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# PRESTON PARENT BULLETIN

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February 2024

## Welcome Signs of Spring!

Maybe? Surely nature is encouraging us to “hang in” for another month as we watch winter wind down to usher in softer sounds and colors. In that same spirit of anticipation, we began the Lenten season here on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday. Preparing for Easter, the highlight of the liturgical year, we likewise confront our own winter seasons, asking God to convert the good desires in our hearts into actions that proclaim our faith, our own interior Spring.

### FINANCIAL AID

(Current 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> graders) Deadline for 2024-25 **Financial Aid** application is **April 30, 2024**. Our application may be located on our Website: [www.Prestonhs.org](http://www.Prestonhs.org) ADMISSIONS → Financial Aid and in the 2024-25 tuition cover email that was sent out by Ms. Traina to all returning families on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Attention Junior Parents and Guardians:

- 1) Junior Advisement Day, which provides your students information on their senior elective options, will be held on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2) Herff Jones will be at Preston on March 21<sup>st</sup> to collect the final payments for your daughter’s school ring. You may also make your final payment electronically at <http://www.highschool.herffjones.com/>. The Junior Ring Night ceremony will be Friday, April 12, 2024

### Attention Sophomore Parents and Guardians:

Looking forward to the 2024-2025 Academic year, we note that both Lent and Ramadan run through the months of March and April, the usual months that our Juniors would receive their Preston school rings at the Ring Night Ceremony. In order to be respectful to all, we have moved the Junior Ring Night Ceremony, for our current sophomore class, from Spring 2025 to November 8, 2024. As such, Jose Marine, our Herff Jones representative, will be at Preston on February 27, 2024 to introduce the ring ordering process to our sophomore class and answer any questions that they may have. Ring orders and measurements will be taken on March 11<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup>.

### From Our Counseling Dept.

This is a friendly reminder that the Counseling Department will be hosting [Preston High School’s Annual College Fair](#) for all Sophomore & Junior students on Thursday, March 21st from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. We are excited to host college representatives from numerous CUNY (The City University of New York) and SUNY (The State University of New York) campuses as well as various private institutions from all over New York and even some from out-of-state. We encourage students to ask questions and gain further knowledge about programs of study and the college selection and application process.

We are delighted to announce that Saint Peter's University will be hosting the MetroJet College Fair at Preston on March 11th during the school day.

[A Black History Month](#) + [Self care plan](#) and resources email was sent out from the Counseling Department on 2/14 with an invite to join the raffle of two sets of tickets for you and a guest to visit the [Brooklyn Museum and explore the Giants Exhibit](#). This remarkable collection of art, generously donated by Swizz Beatz and Alicia

Keys, offers a unique perspective on Black history and culture. In times of struggle, it is essential to remember that everyone deserves compassion and support, especially when it comes to emotional well-being. Regardless of race, religion, or gender, accessing support for mental health should be readily available. However, we acknowledge that in some communities, obtaining this assistance can be more challenging. Therefore, we want to emphasize the importance of self-care, particularly in celebrating one's Black identity.

### **Attention Junior parents/guardians Again:**

This is a friendly reminder that [registration](#) for the March, May and June Digital SAT is now open. The cost of the SAT is \$60 unless your student qualifies for a fee waiver, in which case they are entitled to two free tests. Please review the [SAT Fee Waiver Eligibility](#) from the College Board to see if your student qualifies for the fee waiver. If they do qualify, please have your student provide Mrs. Murphy with the appropriate documentation (snap letter, a student's SSI letter, or first two pages of your most recently filed 1040 tax forms) to confirm eligibility. Once a student's eligibility is verified, Mrs. Tortorella will provide the student with a fee waiver code to use at the time of registration. This information can also be found on the grade level counseling Google classroom. [Digital SAT practice](#) is free and available to all students through the Bluebook™ testing app already on their chromebooks. Students can take a full-length digital practice test, view their results, and get linked to additional instructional materials, resources, and lessons on Official Digital SAT Prep on Khan Academy®.

