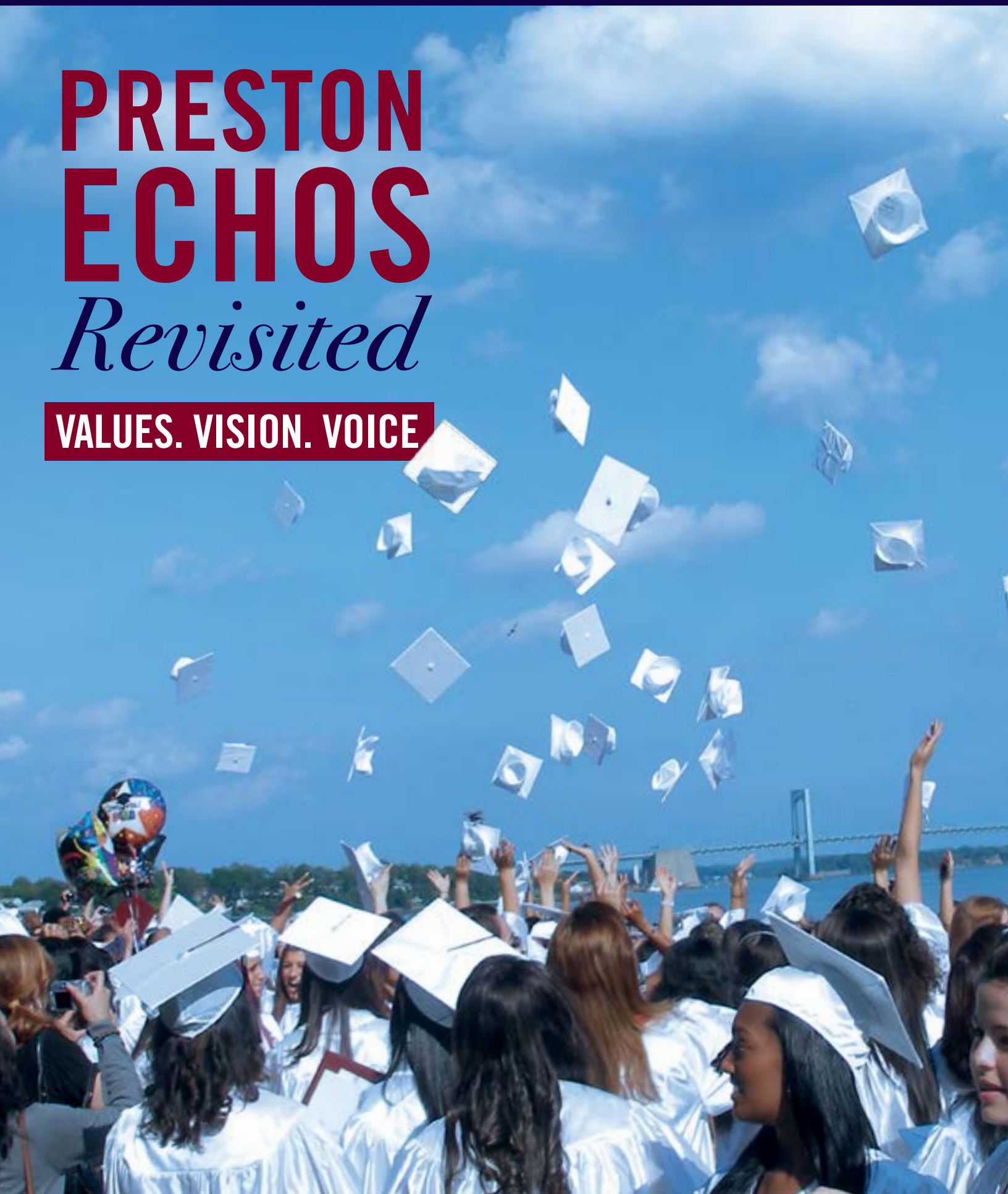


PRESTON ECHOS

Revisited

VALUES. VISION. VOICE





Dear Alumnae Panthers, Friends and Supporters of Preston High School:

I'm delighted to welcome you to our newly reconstituted Alumnae Newsletter thanks to the restructuring of both our Advancement Office and our Admissions Office into an expanded Recruitment and Development Office. We are confident that this restructuring will allow us to better serve our various constituencies, especially our loyal alumnae and donor bases, as well as current and potential students and their families. As the staff settles into their new or expanded roles, you can expect better and more timely communication about all things Preston through traditional means (such as this newsletter) and our expanded digital presence (website, email, Instagram, and Facebook).

In these pages you will find information about recent and upcoming events, news about the milestones and achievements of current students, graduates, and current and past faculty and staff members. To that end, I hope you will share with us your news (marriage, births, deaths, job changes, career achievements, relocations, retirements, etc.). And please don't forget to let us know if/when you change your address, home or email, so we can update our records and keep you in the loop about what's happening at PHS.

What hasn't changed around here is our commitment to Preston's mission to empower young women by providing them with the skills needed to become compassionate leaders for change in their world. And we continue to share the vision "to change the world around us through compassion" with our sponsoring congregation, the Sisters of the Divine Compassion.

Our curriculum is still rigorous and relevant in laying a strong foundation for our students' future success in college and career, in providing multiple opportunities for leadership and service to others, and in creating a welcoming and diverse community of aspirational young women and dedicated faculty and staff.

We continue to rely on the generosity of our alumnae and friends to help us meet the challenges of today.

We are very grateful for your support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Grendell".

Mrs. Jane Grendell, Principal



100%
COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE RATE



BELOW:
HEIDY MARTINEZ AND JULIA MENCAL
CLASS OF 2018

The Class of 2018 GRADUATION

Preston's 67th graduating class processed across the South Lawn on a beautiful, sunny Saturday, June 2nd, 2018. One hundred and two young women partook in the traditional graduation ceremony on the back porch of Preston's beloved Mansion where they listened to inspiring speeches by the Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian, as well as keynote speaker Barbara Burger, PHS '78, before receiving their diplomas.

