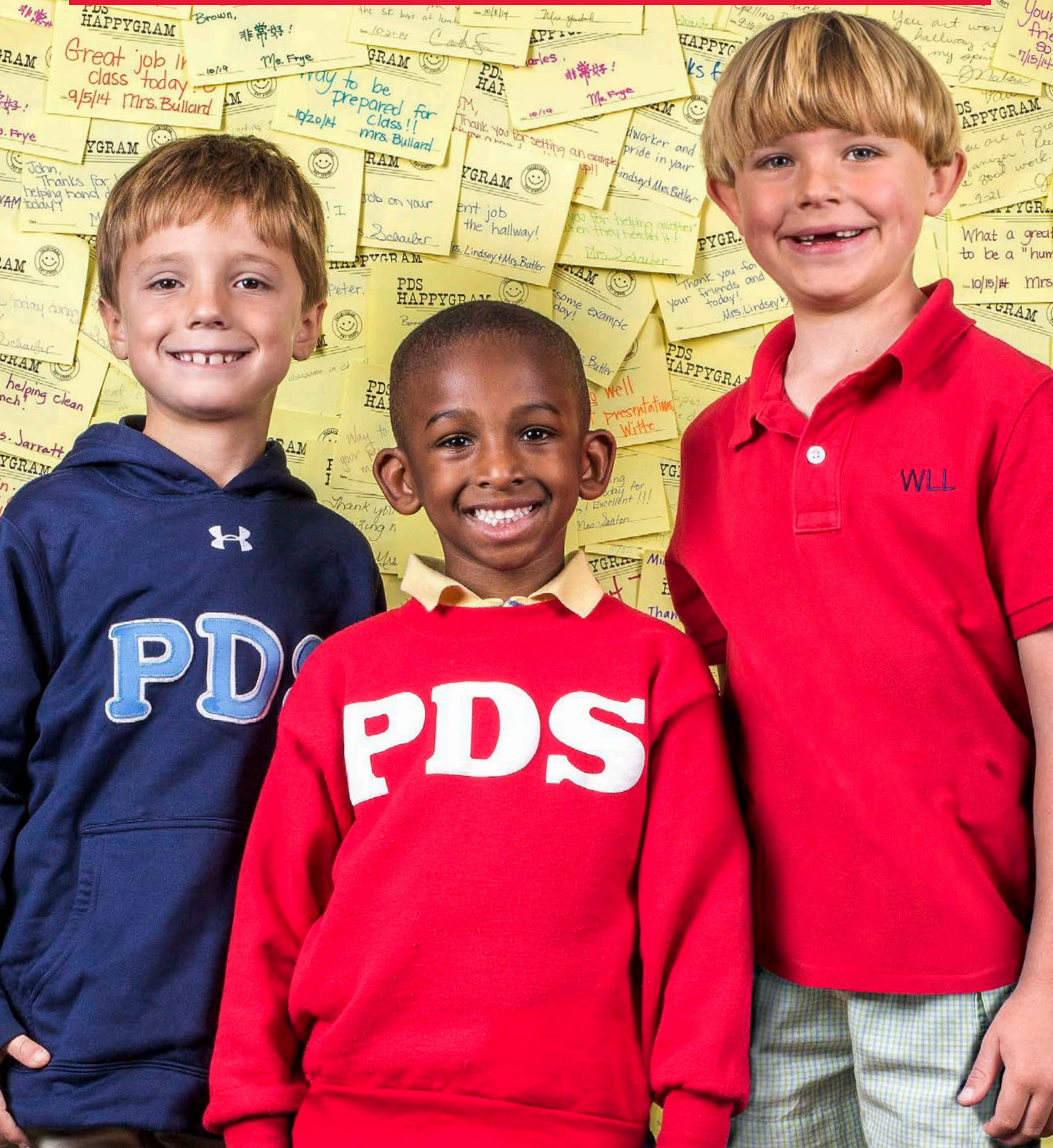


THE MAGAZINE OF PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL • WINTER 2015

PDS SPIRIT





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IN THIS ISSUE OF *PDS SPIRIT*



One of the very first memories I have of PDS is a Happygram. Upon arriving at the hotel before my first interview for the headmaster job, there was a Happygram waiting for me. That wish of good luck and

a prayer for safe travels incapsulate the spirit of these important tools. I have seen boys beam with pride as they place a little yellow sheet of paper in their locker. This edition of *PDS Spirit* will help you understand more about the power of these small celebrations.

From the Crusader Cafe to Mentor Groups you will find these pages filled with interesting stories about how PDS meets the needs of boys each and every day. Our devoted faculty is committed to creating a learning environment where boys feel comfortable on the stage, the fields and courts, and the classrooms.

All the best to you in the New Year.

Steve Hancock, *Headmaster*





PDS SPIRIT

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By the Numbers

1 On October 30, **one** PDS teacher, PDS Early Childhood Spanish teacher Dania Watson, became an American citizen.

Dania recalls, "Eight years ago, I came to Memphis from Honduras without being able to speak any English besides 'Hi, How are you?' I arrived with many fears and many dreams, like every other immigrant who's left behind the only home they've ever known to come to a new country."



PDS boys have been studying immigration and citizenship and that study culminated with a special re-enactment of the citizenship ceremony with Mrs. Watson and other friends of the school who were naturalized citizens.



374

In the first trimester of the 2014-15 school year, Alice Parker's EDGE Design Thinking program has brought **374** boys to the EDGE Studio to engage in short design challenges that enable them to bite off the smaller pieces of the design process while building connective team threads with their new classmates. With each challenge, the groups have discovered new confidence as designers, thinkers, and group collaborators.



