



PRESTON PARENT BULLETIN

December 2023

*We hope you had a beautiful Thanksgiving with family and friends.
Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas
and for the gifts of peace and good health in the New Year!*

“Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. If we think on these things, there will be born in us a Savior and over us will shine a star sending it’s gleam of hope to the world.”- Calvin Coolidge



Joy to you and yours as we ring in Christmas 2023 and New Year 2024! ...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.

Q2 Interim Reports were made available on the Parent Portal on December 14th!

PARENT ASSOCIATION

The January Parent Association meeting will be in-person on Tuesday January 9th. Mrs. Maria Droni, our ADAPP counselor, will present Hidden in Plain Sight- an Interactive Educational Experience for Parents on Tuesday, January 9th, immediately after the monthly Parent Association meeting at 6:30pm. No students are allowed. The February Parent Association meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday February 13th and Mrs. Wyneisha Hunt, PHS DEI specialist, will be present.

Young Alumnae Brunch

On January 4th, we welcome graduates from the classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 to join us at 11:00AM. Guests will have the

opportunity to reminisce with former classmates and share advice with the graduating seniors on life after high school. If you have a recent alumna in your household or know a recent alumna, please share this information with them. (Flyer attached at the end of this bulletin.)

Card Party

Preston High School's Annual Card Party will be March 16th and this year's theme is Roaring 20s! The Card Party is Preston's biggest annual fundraiser but it cannot be done without your help. We are accepting donations of brand new household items as well as gift cards to local businesses. (Flyer attached at the end of this bulletin.)

RECENT EVENTS

Preston concluded another very successful **Food Drive** in November. Students and Faculty collected 5896 lbs of food and \$6318. The food and money were donated to St Anthony's Pantry, St Francis of Rome Pantry, St. Raymond's Pantry, Center of Compassion Pantry, Lamp Ministries, Preston Center of Compassion, and the Mary Clancy Foundation. Thank you to all who very generously donated.



On November 15th the **Italian Club** welcomed guest speaker, Mrs. Ruth Vega, Executive Director of the **Italian American Cancer Foundation**, to their weekly meeting. Mrs. Vega provided a breast cancer awareness and prevention presentation in addition to providing healthy snacks for the club members. The Italian Club, under the moderation of Ms. DeMaio, our Athletic Director, Ms. Skrapits, and our Sports teams have been donating to the Italian American Cancer Foundation for over ten years.

On November 14, the **Sophomore Class** of 2026 spent a day in **retreat**. Students enjoyed each other's presence not only in fun activities, but also in having the opportunity to reflect on how they are



"Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" by God. Most notably, for the first time, students participated in a Living Rosary - taking turns passing the microphone, leading the class in praying and lighting candles that represented the beads of the rosary.

The **Italian Honor Society** made 12 new Christmas Packages of hats, gloves, socks, and scarves, candy and Italian handmade Christmas cards translated into English. The officers and Ms. DeMaio delivered these packages to LAMP Ministries on December 6th.



The **Italian Club's annual Christmas Party** hosting 40 members of the PCC Senior Run program took place on December 7th. The students and their senior friends enjoyed pizza, homemade desserts and played Tombola for prizes.



Our annual **Freshman Christmas breakfast**, which took place on December 1st, was a success. Hosted by the Junior Ambassadors and Student Council, our freshman students gathered in the cafeteria for an assortment of muffins, croissants, and refreshing juice while listening to and singing along to festive Christmas tunes. The tradition fosters connections within our Preston student community and continues to

provide a warm, comforting welcome to our newest class. Many of them enjoyed taking pictures with Christmas-themed props to remember the event.



Our annual **Sophomore/Junior social** was held on December 9th. Sophomores and Juniors dressed up for the special occasion, danced, ate and had a wonderful time.

Our 2nd annual **Teenage Mental Wellness** was held during the first two weeks of December, with extended grade level homerooms. Jennifer

Monness, Founder & Director of The Meditation Lab, led the homerooms and students left the with some exercises that they can use on their own to help when they are stressed. Depending upon the funding we receive, we hope to provide mental wellness extended homerooms at least once a year.

Instant Decision Days at Preston has thus far resulted in the following College Acceptances:

Iona University- accepted all 47 students who applied for the instant decision.

Pace University- accepted all 39 who applied

Dominican University: accepted all 27 who applied

Manhattan College: accepted all 19 who applied

St. John's University: accepted all 25 who applied

University of New Haven: accepted all 13 who applied.

Quinnipiac University and the **College of Mount St. Vincent** will conduct their instant decision days in January.

The Senior Luncheon, the first of our senior events, was held on December 14 at the Marina Del Rey. Our seniors danced the afternoon away and a great time was had by all.



Looking Ahead



Christmas / New Year Holiday
 December 22 – January 2
Classes Resume on Wednesday, January 3



- December 21st End of Day Christmas Assembly- Christmas Theme dress up (no charge)
EARLY Dismissal at Noon

- December 22nd - January 2nd – Christmas / New Year Holiday break**

- Wednesday, January 3 Classes Resume

- Thursday, January 4 **Senior Class / Young Alumnae Brunch**

- Friday, January 5 Feast of the Epiphany Prayer Service

- Sunday, January 7 Baptism of Our Lord

- Tuesday, January 9 Human Trafficking Awareness Assembly**
Parent Association meeting, 6:30 pm – IN PERSON

- Friday, January 12 Second Quarter Service Time Cards due

- Monday, January 15 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s Birthday – No classes in Session**

- Wednesday, January 17 Class of 2028: **Admission Decision Letters released after 4PM**

- Friday, January 19 **1:30pm Early Dismissal- Grade Level Faculty meeting**
End of Second Quarter

- Monday, Jan. 22 – Jan. 26 School Exams**
No Co-Curricular/Sports/Musical activities permitted between 1/19 -1/26

- Friday, January 26 LOCK-IN: Begins Friday @ 7:00PM and Ends Saturday @ 8:00AM**

- Monday January 29 **Third Quarter Begins**
 Spirit Week Begins

- Tuesday, January 30 Scholars Reception, 6:30 pm, gym & café

- Thursday February 1 Accepted Students Information Night, 6:30 pm, gym & café