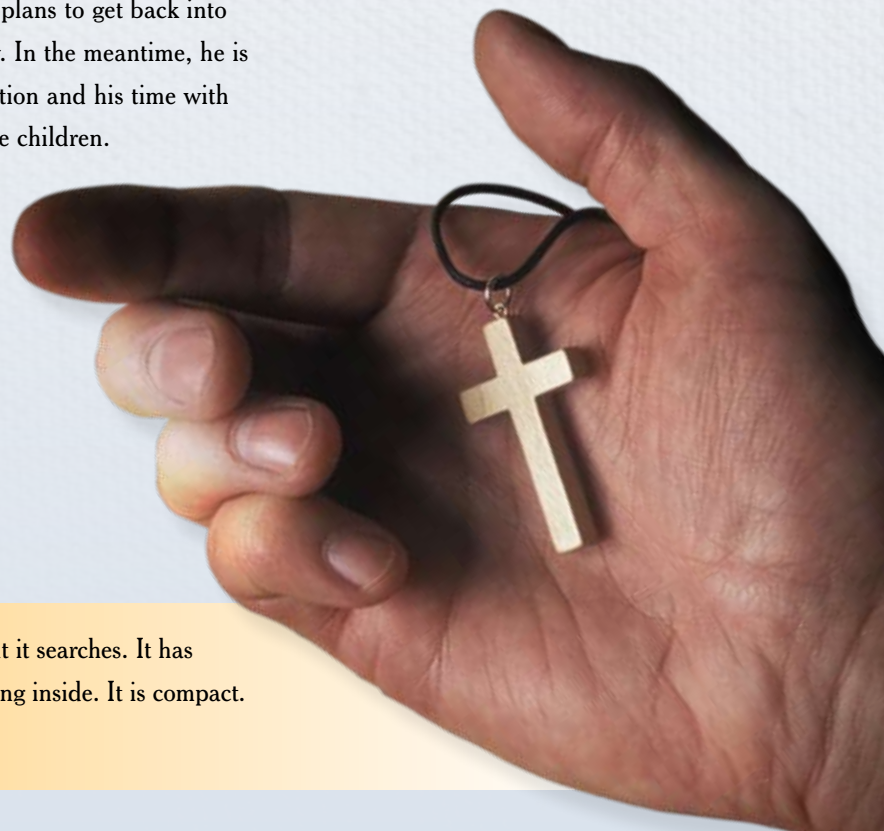
It wasn't until college that the Gospel really started making sense to Bret Spiegelman. After college, he began playing guitar for Young Life and intended to return to school to earn a master's in teaching. However, Second Presbyterian Church asked him to serve as their interim youth director, and he put his plans for a master's on hold. It turns out that the "interim" was 11 years, as he was offered the full-time position soon thereafter. He really enjoyed the missions in Mexico and getting students involved.

When he got married in 1996, Spiegelman and his wife moved to Denver, where he and a friend started a commercial contracting group and eventually ran a smoothie franchise. They ran their businesses like a youth group and developed a solid reputation with the workers they hired and the community. Meanwhile, he stayed active in ministry by speaking at conferences and camps and conducting leadership training for Young Life.

When Hope Presbyterian called him and asked if he would consider returning to help lead their youth ministry, Spiegelman declined. When they made a similar call two years later, the timing was just right and they decided to make the move back to Memphis. That was eight years ago, and since then he has been working as the director of student ministries and college for Hope Presbyterian Church. He particularly enjoys the outreach aspect of Hope's ministry, and he plans to get back into missions one day. In the meantime, he is enjoying his position and his time with his wife and three children.

When asked what he remembers about his time at PDS, Spiegelman fondly remembers that his mother taught there when he attended, so he had the privilege of roaming the halls as she finished her work after the school day. He not-so-fondly remembers that the coaches had paddles and they would use them should you forget your P.E. uniform!

It is misleading to say that one experience or institution in their life led these men to ministry. Rather, a network of family, school, and church supported and nurtured these boys as they developed into whole men. PDS is proud to have known these godly men during their childhood and as they continue to share God's word as adults.



### BOYSPEAK

**How**  
does the  
**internet**  
**work**

The Internet works like a smaller TV but it searches. It has millions of circuit boards. It has everything inside. It is compact.

– Will, 1st

# FACULTY IN MINISTRY

*Boys aren't the only people that PDS faculty members teach and serve. They are involved in numerous ministries right here in Memphis and half-way around the world. They go on mission trips, teach Sunday School classes, serve the under-resourced, and play leadership roles in their churches.*

"We look to hire teachers who are not simply outstanding in teaching academic subjects and skills, but individuals who are passionate about investing in the lives of other people," says Headmaster Lee Burns. "Seeing the passion and heart of our teachers with their boys, I am not surprised to see them involved in additional opportunities to serve and love, as well as to express and deepen their faith."