For the third year in a row, PDS competed in the Annual Duncan Williams Dragon Boat Race downtown at the Mud Island River Park. This year the PDS "Crew-saders" finished in **fifth** place overall and first in the academic division.



74

Sixth grade PDS boys participated in a national campaign where they read books to preschool boys and girls to celebrate literacy and promote early childhood education. **Seventy-four** boys read the book *Bunny Cakes* by Rosemary Wells to the kindergarten students at Beclair. The Beclair kindergartners were able to keep the book and take it home with them, through the money collected at the PDS book fair through our One for Books initiative.

136

All **136** boys from grades 4, 5, and 6 participated in intramural football this year. The 25 boys who competed on the 5th-Grade PDS Crusader team finished the season with a 7-1 record. The 35 boys who competed on the 6th-Grade PDS Crusader team finished the season with a 5-2-1 record.



Beginning in the Fall of 2015, Presbyterian Day School is launching the Young Knights class – a new pre-school class for boys turning **three** between June 1 and August 15.

140

Using only **140** characters at a time, the official

PDS twitter feed is full of interesting tidbits and useful information. Follow @pdsmemphis to stay in the loop.

17 Near the beginning of every school year, PDS 6th graders board a bus and head to St. Louis for the annual Father/Son Trip. The rest of the PDS student body watch the buses leave, anticipating one day boarding that bus and making the trip themselves. Alumni who once went on the Father-Son Trip as students, now participate as fathers of current PDS 6th-graders. For **17** of these dads, this is a repeat trip as they have attended as 6th-graders themselves.



Pictured from left to right with sons in front of them are: Sam Gassaway '88 and Sam Gassaway, Tim Donovan '79 and Luke Donovan, John T. Fisher '76 and Thomas Fisher, Chris Beard '78 and Jack Beard, Gavin Murrey '80 and Gavin Murrey, Pierce Ledbetter '79 and Scott Ledbetter, Sellers Shy '84 and Edwin Shy, Jason Fair '83, and Judson Fair, Jody Scott '81 and Sam Scott, Ken McCown '71 and Colin McCown, Lon Magness '79 and Mac Magness, Sam Nickey '83 and Henry Nickey, Jon Van Hoozer '82 and Jon Van Hoozer, Coors Arthur '84 and Will Arthur, Jason Gowen '84 and Hart Gowen, and Frank Colvett '82 and Harmon Colvett. Not pictured, but on the trip, are Tommy Lusk '80 and Thomas Lusk.

PDS Mentor Breakfast

The Mentor Breakfast was held on Friday, November 21, 2014. Over 200 alumni, parents, and friends of PDS attend the annual breakfast hosted by the PDS Alumni Association. This breakfast is a great opportunity to honor one's mentor by asking him or her to attend the breakfast and hear an inspirational speaker.

PDS Alumnus Kennon

Vaughan '90, lead pastor of Harvest Church and president of Downline Ministries, delivered a heartfelt message about the importance of mentors and the life changing difference that being a mentor can make in someone's life. He encouraged everyone to be a mentor.

During the school year, PDS 6th graders participate in a mentor program, and

they attended the breakfast in their mentor groups with their mentors. Mentoring is important at PDS. Seeking counsel from mentors is at the root of developing boys in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.

This breakfast, during the time of Thanksgiving, provides a perfect opportunity to say thank you to a mentor. ●

-
- 1 **Scott Anderson '86** and David Anderson
 - 2 **Neely Mallory '01** and Neely Mallory
 - 3 **Harold Ware** and **William Ware '01**
 - 4 **Cary Whitehead '62** and **Woodson Whitehead '94**
 - 5 **Bryan Nearn '55** and Olin Morris
 - 6 **Walter Wills '02** and **Hunter Atkins '02**
 - 7 Bruce Campbell and Don Jordan
 - 8 **Will Carter '03** and Chuck Carter
 - 9 PDS Headmaster Steve Hancock and **Kennon Vaughan '90**
 - 10 Will Jarratt, PDS Coach Paul Warner, Austin Dowdle
 - 11 **John Phillips '70** and **John Phillips '97**
 - 12 **Lew Smith '94**, **Chuck Smith '61**, and **Foster Smith '92**
 - 13 **Donnie Malmo '00**, Andy Malmo, and **Sam Coates '00**







The Gift of Music

Eclectic, student-led concerts offer opportunities to hone musical and leadership skills – plus, they’re really fun.

Written by Pete Wickham

If he wasn’t concentrating so hard on navigating the intricacies of the “Warsaw Concerto” on the piano, Henry Yu could have had a semi-serious laugh watching his classmates’ reaction.

No less than five times, the PDS fourth-grader came to slight pauses in the piece. Each time, the audience started to clap, then had to quickly hit the brakes. Finally, and flawlessly, Yu completed the work and the room erupted.

Had this happened on the football field, PDS Elementary Division Head and Football Coach Mark Fruitt would have had conniptions about all the false starts. Here, it just made him grin wider.

Welcome to the Crusader Cafe: Amidst the chicken sandwiches, chips, classical and classic rock music, and cheers, classroom lessons are stashed when no one’s looking.

Fruitt started the Cafe three years ago. It’s outgrown the school cafeteria and found its way to the church Fellowship Hall. It’s also settled into a more comfortable three-times-a-school year format (October, January, and April). It’s open to students actively taking music lessons either at school or establishments like the nearby School of Rock, or who can pass an audition. Performers are slotted into the time their grade normally takes its lunch break to provide maximum peer support, though they will likely play before multiple grades.

Fruitt attributes the idea of starting the Crusader Cafe to journalist and author Malcolm Gladwell’s assertion that “to do something really well takes 10,000 hours of practice.”

