We hope you had a beautiful Thanksgiving.
Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas
and for the gift of peace in the New Year!

Joy to you and yours as we ring in Christmas 2019 and New Year 2020! …and recall anew the announcement of Jesus’ birth, “We bring you news of great joy…” Joy and peace are the promises of Jesus to all who join with him in faith, even a faith that is tested by war and other strife. The fulfillment of the promises of Christmas begins within our hearts.

Having taken on the flesh of humanity, the Son of God who knows the stirrings of joy and of fear within the human heart, raises his hand in blessing and invites us to enter into this season of hope. The light of Christ will not yield to any darkness…May God’s light illumine your new year.

Q2 Interim Reports were available to students and parents on Renweb on December 17th!

As the winter approaches we wanted to remind you that if the school has a delayed opening or weather-related closing, you will be notified by the IRIS Alert System. If bad weather occurs during the school day, we will again notify you via IRIS of any changes in dismissal times. Please make sure we have your up-to-date contact information so that you receive emergency information in a timely fashion.

PLEASE NOTE THIS CALENDAR CHANGE:

Once again, through the generosity of our families and community, our students brought in 12,300+ lbs. of food for the poor, and because of this very successful food drive, the students have been rewarded with a day off.

Preston High School will be CLOSED on Monday, February 3rd!

ANNUAL LOCK-IN, JANUARY 24, 2020

We are seeking parent volunteers to assist us with our annual Lock-In event on Friday, January 24, 2020. Our event, which was recognized and voted one of the countries Top 10 school traditions by Seventeen Magazine, is an overnight slumber party for our students. Our young ladies enjoy music, supplied by a DJ, great food, fun games, movie marathons, etc. Parent and faculty/staff volunteers supervise the girls’ activities in the background. If you can spare 3 hours of your time, please contact Mr. Pipchinski at 718-863-9134, ext. 130 or email him at apipchinski@prestonhs.org.
Note from Lynsey Tortorella, Director of Guidance,
to Senior Parents/Guardians:

All seniors with a January 1st deadline or that wanted materials sent to schools before Christmas break, were instructed to notify their counselor by Friday, December 6th. Please encourage your student to check their email accounts for directions from individual schools to create online portal accounts and to check their application status information.

Many scholarships are available for Seniors. The girls have been told in their Guidance groups about scholarships provided by individual colleges. They have also been instructed to refer to the Naviance website. There you will find under the “Colleges” tab a Scholarships & Money section (scroll to bottom of the page), as well as many links listed for scholarships offered by companies, agencies, etc. Please encourage your daughter to research and apply for this money. Remember: “You have to be in it, to win it.”

Please remember that the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and CSS profile became available October 1, 2019. We have reminded the girls that because each college has strict filing dates for the FAFSA and CSS profile (only certain private schools accept the CSS profile) to please check the college’s website or contact their admissions office for the due date. For a list of colleges that accept the CSS profile, please visit https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/. The FAFSA can be accessed at https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa

To Sophomore and Junior Parents/Guardians:
All students who took the October PSAT should have access to their scores online through their College Board accounts, starting December 11th. Students will also receive their paper score reports from their counselor after the Christmas break. To assist you in understanding the report, please go to https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/scores/understanding-scores, to watch a short video.

Students can log onto their personal college board accounts to see the questions and the answer explanations from the test. They can also connect to free and personalized SAT practice through Khan Academy at satpractice.org, where they can access online practice SAT tests or download paper versions.

Parent Association

On Tuesday, November 19th, Dr. Nik Unger and Ms. Rosemary DeMaio joined us at our PA meeting to share additional information about Preston’s AP and college-credit courses available for our students. The session was very informative and gave great insight to how taking college-credit courses in high school can ultimately save time and money once in a college or university.

All of us in the Recruitment and Development Office would like to thank you for all you do to assist our efforts! Thanks for volunteering your time and for attending our events!

2020 is chock full of many more exciting events, so please SAVE THESE DATES:
Tuesday, January 14th- Parent Association meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 25th, Parent Association meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 7th – Mother/Daughter Brunch at the Marina Del Rey
Tuesday, March 24th - Parent Association meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday March 21st – Preston High School Card Party at Preston High School
Saturday, March 28th – Alumnae Reunion @ PHS for class years ending in 5’s and 0’s
Tuesday, April 21st - Parent Association meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 5th - Annual Golf Classic at Pelham Bay/Split Rock Golf Course
Tuesday, May 12th - Parent Association meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

