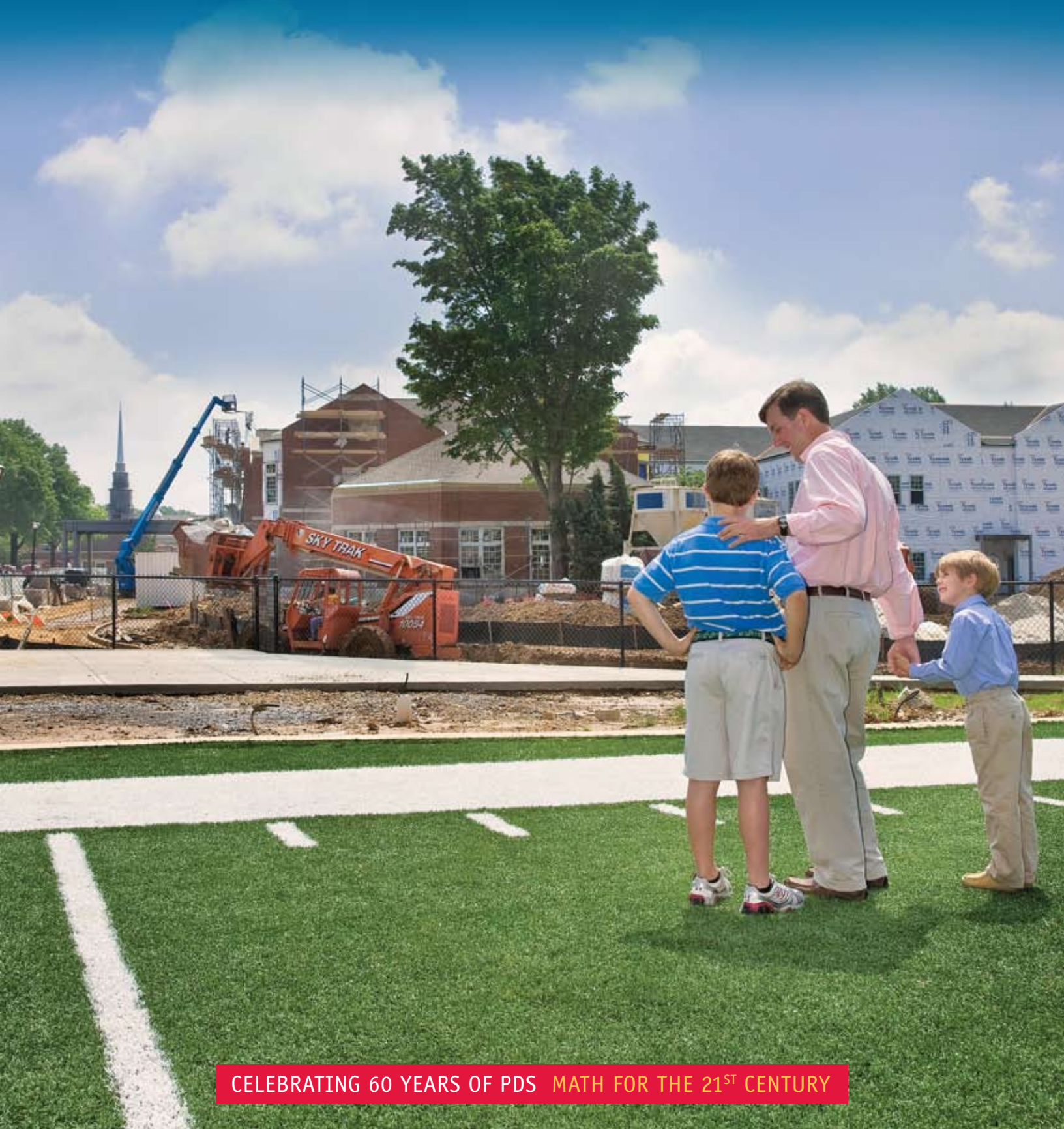


# PDS SPIRIT

SUMMER 2009



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PDS MATH FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



SAVE THE DATE

PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL

# Grandparents' Day 2009

Friday Morning, October 30, 2009

More information coming in September

## PDS ENHANCES ITS COMMUNICATIONS FOR 2009-10



Just prior to the start of the school year, PDS is launching Facebook groups for each of our current classes as a way for parents to network with other parents, share photos, and more. Alumni and former teachers should take note that there are already groups available. You can find a link on our website.

Speaking of the website, one of the more prominent changes for next year will be a redesign of the PDS website. While the overall organization of the site will be familiar to current parents and alumni, there will be improvements in virtually all areas of the site, from making an RSVP for a luncheon, to searching for items in the student handbook.

Though the PDS website will remain our primary mode of communication, I am working on setting up email-based newsletters for each class as well, which would include both school news, and class news for your son's grade as well.

You can find out more at the parent meetings in August. Don't forget to follow "pdsmemphis" on Twitter!

Grace and peace,  
Winston Baccus  
*Director of Communications*



# PDS SPIRIT

SUMMER 2009

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

Chief Information Officer  
Cathy Kyle

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

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### 16 MATH FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Developing a school culture that promotes and celebrates mathematical thinking.



### 6 SOURCES OF PRIDE

Take a look at the latest accomplishments of PDS students and faculty.



### 10 CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PDS

As PDS continues to look ahead into the 21<sup>st</sup> century for another sixty years and beyond, we look back at the legacy and history that has undergirded the school for the past six decades.



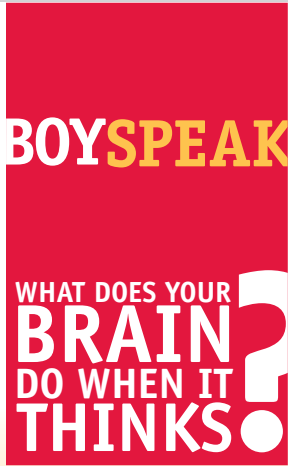
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PDS Alumni gather for the 2009 PDS Annual Luncheon.

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# MINI-FEATURES

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



Everyday at PDS, teachers challenge their students to think, but perhaps more importantly, these teachers challenge their students to think about their thinking. Cognitive psychologists refer to reflection like this as “metacognition,” and research has shown that students who develop this ability have higher academic achievements than those who do not. Following this research, many PDS teachers implement these thinking skills in their classrooms on a regular basis—even in the youngest grades.

So like the teachers, we decided to challenge the PDS boys with our own “metacognitive” question: “What does your brain do when it thinks?”

*Mac M. 5th – It circulates a brain wave or thought through different parts of your brain, causing one to hear the thought in one’s head.*

*Holden F. 1st – The brain is purple, and there is a little door in your head with a gatekeeper inside your brain.*

*Colin T. 5th – Metaphorically speaking, your brain searches through its database, searching for an answer. It works kind of like a computer or like Google. Sometimes it takes only a second, and other times it takes a few minutes.*

*Jack R. 1st – Sometimes I see something in my head when I find the answer. I can sometimes see very short movies in my head.*

## FOLLOW PDS ON TWITTER

You’ve probably heard a lot about Twitter recently. It is a growing social networking tool that lets users share brief ideas and information. We invite parents, alumni and friends of the school to follow the school’s official “tweets.” It’s a simple way to stay connected and current at PDS. You are also invited and encouraged to follow various administrators who are tweeting.