“These boys spend most of their time by themselves honing these skills,” Fruitt added, “and

most of the time they only get a couple of recitals to gain some notoriety. This exposes all the boys to what their classmates can do.”

Fruitt added that it reminds each student of the investment needed to master a skill in the classroom, on the field, or behind an instrument. “Practice isn’t the thing you do once you’re good,” he said. “Practice is the thing that makes you good.”

Yu, one of nearly 20 PDS boys who performed in October, said the Cafe “helps me control my nervousness and that helps me in other places where I go to play.”

“They all practice harder leading up to the Cafe, because they want to play well in front of their classmates and friends.”

The same benefit was gained by the day’s youngest player, first-grader Kellett Giles, who cruised through his rendition of Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy” despite the fact that before playing he had to go to the nurse’s office after poking his hand with a pencil.

“He toughed it out,” Fruitt told the boys after Giles stepped away from the piano.

Giles said simply, “I just had to get it washed off. I knew I’d play.” The smile on his face told anyone how he felt.

PDS music teacher Dawn Southerland said that playing for peers may be more enjoyable than a recital filled with parents, teachers and siblings. But she said the real benefit may be that, “They all

practice harder leading up to the Cafe, because they want to play well in front of their classmates and friends.”

As the pianos, guitars, violins, and drums filled the lunch hour, two PDS students were scurrying around the stage — as they had been since 7:30 a.m. Sixth-grader Cash Brown is this year’s Cafe coordinator, with fifth-grader John Monaghan serving as his assistant.

“They solicit and screen the applications, work up the performance order and notes, set up the stage, and introduce the performers. They’ve taken ownership of this, and there’s little I have to do,” Fruitt said.

Both are strong drummers who are learning that craft at School of Rock. This day, Brown took time to get behind the skins and show his considerable chops.

School of Rock is where they have made friends with many of the performers who have been on the Cafe docket. But Monaghan said one of the neat parts of this job is “you work with kids your age all the way down to the youngest kids.”

Brown said that one of the biggest things he and Monaghan try to do is “make this as fun as possible so kids aren’t scared (to get up on stage).”

In the audience, Katie Monaghan watched her son John with no small dose of pride. “He really wants to get behind that mic and get out in front of people,” she said. “But this job has also shown him how to handle things like meetings and deadlines.”

Brown’s dad, Kent, was not only a cheerleader, he was also responsible for getting Cash’s growing stash of stage equipment to the hall. In addition to three drum sets, Cash over the years has built a full set of stage lighting and a snow machine. “I hope to use even more stuff next time,” Cash said, grinning.

Kent Brown watched it all with a bit of a bemused smile.

“Your son finds something he’s passionate about, and you support him,” Kent said. “Until recently we had been able to convince him that an electric drum kit (which can funnel the sound into headphones) was perfectly fine,” he added. “ But we’ve finally branched out. He’s bought most of his stuff with his own money.”

Kent Brown had to wait for the takedown and take-home while Cash, John, and Dean of Students Ross Spain provided a mini “concert” for the senior kindergarten class, the last to arrive at the Cafe. They went into karaoke mode — the boys singing on-key and Coach Spain, well...

The kindergarten crowd jumped and danced at their seats in delight. “We let them burn off some of that energy,” Spain said, smiling. “However you can do that.”

As always, there was a bit of hidden truth sprinkled on top. Spain pointed to Brown and Monaghan and said “Watch them. They put all this together, and they treated each other with respect.”

Then Spain looked at the group and said, “We had boys from nearly every grade up here performing today. We hope that the next time we have Crusader Cafe that some of you who take piano lessons, or guitar lessons, or violin lessons will get up here and show us what you can do.”

The lesson? A gift like music isn’t really a gift — until it’s given away. ●

-
- 1 Will Watson leads the crowd in cheering for the lunchtime entertainment.
 - 2 Cash Brown and John Monaghan discuss the setlist minutes before the show starts.
 - 3 George House shreds on electric guitar.
 - 4 John Monaghan introduces the next act.



1



2



3



4

As iron sharpens iron,

MENTORING

so one man sharpens another.

Written by Rob Robertson

Since 2008, the *Building Boys, Making Men* character education program has been a signature component of the Presbyterian Day School experience. Designed to provide a framework and structure for developing a boy's faith, character, and values, the program exists to address the simple — and confounding — question of what it means to be a man.

At the center of the program's curriculum is the nationally acclaimed book, *Flight Plan: Your Mission To Become A Man*, written by former Headmaster Lee Burns and Chaplain Braxton Brady. Introduced in 2010, the book addresses a number of issues boys will face as they grow up, from friendships and peer pressure to drinking and drugs, girls, dating, and managing family relationships. The book has been requested and used by families, churches, and schools across the country and beyond.

But if *Flight Plan* is the foundation for PDS' character education curriculum, then the eight male staff members who serve as mentors for the program comprise its beating heart. Mentors meet

regularly with small groups of 5th- and 6th-grade boys, spending 40 minutes each week in a loosely structured setting that follows the book chapter-by-chapter — while also serving as advocates for their group of boys throughout the week.

“If you look at the scripture, Jesus invested in a small group of guys; he was teaching the masses, but investing in a small group so that they could invest in others,” says Brady. “Using that as the model, we wanted to make sure that we each invested in a small group in each grade, so that we can be an advocate, coach, and mentor for each boy.”

The mentoring program itself has been geared exclusively to sixth graders since its inception, but in 2014 it was expanded to include fifth graders and will eventually be introduced to fourth graders as soon as next year, albeit on a less formal, introductory capacity.