The following is a sample of some of the ministries and service in which the PDS faculty and staff are involved:

**Laura Glenn** will spend two weeks in Cambodia this summer on a mission trip to teach ESL to World Relief workers.

**Mary-Wilkes Harris** is spending the summer of 2008 in Buenos Aires working with Marcelo and Miriam Robles at La Misión Evangelical

Presbyterian Church, which is associated with Second Presbyterian Church.

**Dale Hill** and her son (PDS alumni **Elliott**) spend June in Brazil for a medical mission trip.

**Cindy Brock** has been the director of student ministries at Heartsong Church for the past eight years.

**Nell Brown** teaches an adult Sunday school class, works with children in the Awana program and is involved in the Care Ministry at Audubon Park Baptist Church.

**Courtney Taylor** has been co-leading a discipleship group of high school junior girls at Second Presbyterian Church. She is also going on a mission trip to Argentina through Second Presbyterian Church this June.

**Winston Baccus** teaches Sunday school at Collierville United Methodist Church. He also leads a United Methodist Camp for high school kids each summer in North Alabama and serves as worship and design leader for a youth event in Gatlinburg for UMC youth from North Alabama each winter.

**Summer Camp Communion.** An image from a communion service at a camp led by Winston Baccus.



**Shari Caruthers** is on the Parent Advisory Team for the youth department at Christ Methodist and also co-leads a girls' discipleship group. For a week in the summer, she leads a group of teens repairing, painting, and restoring houses in the Binghampton neighborhood for the SOS (Service Over Self) team.

**Kiki Richardson** is a member of Madonna Circle, which provides Catholic women with the opportunity for service, fellowship, and spiritual growth and to improve the Memphis community by stewardship and charity in the gospel tradition.

**Darilyn Christenbury** does SOS (Service Over Self) every summer, helps with a youth group at Christ Methodist, and volunteers with the ministry "A Way Out," which helps women who are leaving the adult-oriented businesses.

**Traci Stewart** joined a dental team for a short-term mission trip to India in February. She traveled to Kachhwa in Utter Pradesh, India. She worked at a Christian compound directed by Dr. Raju Abraham, who, along with his wife Catherine, is a missionary supported by Second Presbyterian Church.



# TEACHER FEATURE

BRAXTON BRADY, PDS CHAPLAIN

Interviewed by Stephen Pacheco, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

In December 2005, Braxton and Carrie Brady answered a call to minister to a neighborhood in decline by moving to the Binghampton neighborhood with their two sons, PDS students Preston (4th) and Bennett (Kindergarten).

**SP: What did you see yourself as when you were young? What did you think that you would be when you grew up?**

BB: When I was young, I saw myself as a coach. I never thought that I would be a teacher.

**SP: What is the single most important thing that you have told your students or your kids?**

BB: Life is not about you; it is about living out the story of God in your life, and glorifying Him in what you say and what you do.

**SP: What is the most important lesson that God has taught you through living in Binghampton?**

BB: He taught me the value of community and how God uses the people in my neighborhood to show me His love.

**SP: What was one of the hardest situations or surprises that you faced in middle school?**

BB: Dealing with popularity was a hard situation that I faced.

**SP: When did you first accept Christ into your heart? What did it mean to you then?**

BB: I first accepted Christ into my heart when I was 12. Then, I understood that I was loved no matter what situation I was in, and despite bad things happening, Christ's love and forgiveness would never leave me.

**SP: What was the biggest adjustment you went through in moving to Binghampton?**

BB: For me, it was moving into a community that had so many needs that felt overwhelming.

**SP: What was the first step that led you to your decision to move to Binghampton?**

BB: Realizing that God's call in our life does not always involve safety and security from a world's viewpoint.

**SP: How did your kids handle your decision to move to Binghampton?**

BB: The boys have been great – they take it as an opportunity to tell others about Christ and His love.

**SP: What are some of the good things about living in Binghampton?**

BB: Some of the good things were the real sense of community that I felt investing in boys that do not have a father and having



my boys interact on a daily basis with other kids from different races and socioeconomic classes. One of the bad things was seeing the difficult home lives of kids in my community. It all feels overwhelming.

**SP: What is the saddest thing that you have seen happen to a neighbor while living in Binghampton? How did it make you feel?**

BB: The kids living here don't have the basic necessities for living, such as food, clothes, etc. It makes me feel that we as Christians are not truly living out the Gospel to the least, the lost, and the lonely.

**SP: What is one thing that you want your students and your children to remember about you?**

BB: I was a man who tried to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ on a daily basis. I want my students and my children to know they were loved. I want them to know the word of God so that they can go out and impact this city for Christ.

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

Fun stuff from old PDS yearbooks.