Principal Jane Grendell welcomed the families and friends of the graduates who filled the South Lawn to commend the Class of 2018 before Salutatorian Julianna Paladino, who is currently attending Syracuse University, addressed her peers and reflected on their years together.

Valedictorian, Annalisa Ginocchi, currently attending Georgetown University as a Human Science major in the School of Nursing and Health Studies, delivered her Valedictory address to her fellow graduates. She shared, "From my very first day at Preston, the students and faculty welcomed me and made me feel at home. The Preston community has become a surrogate family for me over the years and I owe all of my academic success to the love and guidance I received here."

This year marks another year of academic and spiritual success for Preston as 100% of the graduates were accepted into institutions of higher learning. Members of the Class of 2018 earned more than \$23 million in scholarships and grants, with many of our students continuing their education at such schools as Boston University, Drexel University, Fordham University, New York University, Vassar College, Georgetown University, and many more!

65%
OF OUR STUDENTS RECEIVE
MERIT, SERVICE OR NEED
BASED SCHOLARSHIPS/
TUITION ASSISTANCE



Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

MEET THE PHS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

2018-2019



CRISTINA FRAGALE – Senior Director of Recruitment and Development

Cristina Fragale has taken on the position of Senior Director of Recruitment and Development. She has been a strong presence in the school for years as a former faculty member and proud mom of four Preston graduates. Cristina brings professionalism, an upbeat attitude and a love of Preston to all she does and she looks forward to an amazing year connecting with alumnae.

Cfragale@prestonhs.org | 718-863-9134x132



GRACE FRAGALE '10 – Director of Communications

Grace keeps alumnae, supporters, and parents informed through social media, press releases, and the yearly newsletter. Additionally, she plans traditional school events (mother-daughter luncheon, father-daughter dance, card party, golf outing) as well as the annual alumnae reunion. Grace brings her love of Preston to her days and works to keep Preston on the minds of all followers and make events memorable for students.

Gfragale@prestonhs.org | 718-863-9134x143



ANNAMARIA RELLA - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

AnnaMaria is assisting in both the Recruitment and Development offices. Her responsibilities include maintaining accurate information on both students and alumnae as well as assisting in the execution of all events. Her friendly and positive nature is a welcome addition.

Arella@prestonhs.org | 718-863-9134x148



MARGARET AHL DAMO '77 - DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

Margaret returns to PHS as a Development Consultant after retiring in 2014 with 20 years of dedicated service to the Development office and school. She brings a knowledge of alumnae and a love of her alma mater.

Mdamo@prestonhs.org | 917-217-1127

In Loving Memory

Sr. Kathleen McCann, RDC, (formally Sr. Mary Adelaide), a Sister of the Divine Compassion, died peacefully on December 8, 2018.

Sr. Kathleen was born in the Bronx in 1930, the daughter of Thomas and Catherine (Fegan) McCann. The McCann family was a fixture in Throgs Neck. She attended St. Frances de Chantal Elementary and St. Catherine's High School. Sister received her BA in English from Good Counsel College and her MLSC from St. John's University.

Sister began her career in teaching at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in Elmsford and continued at St. Anthony's Elementary School in West Harrison, St. Lawrence O'Toole in Brewster, St. Bernard's in White Plains and St. Frances de Chantal in the Bronx. In 1967 she began a long career at Preston High School as the school Librarian. Sister also worked as the Librarian at St. Joseph's Seminary.

Sister Kathleen is survived by her Sisters of the Divine Compassion, her brother Thomas, her dear sister-in-law, Dolores McCann and many nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. She was predeceased by her brother Raymond and her sister, Veronica Sheehan.

Sr. Madeline Desel, RDC (formerly Sr. Mary Antonio), a Sister of the Divine Compassion, died peacefully on November 25, 2017. Sr. Madeline was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1925, the daughter of Walter and Emma (Hirsh) Desel. Sister attended Bishop McDonnell High School in Brooklyn and graduated from Good Counsel College in White Plains. She received her MA in Business Education from New York University.

Sister's teaching career began at Good Counsel College. She also taught at St. Frances de Chantal Elementary School. Sr. Madeline arrived at Preston High School in 1965 and took on many roles over her many years here, including as a business teacher, assistant principal, finance director, office manager and administrative assistant. In later years, Sr. Madeline also served as the Director of Finance for the Sisters of the Divine Compassion, as a math tutor at the Mercy Center in the South Bronx for clients seeking their GED certification and was a faithful volunteer at the Preston Center of Compassion.

While we give thanks for Sr. Kathleen's, Sr. Carmella's and Sr. Madeline's dedicated lives of service and prayer, we are also confident that they now rest in peace in the arms of a loving God.

TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES IN OUR NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL gfragale@prestonhs.org

On October 13, **Florence Stapleton, '48**, known to the Sisters of the Divine Compassion and PHS alumnae as Sr. Mary Carmella, died peacefully after a brief illness. After receiving her BA in History from Good Counsel College, Sr. Carmella devoted herself to the study of Classical Languages, receiving a Master's Degree from Villanova University.

Sister Carmella's teaching career began at Good Counsel Academy Elementary School and High School. She then moved on to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Elementary School in Elmsford and St. Frances de Chantal in the Bronx. In 1957, she began a long and varied teaching career at Preston High School in the Bronx, helping scores of students learn the intricacies of Religion, History, Latin and Spanish. Sr. Carmella served as Head of Guidance from the 1960s to the 1990s. For several decades, she also served as Moderator of the Preston Alumnae Association, which allowed her to forge close relationships with generations of Preston graduates. To honor Sr. Carmella's long service to Preston, a scholarship has been established in her memory.