“When we initially started with the sixth grade, what we found was that by the time we were finishing the year, we were really only scratching the surface,” Brady says. “By introducing



By the end of sixth grade
Every PDS Boy
should know how to:



- Clean a room
- Do a load of laundry
- Wash the dishes
- Iron a shirt and pants
- Tie a tie
- Dress appropriately
- Cook a basic meal
- Grill a hamburger
- Start a fire
- Mow, weed, and edge a lawn
- Drive a nail
- Pump gas
- Administer basic first aid
- Study for a test
- Give a speech
- Write a handwritten thank-you note
- Have conversation etiquette in person and on the phone
- Have dating etiquette
- Volunteer or lead a community service project
- Understand the importance being a good citizen
- Have a clear definition of what it means to be a godly man

it sooner, the boys will already have the tools and basic understanding in place; what it means to be a true friend and what the definition of manhood looks like.”

The expansion of the program also means the role of mentors will become even more vital, Brady says.

“It’s hard when you have 70-80 boys to have a deep relationship with all of them,” he says. “This gives each mentor the opportunity to zero in on a small group and let them know that they are loved and being looked out for.”

Elementary Principal Mark Fruitt says he expects mentors to be a sounding board for the boys when they have questions, as well as a resource when the time comes.

“If there is a discipline problem with a boy, for instance, I want the mentor to be that boy’s advocate to me,” he says. “The mentor is a person who knows the boy and can speak on his merits, based on his own interactions and experience.”

Spencer McLean, Director of Athletics, is one such mentor.

“We try to address the situations and moments that they are going to have to face in the years to come that will test their character, challenge their commitment to doing what’s right, and help shape the kind of men they’ll become,” he says, “whether it’s situations involving sex, drugs and alcohol, peer pressure, you name it.”

McLean says it is important that each mentor be able to add context and address their boys’ individual questions, sometimes by looking at examples in the scriptures and sometimes by sharing their own experiences. The program can help launch important, enduring friendships, too, he says.

“My favorite scripture verse is Proverbs 27:17: ‘As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens

another,’” McLean says. “It’s a valuable personal relationship that you want to build as a coach and an advocate, and it’s something you want to see the boys building with one another, too. These guys are going to be seeing a lot of new things together, and it’s a lot easier to make good choices when you have a friend there with you.”

“It gives them a great sense of comfort and peace knowing that their son is being looked out for personally, and has somebody that he can go to.”

Parents’ response to the mentoring program has been very positive, says Brady, who is himself a PDS parent.

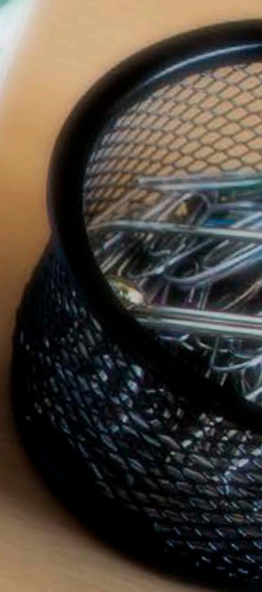
“There comes a time for most parents where they want their boy to hear from someone else instead of just hearing from them,” he says. “From the parents’ perspective it gives them a great sense of comfort and peace knowing that their son is being looked out for personally, and has somebody that he can go to.”

“At the end of the day, we often wind up spending more time with these boys during the week than their parents do; it’s comforting for parents to know that they have a godly man looking after their son on a regular basis.”

#happygram

Written by Lawrence Buser

Long before there was Twitter or Instagram or Facebook or any other online social media, there was the PDS Happygram. And while the social media electronic communication fads come and go, the decades-old Happygram is as popular as ever with teachers and students at PDS.



**PDS
HAPPYGRAM**



Great job, William!
Super math facts!

Date _____



“It’s a long, long tradition,” says Mark Fruitt, Elementary Principal. “They’re mostly words of affirmation for a boy for a great job in chapel or for a kindness toward another student or for good behavior in the hallway or for being a good servant leader.”

“It’s not a carrot and it’s not something to earn. It’s just a short note on a small piece of yellow paper with a smiley face. One design. My favorite thing about them is to see that light go on, when a boy realizes that an adult took the time to write this about him. It’s the power of words.”

The Happygram is a PDS tradition every bit as much as the Christmas Pageant, the speech contest, Yipes Stripes, and the student-faculty basketball game. The short, to-the-point Happygrams were

“My favorite thing about them is to see that light go on, when a boy realizes that an adult took the time to write this about him. It’s the power of words.”

the idea of Dr. Len Sumner, PDS headmaster from 1979 to 2000, who saw the appreciative messages as morale builders not only for students but also for teachers.

“It is human nature that as things go well we say nothing,” Dr. Sumner said in a PDS Spirit magazine article in 2011. “When things don’t go so

well, we complain about it. So people need to know the good side of things and be reminded of how much we care for them and value them, boys and teachers alike.”

Sixth-grade teacher Jean Nabers remembers those days well. “It put a smile on your face to see one in your box,” she says of Dr. Sumner’s short messages of gratitude. “We have Happygram parties for the classes and individual rewards as well. A collection of 50 would earn a dress-down day, perhaps. Every grade is different on their rewards.”

Mrs. Nabers adds that the impact of the Happygrams was apparent. “I had a student in 1983, Brandon Williams ’85, who had them up on a bulletin board in his room,” she recalls. “He was very proud of them. He later became a surgeon at Vanderbilt.”

While a single Happygram could make a boy’s week, sometimes they came in bunches.

“My fondest memory of PDS Happygrams was from first grade when I won the Martha Hooper Scholarship award,” says Scott Anderson ’86, an executive with Wunderlich Securities, Inc. “I actually received about six Happygrams from various teachers and principals, so by far it is one of my favorite PDS memories.”

