



Paul Douglass Smith

January 21, 1996 - October 18, 2019

PAUL DOUGLASS SMITH

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Friday October 18th, in the early morning hours, Paul Douglass Smith passed away quietly in his sleep.

He was a member of the graduating class at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Class of 2014, graduate of the Vanguard School of Malvern, PA and was attending the Hiram G Andrews School in Johnstown, PA where he was pursuing a degree in medical office technology. He also attended Montgomery County Community College for art and graphics. He worked two summers as a volunteer and later photographer at Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown and also at Cradles to Crayons in West Conshohocken

A quick wit and warm smile were Paul's calling card. Always caring and empathetic, he constantly put others first. Very outgoing and gregarious, Paul enjoyed spending time with family and friends. His view of life revolved around love and acceptance.

Paul was a life-long student of the arts, particularly music and the visual arts. He was a longtime student of Chris Moos Music, playing piano, keyboard and later composing. He also had an insatiable interest in cartography and foreign

languages.

His love of fine arts included Dali, Picasso, Escher and Haring. A fan of comedy and horror films, particularly films by Stanley Kubrick as well as foreign films. His musical appreciation was far-reaching particularly Abba, Beach Boys, Can, Honnegar, XTC, Kraftwerk and his beloved Pink Floyd.

He is survived by his parents Peggy Bianco Smith of Plymouth Meeting and Douglass Smith of Collegeville, his paternal grandmother, Louise Smith of Conshohocken, his cat Teal and his many aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents Marge and Tony Bianco, his uncle Paul Bianco of West Conshohocken, and his paternal grandfather Ralph B Smith, Sr of Plymouth Meeting.

A memorial celebration of Paul's life will be held Sunday, Nov 24th at Holy Savior Club, 436 E Main, Norristown, PA from 1:00 – 4:00PM. Donations can be made in Paul's name through the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation or the Autistic Advocacy Network (autisticadvocacy.org)

Tribute Wall

LE

“ *Leanna sent a virtual gift in memory of Paul Douglass Smith*



Leanna - November 29, 2019 at 06:17 PM

LE

“ *Leanna lit a candle in memory of Paul Douglass Smith*



Leanna - November 29, 2019 at 06:16 PM

BS

“ *I will always remember Paul. He always lit up any room he walked into and always was in a positive attitude. I thank Paul for giving me the inspiration, determination and willingness to try new things, from the time he came on my bus, having conversations about art, music, and always helping me with CD, to the time he graduated Vanguard. He was a very close friend of mine that I will truly miss. I will always appreciate him. Paul is in my prayers. Sincere condolences to the Smith Family.*

Bryana Stull - November 25, 2019 at 10:02 PM

CD

“ Paul was a former student of mine at the Vanguard School. He was always willing to help a peer or try new experiences. He was fun loving and a great student. I remember assisting Paul with his college assignments and was estatic about going on to Hiram G. Andrews to gain skills for a future career. Paul will always be fondly remembered.

Carol Drabiszczak

Carol Drabiszczak - November 25, 2019 at 08:58 AM

RS

“ When I met Paul he was very friendly and kind to me and everyone I haven't hung out with him that much but I have heard stories from everyone saying he was nice and kind and friendly too I am so sorry for the family's loss as well as to the kids who knew him very well I know exactly how they all feel about missing someone they were close too we will miss you Paul

Ryan Sharrow - November 24, 2019 at 05:42 PM

JH

“ I had the privilege of spending some time with Paul starting February 26/2016 in discussing Sensory Strategies while he attended the Vanguard school. What a charming and polite young man! He was always thoughtful in how he responded to questions and never said anything negative about others.

As we discussed his experiences in day to day tasks, Paul voiced several insightful responses.

When discussing food preferences, Paul said:” I can eat a lot of things, but I am not terribly adventurous.”

Paul said that he moved / rocked when he was “in the deep of things, happy and that is was calming my brain.”

About exercise Paul said:” I typically don’t choose to go to the gym, unless told. Coming to school and walking to classes for me counts as my exercise.”

On the topic of stairs: “some people have very messed up stairs. Too narrow, deep, spiral.”