2
… To our Varsity & JV Cheer teams who are on winning streaks. First, both teams took 1st place at the State Regionals at Hofstra University on November 17th. Then the Varsity team took 1st place in their bid to Nationals at the UCA Regionals on November 23rd! P-H-S YES! Bring on Disney! Varsity Cheerleading Team: coached by Ms. Lori Finelli (Head) & assistant coaches Marisa Caliendo, Alyssa Finelli & Gabby Vitiello: Giana Angel, Briana Boiano, Daniella Caggiano, Kylie Ceballo, Angelica Chavez-Downes, Ariana DiNuovo, Samantha DiTomasso, Ava Ferro, Elizabeth Kalaj, Analisa & Gianna Matranga, Dena Nally, Phoebe Oquendo, Sarah Quinn, Ava Salvato, Elmarina Vucaj, Elizabeth Wickes, Chloe Zerbo and Gianna Zillito. JV Cheerleading Team: coached by Ms. Lori Finelli (Head) & assistant coaches Marisa Caliendo, Alyssa Finelli, & Gabby Vitiello: Patria Agudana, Ashely & Nashley Coronado, Alana DeFedele, Gianna DiNuova, Isabella Lozano, Kalia Noble, Miranda Perez, Regan Perez, Hailey Romero, Jillian Torres, and Jenna Zillitto.
…to athletes Melanieann Broderick and Miranda Loughery, both whom were named to NYCHSAA 2019 All League Volleyball as well as the Division 1 Team. Briana Marmolejos and Kaitlyn Feliciano received Division 1 Honorable mentions and Jennifer Natale received NYC “A” Tier All Soccer League.

…to Sophomore Kayleigh Crowe who was this year’s winner of the Preston Christmas Card front cover.

…Sophomore Isabella Vento who has been selected as Preston’s representative to the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program (HOBY). The mission of HOBY is to recognize and develop leadership potential in high school sophomores. As our rep, Isabella will be invited to attend a three-day leadership workshop in the Spring where she and other student leaders from schools throughout the country will meet distinguished leaders in business, government, education, and other professions. HOBY was founded by the late actor Hugh O’Brian (probably best known for his Wyatt Earp TV role) who was inspired back in the 1950s by a visit to Dr. Albert Schweitzer in Africa where he witnessed a person completely dedicated to helping others and to world peace. At the conclusion of their visit, Nobel prize winner Schweitzer asked O’Brian what he would do with what he had learned during the visit. That challenge to O’Brian sent him on his own mission to educate young leaders to enable them to make a difference in the world. This gave birth to the HOBY program. The leadership seminars are designed to prepare our country’s high school sophomores to become effective, ethical leaders in their home, schools, workplace and community. While the program is international in scope, the student seminars are located in the particular state and region where the students attend school, so Leandra will be participating in a New York seminar.

…to the Compassion Connection club who spearheaded our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Preston High School, founded by the Sisters of Divine Compassion, holds as its mission to change the world for the better through compassion. This was most notably seen in the way the students rallied in this year’s food drive. In the course of six weeks, the student body and faculty donated a record-breaking 12,356 pounds of healthy non-perishable food. The drive was organized by Preston’s community outreach club, Compassion Connection. It was not uncommon throughout the months of October and November to see students walking into school with bags of canned food, cases of Progresso soups, or bags of rice. These were organized and stored in the school’s make-shift pantry on the stage throughout the drive. In the last week before Thanksgiving, pick-up trucks, a small bus, and SUVs were loaded up by assembly lines of students, and the food was delivered in order to do good in communities that need it most. The student body, joined by the faculty and staff, cheerfully donated 6.18 tons of food to several Bronx sites, including Mercy Center, St. Raymond’s, Our Lady of Assumption; and to the Divine Compassion Food Pantry in Dover Plains, NY.

A huge thank you to all the families who donated. We helped feed a lot of people this year.

**RECENT EVENTS**

On October 18th, the Preston High School Sports Teams, under the direction of Mrs. Jamie Skrapits, and the Italian Honor Society, donated $3,000.00 to the American Italian Cancer Foundation. The money was raised through volleyball fundraisers and bake sales. The American Italian Cancer Foundation provides free mammograms to women in need in the Bronx and in neighboring communities.

**Parent Teacher Conference** night was held on November 21st. This evening gave our parents/guardians the opportunity to meet with their daughter’s teachers and discuss their academic progress.

The Italian Program has included pen pal writing with students in various Catholic schools since 2013.

On November 26th, 2019, the Monsignor Thomas Preston Chapter of the National Honor Society held its annual potluck, celebrating Thanksgiving as a Preston community while raising money and awareness for an important charity: the Alzheimer's Association. Thanks to a
remarkable turnout of over 160 students, NHS was able to raise a total of $841 to donate in support of the charity. Many thanks go to all those who attended and donated, especially the families that provided food, and the NHS members who volunteered their time and energy to make it a wonderful event for our community.