Since 1949 when the school was founded, PDS has more than 3,300 alumni. That makes for a lot of Happygrams – and happy grads.

“I remember getting a Happygram was a very big deal,” says Ben Daniel ’80, a Memphis attorney. “I’m sure former headmasters Mr. Stanford and Dr. Sumner knew of some detailed, over my head, psychological research on how it would motivate young boys, but all I knew was it worked.”

Windy and Kirby May have a unique perspective on the effects of Happygrams. Kirby ’88 received them as a student, and Windy hands

them out as a PDS math teacher. “The students love earning Happygrams and working to a goal,” says Windy, who teaches 5th grade. “We have class Happygram parties if they get 30 as a class. If they get 15, they get candy bars. Happygrams are hanging in their lockers. We give them out when students have shown growth and have been a good friend.”

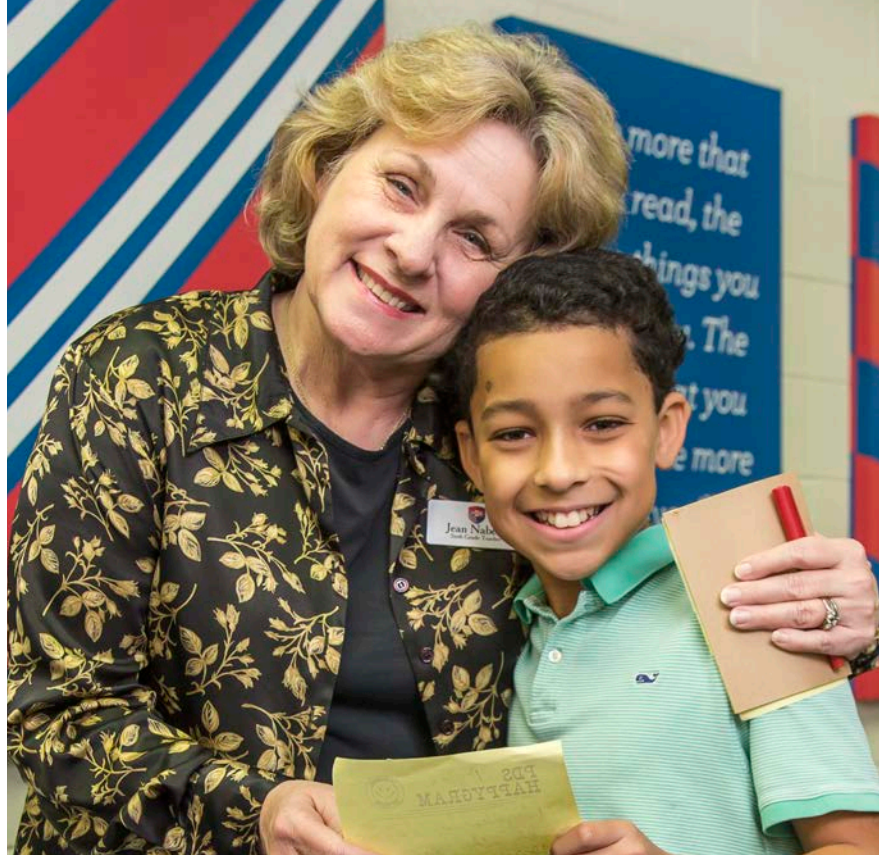
As do many former PDS students, Kirby still has his Happygrams filed away at home. “Each of my teachers at PDS not only taught the material for each class, but also taught us many life lessons,” says Kirby, a prosecutor in the Shelby County District Attorney’s Office. “The teachers emphasized character, conduct, attitude and behavior. These attributes are just as important as the material learned in class. These Happygrams simply reinforced and encouraged us to do what is right, to do our best, and to have the right attitude.”

Former PDS mother Emily Freeburg Kay might deserve a Happygram of her own for her organizational skills. She had not one, but three sons – Harvey '95, Charlie '98 and Henry '00 – who attended PDS. That’s a lot of Happygrams to keep track of.

“I still have every Happygram they ever received in scrapbooks I made for each of them, amongst other childhood memories, that I presented them after high school,” she recalled in a recent Facebook post. “Some of the reasons for the Happygrams are quite creative, but my boys were proud every time, and they love looking back over seven years of these confidence boosters.”

Although the tradition does not follow PDS students to their next schools, they’re really never too old to receive a Happygram.

Beau Davidson '93 returned to his alma mater three years ago to speak to the students and performed a duet with Mrs. Nabers, just as they



had done some 20 years earlier when they both had starring roles in the Christmas Pageant. He has fond memories of the Happygrams he received as a student, many of them from his former teacher, Mrs. Nabers.

“I received some for musical performances, good conduct, personal achievement and things of that sort,” recalls Davidson, 33, now a performer, songwriter, and actor in Nashville. “I personally really enjoyed getting them because it meant that a teacher recognized my merit, whether it was an academic or personal achievement.

“Furthermore, it was a bit of a feather in your cap because your fellow students were aware you had received one as well. It was a great tradition.”

Mrs. Nabers enjoyed having her former student return and to express her appreciation she sent Davidson a thank you note. It was a Happygram, of course.

Davidson proudly posted it on Facebook and added it to his collection.

Says his former teacher: “Some traditions are worth keeping.”



Ting Ting Davis

Mandarin Chinese Teacher

How did you get interested in teaching?

Both my parents were high school teachers for over 35 years. Teachers and their families all lived in campus housing and had meals at the school's cafeteria. As a child in China, I saw the love my parents gave their students and the respect the students and their parents had for my parents. My life was immersed in school life with all of my playmates being teachers' kids.