### FOLLOW:

- pdsmemphis School News and Updates
- albmempis Headmaster Lee Burns
- sdroke Susan Droke, Assistant Headmaster for Teaching and Learning
- disom Debbie Isom, Head of Early Childhood
- mfruitt Mark Fruitt, Principal of the Elementary Division



## FACEBOOK GROUPS

*Alums* Search for Presbyterian Day School on Facebook to find our school’s page and our alumni group. You can find links on the Alumni News page on the PDS website.

*Parents* Look for our new Facebook groups for your son’s class beginning in August. We hope that this will be a great resource for keeping you connected to the other parents in your son’s class.





# CLASS DAY AWARDS 2009

## The Vicky C. Spicer Trophy

Alex Carruthers

## The Minna Thompson Bible Scholarship

Joseph Preston

## The Motsey Hudson Speech Award

Sherman Tabor

## MUS Book Award

Hamid Shirwany

## The Henry Edward Russell Scholarship

Brad Jarratt

## The Mary Hearn Coleman Award

Griffin Wilson

## The Robert E. Gentry Creative Writing Award

Stewart Love

## The Wendy Edwards Award

Patrick Demere

## The Elisabeth Horton Laios Trophy for General Excellence

Robert Gooch

## The Jane East Award

Will Farnsworth

## The Robert J. Hussey Scholarship

Will Farnsworth, Andrew Elsagr

## The A. W. Dick Trophy

Nick Dunn

## The Charlotte Neal Spirit Award

Win Duncan

## The Headmaster's Trophy

Sherman Tabor

## Headmaster's List

Baty Daniel, Andrew Elsagr, Will Farnsworth, Robert Gooch, Ahmed Latif, Nevin Naren, Michael Reddoch, Preston Roberts, Pierce Rose, Hamid Shirwany, Matt Stephens, Grant Stevenson, Sherman Tabor, Griffin Wilson

## 5th Grade Yearly Academic Honor Roll

Sam Bartz, Tom Fowlkes, Philip Freeburg, Owen Galvin, Cole Harrison, Austin Hord, Gil Humphreys, Jason Lin, Mac McArtor, Saatvik Mohan, Cole Morgan, David Nelson, Patton Orr, Jackson Pacheco, Jonathan Peters, Colin Threlkeld

## 6th Grade Yearly Academic Honor Roll

Mike Carrier, Alex Carruthers, Alex Creson, Baty Daniel, Patrick Demere, Nick Dunn, Andrew Elsagr, Will Farnsworth, Proctor Ford, Robert Gooch, Tarek Hajj, Lewis Hergenrader, Brad Jarratt, August Klinke, Ahmed Latif, Walker Lee, Stewart Love, John Madden, William Merriman, Daniel Nathan, Nevin Naren, Joseph Preston, Michael Reddoch, Spencer Richey, Preston Roberts, Pierce Rose, Christian Schneider, Hamid Shirwany, Matt Stephens, Grant Stevenson, Sherman Tabor, Griffin Wilson



## SOURCES OF PRIDE

### **Leading New York School Headmaster and Administrators Visit PDS**

Greg O'Melia, Headmaster of the Buckley School on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, visited PDS as part of an ongoing relationship and exchange of ideas between the two schools. During their two visits this spring, O'Melia and Buckley administrators met with PDS faculty and staff and observed a number of classes. The Buckley School serves boys in kindergarten through ninth grade and enjoys an outstanding reputation as one of the premier schools in New York and in the country.



### **PDS Hosts National Leader for Discussion on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education**

On February 18, Pat Bassett, who serves as the President of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), challenged and inspired over 900 parents, teachers, administrators and trustees. In four separate meetings, he encouraged us to think deeply about crucial issues facing today's schools and students: the nature of education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, how to design and implement relevant 21<sup>st</sup> century schools, and how to parent our children.

### **PDS Boys Honored at Model UN**

Competing against 6th, 7th and 8th graders, PDS boys earned recognition for their research, creativity, writing, and presentation in international politics and current affairs at this year's Model United Nations Conference for the Memphis area. Several PDS boys were honored in several categories: Daniel Nathan, Nick DiMento, Spencer Richey, and Alex Carruthers for making it on the "Final Docket," Proctor Ford and Joseph Preston for "Outstanding Resolution," Andrew Elsagr for "Outstanding Delegate," and Daniel Nathan for "Outstanding Costume."

### **Third-Grade PDS Chess Team Finishes 1st in State Tournament**

The PDS Primary Chess Team finished 1st at the TN State Chess Competition. The team members are third graders Bays Webb, Landon Springfield, Jackson Moody, Michael Havill, Jason Dominguez, Bradley Kerkhof and Christopher Kerkhof.



### **Chaplain Launches "Strategic Dads" Blog**

PDS Chaplain Braxton Brady started a blog and Web site entitled Strategic Dads. Brady shares stories, ideas, videos and resources on how parents, especially fathers, can be intentional in raising their children, especially their sons. Check it out at [www.strategicdads.com](http://www.strategicdads.com). Over 3,000 people from around the world have done so already.

### **PDS Wins Square Root Day Challenge**

PDS is one of 10 national winners for most participation in the 2009 Square Root Day contest, along with a group of students at Williams College, a senior citizens group, and some other school groups. A challenge was issued on March 3, 2009, to classes and individuals at PDS to submit the 9 square root dates for this century. Due to our large number of participants, the school received a certificate and a small amount of prize money.



### **PDS Boys Recognized for Excellence in World Maths Day 2009**

World Maths Day 2009 was held on March 4, 2009, and PDS boys participated in an impressive way. This online competition involved students from over 20,000 schools and 200 countries around the globe. Our boys answered 710,225 math questions correctly with an average improvement in mental math of 182%. Second grader Andrew Reid was our top scorer while third grader Matthew Temple was chosen to be a United States World Maths Day Ambassador, one of two students chosen from the United States. Additionally, Channel 13 Fox News, WMC-TV News and *The Commercial Appeal* featured this exciting event at PDS.



# CATCHING UP WITH FORMER PDS KINDERGARTEN TEACHER BARBARA MORRIS

If you ever had Barbara Morris as your teacher, you probably have at least one memory of your kindergarten year: the mystery mailbox. Former students repeatedly tell her, “Okay, fess up, Mrs. Morris. Come clean about the mailbox.”



When Barbara taught at PDS from 1978-1993, the mystery mailbox quickly became one of her teaching trademarks. Though this mailbox looked ordinary, it was anything but; an elf lived in it—or so her students thought. On the first day of school, Mrs. Morris would explain that this elf rewarded students for their kind deeds and hard work with a surprise left in the mailbox.

Morris recalls how her students caught on: “When the flag on the mailbox was up, the boys were in suspense because it meant that the elf had delivered something. Usually, he left a treat or a note for someone because they had done something good.”

This elf gained such clout with the kindergarten boys that Barbara rarely had to say more than the following remark to correct a behavioral issue: “I hope the elf didn’t see that.”