In the fall of 2013, students in Italian 1 at Preston wrote to students in Italian 1 at St. Edmund's Preparatory High School in Brooklyn. For six years, the students in both schools communicated through writing and Skyping, and met last year for a wonderful lunch in "Il Gnocco" restaurant in New York City. Since then, the pen pal program has grown to include:
- Italian 1 - pen pals with Fordham Preparatory School and Iona Preparatory School
- Italian 2 - pen pals with Fordham Preparatory School
- Italian 3 - pen pals with Salesian High School
- Italian 4 - pen pals with Salesian High School and Iona Preparatory School.

Students from Italian 2 have met their pen pals from Fordham Preparatory on Arthur Avenue for dessert at Egidio's Pastry and for dinner at "Il Fiasco" restaurant.

All of our Italian class students have benefited greatly in this pen pal program - their writing and speaking skills have improved significantly on the state FLACS exam. They are happy to communicate in the target language in a safe, structured environment.

A Preston classic, the annual Freshmen Christmas Breakfast, was held on Wednesday, December 4th. The event, hosted by the freshmen homeroom mentors and the Junior Ambassadors, gathered the Class of 2023 in the cafeteria for some Christmas fun. The students were treated to doughnuts and juice and joined in singing Christmas carols in the cafeteria. It was a welcome and festive break in the middle of a busy day that brought some Christmas cheer to our newest members, their Junior guides and homeroom mentors.

Continuing a long-standing Preston tradition, the Class of 2020 gathered for their Senior Luncheon on Wednesday, December 11th at the Marina del Rey Senior Class President Syvanna Bay, welcomed the guests and thanked their mentors and Mrs. Chambers led them in prayer. The young ladies then proceeded to dance the afternoon away. Students enjoyed a bountiful buffet lunch before crowding the dance floor and taking countless photos of themselves and their friends. The Senior Luncheon is the first of several senior year social events on the road to graduation.

One of the hallmarks of the Preston Scholars Program is an enhanced Christian service component. Each year, the Juniors in the Program are challenged to “think global and act local” while working in their local communities and raising awareness in the Preston Community. Students spend 30 hours onsite working with a variety of organizations, including neighborhood grammar schools and churches, Preston Center for Compassion’s Big Sister/Little Sister program, and their tutoring program. In addition to their time out in the community, they are meeting with each other to discuss how their experiences have helped them to better understand the needs of others and how to help educate the Preston community about the need for change in the world. This year the Scholars are focusing on the issue of endangered species, and how losing even one species will impact our planet, our country, and our lives, as well as what we here at Preston can do to prevent this from happening. They will be hosting a video presentation, decorating and updating a bulletin board, making announcements over the PA, and running slides on our televisions to help educate the community.

Rehearsals for Preston High School’s musical production of Once on this Island commenced in late October. The Preston
Players will perform this musical February 13th -15th at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday February 16th at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are $15. Group rates are available. For tickets, please leave a message at the box office (718) 863-9134 x132.

Driver Education: The PAS Auto School Spring Session’s orientation date will be Tuesday, February 4th at 3:30 p.m. in Room 102. The cost of the program is $550 and classes commence the week of February 10, 2020. **Students must have their Learner’s Permit by February 8, 2019 in order to participate in the course.**

**Looking Ahead**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 20</td>
<td>Noon Early Dismissal</td>
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**Christmas / New Year Holiday**

December 23 – January 1

**Classes Resume on Thursday, January 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 2</td>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, January 6</td>
<td>Feast of the Epiphany Prayer Service</td>
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<td>Wednesday, January 8</td>
<td>Senior Class / Young Alumnae Brunch. 11am</td>
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<td>Friday, January 10</td>
<td>Service Time Cards due – No Exceptions!</td>
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<td>Driver’s Ed</td>
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<td>Sunday, January 12</td>
<td>Baptism of Our Lord</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 14</td>
<td>Parent Association meeting, 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday, January 15</td>
<td>Class of 2024: Admission Decision Letters sent out via mail</td>
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<td>Friday, January 17</td>
<td>1:16pm Early Dismissal- Grade Level Faculty meeting</td>
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<td>End of Second Quarter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, January 20</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s Birthday – No classes in Session</td>
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<td>Friday, January 24</td>
<td>LOCK-IN 2020, 7pm – 8am Saturday</td>
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<td>Monday January 27</td>
<td>Junior Advisement Day, 8am (required for all Juniors) No school for other grades Jr Ring Night Photos taken Junior Parent Meeting, re: Senior Electives, 7:00pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday, January 28</td>
<td>Third Quarter Begins</td>
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<td>Scholars Reception, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, café</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 30</td>
<td>Accepted Students Information Night, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., café Drivers Education Lecture make-up session, 3:00pm</td>
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