Were you a teacher in China? No. I might have been if my schooling had not been disrupted by the what is referred to as the "Cultural Revolution [1966-1976]." During those revolutionary years, all schools in China from kindergarten to college were closed. I, like most of my peers, was sent to the countryside to work as a farmer. When the Cultural Revolution ended, I passed the exam for enrollment at Beijing Film Academy and majored in screenplay writing. Later I became a screenwriter and fiction writer in China.

Have you taught at other schools in the US?

Yes, before I came to PDS, I taught Chinese at Rhodes College and the University of Memphis. I also taught in the upper school at Hutchison.

What drew you to PDS? PDS' mission statement - *To develop boys in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.* I am still inspired by it every day. I also loved that the Mandarin program starting with PK. It was a challenge, but very exciting. I love children.

How would you describe your position at PDS?

While I am obviously a Chinese Language teacher, I see myself more broadly involved. Just by my being Chinese the boys understand there is a big world out there. I still get asked by little PK boys from time to time, "Did you come from China this morning?" "Did you drive all the way to PDS?" There's a prominent display in my classroom of a world map and a picture of the Great Wall of China that accents a world much larger than Greater Memphis.

What is the hardest part of your job?

To remember about 300 boys' names. Since I teach the same boys for three or five years (if they choose Chinese for their elementary school years), it's getting easier each year.

What do you like to do when you aren't at PDS?

Beside church activities and mission projects, I like to watch movies, and read and write while listening to classical music and sipping tea. Also I find work in my backyard to be a delight; tending to my flowers, trees, and vegetables. 🍷

“My life was immersed in school life with all of my playmates being teachers' kids.”

Holiday Cheer

Young Alumni Gather During Holidays

PDS Young Alumni from the Classes of 2001 through 2005 gathered together during the holidays to reconnect and network among their peers and former teachers. We were glad to see so many young alumni. ●

- 1 Jack Steffner '03 and Will Carter '03
- 2 Quay Stallworth '05 and Ben Stallworth '01
- 3 Jay Edwards '01 and PDS Headmaster Steve Hancock
- 4 Josh Wang '05, and Tripp Dearman '05
- 5 Sam Cox '05, William Cross '05, John Edwards '05, Jack Klug '05, and William Pickering '05
- 6 Principal of the PDS Elementary Division Mark Fruitt lines up a shot.
- 7 Collin Fountain '02, Ben Arnold '02, PDS Dean of Students Ross Spain, and Hudson Atkins '02
- 8 Neely Mallory '01 and Luke Jensen '01



Alumni Excellence

Have some excellent news about a PDS graduate? Send it to alumni@pdsmemphis.org.



Culinary Excellence

Evan Mah '03 combines his culinary delight with his exceptional writing ability. He is the food editor at *Atlanta Magazine*.



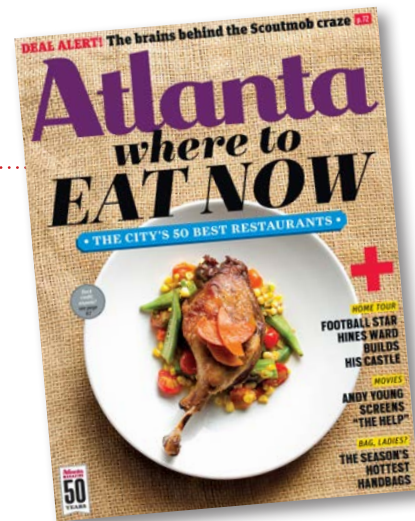
Scouting Excellence

Jack Heathcott '11 discovered a need to renovate a patio area at the Memphis Union Mission's Wright Transitional House. With the help of his fellow scouts, Jack transformed the area by cleaning up old brush and railroad ties to make way for a new picnic table and bench as well as a green screen over the chain fence to provide more privacy. The results of this Eagle Scout project produced a functional private patio that provides space for fellowship and eating for men.



Business Excellence

This past summer **Jeffrey Smith '05** co-founded a Memphis company, Compression Kinetics, to revolutionize Sequential Compression Devices (SCDs) that are used to decrease Deep Vein Thrombosis. This idea was selected as one of four to participate in the ZeroTo150 program to fast track entrepreneurs bringing new technologies to the marketplace. They presented their idea to the investment community with hopes of taking their company to the next level.



Golf Team Excellence

Congratulations to PDS Alums who made the MUS Lower School Golf Team: A Team – **Jack Billups '14, Walker Crosby '13, Call Ford '13, Cannon Hurdle '14, and Philip Wunderlich '13.** B Team members are **Stuart Grow '13, Hall Upshaw '13, and Russell Williamson '14.**

PDS alums, **Ross Redmont '09, Goodman Rudolph '11, Mason Rudolph '11, and Trent Scull '11** helped the MUS golf team win back-to-back state championships. Goodman holds a tournament record of nine birdies.



Cross Country Excellence

PDS Alums played an important role in helping MUS finish second-place at the TSSAA state Cross Country meet. Among the top seven runners for MUS were PDS alumni **Pierce Rose '09, Philip Freeburg '10, and Hastings McEwan '12.**