Yet at PDS, Barbara’s own reputation went beyond captivating boys with elves and mailboxes. Not only did she receive the 1991 yearbook

dedication, the Distinguished Teaching Award, and the Honorary Alumni Award, many people in the PDS community recall another legacy that followed her around the school: parents actually prayed that their son would be in her class.

Looking back on her job as a teacher, Morris says that she just loved and accepted the boys for who they were. About the teaching part of her job, she says, “I loved it. I loved PDS.

“One day, my husband came home and said, ‘You have got to be nuts, locking yourself up in a room full of 15 little guys.’”

“But I had my reasons. It was invigorating and exciting to see their little minds light up. Teaching them to read and watching them sound out that first word ‘dog’—I get chill bumps just thinking about it. It was wonderful.”

Morris loved boys and loved to see them learn, but after eventually retiring in 1993, you would think that she needed some rest.

Yet since then, she has lived with as much activity as ever. Not only has she spent time volunteering for local organizations such as the English Speaking Union and the Memphis Brooks Museum, she has also traveled the world with her husband. They have visited Alaska, Western and Eastern Europe, and many Mediterranean countries.

But besides volunteering and traveling, Barbara thought she and her husband would eventually settle down in one of her favorite cities, Charleston, South Carolina. Yet something happened in 1997 that changed this plan.

“It stopped us right in our tracks—the moment our first grandchild appeared on the scene,” she recalls.

Since then, Barbara and her husband Kelton have enjoyed a total of four grandchildren whom they absolutely adore—two in Memphis and two in Nashville. And just as the joy of children inspired all her teaching days, the same joy inspires her to stay right here in Memphis, Tennessee.



# ALUMNI LUNCHEON

On April 23, 2009, almost 200 PDS alumni and friends gathered on campus for the annual PDS Alumni Luncheon. Hosted by the PDS Alumni Board and its president Lon Magness '79, the luncheon also honored the recipient of the 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award. This award is presented to the PDS alumnus who has demonstrated a true love for the school and who represents the goals, ideals, and imagination of the institution. This year's recipient is Richard C. Moore, Jr., a member of the graduating class of 1957.

After graduating from PDS, Rick attended MUS and then Davidson College, where he received his Bachelor of Arts. After Davidson, he earned an MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. Currently, Rick and his wife Carey live in Memphis, and they have five children.

**“[PDS] has given me a basis and a foundation that has certainly carried me this far and will continue on further.”**

Rick is the president of Leehman-Roberts Company, and in addition to formerly serving as the chairman of the National Asphalt Pavement Association, he currently serves as the chairman of the World of Asphalt Show and Conference.

On top of his professional accomplishments, Rick has also donated much of his time and

service to various charitable organizations and educational institutions in Memphis. He serves an elder at Second Presbyterian Church, and serves on the boards of PDS, Hutchison, and MUS.

Upon receiving the award, Rick said the following:



“You know that the school was started 60 years ago as a mission outreach of Second Presbyterian Church to provide quality Christian education for young men in Memphis. For the initial headmaster, they wanted to have an individual who understood boys, who had a love for teaching boys, and who would serve as a leader and a role model. I think it is incredibly important that young men have role models whom they can look up to. The first headmaster was Ross Lynn, and he was a great model for all of us to look up to. Most of you know that I had the privilege of knowing him as a dad some eleven years later when he married my mother. Having quality folks that young people can look up to still exists with Lee Burns, the faculty and staff, and the coaches here. It is great to see how that goes on and how these role models give each of these boys a life focus that they can carry on, whether through further education or with associates, family and friends. It provides them with a perspective not only for this life but also for eternity.

“[PDS] has given me a basis and a foundation that has certainly carried me this far and will continue on further. I appreciate the privilege and opportunity to be so recognized. Thank you for the honor.”







6

1 **Sherman Tabor '09** tells alumni what it's like being a present-day student at PDS.



7

2 Friendships are renewed at the table with **Hunter Witherington '92**, and **Ross Glotzbach '93**.



8

3 **Blake Barnes '94** and **Christopher Prest '94** catch up with one another.

4 **Oscar Carr '94**, **Oscar Atkinson '90**, and **Brendt Coker** greet one another at the Alumni Luncheon.



9



10

5 **John Colcolough**, Chairman of the Board, engages Headmaster **Lee Burns** and **Bryan Nearn '55** in a great story.

6 **Don Batchelor '66**, alumni chairman of the Annual Fund greets fellow alumni.

7 The Crump family has long-lasting ties to PDS. Alums **Patrick Crump '82**, **Charles Crump** (Pentecost School), and **Met Crump '55** are shown here.

8 Alumni gather at the luncheon to renew old friendships and to reflect on their PDS memories.

9 **Battle Williford '95**.

10 **Jim Keras**, **Trow Gillespie '59**, and **Frank Crump '57** share a PDS moment with each other.

11 After the Alumni Luncheon, tours of the Early Childhood Center construction site were given.

12 **Lon Magness '79** presents the 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award to **Rick Moore '57**

13 **Rick Moore's** family surrounds him at the Alumni Luncheon.