Doris E. Yocum, Ph.D. – Died peacefully on July 7, 2018 after a long illness. Doris was a Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Western Connecticut University. She had previously been a faculty member at SUNY Stony Brook, as well as a teaching fellow at the University of Pennsylvania where she earned both her undergraduate and doctoral degrees. A passionate advocate of higher education, she created two scholarships in the name of her mother, Lorena Rahn Yocum: one at Preston High School and another at her alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Yocum was a dear friend of Dr. Kathleen McGrory, PHS '51.

Suzanne Miano Cavaluzzo '80

Georgia Cestaro '56

Colleen Gately '92

Theresa Wolf Kraft, PHS '72, grew up in the Bronx as one of seven children. During her lifetime, she acquired four graduate degrees and excelled in math and physics. Theresa passed away last year of bone cancer.

Kristen Loehman '94 | Mother of Sam Lauriola '15

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF

Mary Ahl April 2018, PHS volunteer for 19 years, mother of Margaret Ahl Damo '77, grandmother of Christie Damo Armstrong '04, Carolyn Damo '08, Meghan Ah Gallagher '04, and Jackie Ahl MacMurray '08.

Annarose Coppola | Mother of Cristina Silvestri Fragale (PHS faculty/staff), grandmother of Grace Fragale '10, Angela Fragale '13, AnnaRose Fragale '15, Gianna Fragale '17

Pia Miller | Mother of Joann Miller '75 and Barbara Miller Ruckstuhl '71; grandmother of Lori Belovin '12

Frank Thorpe | Father of Gina Thorpe '07

Frank Zodi | Father of Fran Zodi Dziuma '70, grandfather of Alexandra Dziuma Orth '03, Erica Dziuma '04 and Katie Dziuma Cavigliano '08

Sal Zottola | Father of Debbie Zottola D'Addio '91 and Father-in-law of Katie Martinucci Zottola '04

ALUMNAE NEWS AND UPDATES:

PATRICIA BANCONE graduated from Preston in 1955 and from Miseracordia Nursing School in 1958. I met my husband Tony when I was a senior at Preston. On Nov. 29 we will be married for 60 years. After living in Florida for 25 years we moved to Long Island to be close to family. I am active in 2 Senior Clubs & volunteer for the New York Blood Bank.



Preston High School is proud of two additional alumnae, **ANGELA ECKHOFF '12** (c. left), and **SARAH COMO '10** (c. right), who have returned to share their talents with the Preston community as faculty members. Ms. Eckhoff received her Bachelor's degree in English Literature from Manhattanville College and is currently working towards her Master's degree in Education from Manhattanville and will be teaching English and Communications to freshmen students. Ms. Como is joining the Guidance Department as the Student Services Coordinator. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Iona College and her Master's degree in School Counseling from Mercy College. They join six other alumnae faculty and staff including (from left to right) **MS. DOMINIQUE LABATE '09**, **MS. MELISSA CASTIGNOLI '07**, **MS. JENNIFER CONNOLLY '92**, **MS. GRACE FRAGALE '10**, **MRS. KAREN GUZMAN WSZOLEK '04**, and **SR. LORETTA SCHOLLHAMER '64**. Sarah Como shared, "I am so excited to return to Preston as a faculty member and hopefully give current students the same amazing and memorable experience I had."



During the summer of 2018, **JENNIFER CONNOLLY**, Class of 1992, and History Department chair, attended three professional development opportunities in Washington, D.C. and Manhattan. Ms. Connolly was one of 20 teachers across the nation chosen to attend the Summer Institute for Teachers sponsored by the American Bar Association and the Federal Judicial Center, which focused on the workings of the Federal court system, and in depth analysis of various federal court cases, including topics such as habeas corpus, flag salutes, and treason. The Institute participants attended a session of the Supreme Court of the United States on Monday, June 25, 2018, heard decisions announced in two cases, and then had a meet-and-greet with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg who took questions from the participants. Later that week they attended a trial in the DC District Court and met with Judge Jackson who presided over that trial.

In July, Ms. Connolly returned to Washington, DC as one of 12 teachers selected to study at the Master Teacher Seminar for the American Revolution at the Society of the Cincinnati headquarters. Participants were put up in the 1905 mansion, and had access to the library and artifacts housed there. While in attendance, she studied the American Revolution as an international event, and created a lesson

regarding the American Revolution and the future of the Atlantic Slave Trade. On October 22, 2018, Stacia Smith, Director of Education at the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati traveled from DC to observe Ms. Connolly teach that lesson and photograph the event for use in future publications.

In August Ms. Connolly attended a Facing History and Ourselves seminar on immigration as part of a grant she and Ms. Esposito, PHS English Department chair, were awarded. The Immigration in a Changing World seminar was held at the China Institute in Manhattan, and focused on Chinese immigration throughout U.S. History. In addition to content, the seminar included various techniques to use in class when teaching what might be difficult or divisive topics. The grant also includes a PD event for the entire faculty, books and resources, and more professional development opportunities throughout the year.



Congratulations to **SHARIX ALICEA '12** on being named a fellow of the KIPP Alumni Accelerator program, which supports extraordinary alumni of KIPP charter schools with networking and coaching as they develop their careers. Sharix, a dual-degree JD/MBA candidate, is the president of the Latino Law Students Association at UConn Law.

ALUMNAE *Spotlight*

DOMINIQUE WILDER MIDDLETON

Author, hairstylist, branding strategist and aspiring salon owner, **DOMINIQUE WILDER MIDDLETON, PHS '11**, is a native of the Bronx, NY. Dominique has a great passion for the beauty industry and looks forward to spending her career influencing it. Describing herself as a purpose seeker, she believes that through her writing she finds her purpose in leading others to theirs. Her best works to date are found in between the cover pages of "The Words I Didn't Listen To" and "IKIGAI." Mrs. Middleton is a lover of God, truth, good food, laughter, especially if accompanied by sarcasm, and great marketing campaigns. The proud alumna of Preston High School, Northeastern University and Empire Beauty School is currently enrolled in a Master's of Fine Arts Program for Creative Writing at Manhattanville College. By day, you can find her in White Plains at DryBar or Renee Hair Studio. Dominique's greatest joy comes from her salvation through Jesus Christ and sharing the most amazing life with her favorite man, Kevin.