My name Wayne Mink

age I was nine years old in this picture

favorite teacher Mrs. Nabers

why? She made history interesting and fun

favorite PDS food I can still taste the greasy

tater tots from the cafeteria

favorite subject History. Who would've thought

I would go on to become lawyer?

best part of school day Recess...no explanation needed

if you could relive one thing The 6th grade father-son trip to St. Louis

best reason to be a PDS student now All of the cool electronics

greatest lesson learned at PDS Perseverance



The classic photo above is of a very dapper Wayne Mink ('88) from the ad section of the 1985 PDS annual. We asked Wayne (father of Walter Mink, Pre-K) to fill in the PDS Blast From the Past blanks and tell us what he is up to now. Mom and Dad would still be proud of their Wayne!



# CATCHING UP WITH DAVID W. FOX

Upon the request of PDS alumni, we caught up with former assistant headmaster David W. Fox to see what he has been up to since PDS. David W. Fox started in the education field as a teacher in the New Orleans public school for five years beginning in 1967. In 1973, then PDS headmaster Jack Stanford hired him to be the school's athletic director. He is still thankful for the opportunity Stanford gave him to enter the field of school administration.

In 1974, his second year at PDS, Fox became the assistant headmaster and continued to serve as a coach. While serving in this capacity, PDS encouraged him to achieve his master of administration from Memphis State and paid for his enrollment at Memphis Theological Seminary. He is still grateful for the support and encouragement PDS gave him in these endeavors, and he enjoyed his time at PDS. He is also grateful to his wife, who raised their three children while he worked. Fox served nine years at PDS, under headmasters Jack Stanford and Len Sumner. Fox stayed at PDS until 1982, when he left to become the headmaster of Whitehaven Presbyterian School (which later became Memphis Prep School and has since closed).

In 1984, he was hired as the headmaster of CMDS, where he served 18 years before retiring (for what he thought was for good) in 2002.

After just one month of retirement, he received a call from David Manly, the former principal of SBEC in Whitehaven, MS, asking if he would be willing to serve as the principal for a year. When he replied "yes," they called back and asked if he would be willing to serve two years. When he agreed to that, they asked him to serve as long as he would be willing. That was six years ago! He enjoys the co-ed, Christian environment of SBEC and is proud that they have the largest elementary school on one site in the Memphis area.

Fox is thankful that God has blessed him with good health, and he still enjoys working in the education field after so many years. He and his wife are proud of their own grown children – Matthew, Meredith, and Lynn. Fox especially enjoys that his daughter-in-law teaches at SBEC and that he gets to see his two grandchildren, who attend SBEC, on a daily basis. He and his wife are members of Second Presbyterian Church, and he often runs into familiar faces from his time at PDS when he is on the church campus.

In fact, one aspect of the education field that Fox enjoys is that things often come full-circle. After so many years at various Memphis-area schools, he is constantly running into men who were boys under his charge in the past. Understandably, he always remembers

the faces but sometimes has to ask from what school he knows the individual. He recently ran into a man who had attended PDS when Fox was the assistant headmaster. The man was with his son, who had attended PDS when Fox's son Lynn served as his coach.

He also just caught up with another former PDS boy, for whom his son Lynn was named. This person's son had just graduated from PDS, and he was arranging to send his daughter to SBEC. Stories such as these lead Fox to look back on his years as a school administrator and smile with the knowledge that he has been a part of affecting many generations of families. It is evident in talking with him that, along with being called to this work by the Lord, these relationships are what have kept him motivated to stay in education for 40 years and counting.

PDS is blessed and honored to have had him for nine of those years.



# ALUMNI LUNCHEON

Over 200 alumni attended our first event this past February!



PDS Distinguished Alumni Award 2008 Recipient:

## PITT HYDE '55



Pitt Hyde ('55) was presented the "Distinguished Alumni Award" at the first Alumni Board Luncheon on February 19, 2008. The award is presented to an alumnus who has demonstrated "a true love for the school and who represents the goals, ideals, and imagination of the institution." Hyde graduated from PDS, MUS, and UNC. He served as the president and chairman of the board of Malone & Hyde, Inc. He is the founder of AutoZone and expanded it from three stores to 3,200 stores nationally, turning it into the largest auto parts company in the industry. Hyde is also the owner and president of Pittco Holdings, the chairman of GTx Inc., and chairman of the board of Memphis Bioworks Foundation. In addition to these professional accomplishments, he has devoted his time and energy to civic, cultural, and charitable endeavors to improve the future of Memphis. By his own example and accomplishments, he has shown the current boys of PDS that they should use their talents to give back to their community.

Hyde said that he was challenged during his elementary years because of dyslexia, but he thanked his 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Carroll, for helping him through and building up his confidence:

"While I managed to achieve

acceptable grades, I had to work a lot harder on my English and my spelling and things like that – it was a great frustration. In the 4th grade, I was fortunate that I had a teacher, Mrs. Carroll, who I remember very well to this day. She took a special interest in me, and she really worked closely with me and helped me adjust to how to compensate for my reading and spelling skills. To this day, I'm very grateful for her and her commitment, and also the self-confidence that it helped build in me. Looking back on the school, not too many years ago, I think the school was perceived as a great place for a boy who was well-rounded and a good athlete. I think that is well and fine, but given my experience, and how much I appreciated someone looking at me as an individual and working with me on my specific needs, I really celebrate where the school is today and what a fine job Headmaster Lee Burns is doing in creating an environment which celebrates the individual and the diversity within all those boys."