11



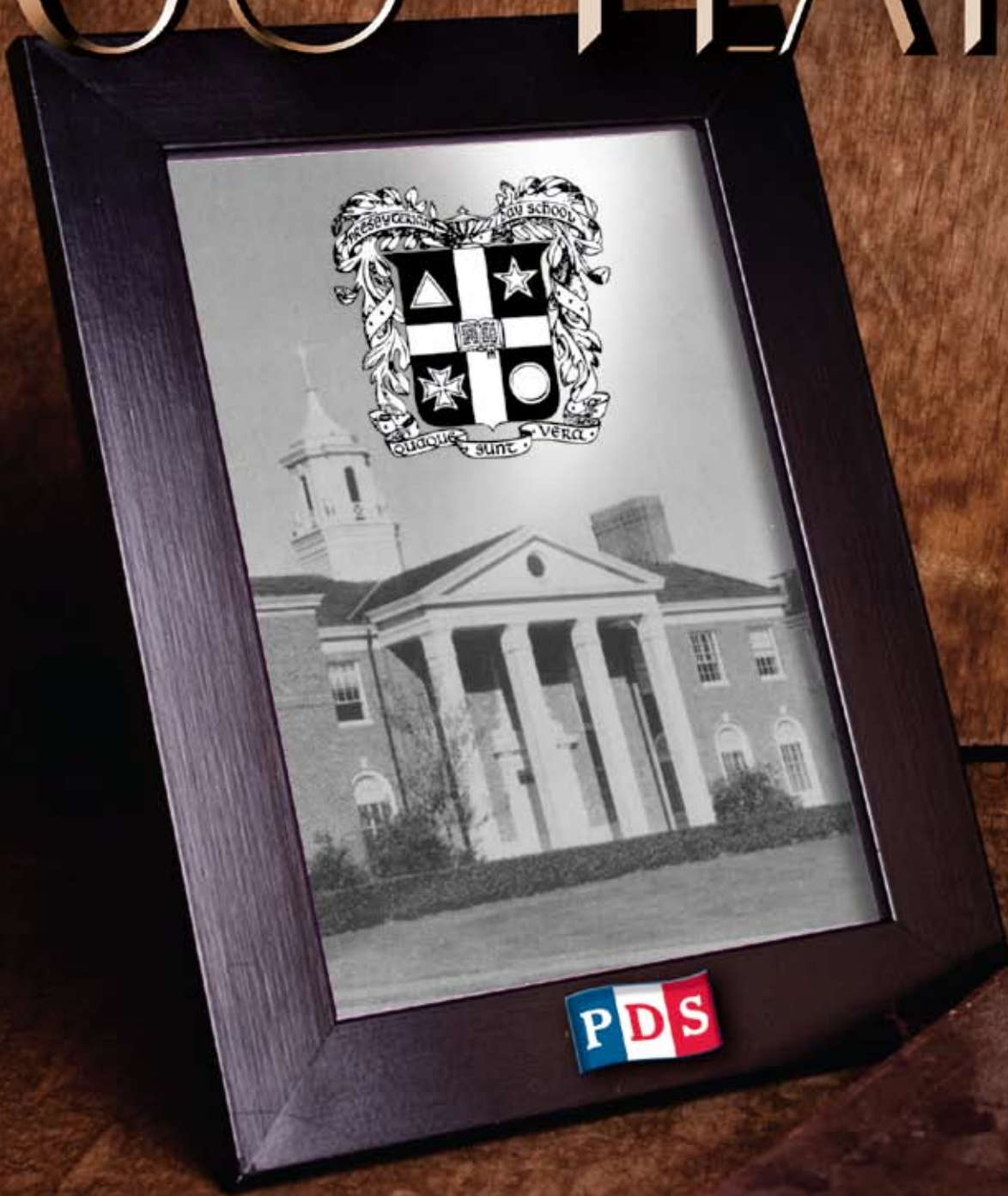
12



13



# CELEBRATING 60 YEARS







This year marks the 60th anniversary for PDS. As the school continues to look ahead into the 21<sup>st</sup> century for another 60 years and beyond, we look back at the legacy and history that has undergirded the school for the past six decades.

**PDS** 1950's: Beginnings

PDS started as a ministry outreach of Second Presbyterian Church. As the school's historian emeritus, Suellyn Ruffin, records it:

The news was out! Second Presbyterian Church, under the leadership of Dr. Anthony W. Dick, planned to open a new kindergarten in the fall of 1949. This new educational institution



◀ PDS opens with one kindergarten class.



◀ PDS expands to nine grades after Pentecost-Garrison School for Boys closes.

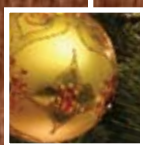


◀ PDS helps MUS reopen by giving 7th-9th grades to MUS.



◀ PDS adds the first librarian to its staff.

▶ The school holds its first Christmas Pageant and PDS Sunday, both of which become long-standing traditions.



◀ Ninth graders become the first graduating class.

▶ PDS forms Board of Trustees.



▶ *The Press Bee*, the school's newspaper, starts.





would later be named Presbyterian Day School, known affectionately from its inception as PDS.

An introductory statement sent to church members stated, 'We believe that this field (Christian education) offers a real challenge to us and through the medium of this weekday kindergarten, we are preparing to try to use this opportunity for the greatest good to these children, their homes, and to the highest glory of God.'

When the educational building, the first of three planned construction units, was dedicated on September 11, 1949, thirty-five children were enrolled in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

Would you believe that in 1956:

- PDS had girls in the kindergarten?
- The graduating class consisted of only 25 boys?
- The first, second, and third grades were the only grades having two sections, all the others had only one?
- The basketball team, under

Mr. Leigh MacQueen, won all their games except one?

- PDS had an annual but no newspaper?
  - PDS had only 19 staff members?
  - PDS had only 80 boys who sang in both the junior and senior choirs?
- From the *Press Bee*, November 1968

### PDS 1960's: Reorganization

Not only in the 1960's did PDS see the establishment of a favorite tradition—the student-faculty basketball game—the school also saw the establishment of a huge milestone: its reorganization. Members of the board of trustees in 1967 felt that because of the growth of the school, PDS needed to be an established legal entity of its own with its own board of directors having financial and fund-raising capabilities as a separate corporation with its own charter and by-laws. Mr. Stuart McCloy, Jr. spearheaded a successful campaign for the reorganization. In January of 1968 the by-laws were written, and in 1969 the charter of incorporation was granted.

### PDS The Early Headmasters

- Miss Marabelle Wheeler  
1949-1951
- Col. Ross McCain Lynn  
1951-1955
- Mr. Henry B. Roney, Jr.  
1955-1960
- Mr. James D. Lynch  
1960-1963
- Mr. Robert Carey Goodman, Jr.  
1963-1965
- Mr. Marquis Lorenzo Pinkston  
1965-1967
- Mrs. Martha Rosebrough Hopper  
1967-1968
- Col. Earl Hannum Devanny  
1968-1972

### PDS 1970's: The 25th Year and the Bicentennial

Along with celebrating the school's 25th anniversary in 1974, the 1970's



▶ The school holds its first pep rally.



▶ PDS includes Bible as an academic subject in the curriculum of kindergarten through sixth grade.



▶ The school holds its first speech contest.



▶ Construction of the Henry Edward Russell building begins.



presented a decade of growth for PDS. Under the term of Jack Stanford, headmaster from 1972-1979, the school held it's first annual fund in 1975 and consequently expanded the library and media center, moving it in 1976 from the first floor of the Russell Building to the space it has occupied in the lower level for the last 32 years.

In 1976, the United States celebrated it's Bicentennial. Along with the rest of the country, PDS commemorated this milestone. PDS boys participated in a Bicentennial art contest, a walk for mankind, a dramatic production, and a liberty parade in honor of the occasion.

Comparing the school then and now, Lon Magness '79 says, "I would say that PDS is still very competitive, both academically, socially, and athletically. I think that today the school is much more intentional in its evangelism to students and their families than it was when we were there, and it is much more focused on how best to teach boys.

Education in general has changed so dramatically since then, and I think the way kids are taught today is totally different. We sat at a desk and looked at the blackboard, and now they teach in so many new and innovative ways."

### 1980's: Enrichment Education and Early Technology

After Jack Standford retired in 1979, Dr. Len Sumner began his term as headmaster, and under Dr. Sumner's leadership in the 1980's, PDS began to expand its efforts to educate boys more holistically through enrichment programs.

Dr. Sumner's leadership placed an emphasis on individuality, uniqueness, and the full development of each child through providing many opportunities for each boy to grow in various fields.

In 1984 an after-school enrichment

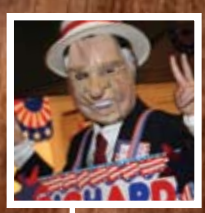
program was established to aid growth and stimulate interest in areas from rocketry to drama to cooking. Dr. Sumner established regular after-school tutoring and an after-school care program.

In addition to the expanded enrichment program, PDS began to recognize the need and importance of incorporating technology into its curriculum.