WYNEISHA KINSEY

My name is **WYNEISHA KINSEY** and I am a proud member of the PHS Class of 2010! I attended New York University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Individualized Study, with a focus on Black Studies and Critical Race Theory in August 2014. Since graduating from NYU, I've worked as a Legal Recruiting Coordinator at three of the top law firms in the country.

Preston's emphasis on compassion has greatly influenced me. Since high school, I've remained an active volunteer in my local community as a Youth Leader. This position has allowed me to assist with the coordination of a local college fair for local residents, reading and editing college essays, fundraising for local and international missions, and creating sister circles with the teen girls of my community. I am now pursuing a Master of Divinity at New York Theological Seminary and am currently preparing for volunteer trips to Rwanda and Ghana in Spring/Summer 2019.



NEWS *continued...*

Bride **Chrissy Loretta Versaci '05** poses outside of PHS with her maid of honor and bridesmaids (l. to r.) **Angela Celzo Giordano '06**, **Julianna Bonsanti '05**, **Stephanie Loretta '08**, **Susan Amore Lembo '05**, and **Lauren Grizzaffi '05**.



ALUMNAE *Spotlight* continued

AMELIA TERENCE SCHREIBMAN '80 DNP, ANP-BC DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE/ADULT NURSE PRACTITIONER

I am a proud alumna of the Preston High School Class of 1980. After graduation, I attended Lehman College in the Bronx and received my Bachelor's degree in Nursing. I took my first job as an intensive care nurse at North Central Bronx Hospital and in two years became the Head Nurse of a cardiac telemetry unit. I moved on to Montefiore Medical Center and practiced in the Medical ICU.

After all those years of critical care nursing, I decided to try my hand at something different and became a nurse consultant for a specialty bed company in South Carolina where I trained for three months and then returned to Manhattan to consult for 15 different hospitals as a wound care specialist. The opportunity to become a part of nursing administration at Jacobi Medical Center presented itself and this became a career opportunity I jumped at and where I worked for five years.

In 1994 I was again recruited to return to the patient care arena at Montefiore Medical Center to start the first Case Management Program at that facility. The opportunity to become a part of nursing administration at Jacobi Medical Center presented itself and this became a career opportunity I jumped at and where I worked for five years. After I accepted the position, I realized I missed patient care and returned to school for my master's degree to become a nurse practitioner.

While working at Montefiore and attending the College of New Rochelle, I met a wonderful young medical student in 1995. After a few weeks, I was dating him. As life changes, he was going to begin residency in 1996 but wasn't sure where he would be. By March of 1996, we were moving to Philadelphia. I transferred my credits and completed my degree at Temple University. I lived in Philadelphia for 6 years and those were a very amazing 6 years. I married, finished graduate school, started my first job as a Nurse Practitioner for a cardiology practice and gave birth to my first son.

In 2002, my husband completed his residency and fellowship. We were looking for something different and decided to pursue opportunities in Florida. We have lived in the Boca Raton area since then.

Soon after we arrived in Florida, with our 17-month old son, I discovered I was pregnant with my second son. After staying home for 8 years, I went back to work as a Nurse Practitioner and the opportunity to become a nursing professor at a local college presented itself. At this time, I decided to return to school to earn my doctorate degree. I graduated in 2016 with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Grand Canyon University. I am currently an Adjunct Professor at Palm Beach Atlantic University where I teach Medical Surgical and Critical Care Nursing.

I frequently speak around the country regarding nurse practitioner practice and patient care. I also host a radio/video show here in Florida called the 2 Broads from Boca that airs live every Monday evening at 7 pm on Facebook that focuses on women's issues regarding parenting, relationships, dating, current events and health with a comedic twist.

I live in the Boca Raton area with my husband of 21 years, Noah, who is a pulmonary/critical care physician and my 2 sons, Joseph, who is on his way to college and David, who is a sophomore in high school.

Life after Preston has provided me with many opportunities and adventures. Preston helped build the foundation of who I am and who I have become.



AMANDA MATOS '09, COMMUNITY ORGANIZER, ADVOCATE, MENTOR, FEMINIST

While at Preston, I learned about the importance of sisterhood and community building. In fact, my best friends and I are celebrating 14 years of friendship thanks to Preston! We often reminisce about our time in high school together from our plaid uniforms to inside jokes to the Lock-in when we played a 5-hour game of UNO! And when we're not nostalgic, we're supporting each other in our careers and personal lives, always making sure we're all doing the best we can. I have no doubt that these friends are going to be with me forever and me with them. I also remember feeling empowered in classes, especially my English classes. I remember wanting to read more texts by women and my teachers often encouraged me to read books beyond the syllabus and to do research on how the male authors we were reading perpetuate sexism in the characterization of women. I appreciated so much that my teachers encouraged me to explore these deeper issues and not just accept the English canon as is. My time at Preston sparked my inner feminist. Since graduating high school, I've worked in advocacy and community organizing on issues of race and gender. In 2012, I co-founded a nonprofit called the WomanHOOD Project, which is an afterschool mentorship program for high school girls of color in the Bronx. After college, I worked in the reproductive health field, advocating for all New Yorkers' access to affordable healthcare. I started gaining more experience in politics by co-chairing the Young Women's Advisory Council for New York City Council and Girls for Gender Equity. And now I'm preparing to graduate in May 2019 with my Master in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. I care deeply about making sure the most marginalized voices are the most empowered members of society and have a seat at the table. I'm so lucky that my PHS best friends and my time in school helped lay the foundation for me to become a passionate feminist.