"People are thrilled to see someone who is skilled in music or art or other things, and also it is great to have the teaching staff and ability to really help people who have learning disabilities. I applaud the great progress that the school has made."

"I also applaud the great progress that is being made in the diversity of our student body and the obvious fact that we are setting our goals not to look at the individual's background or race but rather to look through to the quality of these individuals. Our real goal is to help lay the foundation and hopefully train the future leaders of our community."

"I also greatly respect the emphasis on service and service to one's community. I think all of us in this room have been very fortunate in our lives and have benefited from the schools that we were able to attend and this community that we live in. I think the least we all can do is be committed to trying to leave our city and our community a better place than it was when we arrived. I think that to do that and to instill that starts at the earliest age, and PDS is certainly the place to start. I'm glad to see the emphasis they are placing on service and commitment to others, particularly those who are less fortunate than ourselves."

Pitt and his wife Barbara are the parents of Alex, who is a 4th grader at PDS.





## CLASS NOTES

**Eric Beaty ('95)** is part of SunTrust Bank's commercial lending group. He just bought a new condo in downtown Memphis and can be found hitting balls on the golf course most Saturdays. He also does freelance movie-writing on the side and is working with Ben Adams on a script about Elvis.

**Ben Adams ('95)** married wife Lea in November 2006 and now works writing sitcom scripts in the TV literary department at United Talent Agency in Los Angeles. He has enjoyed having his friends visit him out West.

**Paul Gillespie ('95)** has been working for Morgan Keegan's equity capital markets group for the past three years. He lives in downtown Memphis near other PDS alums Hunter Mills, Brandon Omell, and Eric Beaty.

**Battle Williford ('95)** left Regions Bank and is now working for Metropolitan Bank, a new bank in Memphis.

**Wes Scott ('93)** married Elizabeth Clark (her father, Michael Clark, was a 1963 PDS graduate) in June of 2007. Wes is an attorney with Bass, Berry & Sims in Memphis.

**Ben Keras ('89)** and his wife Lauren welcomed twin girls, Nellie Kathryn and Jane Eleanor, in February. Ben and his brother Jay Keras ('91) recently opened a Chevrolet dealership on Covington Pike.

**David Willmott ('82)** went to MUS and was then a starter for the Williams College football team, where he helped them to a 29-2-1 record for his four years of play. (They have yet to retire his jersey). After college, David worked for Lehman Brothers in New York before attending Kellogg Business School on the campus of Northwestern. David and his wife Catherine have three children – Charles, Ann Wylie, and George and live in New York. After 11 great years at Lehman, he has started his own private equity firm, Angler Capital Management, LLC.

**Todd Keathley ('82)** and his wife Stacia have a two-year-old boy named Harris. Their daughter Ingrid Thiel Keathley was born in April just before the Tigers' appearance in the national championship game. The Keathleys live in Brooklyn where Todd is the director of sales and trading at ITG Inc., the firm he has been with since he moved to NYC in 1995.

**John Moore ('81)** is living in Pinehurst, NC, and is an orthopedic surgeon. He and his wife Julie have three boys and say, "if you are ever in Pinehurst playing golf, come by and say hello."

**Owen Tabor ('79)** is an orthopedic surgeon with Tabor Orthopedic Surgeons here in Memphis. He graduated from MUS and then earned his BA and MD from the University of Virginia. He and his wife have two sons at PDS, Sherman and Harrison, and a daughter Virginia.

**Jim Barton ('78)**, after PDS, graduated from MUS and Dartmouth. While at Dartmouth, Jim rewrote the record books for the basketball team, earning All-Ivy League honors in his career. Jim has three children. He and his wife Allison live in Memphis, where Jim currently works for Southeastern Asset Management. His son James will be attending PDS in the fall.

**Hampton Sides ('74)** wrote "The Strike Zone," a central article about Martin Luther King, Jr. in the April '08 *Memphis Magazine*. He has become a noted author and writer and lives in Santa Fe, NM.

**Chris Schmeisser ('72)** – Since graduating from MUS and Ole Miss, Chris has enjoyed a career in commercial real estate, beginning with Trammel Crow Co. and later moving to Colliers Turley Martin Tucker in Nashville, where he has worked since 2002. Chris, Leila, and their three sons William (19), Michael (16), and Hunter (11) have lived in Brentwood, TN, since 1993. Chris has coached the boys in youth football for 11 years, and he and Leila served on the board of Brentwood Blaze Youth Football for nine years. The family enjoys hunting and shooting competitive sporting clays throughout the Southeast. This fall, William will attend Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO, on a scholarship in shooting sports. Chris and Leila are members of the Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal in Brentwood.

