A Busload of Enthusiasm, Talent, and Hope

These passengers—Lawrence middle schoolers participating in Phillips Academy’s PALS academic enrichment program—receive an extra dose of TLC from program director Tom Cone. Accompanying students to and from the PA campus, Cone (front row) provides an ever-ready “listening ear” and makes the ride comfortable, safe, and fun. Parents appreciate the opportunity for periodic “bus-stop chats” with Cone to learn about the day’s events and discuss their children’s progress.

For nearly 25 years, PALS has been touching the lives of young people in Lawrence and preparing them for a brighter future. Please join our growing list of donors, and keep PALS moving in the right direction.
A Message from the Director

An intangible, indelible ingredient of PALS’ success is the close-knit relationships that develop between students and our staff, school-year volunteers, and summer interns—connections that often continue long after graduation from PALS. With so many caring people providing guidance and support, students feel someone is always looking out for them.

We purposely create the setting and conditions to foster these relationships. The ratio of one older mentor to two younger students offers ongoing opportunities for easy and honest conversations about students’ interests, hopes, and dreams. Whether during academic work at the Parthum School, activities at Phillips Academy, or a chess match, or while walking to sports or sharing meals, interns draw out the children.

Even stronger connections are forged beginning in the students’ eighth-grade summer. We help students and their parents with the process of choosing and applying to area high schools. Choices, costs, and scholarship possibilities are discussed at a July meeting; parents are encouraged to share their aspirations for their children.

In the fall, with help from PALS student volunteers, eighth-graders complete applications to various public and private high schools. Information is provided about entrance tests, open houses, and shadowing opportunities. When acceptances arrive, we work closely with students and parents to determine which high school is the best match.

Though many of our eighth-graders are sad to leave the program, they know they always are welcome back. PALS graduates often return as volunteers during the school-year program or as interns in the summer.

With four or five PALS alumni working in the program each summer, our PALS family continually expands. That we have a daughter and a nephew of PALS graduates in our current program reinforces our sense that PALS already is making a large and important difference in the lives of the next generation.

—Tom Cone
PALS director

“PALS has given my son the greatest gift ever—education. He is attending St. John’s Preparatory School now and wants to become a lawyer. We are forever grateful that PALS is a program available to students in our situation.”

—Hjanette Lebron
mother of former PALS student

Contributing photographers: Gil Talbot, John F. Hurley
SUMMER PROGRAM

PALS’ four-week summer program begins every weekday morning when students board the bus to a warm greeting from Tom Cone, program director. Seventh- and eighth-grade students take separate classes. To build strong bonds and assure the continuity of teaching/learning, they are assigned to specific teachers and teacher interns for the entire summer.

A Typical Day
8:30 a.m.  Staff meeting: planning for each student
9 a.m.    Language Arts: discuss Habibi or To Kill a Mockingbird; write autobiographies
10:25 a.m. Math: small-group instruction with 2:1 student/mentor ratio
11:30 a.m. Snacks and sports activities or music
12:20 p.m. Lunch at Paresky Commons
1 p.m.    Chess, computers, volleyball, or animal handling
1:30 p.m.  Activities, including interviewing graduates and guests to learn about area high schools, chess instruction, science investigation, and field trips
3 p.m.    Time to head home

Parents of eighth-graders visit campus during the summer to meet with PALS staff to discuss options for high school, including finances and scholarship opportunities. A family picnic celebrates the conclusion of the program.

SCHOOL-YEAR PROGRAM

From mid-September through May, PALS continues to work with the same students who attended the summer program. Learning and motivation are reinforced, and teachers address any challenges the students may be facing at their regular schools. The school-year teachers, approximately 30 students from Phillips Academy and Andover High School, dedicate two afternoons a week to PALS.