NEWS *continued...*

Announcing...

Jackie Ahl MacMurray '08 and Brian welcomed daughter LeighAnn in June 2018.

Lauren Messa Apolito '01 and Allesandro welcomed twin boys Massimo and Valentino in August 2018.

Kelly Skrapits Kempf and George welcomed son Ryan in September. Grandma Jamie Skrapits (AD) is over the moon.

Ligia Velez Torres '04 and Sam welcomed son Orion in September 2018

Christie Damo Armstrong '04 and Andrew welcomed son Landon in October 2018. Grandma Margaret Ahl Damo '77 claims Landon is pure joy!

Jean Zarnoch Kwartler '98 and Stephen welcomed daughter Sadie in October 2018. Siblings Stephen and Lucy are over the moon!

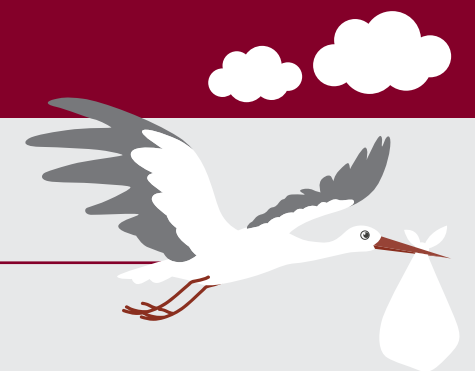
'Iolani Lightbourne Bullock '04 and Cory welcomed Lenox in November 2018. Grandma Zandra Coles Lightbourne '65 is over the moon with the arrival of her grandson

Stefanie Fedak Rodrigues '98 and Stan welcomed their son John Theodore (JT) in November. Big sister Sloane just turned 2!

Nicole Wymbs Savino '04 and Danny welcomed Brielle in December 2018

Nicole Duchatellier '04 and Ed Perez, along with daughter Madison, welcomed their second daughter Valentina in December 2018

Lyndsay Owens and Therron welcomed son Kaden in December



NEWS *continued...*

GIOVANNA (GIO) MILIO POCCIA is a former faculty member who taught Earth Science and Chemistry at PHS from 1997-2002. She shares this story to inform and educate others.

My family came to learn about Lynch syndrome when my brother Romeo was diagnosed in April 2011 with concurrent colon and adrenal cancers. For six months, we helplessly stood by as cancer ruthlessly stole his health and his physical strength. What it could not take, though, was his beautiful spirit and his courage and dignity. He died six months after his diagnosis, on October 6, 2011 at the age of 36, leaving behind his wife and 2 little girls. A part of each of our hearts was taken with him that day. Romeo was wickedly funny, charismatic, adventurous and joyful. We all love and miss him so much.

During that time, we found out that Romeo had a genetic predisposition to cancer called Lynch syndrome. People who test positive for Lynch have a high risk of colon cancer as well as other cancers, including endometrial, ovary, stomach, small intestine, hepatobiliary tract, upper urinary tract, brain, and skin. The increased risk for these cancers is due to inherited mutations that impair DNA mismatch repair. My sisters and I got tested and we all tested positive.

While we didn't have a name to it before Romeo's diagnosis, we suspected that colon cancer ran in my mom's family. My mom and 4 of her siblings most likely had Lynch since they all had some form of cancer (our mom also passed away from cancer when she was 35). My sisters and I get screened annually by at least a dozen specialists, the most important diagnostic tool being annual colonoscopies, which can prevent cancer via the removal of polyps. As difficult as it is to live with Lynch syndrome, I feel grateful to be healthy and alive. We have the knowledge that Romeo was not granted. I try my best to live life to the fullest as another way to honor his memory.

Lynch syndrome is believed to affect 1 in 440 people but less than 5% are actually aware they have it. There is a 3-2-1 rule to figuring out if you may be at risk for having Lynch syndrome and to talk to a physician about further testing:

3 or more relatives with an associated cancer (see above),
2 or more successive generations affected,
1 or more relatives diagnosed before the age of 50 years
(1 should be a first-degree relative of the other two).

After Romeo died, my sister-in-law Marie set up a nonprofit foundation. The mission of the Romeo Milio Lynch Syndrome Foundation is to increase awareness about Lynch syndrome by educating the general public; to provide funding for research for Lynch syndrome and its related cancers; and to provide support to families that are affected by Lynch syndrome. To date, RMLSF has donated \$270,000 to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. On March 16, 2019, we are hosting our 7th annual gala in Romeo's memory.

TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT:
www.romeomiliofoundation.org

Fun PHS FACT:

Romeo taught a lesson to an Earth Science class back in 2000. It was a lesson on pressure and he was describing scuba diving to a captive audience. The girls were smitten. Two students wrote him a love letter before he left the building. **WE KNOW WHO IT WAS...DO YOU? WAS IT YOU?**

TELL US *about yourself...*

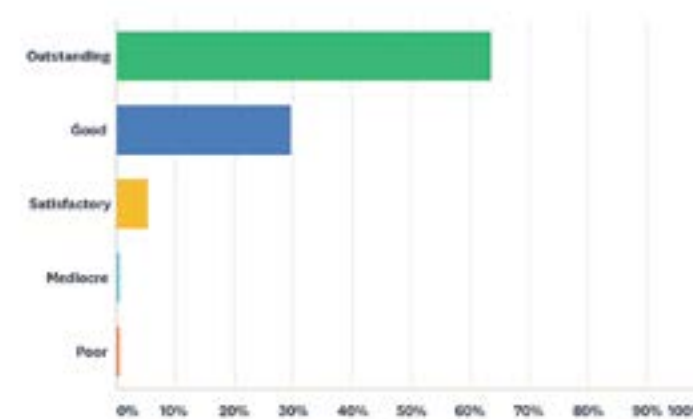
Preston High School wants to hear about YOU. What have you been doing, your accomplishments and passions as well as your opinions and how we can make your PHS alumnae experience a better one.