**Cecil Godman ('72)** – Cecil, Summer, and daughter Becca live in Cordova on a spacious lot with their two horses and two dogs. After graduating from MUS and Rhodes College, Cecil began his career in investment management with First Horizon before moving to Gintel Asset Management in New York, where he was chief investment officer. In addition to his responsibilities in equity research and portfolio management, Cecil became an experienced speaker and presenter, including five-time featured speaker at respected Donoghue's Mutual Fund Superstar's conference. After 14 years with Gintel, Cecil became a senior vice president in equity research with Highland Capital Management, a subsidiary of First Horizon Corp., and is currently a first vice president with Suntrust Bank

in Memphis in wealth and investment management. Becca, now a junior at St. George's Independent School, was recently admitted to the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta. She is quite a golfer as well, currently the captain of the girl's varsity golf team, a medalist in the 2007 State Golf Tournament, and a finalist for Best of Preps in golf this year. The family recently returned from a spring break trip to Italy, a 25-year anniversary present. Plans for the summer include quite a few college visits.

**Chip Grayson ('72)** After graduating from MUS, Ole Miss (magna cum laude, president of the Business School, Student Body, and SAE), and University of Virginia law school, Chip worked for Baker, Donelson law firm where he

was named partner in 1992. Chip later moved to Morgan Keegan, where he is an executive managing director and now head of investment banking, as well as a member of the executive committee. Chip and Lisa, who will celebrate their 25th anniversary this summer, have three children. Shelley is a sophomore at Ole Miss. Virginia, now a senior at Hutchison, will attend Ole Miss Honors College this fall. John is a PDS grad and will enter 9th grade at MUS this fall. Chip is on the boards of WKNO, Bridges and WM Barr. The family attends Church of the Holy Communion (Episcopal), where Chip is a former member of the vestry.

## Births:

**Griffin ('92)** & Molly Beard  
Mary Drew Beard (Mary Drew)  
March 24, 2008

**Chris ('91)** & Colleen Canale  
Christopher Webster Canale, III (Webb)  
March 10, 2008



**Jim ('88)** & Candace Echols  
Robert Towne Echols (Bo)  
February 12, 2008

**Duncan ('88)** & Murff Galbreath  
Louise Day Galbreath (Day)  
January 3, 2008

**Hunter ('92)** & Elizabeth  
Humphreys  
Robert Hunter Humphreys, III (Hunter)  
December 28, 2007



**Drew ('90)** and Kristina Hyde  
Lee Andrew Hyde V (Drew)  
March 21, 2008

**Todd ('82)** & Stacia Keathley  
Ingrid Thiel Keathley (Ingrid)  
April 7, 2008

**Ben ('89)** & Lauren Keras  
Nellie Kathryn Keras (Nellie)  
Jane Eleanor Keras (Jane)  
February 10, 2008



**Andrew ('91)** & Maggie Phillips  
Virginia Matthews Phillips (Virginia)  
March 4, 2008

**Hunter ('92)** & Molly Witherington  
Katherine Alexander Witherington (Kate)  
February 8, 2008

**Ben ('91)** & Anna Wunderlich  
Paul Alexander Wunderlich (Alex)  
February 7, 2008



# GODLY FRIENDSHIPS



This is an abridged version of the speech McLean Wilson '90 delivered to the 6th grade boys as part of their year-long seminar focused on the question of what it means to be a man.

Think in your mind about your “best friend,” and then think about why that person is your best friend. You are at the age where it is natural to spend a lot of time thinking about friends and friendship. I am sure many of you are best friends with one another due to the fact that you share likes and dislikes. And I am sure I don’t have to point out the benefits of friendships such as having others to play with or making one another laugh.

Recognizing friendship as defined within the boundary of likes and dislikes makes us all eligible for a friendship with just about anyone. God calls each of us to be friends with one another. He even goes as far as telling us in the book of Matthew to not only love our neighbor and friends but also to love our enemy, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who persecute us. That command might seem hard to do, and it is. God wants us to love others as He first loved us. This level of friendship and relationships with others is broad and very important, but not at the heart of what I want to talk with you about today.

Today I want to focus on genuine godly friendship. This is harder to attain because it takes a lot of maturity and time to have a deep and meaningful godly friendship. Some of you might have tons of friends, and some of you might feel like you don’t have many at all – and that’s okay. As you get older and more mature with your friendships, you’ll come to find that you may have many friends, but you’ll end up only having a few genuine godly friendships, and the main thing for you right now is to be striving for the right type of genuine godly friendships.

The highest quality friendships are “Godly Friendships” and that quality is much more important than the quantity of friendships you have.

It has been 18 years since I’ve been where you are today. Just for your frame of reference, when I think about the friendships in my life, I truly have only seven genuine Christian friendships. Four of those seven began in second grade here at PDS. Those friendships have lasted through my life.