Paul was part of the Stage crew for our Alice in Wonderland School performance.

About reading: “ I read for my own interest. Email, website. I don’t do social media, as it is invasive and not that important.”

Paul mentioned that he did not like having his hair cut.” I don’t like how it feels when it is cut.”

Lastly... at the time Paul attended Vanguard there was a few people by the same name. As we discussed work, Paul said: “There is an epidemic of Paul’s at school!”

I am so honored to have had the opportunity to get to know Paul as his Occupational Therapist for a short time. Paul’s polite interactions and kindness will give us hope and courage as we think of him.

Mrs. Heighton

Jeanne-Marie Heighton - November 24, 2019 at 01:40 PM

JS

“ I am a teacher at the Vanguard School - I met Paul during my first year of teaching in the Transition Center; Paul was a student in my Careers class. What I remember most about Paul was his humble, pleasant nature and his ability to partake in an engaging conversation. He shared his hopes and dreams with me and after reading about his life after Vanguard, it sounds as though he was on a quest to fulfill them! I am so terribly sorry for your loss. I hope that family, friends and faith surround you always but especially at this time.

Jane Scilovati
Teacher at The Vanguard School

Jane Scilovati - November 13, 2019 at 12:03 PM

ME

“ Paul, Yofi and I miss you everyday. Yofi misses being able to excitement pee on you, when you would sit down at the end of the hall to play ball with him :-)) and I miss your smile, warm heart and your hugs. You taught me so much in your short life and you will forever have a special place in my heart!!

Meredith - November 13, 2019 at 11:46 AM

SM

“ I met Paul at Plymouth Elementary while he was in Mrs. Holland's 1st grade class and still remember his brilliant artwork. He was also in my classes at CMS and PW, and I so enjoyed his conversations- always polite, always kind. What joy he brought to all who knew him- Paul made the world a better place.. God give you His peace.

Sue Majer - November 13, 2019 at 08:18 AM

KC

“ Paul was my very first student at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. He loved to talk about music and art and genuinely made our speech therapy sessions seem more like chats with an old friend. I'm so glad I was able to meet up with you for lunch this past summer. You were a bright light in this world, Paul. Your spirit will be missed by all who knew you. My deepest sympathies to your family. I will always remember you fondly.

Kelly Conway - November 12, 2019 at 12:01 PM

LD

“ Louise DiDonato lit a candle in memory of Paul Douglass Smith



Louise DiDonato - November 09, 2019 at 08:04 AM

JS

“ We were sorry to hear about Paul's passing. I can remember him when he was just a little guy playing his music when they lived in the apartment Louise just loved to listen to he and his music. We did not see him very much over the years since we live in North Carolina. But our granddaughter and Paul were born the same year. Aunt June and Uncle Ray send our sympathy to the family.

June and Ray Scott - November 08, 2019 at 05:28 PM

 Chris Moos

“ *The word for Paul is lovable. He was pure goodness. As stated in his obituary, Paul had wide-ranging interests and tastes. He was knowledgeable in many areas, and his music lessons often extended over an hour past his official time because we'd be discussing music, art, politics, or life in general.*

Paul had an encyclopedic interest in 'progressive' rock and pop music, and he knew more bands than I do. At his get-together on Nov. 24 [1 p.m. at the Holy Savior Club in Norristown, for anyone interested], we'll hear selections by Pink Floyd, Yes, Roxy Music, XTC, ABBA and Prince.

Chris Moos - November 08, 2019 at 01:42 PM

PS

Such wonderful memories.

Peggy Smith - November 09, 2019 at 09:04 AM

SK

“ *Paul always took time to be friendly with me and others for sure. He would tell me about his favorite cars and different places on Earth he wanted to visit. I'm honored to have shared memories with such a kind soul who put a smile on my face simply by his kind words.*

Stephen Krosky - November 05, 2019 at 09:21 PM

MS

“ *Many fond memories of Paul from his days attending Colonial Middle School. I had the pleasure of working in classes with Paul and I remember him well. He was always kind and had a wonderful kind heart. I am sorry to hear of his passing. Blessings to his family.*

Mrs. Stewart - November 05, 2019 at 09:13 PM