Thank you to the 175 alum who filled out the PHS Survey on Survey Monkey. We received recommendations, input and vital information to keep you up-to-date on all things PHS.

If you did not receive the email to take the survey and are interested in doing so, please contact mdamo@prestonhs.org.



Q12 How would you rate your PHS 4 year academic experience?



We are thrilled to share some results from the 175 alum who responded to the survey "Tell Us About Yourself"

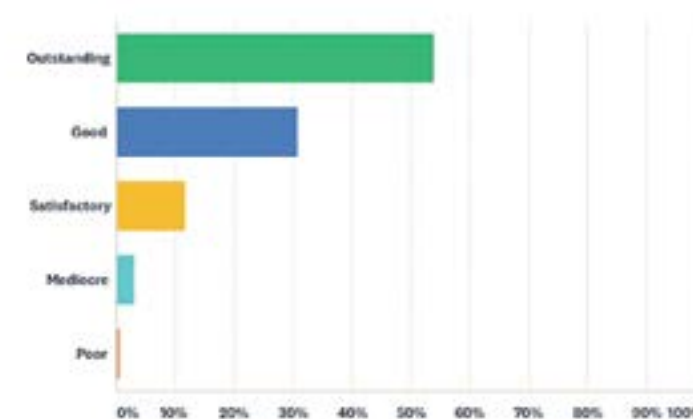
WOMEN'S SUMMIT: Motivational Day for Women and Spirituality Day for Women in June!

more information to follow

In response to our Survey Monkey, PHS will be hosting "A Women's Summit" on the campus of Preston High School sometime in June 2019. We will host "A Motivational Day for Women" and "A Spirituality Day for Women" as well. Keynote speakers and breakout groups will be presented to offer support, recommendations, and examination of self with guides for self-improvement by certified coaches and educated professionals. More information to follow.

Interested? email mdamo@prestonhs.org

Q13 How would you rate your PHS 4 year social and spiritual experience?



EVENTS & UPDATES

ENGINEERING TOMORROW (ET) is a 501c3 non-profit foundation established in 2014 to educate high school students about engineering careers with an emphasis on female and minority students. In August 2016, Engineering Tomorrow made a commitment to partner with the Archdiocese of New York High Schools. Since the 2016-17 academic year, Engineering Tomorrow has sponsored full-day and half-day engineering conferences in each geographic region of the Archdiocese, and all 46 ADNY high schools have been invited to participate in one of these events. In addition, ET has sponsored field trips for student groups to CPV Shore Power Plant in Woodbridge, NJ, Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Brooklyn, NY and a trip to "The New NY Bridge" [now the Mario Cuomo Bridge] that has replaced the Tappan Zee Bridge).

A key component to the ET partnership with the ADNY going forward has been the creation of an engineering lab located at Preston High School (in the former library space) - which is used for conferences, guest speakers, engineering club activities, research, and as a field trip site. There were two key factors that led to the decision to build the lab at Preston. First, ET worked with Preston students in spring 2016 at an Engineering Tomorrow conference at Msgr. Scanlan High School and ET staff and volunteers were impressed by the energy, enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity exhibited by the Preston students in attendance. ET knew this was a school where students would appreciate, and benefit from, a new lab. The other reason Preston was chosen related to geography; Preston is centrally located within the Archdiocese of New York. While Preston reaps the greatest benefit from the lab because it is on our campus, all ADNY schools will be invited to use the lab. Our new library has been relocated to the Mansion and it is beautiful!



STEM CLUB



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT GROUP



CO-CURRICULAR FAIR

Over 30 clubs were represented at the annual fair including the addition of new clubs like Women's Empowerment, STEM Club and K-Pop as well as the tried-and-true Preston Players and Gospel Choir.

GOSPEL CHOIR



PRESTON PLAYERS



OPEN HOUSE

On Sunday October 28th, 2018 Preston welcomed over 600 visitors to our annual Open House.



EVENTS & UPDATES *continued...*



FRESHMAN FAMILY PICNIC DAY

On September 30th, the Class of 2022 came together as a community by celebrating Mass together and then onto food and fun at the annual Freshman Family Picnic Day.



FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE

Father Daughter Dance 2018 at the Marina Del Rey. Adriana Bracco and her dad were named King and Princess of the event.



HALLOWEEN

A ghoulish time was had by all at the Halloween Haunted Mansion. Families experienced a night of fun and games with face painting, pumpkin, cupcake decorating and so much more.