This idea of “genuine friendship” stands in stark contrast to “shallow friendship.” A shallow friend is someone with whom you only connect on the surface as opposed to at a deeper level. Your only connection with this person might be that you like the same music or video games, you are on the same sports teams with him, or maybe

you think he is cool and has some stuff you wish you had. Sometimes superficial friendships are based on gossiping about others or making fun of them. These relationships are not true friendships and they will eventually let you down because they lack the strong foundation from which genuine godly friendships are made.

other hand, was merely a shepherd (a keeper of sheep) and grew up very poor. I point this out because it teaches us that having the same background or interest is not the basis for a true friendship. To that end, don’t judge a person and his potential for being a true friend on whether or not he seems to have grown up in a similar way as you.

---

### True godly friendships are built on trust and sharing

---

To understand what I mean by “genuine godly friendship,” it helps to examine the relationship between David and Jonathan in the Bible. David and Jonathan first met just after David killed Goliath, and one of the first things to note about their friendship is how very different their backgrounds were. Jonathan was the prince of Israel. He grew up in a palace and was brought up to one day be a king. David, on the

David and Jonathan built their friendship on something far more lasting and important. David’s courage and bravery the day he killed Goliath affected Jonathan deeply; he was moved to love him as much as his own life. He realized that they shared much in common in the areas of courage, bravery, strength, and loyalty, and those things initially got them interested in one another. But, most importantly, they connected with one another because they both had a deep trust and faith in God. From that day forward, they were the best of friends. The bond you have with one another in Christ is the strongest bond you will ever have with another. The main building block for a genuine Christian friendship is the deep connection you can achieve with another when there is a foundation and love for Christ present.

David and Jonathan also built their friendship through serving one another and giving to each other. Jonathan was moved to the point of giving David some of his treasured items: his robe, sword, bow and belt, and even his armor. He gave freely and told David often, “Whatever you want me to do,



I'll do for you." Have you ever taken something you really liked and freely given it to someone? When was the last time you said to a friend, "what can I do for you?" Giving and serving are the essence of true friendship.

Real men sacrifice for one another. Jonathan was heir to the throne of Israel, yet Jonathan knew that David would be a better king. He knew that was also what God wanted, so Jonathan helped David to become the king instead. Now, that's sacrifice! Would you be willing to give up something that was rightfully yours for someone you thought could do a better job? And would you do it because you felt the Lord calling you to action?

David and Jonathan could do these things because they had a very deep, emotional connection with one another. This happens only when you have Christ as the foundation for your relationship. They could tell each other whatever was on their hearts and not be afraid of sounding stupid or scared. They were honest about meaningful things that many times men and boys are afraid to talk about, such as fears, hopes, and God. Jonathan could tell David even the most difficult things, one being that his dad wanted to kill David. True friends say difficult things to each other, but they speak the truth in a very loving way. Can you tell your friends the truth about things even if it is not pleasant? True friends can and do. Friends are loyal to one another because they are loyal to God. Both David and Jonathan loved the Lord and sought to

follow his commandments. Their loyalty to God bound them to one another.

It is one thing to talk about a story in the Bible about a relationship from thousands of years ago, but what does godly friendship look like now? First, true godly friendships involve relationship, or time spent with one another. Friendship takes time to get to know one another, to build and share memories, to invest in each other's growth. If you feel like you don't have any "genuine godly friendships," then I want to tell you that that's okay and to

---

**God built us for  
connection and relationship  
with each other ...**

---

just be patient. One of the things I did at your age was to pray for the right types of friends to come into my life, and I encourage each of you to do the same.

Next year in junior high, you will be working harder and meeting new people. You will be exposed to more worldly things than you ever have before, and you will have much more responsibility. It will be more important than ever before to deepen your godly friendships and really think about what you want in a true friend. Pick your friends wisely, and don't be afraid to let go of some friendships.

It was 7th grade for me when I really started to learn who my "real" friends were. It was then that I determined to let some friendships fade and began to deepen others. This may sound easy,

but please do not think that it is. You might have to let some friendships go at the expense of what seems like popularity, but shallow friendships will let you down. Shallow friendships feel like work—you are always trying to be something or someone that others would like. In direct contrast, being around true friends is easy because they accept you for who you are.

You will need friendships as you enter this next phase of your life, but you need the right kind of friendships. Once you have pin-pointed those true friends or potential true friends, it will take time spent together to develop that deep connection that David and Jonathan had and that I have had with my Christian friends.

True godly friendships are built on trust and sharing. We all need someone with whom we can share our lives and our feelings. We need to share secrets with another without the fear of having those secrets disclosed to others. One of the signs of a true godly friendship is being able to share your hopes and dreams together. Think about the different levels of things you might tell your peers or friends. On one level, you have those peers with whom you will discuss schoolwork or the weather. Next, you have those friends with whom you will talk about sports, video games, books, or music. Lastly, there's that select group of friends with whom you would be willing to share your thoughts about God, your family, girls, or your dreams for the future. These are your godly friendships. We often keep our dreams and hopes to ourselves because

## BOYSPEAK

How  
does the  
internet  
work?