Tuesday afternoon sessions include Language Arts and Math. Wednesday activities, which focus on enrichment, include:

• Preparing personal essays and high school applications in PA’s Computer Center
• Visiting PA’s Peabody Museum of Archaeology
• Doing community service projects at the Academy Manor Nursing Home in Andover
• Participating in mock interviews and discussions with admission officers from PA and other private schools
• Engaging in outdoor adventure activities (adapted from Outward Bound) with PA students

After the students depart, the interns remain at the Academy to plan the following week’s activities and lessons and to practice teaching.

Parents of eighth-graders visit campus during the summer to meet with PALS staff to discuss options for high school, including finances and scholarship opportunities. A family picnic celebrates the conclusion of the program.

Established in 1988, PALS is a two-year, year-round program that provides academic enrichment, study skills, and learning strategies for Lawrence middle-school students and assists them with the high school application process. At the same time, PALS provides a unique opportunity for Phillips Academy and Andover High School students to work side by side as mentors and teachers, supported by a carefully planned curriculum and experienced, qualified adults. The “PALS” name is derived from the key partners in this program: Phillips Academy, Andover High School, and the Lawrence Schools.

PALS is one of Phillips Academy’s four educational outreach programs that help fulfill the school’s historic non sibi mission to serve the public interest.

“Thanks to PALS and all the friends I met here, I grew up. I am less shy and I speak up more. Thanks to you, Tom, I had the opportunity to meet all these great tutors and students.”

—Kayla
Eighth-grader
Parthum School
Navigating High School Admissions the PALS Way

“I am more exposed to the world of adulthood and high school, and now it is my duty to decide which high school is perfect for me.”

—Junie
Eighth-grader
Parthum School

The vast majority of PALS students are the first generation in their families to attend U.S. high schools. That’s why PALS is dedicated to working closely with students and parents to simplify and demystify the high school application process. This includes exploring the appropriate school at Lawrence High School, public versus private schools, available scholarships, and financial aid opportunities.

The PALS mindset also focuses on helping students zero in on a career and a strategy to achieve it—first by acceptance to a demanding high school and later by acceptance to internships, colleges, and graduate schools.
SEVENTH GRADE—AT A GLANCE

Students begin their PALS journey with a summer and school year of language arts and math tutoring, plus a variety of enrichment activities. Our goal is to build the students’ self-confidence and character, strengthen their academic skills, and help them prepare for the spring Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT) for prep school admission.

EIGHTH GRADE—A CLOSER LOOK

During their second PALS summer, students focus on writing autobiographies. They closely examine their career ideas and create step-by-step plans to turn those ideas into reality. Students also work on developing both short- and long-term community service projects.

Ongoing Collaboration with Parents

An informational night in July is devoted to helping parents navigate the maze of high school options, a process fraught with decisions about school type, size, special programs, costs, and financial aid. At this point, most students sign up for the scholarship-awarding Adelante program at the Lawrence YMCA. Conversations with parents continue at the bus stop and via weekly e-mails and regular phone calls.

“"I learned about many high schools, and this is going to be really helpful when I apply in the fall."
—Angela
Eighth-grader
Parthum School

In casual conversations and more formal interviews, our summer interns, many of whom are PALS graduates themselves, talk with students about their own career aspirations and high schools; admission directors from local private high schools also share their perspectives. By the end of the summer program, students have honed their career plans and narrowed their high school choices.

Preparing for High School and Beyond

Mid-September finds PALS students completing their applications, with plenty of encouraging guidance from PA and Andover High School volunteer teachers. Under the direction of master teacher Alix Driscoll, talk continues about career building and how to select a high school.

Starting November 1, parents are guided in filling out a wide range of financial aid forms and scholarship applications. In mid-November, eighth-graders take SSATs or the High School Placement Test for local Catholic schools; a member of PA’s admission office teaches interview skills. In mid-December all those hard-earned grades go onto the applications, which are submitted by the deadlines.

The big day comes on February 1 for Catholic school applicants and on March 10 for prep school applicants, when PALS students receive admission invitations. Teachers help students examine options, including financial aid.