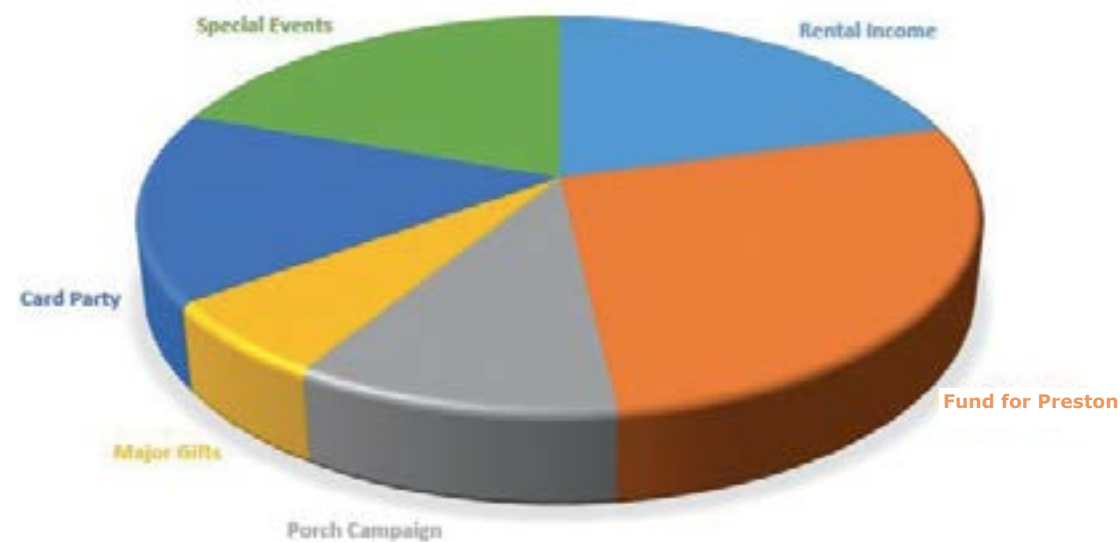


CHALLENGE DAY

Preston High School participated in an assembly put on by Challenge Day, on Monday, November 26th. Challenge Day was created to inspire people to live, study, and work in an environment of acceptance, love, and respect. They believe in working towards a world where everyone feels safe, loved, and celebrated. Using highly interactive and energetic activities, the program provides teens and adults with tools to break down the walls of separation and isolation and replace them with compassion. The Challenge Day assembly is an hour and a half experiential program for schools that increases student awareness and empathy. The assembly featured interactive learning exercises, music and powerful life stories and lessons from highly trained Challenge Day Facilitators. Preston is proud to be the first Catholic school in the Bronx to partake in this incredibly informative and moving program.



RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS



Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find a remittance envelope. We invite all alumnae, parents of alumnae, parents of current Preston students, friends, sponsors and businesses to join us in the 2018-2019 Fund for Preston High School. This fund is unrestricted and the backbone of our fundraising efforts. We are working hard to keep you updated on all things PHS and ask you to consider a donation to our amazing school through the Fund for Preston. Additionally, we offer giving opportunities to the PHS Scholarship/Tuition Assistance Program, the Porch Campaign, numerous named scholarships, several class scholarships, the memorial fund for the Sisters of the Divine Compassion, stock transfers, and legacy giving. Another opportunity to give back is through the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015, popularly known as The Individual Retirement Account (IRA) charitable rollover. This means that charitably-minded taxpayers age 70 ½ or older can transfer up to \$100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to a charity without first having to recognize the distribution as income. Simply put, you can use your IRA to transfer up to \$100,000 each year to a charity without being taxed.

Please feel free to contact Cristina Fragale, Senior Director of Recruitment and Development, to discuss any questions you may have regarding a donation to Preston High School.

PORCH CAMPAIGN & UPDATE:

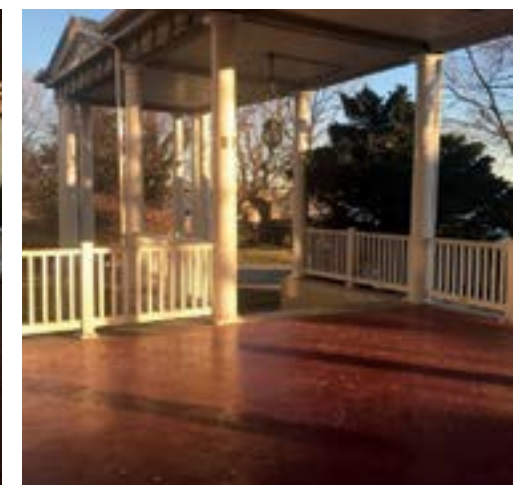
Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the porch received a PARTIAL much needed facelift. Support columns were reinforced and railings were replaced.

The next steps in the project are to refinish the roof and install LED lights in the ceiling. Finally, we will need to refinish the beautiful floor that was the site of many PHS proms!

We are still accepting donations to help us complete the Porch Campaign Project. To date, the \$90,000 we collected was used to repair the columns and railings. We need to raise an additional \$35,000 to reach our goal of \$125,000 so that we may go forward with the rest of the restorations.

PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO THE PHS PORCH CAMPAIGN.

To find out more about donating, naming opportunities or any additional questions, please contact Cristina Fragale, Senior Director of Recruitment & Development at 718-863-9134 x 132 or email cfragale@prestonhs.org





SCHOOL NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:



Preston is extremely proud to announce that this year's Miss Columbus at the Morris Park Columbus Day Parade was our very own, **GINA DINICUOLO**, Class of 2019. Gina has been an active member of the Italian Club for 3 years, as well as an officer of the Italian Honor Society for 2 years. Thanks to the strong efforts and support of Italian teacher and LOTE Chairperson, Ms. Rosemary DeMaio, a Preston student has been named Miss Columbus for five out of the past seven years. Congratulations to Gina from the entire Preston Community!



THE MAIN OFFICE RECEIVED A MAKEOVER AFTER A WATER PIPE BREAK IN JANUARY 2018.

"The Great Flood of 2018" occurred over a very cold weekend in early January when a small pipe burst in Room 220, a science lab on the 2nd floor of the main building, above our Main Office. The leak was not discovered until Monday morning when people arrived to find that a large part of the ceiling had collapsed and water had soaked the furnishings, equipment, electronics, papers, carpeting and had caused floor tiles to lift and crack. Flood waters also damaged the science lab next to Room 220 and Room 101 next to the office. The labs were quickly repaired and put back in service, but the office and Room 101 were out of commission until June. Fortunately, our insurance covered most of the cost of repairs. You can see the results in the photos above.



COMPASSION CONNECTION FOOD DRIVE

This year, under the organization of Mrs. Dora Dekajlo, the Preston High School community donated 11,077 pounds of nonperishable foods over the course of six weeks for the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, surpassing their goal of 10,000 pounds and last year's record of 9,000 pounds. This food was picked up by 4 different food pantries - Loaves & Fishes Divine Compassion Pantry in Dover Plains, and Mercy Center, OLA Pantry, and St. Raymond's Pantry all in the Bronx. Likewise, collected food was used to create care packages for families of Preston Center of Compassion's Big Sister-Litter Sisters (through the efforts of Compassion Connection), for Lamp Ministries' Outreach (Italian Club), and for needy families of Santa Maria Parish (Spanish Club.)