We type in the website into the computer, send to a receiver that sends it to a satellite. The satellite returns the signal and we get the website that we typed on our computer.

– Hill, 3rd

we do not want someone else telling us that they are bad or dumb. When you have a friendship where Christ is the foundation, you can share your thoughts freely knowing you can trust your friend to listen and keep your secrets. That is what the bond of Christ can do for you and your friendships, and it is those friendships we need to seek. It is easy to recognize shallow friendships when you see that your secrets cannot be kept. Some of you might have already learned this the hard way.

Finally, genuine godly friendships are developed through accountability. I didn't really know the word "accountability" until my freshman year in college, but when I found out what it was, I realized that I had had it with some of my Christian friends since about 6th grade.

"Accountability" is the act of encouraging, supporting, and depending on one another. You may have heard friends say they are "accountability partners" who "hold one another accountable."

Accountability for me in the years of junior high and high school was a result of choosing the right friends – those friends

with whom I had a deepened godly friendship and Christ bond. Because I surrounded myself with other friends who were dedicated to being Christians and living a life where Christ truly was first, I achieved accountability without ever really knowing it.

It occurred in the ways in which my friends and I got involved in school activities, community activities, and church activities. It occurred in the ways we treated our parents, our teachers and girls. My buddies and I were close enough to talk about all these things. We could share with one another and challenge one another. Because we were all dedicated to trying to live a life that followed Christ, we made decisions, sometimes even together, about what we thought God would want us to do. We watched one another and knew we had to make the right decision, because if we didn't, then our friends would be disappointed. We were dependable for one another and really wanted to make

each other better – that's a sign of a genuine godly friendship.

It wasn't until my freshman year in college that I was intentional about seeking an "accountability partner" – a friend who I could count on to ask me hard questions and challenge me to live a life for Christ. I challenge you to think about who could be a good accountability partner for you.

I have talked a lot about how to identify or look for godly friends. I also want to encourage each of you to not just look for this type of friend but to also be that type of friend. It takes active participation on both parties for this type of friendship to develop. God built us for connection and relationship with each other, and being a man means entering into true friendships.





# MANDARIN MANIA AT PDS

By Cathy Kyle and Jessica Chandler

Mandarin Chinese has recently become the most common spoken language in the world. Over a billion people speak Mandarin Chinese around the world – one out of every six people on earth.

**Chinese New Year at PDS.** The Dang family (son Connor is a PDS PK student) visited Mrs. Arnold and Mrs. Kilgore's afternoon PK class on Friday, February 8th to teach the boys about Chinese New Year and Chinese customs and culture.



After a two-year study, PDS will begin teaching Mandarin to the Pre-Kindergarten, Junior Kindergarten, and Senior Kindergarten boys starting this August. As part of the study, two PDS administrators traveled to China for meetings and research. Director of technology Cathy Kyle visited China in November 2006 as a contingent of U.S. teachers attending the U.S.-China Education Conference and visited several schools and met with Chinese educators.

“While our students may not have to use a second language when they begin their working careers years from now, they will almost certainly work in cross-cultural teams and environments,” said Kyle. “It is imperative that we begin at an early age preparing them to be global citizens. As the influence of China and its economy continues to expand, we would be remiss not to provide our students with an opportunity to learn about the Chinese language and culture.”

In June 2007, headmaster Lee Burns visited China with a group of educators sponsored by the College Board. As of the 2006-07 school year, high school students across the United States were able to take the first-ever College Board AP exam for Chinese language and culture. According to a 2004 study by the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language, administrators at nearly 2,400 schools had applied for an Advanced Placement course in Chinese. “We live in an inter-connected global community,” says Burns. “An understanding of other countries and cultures and having the ability to

converse in other languages are important perspectives and skills for leaders of the 21st century to possess.”

The school’s Teaching and Learning Committee, the Administrative Team, the Education Committee of the Board, and the Board of Trustees studied the issue and endorsed the teaching of Mandarin. Lester Crain, a retired businessman who worked at Malone & Hyde and AutoZone, is also grandfather to PDS 4th grader Drew Crain. Mr. Crain’s interest in China began when he first visited as a tourist. He now tries to visit yearly. “When I’m in China, I see entrepreneurs of some style in all levels of the workforce,” says Crain. “From the businessman to the cab drivers, they all want to succeed. The work ethic is incredible.” He sees great value in his grandson learning a foreign language such as Mandarin. “We can only be better off in the United States by learning the language and the geography as well as the social and economic climate of China.”

