

Lafayette Elementary Boys Buzz Hair as Statement of Solidarity

By Jean Follmer



Jack Eisner, Maxx Green, Tom Hofmeister, Ryan Donat & Grant Pedder

Photo Jean Follmer

Lafayette Elementary 5th grader Ryan Donat met Hudson Davis while playing baseball together. The boys, their parents and their sisters became great friends and all see each other regularly. Hudson is a 6th grader at Stanley Middle School and is currently undergoing treatment for a cancerous brain tumor. Ryan's mom, Jennifer Donat, spoke on behalf of the Davis family and said the illness came "completely out of left field for the family. It masked itself with some diabetic symptoms."

Before Hudson began his first treatment, Jennifer received a phone call from Hudson's dad, Greg Davis. Mr. Davis told her "they were going to have a Buzz

Party" for Hudson and Ryan was invited to participate. When Jennifer told Ryan about the invitation, he immediately said "I'm in." Several friends joined Hudson that day at the barber shop and many more boys have buzzed their hair since then. Jennifer said "When Hudson came out of that barber, he was 12 kids deep."

When Ryan returned to school at Lafayette Elementary, his friends asked him about his haircut since most of the boys are wearing their hair longer these days. When Ryan explained why he buzzed his hair, four of his friends decided to buzz theirs as a gesture of solidarity. Grant Pedder, Jack Eisner, Maxx Green and Tom Hofmeister, all friends of

Ryan's, buzzed their hair to support Ryan's friend, Hudson. Their teacher, Karen Chandler, says "I think the kids should be very proud of themselves for showing solidarity for someone that most of them don't even know."

Hudson is completing his second of six rounds of chemotherapy treatments and has a great prognosis. Ryan said "Hudson's going to be fine. He's a really good baseball player." Ryan's mom said "We got to see him last week and he looks great."

When you pass by Lafayette Elementary and Stanley Middle Schools, look for the boys with the buzz cuts. They're friends of Hudson Davis and they're really good boys.