Indeed, by this time, the computer age was developing rapidly. In 1980 the first computer for classroom use was purchased by PDS. In 1983 seven more were added, with four more in 1984. Computer classes were formed in the mid 80's.

### 1990's: Expanding the School, Expanding its Technology

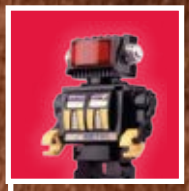
In the 1990's, PDS continued to grow. In 1992 junior kindergarten was added to the school's enrollment, and in



▶ The second grade begins celebrating Yipes Stripes Day.



◀ PDS holds its first Grandparents' Day.



▶ Discovery Center and enrichment programs begin.



◀ The Lower School moves out of the church and into the renovated Upper School Building.

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992



1994 a new gym with two basketball courts was completed that created more space for physical education.

Furthermore, at this point PDS offered regular computer classes in a computer lab, and in 1998 PDS could claim that the library, the school office, and every classroom had computers for school-wide use. In 1999, shortly before Dr. Sumner retired, the school had all of its computers networked.

### 2000's: Thriving in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

With the turn of the millennium, Dr. Sumner retired from his twenty one years as headmaster, and Lee Burns became the school's 11th headmaster in 2000.

As the world dynamically changed in the past decade, PDS has changed with it. The year 2001 brought many of these new developments, including a shift to focus on critical and creative thinking. During this year, the school revamped its science and reading programs by adding a science lab, a full-time lab teacher, and four full-time reading specialists. Both changes restructured the curriculum and

class time and deepened the impact of the education that PDS offered its boys.

The integration of technology and education has flourished within the past decade. In 2001, in addition to converting the school's network to wireless technology, the sixth grade laptop program began, in which every sixth-grade boy was loaned their own laptop for the school year.

By 2002, the school outfitted its first "smart classroom" with a Smartboard and a projector. In 2003, PDS established its *Building Boys Making Men* program that gives boys a godly vision of manhood. In 2004, computer classes were eliminated and teachers integrated technology into every subject area with the help of specialists known as "tech coaches." By 2007, every classroom was equipped with a Smartboard and projector, and by 2008, the school had laptops in every class for every boy in grades one through six.

### Looking Ahead: Transformed, Yet the Same

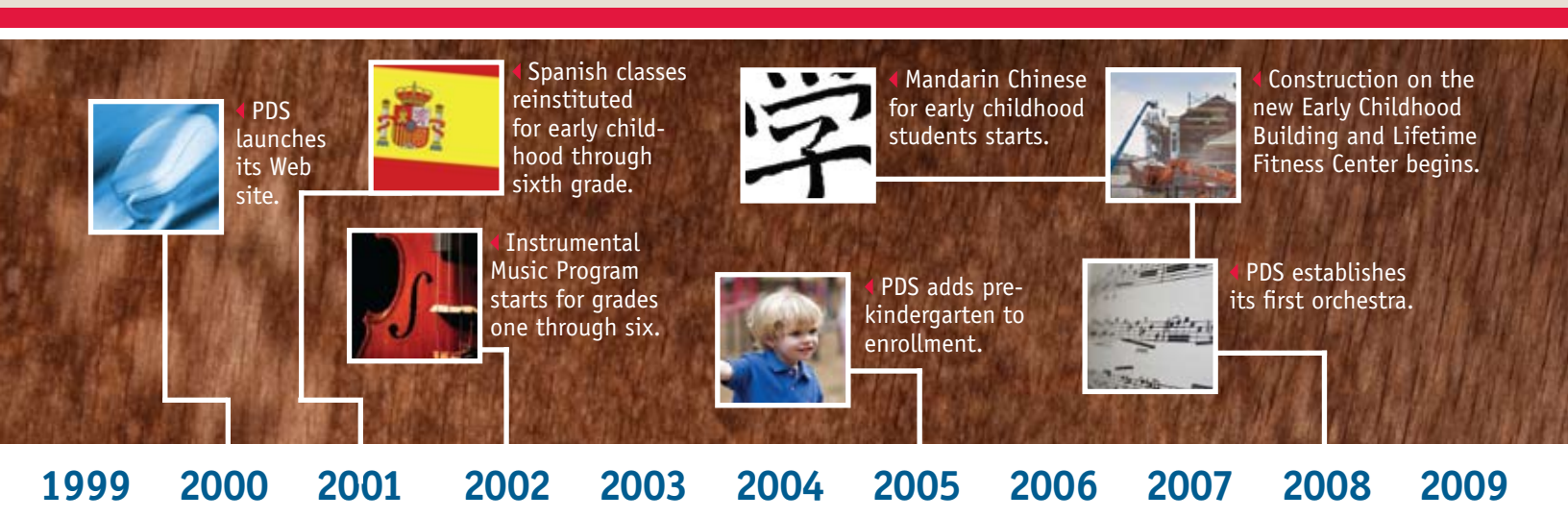
As the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

comes to a close, boundaries have dissolved. Globalization has made the world's social, political, economic, and technological boundaries become ever more transparent and malleable.

In an effort to adapt to this paradigm shift, PDS has also dissolved its traditional educational boundaries. The school has intentionally adapted to both the needs of boys and the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

From integrating its curriculum with technology to the construction of a new Early Childhood center, Lifetime Fitness center, and a new playground, PDS is bolstering itself today in order to prepare its boys--in the most formative years of their lives--for tomorrow. Yet amidst all this change, one thing has always stayed the same and will continue to stay the same. PDS will continue its rich traditions and legacies, and no matter how the world changes, PDS will continue to strive "to glorify God by developing boys in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men."

Much of the historical information comes from Suellen Ruffin's book on PDS history, *The First Half-Century*.





# TEACHER FEATURE

For this issue, we wanted you to meet someone who plays an integral behind-the-scenes roll at PDS. As the Director of Auxiliary Programs, Beverly Kirkscey oversees all after-school and summer programs that provide additional enrichment opportunities for roughly 600 students each year.

## BEVERLY KIRKSCEY DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

Interviewed by Alex Carruthers and Ethan Pretsch, 6th Grade



### What did you do before coming to PDS?

I received a B.S. in Education from the University of Missouri at Columbia, and then I taught English and Literature at Normandy High School in suburban St. Louis for six years. After teaching, I retired for a while to raise a family, first in a St. Louis suburb and later in Memphis. When my children entered school in Memphis, I taught again as a substitute at PDS and St. Mary's, and in 1983, I joined PDS officially as a part-time teacher in Creative Workshop. Then in 1984 I started full-time at PDS designing a program called Discovery Center.

### Why did you choose this job at PDS?

My job was a new position. It presented a challenge, and I think at that time in my life it was just what I needed to do.

### How long have you worked at PDS?

I have been here for twenty-five years.

### What has kept you here for so long?

I suppose I have stayed here because I feel very connected to the PDS family.

### What have you enjoyed most about working at PDS?

I have enjoyed the chance to be around boys like you. I have also found the contact with faculty, staff, administration, and students' families very rewarding. I guess in short I have enjoyed the people.

### What is the most important job you have at PDS?

My most important job would be keeping you and all the other PDS boys safe, happy, and challenged.