Michael Levine, director of the Asia Society in New York, stressed the

tremendous value of teaching Chinese to children during an interview with The Christian Science Monitor. “When kids learn to speak Chinese,” Levine notes, “they benefit from an expanded cultural awareness. Language is a look in. One doesn’t need to be proficient in Chinese languages in order to do business in China. But the exposure and the motivation to show that one understands and respects the Chinese culture is really half the battle won.”

Michael Faber, a 1990 graduate of PDS, is executive vice president of Royal Furniture. “By teaching Mandarin, PDS is wisely giving its boys the tools to compete in today’s ever-changing world,” says Faber. “Our future leaders will have to understand the language and culture of Asian countries as they become politically and economically more relevant. In the past five years, our business relationships have deepened in China such that today we import over 80% of our goods from Asia. This dramatic shift in our supply chain prompted me several years ago to learn Mandarin outside of work.”

## MEET OUR NEW MANDARIN TEACHER

We are delighted to announce the hiring of Ting Ting Yan Davis to teach Mandarin to our Early Childhood boys and to help develop the Mandarin program at PDS. Mrs. Davis grew up in Beijing and received her B.A. in Chinese literature at Wuhan University in China. She has studied at Columbia University and been a Visiting Scholar at Princeton Theological Center. She has taught part-time at three Memphis schools: Rhodes College, the University of Memphis, and Hutchison. She has lived here in Memphis for many years, is a children’s Sunday School teacher, and married to a pastor.



## Why teach Mandarin to our youngest students?

According to *Time Asia's* June 2006 issue, "The U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute ranks Mandarin as one of five 'exceptionally difficult' languages. The average English speaker requires 2,200 class hours to reach proficiency, according to the Foreign Service Institute. That's more than three times the amount of time needed to master French or Spanish. Our ability to effortlessly absorb a new language – any new language – begins to decline by age six, according to Robert DeKeyser, a professor of second-language acquisition at the University of Maryland. "By the time we are 16, we have lost just about all hope of being able to speak a second language without a telltale accent," DeKeyser says.

Dr. Susan Curtiss, Professor of Linguistics at UCLA, who studies the way children learn languages, notes that in language development, there is a window of opportunity in which the child learns that first language normally. "After this period, the brain becomes slowly less plastic and by the time the child reaches adolescence, the brain cannot develop 'richly and normally any real cognitive system, including language,'" says Curtiss.

PDS Head of Early Childhood Debbie Isom attended the National Chinese Language Conference, in Washington, D.C. this past April. The conference was co-sponsored by the Asia Society and the National College Board. The goal of this conference was to explore ways in which to build stronger programs in schools, develop curricula, and prepare teachers to address

the key need of preparing our children to function in an increasingly connected world.

"Knowledge and innovation are driving the economic growth of the world," says Isom. "If our children are to be able to contribute to solving major global problems such as environment, health, and national security issues, it is critical that they be able to collaborate across borders. These global competences can be enhanced through learning the history, culture, and languages of other countries and are key to the future of peace and prosperity."

Early Childhood began a cultural study of China this past school year. All classes celebrated the Chinese New Year. They took imaginary plane rides to China, learned the geographical location and major landmarks on the map and globe, studied Chinese customs, and learned Mandarin phrases.

"This is an exciting time to be an educator," says Isom. "Research studies indicate that the early study of a second language results in cognitive benefits, gains in academic achievement, and increases in self-esteem, creativity, and positive attitudes toward diversity. Additionally, students develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of their own culture and native language. Learning a language is a social gift of childhood. The earlier we start, the more students we capture."

After Senior Kindergarten, PDS parents will select Spanish or Mandarin for their sons for 1st - 6th grade. PDS will grow the Mandarin program by a year for each of the upcoming years. So boys beginning in Pre-Kindergarten this August

will have the opportunity to take Mandarin during each of their years at PDS. "Boys who would take nine years of Mandarin would be expected to have developed an intermediate level of proficiency and have the foundation to reach fluency in their years beyond PDS," says Headmaster Burns.

Our Early Childhood boys will continue to be taught Spanish as well as Mandarin.

According to Dr. Curtiss, "The power to learn language is so great in the young child that it doesn't seem to matter how many languages you seem to throw their way...they can learn as many spoken languages as you can allow them to hear systematically and regularly at the same time. Children just have this capacity. Their brain is just ripe to do this... There doesn't seem to be any detriment to developing several languages at the same time."

To quote an old Chinese Proverb: If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant a tree; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.

Mandarin instruction is already under way this summer, with Miss Sunny Zhao instructing boys (and girls) in our summer program. Miss Zhao is from Beijing and has previously served as a tour guide to several PDS families who have travelled in China.





OUR MISSION

PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL  
STRIVES TO GLORIFY GOD  
BY DEVELOPING BOYS  
IN WISDOM AND STATURE  
AND IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MEN

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31 & LUKE 2:52



Presbyterian Day School

4025 Poplar Avenue • Memphis, Tennessee 38111-6022

PRSRT ST  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MEMPHIS, TN  
PERMIT NO. 554