As the two years of PALS wind down, student teachers reinforce the eighth-graders’ study strategies and time management skills to prepare them for successful entry into high school. Almost all PALS graduates attend college, many return to teach at PALS, and many continue their journey to their chosen careers—a clear win for all involved in PALS.
All PALS students learn to play chess and compete individually and in teams. Far more than a game, chess develops strategic planning skills, patience, and intellectual rigor.
Technology frequently is used to enhance PALS learning, but students in this math class tackle equations on whiteboards, allowing instant feedback from their student mentors.

Facilitated by PALS alumnae, “Girl Talk” gives female students a chance to discuss and seek peer support on a range of adolescent issues, such as bullying, getting along with parents, body image, and pressure from boys.

With the able and patient instruction of PALS instructor Greg Wilkin, students learn the fundamentals of tennis, a lifelong sport that teaches concentration, coordination, and strategy.
Aidan Beckley  
Senior at Phillips Academy

Sahil Bhaiwala  
Senior at Phillips Academy

Nicole Cruz, PALS ’09  
Senior at Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School

Gordon Genett, PALS ’09  
Senior at Lawrence High School

Blake Grubbs  
Graduate of Phillips Academy  
Attending Boston University

Ryan Hartung  
Graduate of Phillips Academy  
Attending Saint Anselm College

Kelsey Jamieson  
Graduate of Phillips Academy  
Attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Lawrence Lee  
Graduate of Andover High School  
Attending Duke University

Luz Lopez, PALS ’08  
Graduate of Phillips Academy  
Attending Yale University

Kenisha McFadden, PALS ’08  
Graduate of Noble and Greenough School  
Attending Quinnipiac University

Ruby Hanako Mecure  
Graduate of Andover High School  
Attending Columbia University

Kate Morris, PALS ’07  
Graduate of Phillips Academy  
Attending Hampshire College

Shailene Nunez, PALS ’07  
Graduate of Central Catholic High School  
Attending University of Massachusetts–Lowell

Haritha Pula  
Graduate of Phillips Academy  
Attending Rice University

Melissa Ragonese  
Graduate of Andover High School  
Attending Columbia University

Kevin Roberge  
Graduate of Andover High School  
Attending University of Massachusetts–Amherst

Carlos Tanuz, PALS ’06  
Graduate of St. John’s Preparatory School  
Attending University of Rhode Island

“[It was] such a privilege to work with PALS for as many years as I did. It was touching to see that Nicole Villar [PALS ’08] tagged me in her Andover senior page as ‘one who gave me strength.’”

—Erika Langley, PALS intern for four consecutive summers, current student at Boston University
Something special happened to Nicole Cruz when she was 9 years old. That’s when she joined the ranks of writers, says Cruz, a PALS graduate who is now a senior at Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School in Lawrence.

“English was my favorite PALS activity because my tutor made it fun and educational,” she recalls. That experience has had multiple transformative effects. As a 13-year-old tutored and nurtured by PALS, Cruz was the first Lawrence student to win a prestigious national scholarship offering financial aid through high school. Now 17, Cruz credits her 2012 summer PALS internship, when she served as a language arts instructor, with shaping her self-identity as a writer, leader, and activist.

“PALS was the best way for me to devote my talents to children who need them, and to expand my community activist skills. The program made an important contribution to who I am. I had never taught kids before, but after my first week I realized I was doing a pretty good job. I became more confident and helped my kids be confident as well,” says Cruz, adding, “I got them to write with emotion and passion. They had so much to say about their lives, but no one to hear them out. PALS provided that opportunity and I was glad to be part of it.”

PALS was the best way for me to devote my talents to children who need them, and to expand my community activist skills.

—Nicole Cruz

Greg Wilkin, the seventh-grade language arts master teacher who worked side by side with Cruz that summer, adds his own enthusiastic chord. “Nicole maintained a terrifically infectious attitude while staying closely attuned to the ups and downs of middle-school life in Lawrence. She embraces the world so widely and generously that her mentorship sends ripples of positive feeling through the group. She’s just what we look for in our young instructors: someone capable of hard work that comes straight from the heart.”