### What is the biggest challenge you have encountered at PDS?

One was about twenty years ago. I helped design a program called Discovery Center. It was an in-house enrichment program for all PDS boys, and it was challenging because we started from scratch with our own curriculum. Additionally, we had a team of about 70 parents and community volunteers to plug in as facilitators during the school year. Another challenge was initiating this particular department, Auxiliary Programs. This was challenging because no one had ever done this job before, so I had to decide what its parameters would be. Overall, I have loved my job.

### What is your favorite enrichment class to teach?

At one point, I taught rocketry, and I loved it because I enjoyed seeing all the rockets go off.

### What is your favorite book and why?

I think it is *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. Having read it probably fifteen or twenty times over my life, I find it funny but also

insightful. Not only does it give me all the things I like in a book, but it also gives me hope for humankind.

### How have you seen PDS change?

The school has grown its enrollment of boys; it has a hundred more boys now than it did when I started. The buildings have also changed. We have increased their size, and we are still expanding our facilities with the new building coming next fall.

The programs have changed too because now the school has so many additional things for you to do and study. Some of the very things we taught in Discovery Center as an after-school program are now an integral part of what you all do everyday as students. For example, the hands-on learning projects that you all do in science labs and reading classes have evolved from these extra-curricular activities. So has the use of technology in your education: at one point, computing was a special class, and now technology has become another integral part of your core studies.

The education that boys receive here has changed in so many ways. The theme of globalization is everywhere, from studies of the Spanish and Chinese languages to exchanges with children in other countries. How fortunate we are to have these advantages.



6th grade teacher Ashley Garner works at a SmartBoard with Reed Rudesill '09.

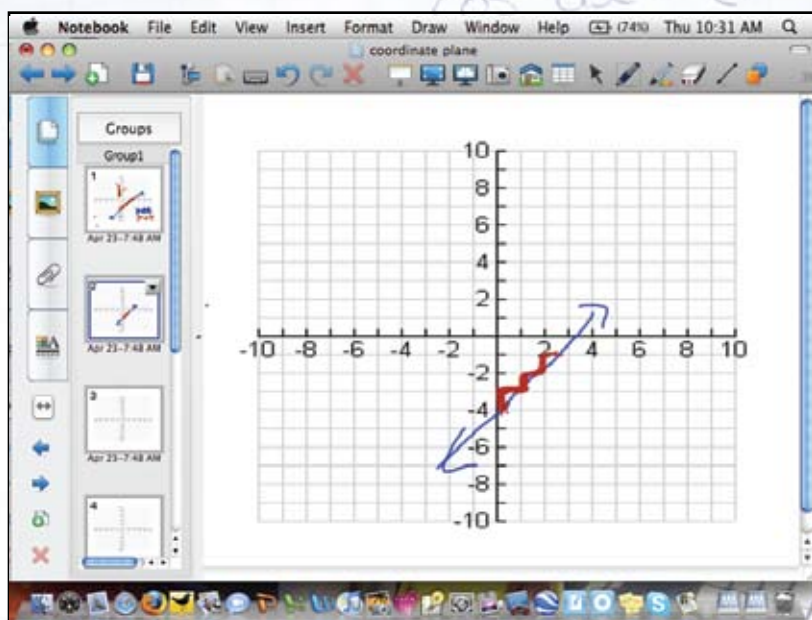


# MATH FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: APPLICABLE, EXCITING, AND DYNAMIC

Now that we are almost a decade into the 21st century, one could argue that mathematics has never been more important for our students.

Not only does math hone students' problem solving and thinking skills, many educational thinkers argue that math will also keep our students up to par with the rest of the world. As some of these observers point out, educational math initiatives within the last twenty years have gone hand in hand with the explosive development of countries like India and China, and by now, many North American schools and students are falling behind. Not so with the PDS boys: this past year, the school made one of its institutional goals to develop a school culture that promotes and celebrates mathematical thinking.

*"It's no longer good enough for a math program just to focus on computation," says Assistant Headmaster for Teaching and Learning Susan Droke. "Building on basic computational skills, it should push students to demonstrate conceptual understanding of math and to reason like a mathematician in solving real world problems."*



## LEARNING CAN HAPPEN AT A STUDENT'S PACE WITH SCREENCASTED LESSONS

A SmartBoard is an interactive touch-controlled screen where teachers can project their computer screen and interact by drawing and more. Lessons taught via SmartBoard can be captured as a movie and posted on the school's website for students to review lessons at their own pace.

Here are a few examples of how this culture has taken root around the school.

### TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

So much of the complexity of modern life resides with the integration of math and technology. If our students are going to provide competition and innovation in meeting the business needs of tomorrow, they need much more than just computational competence when it comes to math; they need a deep understanding of its concepts, and they need authentic opportunities to apply this understanding.

**GOOGLE SKETCHUP** Recognizing this need, PDS teachers are incorporating technology into the math classroom, and while preparing the students for the future, they are also engaging the boys with applicable hands-on activities.

For example, as part of their studies in geometry, fifth and sixth grade boys design houses or basketball courts using a computer program called Google SketchUp. In the process, the students apply their understanding of both shapes, angles, areas, and volumes, and at the same time, they love doing it.

**SCREENCASTING** The fifth and sixth grade teachers have also found another way to engage the students with math and technology. Sixth grade math teacher Ashley Garner

“screencasts” her math lessons, which means that she records the day's lesson and then publishes it online. Yet instead of recording just her voice, she uses a Smartboard connected to a computer to record what the students see on the board. When these students access the recorded lesson, it is as though they are watching and hearing their teacher go over the lesson without seeing their teacher in the picture; they can see the writing appear without the chalk, marker, or her hand doing the writing. Once Garner publishes the lesson online, not only can her students review it for homework or a test, but they can also hear their teacher explain the lesson in the exact way she explained it in class, and they can access this lesson as many times as they need to through a medium they find engaging.

**PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS** Engaging students with math does not stop with computers and technology. One of the sixth graders' favorite projects this past year actually took place outside the classroom—in the “real world” so to speak—right down the road at Schnucks. In the sixth grade unit on “decimal operations and applications,” Garner had the boys complete a project at the local Schnucks grocery store. With the permission of the store manager, the students had to scavenge the store looking for the best buy on everyday objects like pasta, peanut butter, and pickles. They had to find the unit prices for products in multiple sizes and then compare which buy was the better one.



*During the World Maths Day competition, PDS boys answered 710,225 math questions correctly with an average improvement in mental math of 182%.*

Garner says that often her students pose a question that many math students ask at some point: how does the schoolwork in math class apply to life? “Well,” she points out, “this time they connected what they were doing in the math classroom with something they are very familiar with: groceries. And they had a blast doing it.”

“As a country, we need to develop in our students a passion and excitement for math,” says Headmaster Lee Burns. “We need more mathematicians, engineers and scientists in the 21st century global economy.”