Golfing Excellence

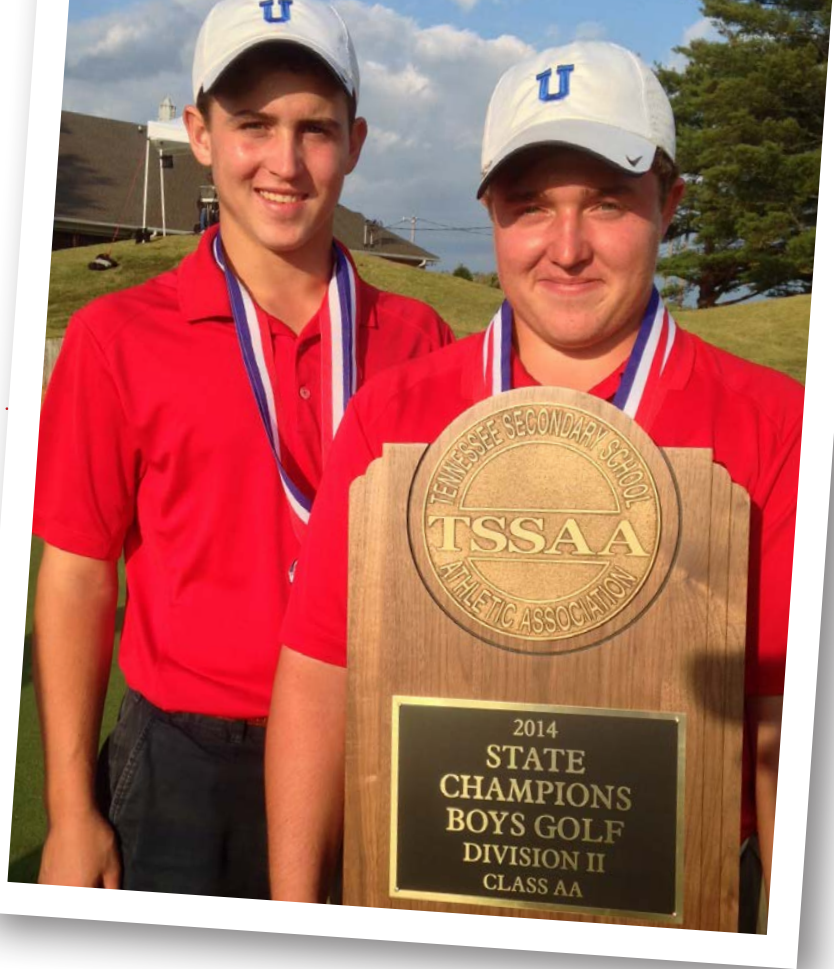
Congratulations to **Goodman**

Rudolph '11 and **Mason Rudolph '11** for being selected for Best of the Preps-Golf.

Goodman was named Player of the Year. Goodman is ranked #9 in Tennessee and #311 in the world by Junior Golf Scoreboard. He is ranked #2 in the class of 2017 in Tennessee. He was also selected to play in the Tennessee Junior Cup, hosted by three-time winner on the PGA Tour, Scott Stallings. This tournament pits the top 10 boy and top 4 girl golfers from the West against the same from the East. I-65 is the dividing line. He helped lead the West to an upset win over the overall higher ranked East.

In addition, Goodman finished second individually at the TSSAA D2AA State Tournament at Willow Brook Golf Club in Manchester, after being tied after the two days. He lost the sudden death playoff after five holes. He was the individual medalist at the D2AA West Region tournament.

Mason is ranked #52 in Tennessee and #1509 in the world. He is ranked #9 in the Tennessee class of 2017. Mason finished third individually at the TSSAA D2AA State Tournament at Willow Brook Golf Club in Manchester.



Musical Excellence

High School senior **Ahmed**

Latif '09 heads the first-ever MUS Drum Corps. This group of students performs at several MUS home football games and basketball games. PDS Alumni who are in the drum line include **Ryan Aghabeg '12, Andrew Bragorgos '14, Reid Chandler '14, Jack Fernandez '14, Keithran Hopson '14, Jonathan Johnson '14, Tre Johnson '14, Hudson Miller '13, Thomas Mirth '13, Sam Payne '12, Sean Marc Taylor '14, Kendall Thomas '14, Jason Wang '12,** and **Ty Williams '13.** PDS Headmaster Steve Hancock's son Clay Hancock is also a member of the drum line.

Alumni Excellence

Have some excellent news about a PDS graduate? Send it to alumni@pdsmemphis.org.



Academic Excellence

Congratulations to high school seniors **Ahmed Latif '09** and **Hamid Shirwany '09** who have been named National Merit Semifinalists. This program recognizes high achievement based on scores from the PSAT taken as a junior.

Congratulations to **Peterson Wellford '04** for making The University of Alabama President's List for the Spring of 2014. This honor recognizes students who earn a 4.0 GPA while taking at least 12 credit hours.



Editing Excellence

Hamid Shirwany '09 serves as the MUS yearbook editor and **Stewart Love '09** serves as the *MUSE* editor.



Basketball Excellence

Robert Ayotte '14, Hall Barry '14, Connor Hamilton '14, Jerry Peters '14, Thomas Pitts '14, Ben Skahan '14, Ben Spiegelman '14, Charlie Street '14, and Kendall Thomas '14 made the MUS 7th grade basketball team. The 8th grade MUS basketball team includes, PDS alums **Garrott Braswell '13, Walker Crosby '13, Thomas Hayden '13, Matthew Rogers '13, Sellers Shy '13, Philip Wunderlich '13, and Philip Zanone '13.**

Congrats to the following PDS Alums for making the MUS 9th grade basketball team:

Jackson Bridgforth '12, Smith Duncan '12, Michael Jennings '12, Fulton O'Keefe '12, Daniel Schumake '12, Bobby Wade '12, and Bays Webb '12.



Swimming Excellence

Crews Wellford '06 competed this past summer against other swimming greats, Ryan Lockte and Michael Phelps, in the 100 backstroke at the Bulldog Grand Slam at the University of Georgia. Wellford came in fourth with a time of 56.53 – not far from the time of Lockte (54.40) and Phelps (53.88)



Media Excellence

Chip Williams '05 is producing a podcast called Grizzly Bear Blues Live. He is a credentialed Memphis Grizzlies writer for Grizzly Bear Blues and is a student at the University of Memphis studying journalism.