Last year's AP Language juniors studied two units of the Stone Barns Center's recently accredited Food Studies curriculum, and Unilever (who sponsors it) created a commercial for it, using the students' input. Last summer a TV crew called MIC interviewed and filmed the girls, and recently unveiled this video on their website. NBC has aired it as a long-format commercial. This video hints at what some of this year's seniors will study in their second semester English class under the direction of **MS. MICHELLE ESPOSITO**, their teacher.



ROOM CHANGES:

- Library was relocated to the art room (Mansion)
- Art Room was relocated to the former Earth Science lab in the mansion (Room 6)
- Engineering Lab located in former library space

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

In May at the annual Sports Night Dinner, the following athletes were recognized:

- Lou McSwiggin Award – **Gabriella Adorno '18**
- Richard Donovan Award – **Joe DeBona, Former English teacher and Dean of Students**
- Hall of Fame Inductees– **Katie Kilkenny '09, Nora Kilkenny '12**
- Donald Collins “Heart” Award – **Catherine Ficke '18**
- Babe Leath Award – **Kevis Canales-Jenkins '18**

ATHLETIC PANTHERS UPDATES:

PRESTON PLAYERS

Last year the Preston Players performed *Sister Act* under the direction of Mr. Steve Abel who drew inspiration from the school culture at Preston as well as the Sisters of the Divine Compassion. This year's production of *As You Like It* will take place on Thursday, March 14th through Sunday, March 17th. We invite all alumnae, especially past Preston Players, to join us on Thursday evening at 5:30 for light refreshments prior to the show. For more information and to purchase tickets, e-mail cfragale@prestonhs.org.



On Saturday, September 22nd, 2018, Preston High School concluded the celebration of the 70th anniversary of its founding as a private Catholic high school for young women of the Bronx. The event was held on the historic back porch of our beloved Huntington Mansion with its stunning view of the South Lawn, the East River and the Whitestone and Throggs Neck bridges. Attendees included current and former administrators, faculty and staff members, board members, alumnae, and many other supporters of the Preston High School community. The event's honorees included Preston's current Athletic Director, Jamie Skrapits McKillop, her husband, Alex “Buba” McKillop, Maria Mitarotonda Cipollone '80, Virginia McGovern Giuffre '61, and posthumously, Sr. Mary Ellen Bernard, RDC and Sr. Madeline Desel, RDC.

Proceeds raised at this event went towards the Student Scholarship Campaign which will enable young

women to further their education who would otherwise not be able to attend a school such as Preston without financial assistance. Scholarship support remains our top fundraising priority in order to give as many students as possible the opportunity of a lifetime.



CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Letter from Alum:

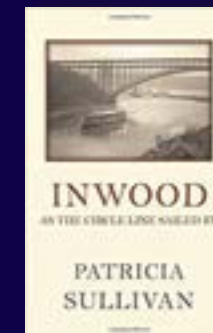
To all who make PHS what it is:

It is with gratitude to Preston High School that I am frequently cognizant of the outstanding education and quality of spiritual and compassionate guidance that continues to enrich my life and all whom I touch in my various “missions” even after 57 years!

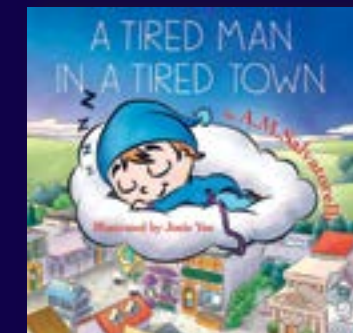
PalmaJean DeFilippo Sloane, Class of 1961



We are proud to spotlight some of the published authors within the Preston community:



Catherine Patricia Sullivan '59



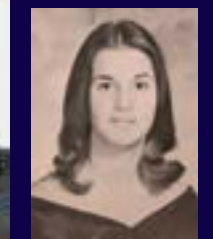
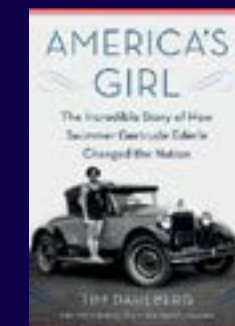
Deacon Mike, current Theology teacher



Carole Ann Moleti '75



Kristin Sample, former faculty member



Mary Ederle Ward '76



PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL
— EST. 1947 —

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TELL US YOUR NEWS
gfragale@prestonhs.org

SAVE THE DATE:

**WOMEN'S
SUMMIT**
June 2019

**ALUMNAE
REUNION**

Saturday, April 13

SUPER RAFFLE PRIZES:

FIRST PRIZE: \$5,000

2ND PRIZE: \$2,500

3RD: \$1,000

4TH: \$500

5TH: \$250

PRESTON PLAYERS PRESENT AS YOU LIKE IT

ALUMNAE NIGHT: Thursday, March 14

Join us for a pre-show reception 5:00 pm

RSVP to gfragale@prestonhs.org

CARD PARTY/SUPER RAFFLE DRAWING:

Saturday, March 30th

ALUMNAE REUNION: Saturday, April 13

11TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING: Tuesday, May 7

If you would like to RSVP or donate prizes, sponsorships or for more information, contact gfragale@prestonhs.org.

Super Raffle

Preston High School will once again sell Super Raffle tickets as part of a fundraiser to go towards the Fund for Preston. Tickets sell for \$25 each or 5 for \$100 with five chances to win!

To purchase tickets email gfragale@prestonhs.org
or call 718-863-9134 ext. 143

TELL US YOUR NEWS [GFRAGALE@PRESTONHS.ORG](mailto:gfragale@prestonhs.org)