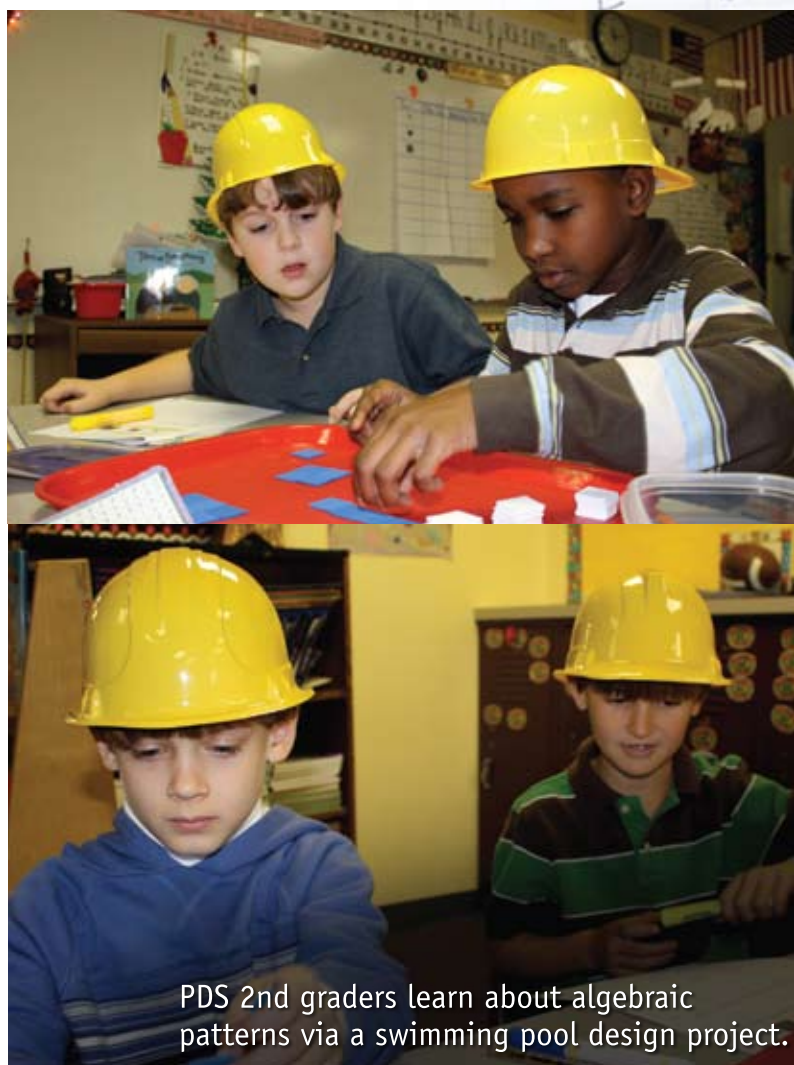
#### WORLD MATHS DAY

What does it take to attract almost 500 boys to show up at school at 7:30 in the morning just to do extra math problems? The answer is simple: one world-wide competition.

This competition, in which students from across the globe play other students in mental arithmetic games in real time on the Internet, is known as World Maths Day. In its third year of existence, this event has attracted over 20,000 schools from over 200 countries around the world.

The PDS boys have taken to this event with the same enthusiasm that they show in all their other favorite activities. They put in hours of practice for the competition, and they have enjoyed every minute of it.

One third-grade boy showed so much enthusiasm in the days leading up to the event, that the organizers of the competition chose him to serve as one of two World Maths Day ambassadors from the United States. Because Matthew Temple had answered so many problems correctly two weeks prior to the event, he was one of 20 kids chosen from all over the world to be one of these ambassadors, and in the process, he authored a blog on his World Maths Day experience.



PDS 2nd graders learn about algebraic patterns via a swimming pool design project.

#### CHANGES AND RESULTS

“We made some important changes this year,” says Susan Droke, “and we have been very pleased with the results.” Changes included increasing math instructional time by 20% in 4th - 6th grades; adding a section of accelerated math in the 6th grade; adding small math groups for a semester of 4th grade; and adding a technology-based math program that allows boys to work on their math in differentiated ways. “Our math scores, based on our ERB standardized tests, are well above the average for the leading private schools around the country,” Droke continues. “And additional standardized testing showed that the average grade level equivalent on computational math for this year’s 6th grader class exceeded that of a 10th grader.” Much of the reason for the great math results relates to teacher training.

The class of 2009 had an average math computational grade level equivalent exceeding that of a 10th grader.

**ALGEBRAIC THINKING**

Recently, two PDS teachers, Beth Diaz of second grade and Windy May of fifth grade, completed a course through the Harvard Graduate School of Education called "Algebraic Thinking in the Elementary Classroom."

One might ask: what does algebra have to do with an elementary classroom?

Contrary to what you might think, the answer is not that complicated. Like so many thinking skills, much of the current research shows that, though young kids may not have the vocabulary to articulate an understanding of a subject like algebra, they do have the mental tools to understand algebraic concepts on their own level. This course trains teachers to help young students recognize

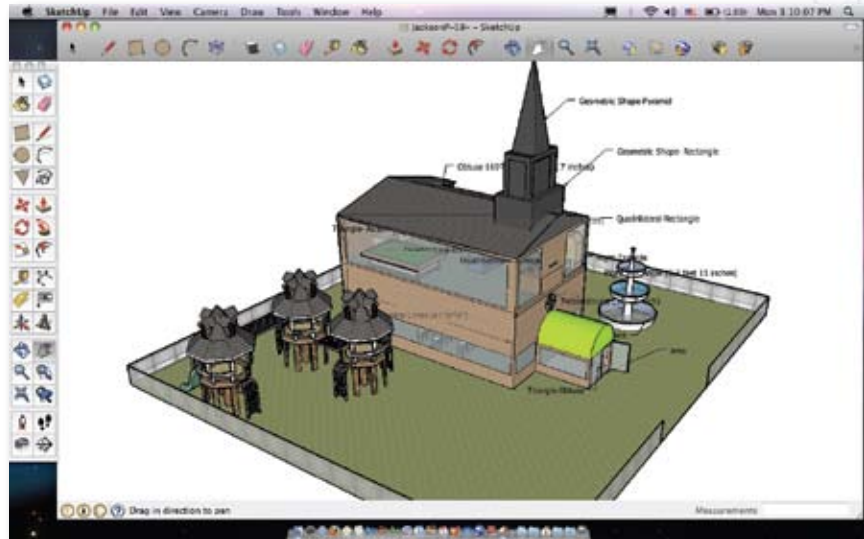
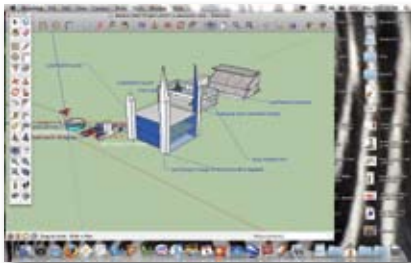
and understand the foundational concepts that they will later encounter and apply in algebra. In other words, from an early age students learn the process of searching for mathematical patterns and finding unknown variables.

In one recent unit from Beth Diaz's class, second graders searched for just these algebraic patterns in a lesson on square swimming pools. Not only were her students finding the patterns of squared numbers and square roots, they were also understanding the concepts without even realizing it. After watching the lesson in action, Susan Droke, Assistant Headmaster for Teaching and Learning, recalled, "the boys didn't know what to name it yet, but they were seeing those patterns and understanding what was happening. And all the while, they thought they were building a swimming pool."