Leadership Excellence

Congratulations to the following PDS

Alums who shine in high school leadership positions at MUS: **Alex Carruthers '09**, Civic Service President; **Bennett Wilfong '08**, Civic Service Vice-President; **Robby Matthews '09**, and **Daniel Nathan '09**, Civic Service Senior Executives; **Forest Colerick '10**, **Tucker Colerick '10**, and **Philip Freeburg '10**, Civic Service Junior Executives.

Fifteen other PDS alums were elected to serve as Civic Service Grade Representatives. It is great to see these PDS graduates lead with a servant's heart.

Student Council leaders at MUS include:

Selden Montgomery '09, Vice President; **Tom Fowlkes '10**, Commissioner of Student Welfare; **Joseph Preston '09**, Commissioner of Social Events; **Pierce Rose '09**, Secretary-Treasurer; **John Madden '09**, Parliamentarian. Student Council Representatives include 19 PDS graduates.

The MUS Lower School Student Council is lead by PDS **Alum Call Ford '13** as President and **Sellers Shy '13** as Vice-President. Seventeen former PDS boys serve as Lower School Grade Representatives.

MUS Honor Council representatives are **William Merriman '09**, **Griffin Wilson '09**, **Alex Hyde '11**, **Henry Trammell '11**, **Charlie Evans '12**, **Philip Wunderlich '13**, **Ben Merriman '14**, and **Spence Wilson '14**. ●

Top 10 ways for graduates to stay in touch

1. SUBSCRIBE for all the up-to-date info
Visit pdsmemphis.org and subscribe to the events calendar and e-newsletters.



2. FACEBOOK your alma mater
Your former teachers are always looking forward to catching up.

3. FOLLOW us on Twitter
Follow @pdsmemphis for 140 characters of news bits and fun info from the school that helped mold you into what you are today.

4. ATTEND PDS Alumni Events
Distinguished Alumnus Luncheon, Mentor Breakfast, Golf Tournament, and more...

5. VOLUNTEER to serve
PDS is always needing help to put on the various alumni programs every year. We can find a place for you if you volunteer.

6. NETWORK with classmates
Are you LinkedIn? LinkedIn is a great place to network with other PDS alums.



7. CONTACT your friends at PDS
Give us a call in the alumni office at 901-842-4600 anytime.

8. SUBMIT updates
What's going on in your life? New baby? New job? Win an award? Let us know about it at alumni@pdsmemphis.org.

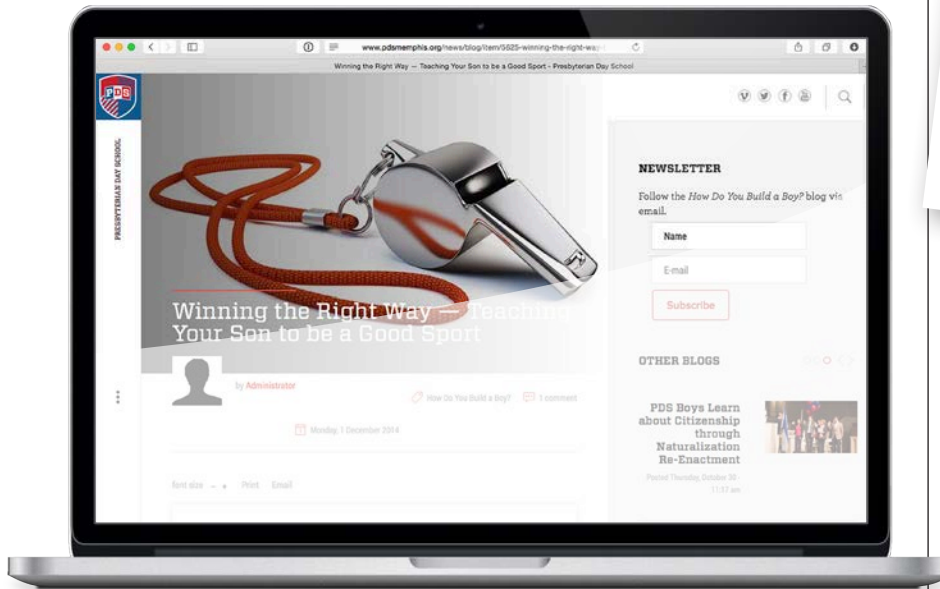


9. VISIT your alma mater
Changes are occurring on a daily basis at your old haunting grounds. Drop by and see what's new.

10. READ the PDS Spirit
Every issue of the *PDS Spirit* is available online. Read them all front to back, or back to front—the choice is yours.

New Articles on the Blog

If you haven't checked out the blog in a while, here are a few of the great articles you might have missed...



- Winning the Right Way — Teaching Your Son to be a Good Sport
- How Much Sleep Does My Child Need?
- You are the Family's "Google"
- 10 Questions Every Father Must Ask Himself
- Are You a Fantasy Football Parent?
- Five Ways to Get Your Kids Started "Making"



Bookmark the blog at pdsmemphis/news/blog and never miss an article again.

Stay Connected

Stay in touch with everything going on at PDS by following us on:



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PDS BLOG



TWITTER



INSTAGRAM



Instant News on Instagram

Can't wait for the next issue of PDS Spirit? Just like these PDS boys filling up the truck for the neighborhood Christian Center this past Thanksgiving, we are constantly filling up Instagram with the latest, greatest happenings on everything in and around PDS.



Follow us on Instagram
[@pdsmemphis](https://www.instagram.com/pdsmemphis)

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It wouldn't be a conversation, if we were doing all the talking. Join us on Twitter or Facebook and let's converse.



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1 CORINTHIANS 10:31 & LUKE 2:52