Hard work straight from the heart radiates through Cruz’s other activities as well. She is spearheading a Lawrence movie night featuring a film by documentary filmmaker and Andover High School graduate Macky Alston about openly gay Bishop Gene Robinson. Cruz, motivated by the desire to provide “hope and support to gay kids living in a community that stigmatizes them,” teamed up with her chemistry teacher to found the school’s Gay-Straight Alliance.

Cruz also is fired up about working for PALS again in the future. “When I started PALS, my attitude was to earn money for college. By the end of the summer I didn’t even care if I got paid. The kids and their dreams instantly got to me. PALS really does create change in children’s lives, and I want to be part of that successful change.”

Nicole Cruz
PALS Alumna & 2012 Intern
Senior at Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School
**Where Are They Now?**

**Class of 2012**

These recent PALS graduates are now enrolled in the following high schools:

- **Michael Caban**
  Lawrence High School
- **Alysia Calderon**
  Lawrence High School
- **Lizmary Delgado**
  Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School
- **Jazmin Fleté**
  Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School
- **Ashley Irizarry**
  Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School
- **Gustavo Lopez**
  Phillips Academy
- **Deyquanne Madera**
  High school in Miami, Florida
- **Yamilex Moya**
  Lawrence Business Management and Finance High School
- **Francheska Perez**
  Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School
- **Luis Rodriguez**
  Central Catholic High School
- **Taheena Sanon**
  Lawrence Math, Science & Technology High School
- **Judy Sok**
  Lawrence Math, Science & Technology High School
- **Jessie Taveras**
  Lawrence Humanities and Leadership Development High School
- **Naleak Yim**
  Lawrence Math, Science & Technology High School

**Class of 2008**

How did our 2008 graduating eighth-graders fare in high school and college? The facts speak for themselves!

- **Miguel Arias**
  Graduated from Evangelical High School; **received Adelante Scholarship**
  Currently attending University of Massachusetts–Lowell
- **Rachael Blanchard**
  Graduated from Central Catholic High School
  Currently attending Wentworth Institute of Technology
- **Patricia Cepeda**
  Graduated from Lawrence Math, Science & Technology High School, with honors
  Currently attending Gordon College
- **Elizabeth Cruz**
  Graduated from Lawrence Math, Science & Technology High School, with honors
  Currently attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- **Leila Fabrè**
  Graduated from Notre Dame High School
  Currently attending Assumption College
- **Josephine Garcia**
  Graduated from Notre Dame High School
  Currently attending Assumption College
- **Luz Lopez**
  Graduated from Phillips Academy; **Jack Kent Cooke Scholar**
  Currently attending Yale University
- **Davianne Marte**
  Graduated from Notre Dame High School
  Currently attending Boston University
- **Kenisha McFadden**
  Graduated from Noble and Greenough School
  Currently attending Quinnipiac University
- **Jennifer Navichoque**
  Graduated from Lawrence Math, Science & Technology High School
  Currently attending Northern Essex Community College
- **Orquidia Paulino**
  Graduated from Central Catholic High School; **received Adelante and Montagne scholarships**
  Currently attending Emmanuel College
- **Carolina Santos**
  Graduated from Central Catholic High School; **received Adelante and Montagne scholarships**
  Currently attending Assumption College
- **Dalín Sim**
  Graduated from Notre Dame High School
  Currently attending Middlesex Community College
- **Sabrina Tavarez**
  Graduated from Lawrence High School
  Currently attending Clark University
- **Nicole Villar**
  Graduated from Phillips Academy
  Currently attending University of Massachusetts–Amherst

“I want to be a pediatrician. I want to help single mothers with their kids.”