Though these second graders are still far from applying trigonometry or calculus to real-world engineering, their ability to apprehend higher-level mathematical thinking is beginning now. Consequently, though far from building actual swimming pools, these PDS boys are becoming equipped for math in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



5th grade Google SketchUp projects.





# MEMENTOS

For this issue, we asked for your most memorable moments from a PDS field trip.



## TWELFTH NIGHT

One of my most vivid memories of PDS took place when I was in the sixth grade. The whole class went to see a production of "Twelfth Night" at Memphis State one afternoon. It was the first time I had ever seen a Shakespeare play, and I wrote a review of it for *The Press Bee*, the school newspaper.

**P. Layton Sanders, Jr. '65**

## ST. LOUIS

The year my dad and I went to St. Louis, it was the first year Dr. Sumner did not ride on the bus. Instead he rode with several of us in a van, and on the trip, he gave my dad the nickname "Golden Arches" because Gibby (my dad) had to stop at McDonald's so many times.

**Ben Gibson '85**

Going to St. Louis was my favorite. Getting to see the Cardinals play and going to Six Flags was fun. We also had a great time at the Sportsplex.

**Harrison Stewart '08**

One particularly fond memory I have from a PDS field trip was going to Blanchard Springs. I think I actually went twice: once with my brother's grade, and once with my own. I remember the excitement of getting a handcrafted slingshot and that they had a very acute, very good smell. I know that's a bit odd, but that's what I remember. I also remember a very large hill we had to climb. I am not sure why we had to climb it, but it was imposing. Finally, I remember the anticipation and build up you felt on the way to the falls at Blanchard Springs. It was such a neat experience to get in the water underneath the falls and explore the surrounding woods. Blanchard was a great get away. I think the parents even had fun.

Another PDS field trip that I distinctly remember was the St. Louis Trip. We were the big guys on campus, the 6th graders, and it was our moment. The whole school used to line up to wave goodbye to the buses. In St. Louis, I remember the little claustrophobic bubble you had to ride in to get to the top of the Arch, and I remember the 1960's era Holidome in which we stayed.

**McKee Humphreys '95**

## GRAND CANYON

Having Mr. Burns ask me to play tennis with him one weekend my sixth grade year was a real thrill. Also, there was the time that John Goldsmith had planned to go with my family on a Fall Break trip to the Grand Canyon. A few days before the break, our class went on a field trip to a cemetery where a tombstone fell on John and broke his leg. He still got to go on the trip with us!

**Neale Hicks '01**

## HUNTSVILLE

The Huntsville trip was the best. We saw the NASA rockets, and we went on the Space Shot and G-force rides.

**Graham Stewart '04**

**NEXT QUESTION:**  
What is your strongest memory from a PDS chapel?

Send your responses to [alumni@pdsmemphis.org](mailto:alumni@pdsmemphis.org) or PDS Alumni Mementos, 4025 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111.



# ALUMNI NEWS

## Class Notes

**Robert D. McCallum Jr. '56** served as the United States Ambassador to Australia from July 2006 to January 2009.

**Robert Anthony and Cameron Mann '90** have caught some national attention with their music act "Lord T and Eloise" on VH1's show Best Week Ever.

**Woodson Whitehead '94** graduated from SMU where he majored in Accounting & Economics and completed his Masters in Accounting. He then earned his CPA license and moved to New York City where he worked for Deloitte & Touche for 3 years. Woodson is currently attending UVA (Darden) to obtain his MBA, and he will be interning for Credit Suisse this summer in NYC.

**Lee Moore '01**, who attends the University of Mississippi, was named Academic All-District VI first team to the *ESPN The Magazine*. This selection is made by the College Sports Information Directors of America. With a 4.0 GPA in biological science, Lee is one of the best 400 meter hurdlers in the country, winning 3 individual titles this year and ranking 7th in the nation for this event. Finishing 4th place at the SEC Outdoor Championship, Moore set a new school record with a time of 50.01, automatically qualifying for the NCAA Outdoor Championships

where he placed second at the Mid-East Regional with a time of 50.45.

**Tyler Massey '02** signed a deal with the Colorado Rockies in July, 2008. The Rockies' Web site reports that Tyler was a 14th round pick in the 2008 First-Year Player Draft, and that according to Baseball America, he was the 51st top high school prospect prior to the draft. To start off the 2009 season, Tyler has been playing for the Asheville Tourists, a minor league affiliate of the Rockies.

Congratulations to **Will Carter '03** and **Cliff Guyton '04** for winning the Division II-AA State Championship in doubles tennis for MUS by defeating McCallie 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-4.

**Drew Cornagie '03** has been awarded the prestigious Ingram Scholarship from Vanderbilt University.

**Michael Edwards '03** has been awarded the prestigious Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholarship from Vanderbilt University.

PDS Graduates **Michael Folk '03** and **James Rantzow '07** were members of the relay team that won the 2 x 400 meter race to help MUS clinch the State Track title.

**Evan Mah '03** has been recognized by the Commercial Appeal's Academic

All-Stars competition. Mah, the chairman of the History Club and editor-in-chief of the yearbook, is the first student from MUS to win in the history and social sciences category. Additionally, the yearbook he recently edited won an award, and in his "Editor's Note," he thanks "Mrs. Martha Turner, my first computer teacher when I attended PDS."

**Jim Moore '03**, a senior at MUS, was named a First Tennessee Academic All-Star.

**Christopher Thompson '03** graduated from Christ School and was awarded the Headmaster's Cup. Christopher served as Prefect of Harris House this year, was Verger of St. Joseph's Chapel, served as co-captain of the Lacrosse Team and worked many evenings in the snack bar.

**Nathan Vogt '07** is the new Memphis City Chess Champion for the junior high school division. Vogt, the top-rated junior high player in Tennessee, went undefeated in all six rounds of the competition. Vogt is currently an eighth grader at MUS.

## National Merit Finalists

**Robert Duffley, Michael Edwards, Mathew Jehl, and John Riggins '03** were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as National Merit Finalists. Duffley, Edwards, Jehl, and Riggins are students at MUS.



## Have updates for the *PDS Spirit*?

Visit the Alumni section on the PDS website and keep us up to date or email us at [alumni@pdsmemphis.org](mailto:alumni@pdsmemphis.org).

### PDS Honors Alumni Graduating from High School in 2009

On Thursday, May 14th, PDS held a reception for alumni from the PDS graduating class of 2003, honoring them as they transition from high school to college. Our alumni will be attending colleges and universities all around the country, including (but not limited to) University of Tennessee, University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University, University of Virginia, The University of Alabama, University of Arkansas, Vanderbilt University, Louisiana State University, Cornell University, Georgetown University, University of North Carolina, University of Texas, Drexel University, The University of the South, Rhodes College, Southern Methodist University, Emory, University of Georgia, Auburn University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Washington & Lee University, University of Missouri, High Point University, and Pepperdine University.



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