—Vanessa

Eighth-grader

Parthum School
### High Schools Attended by PALS Students, 1988–2012

- Andover High School
- Austin Preparatory School
- Boston Arts Academy
- Central Catholic High School
- Dorchester High School
- Georgetown High School
- Greater Lawrence Technical School
- Lawrence High School
- Methuen High School
- Noble and Greenough School
- Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School (formerly Notre Dame High School)
- Phillips Academy
- Presentation of Mary Academy
- St. John’s Preparatory School

### Colleges Attended by PALS Students, 1988–2012

- Amherst College
- Anna Maria College
- Assumption College
- Bentley University
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Bridgewater State College
- Brown University
- Clark University
- College of the Holy Cross
- Dartmouth College
- Emmanuel College
- Fairfield University
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Gordon College
- Massachusetts College of Art
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Merrimack College
- Miami Industrial College of Arts and Science
- Middlesex Community College
- Norfolk State University
- Northern Essex Community College
- Quinnipiac University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Saint Anselm College
- Salem State University
- Suffolk University
- Union College
- University of Massachusetts–Amherst
- University of Massachusetts–Boston
- University of Massachusetts–Lowell
- University of Rhode Island
- Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Worcester State College
- Yale University
We gratefully acknowledge our 2011–2012 donors, whose generous contributions once again supported 100 percent of the PALS operating budget. Your investment in deserving youngsters from Lawrence, Massachusetts, nourishes vital hope for the future. The opportunities you provide and the doors they open for so many have a lasting impact.

**Corporations, Foundations, and Group Donors**

- Peggy Corbett Memorial Fund
- Charles E. Foisy & Florida C.A. Foisy Foundation
- Charles G. Pringle Foundation
- Edward S. & Winifred G. Moseley Foundation
- Josephine G. Russell Trust
- Artemas W. Stearns Trust
- Waldo Trust

**Individual Donors**

- Eric W. Baer
- Sharyn Bahn
- Angelina Calabrisi
- Ellinor P. Campbell
- Hillary L. Chute
- Bradford J. Colbert
- Sara F. Corbett
- Laura J. Cox
- Erica A.G. Cummings
- Susan D. Dickson
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. DiResta
- Peter L. Drench
- Alix & Jack Driscoll
- Helen M. Eccles
- Mr. & Mrs. George H. Edmonds
- Dr. & Mrs. Mariano Ezpeleta Jr.
- Steven Filosa
- Alan F. French
- Ziwerk Koru C. Fumudoh
- Elinor Cahill Georgopulo
- Naveen Goela
- Matthew P. Kahn
- Tae Kim
- Marianna Kleyman
- Michael J. Koehler
- Durgesh A. Kudchadkar
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas T. Lyons
- Anne Marino
- Kevin J. McGravey
- Cassandra C. Melvin
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul A. Miller
- Laura N. Mobisson
- Louise J. Morse
- Thomas M. Morse
- Victoria L. Norris
- Matthew R. O’Brien
- Nicholas Olmo
- Dr. & Mrs. Vincent J. Paolino
- Mr. & Mrs. William C. Parsons
- Dr. & Mrs. Richard J. Phelps
- Dr. Gina R. Poe
- Katherine M. Porter
- Mr. & Mrs. Henry J. Powell
- Alexandra A. Rahman
- Daniel & Elizabeth Reardon
- Colleen E. Reid
- Mr. & Mrs. Conrad P. Roberge
- Drs. Hubert A. Scoble & Margaret A. Gruszka
- Desirae N.P. Simmons
- Nancy F. Sizer
- Dr. & Mrs. Robert C. Smallridge
- Jennifer & Benjamin Sunoo
- Sylvia L. Thayer & J. Philip Zaeder
- Jane E. Thomas
- Kristen M. Townson
- Susan C. Tucker
- Dr. & Mrs. Stephen K. Tung
- Evelyn Wang
- Kelsey J. Welsch
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph B. Wennik

**Gifts-in-Kind**

- Melissa Dolan, stuffed animals; The Lawrence Bus Company, transportation support; Kelsey Jamieson ’12, 50 eighth-grade reading books

*Donor list reflects gifts received from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012.*