Other upcoming **College Fairs:**

#### [NACAC Virtual College Fairs :](#)

- Sunday, Feb. 18
- Sunday, Mar. 24
- Sunday, Apr. 21

#### [SUNY College Fairs :](#)

- Sunday, April 14, 2024

**Location:** The Nike Track & Field Center at The Armory  
216 Fort Washington Ave  
New York, NY 10032

#### [NACAC National College Fair -In person](#)

- New York: Sunday, March 10

12:00pm - 4:00pm

**Location:** Jacob K. Javits Convention Center  
429 11th Ave  
New York, NY 10001

## **Parent Association News**

### **Roaring 20s Card Party**

This year the Card Party will be March 16th and the theme is ... Roaring 20s! This event is a huge undertaking and your help in any way is very much appreciated. See below for ways you can get involved:

- **Gift Donations:** Each grade level has been assigned a category and we ask that each family contribute at least one item towards the category. These lists are not all-inclusive, just sharing some ideas. Any gifts must be new and unopened!  
Freshmen - Cleaning products. Examples:

dustbuster, UV sanitizer, o-cedar bucket and mop, lysol/clorox wipes, sponges, windex, gift certificate for cleaning service, etc.

Sophomores - laundry products. Examples: laundry basket, hamper, detergent, drying rack, hangers, laundry tools and gadgets, iron, steamer, dryer sheets, etc.

Juniors - sports and games. Examples: basketballs, soccer balls, outdoor games, board games, "summer fun", etc.

Seniors - self-care. Examples: gift

certificates to spa, bath salts, shower steamers, etc.

- **Gift Certificates:** If you or a friend own a business, we hope you'll consider donating a gift certificate or two. You will be included in the program. Contact me with questions.
- **Monetary Donations:** If you'd like to become a sponsor or make a donation towards a money tree in honor of a student or alumna, those can be done via the link below or by sending in a check in an envelope with the student. You will be included in the program.
- **Wrapping:** With over 300 prizes, there will also be lots of wrapping to do. We'd love for those "master wrappers" to share their talents if possible. Please complete this form if interested in volunteering: <https://forms.gle/9TUoW92ghnenrJjB9>  
Wednesday, February 28th at 3pm
- **Volunteer:** If you don't want to take your chances at playing, you can still help by working the evening and getting a feel for what the night is like. Please complete this form if interested in

volunteering: <https://forms.gle/9TUoW92ghnenrJjB9>

- **Attend:** Tickets are \$30 per person or \$270 for a table of 10. Call your friends, pack some snacks, fill the cooler and join us!

This link can be used to purchase tickets and to donate a money

tree: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/MLYhs808> .

### Parent Association

The next Parent Association meeting will be March 12th at 6:30pm at PHS.

### Alumnae Reunion

Celebrating all but recognizing classes ending in 4s and 9s, the Alumnae Reunion will be on Saturday April 27th, 2024. Link for tickets: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/WT11gs9s>

### Golf Outing

Mark your calendars! Preston's 15th Annual Golf Outing is Thursday May 9th. Sponsorships and golf tickets can be purchased

here: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/nMwUk0Qy>

## RECENT EVENTS

Congratulations to...

All students named to the Honor Roll,

We are very proud of your diligence and achievement, BRAVA! BRAVA!

Complete list will soon be available on our website [www.Prestonhs.org](http://www.Prestonhs.org), under Academics

On Wednesday January 17th, students in Ms. Connolly's Introduction to **Law class** met via Zoom with attorney Joanne Fanizza and scholars from the National Constitution Center to discuss the 1st amendment and how those rights apply in schools.



Ten members of the **Italian Club** volunteered their afternoon on January 31<sup>st</sup> to make 24 Valentine's Day Toiletry Items Gift Packages for the women in shelters. These young ladies then delivered the packages to LAMP Ministries.



The **Leaders of Color** club had a successful [Black History Showcase assembly](#) and their [annual Paint n Sip](#) on February 6th. These annual events are a reminder that in 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History month. In his speech, President Ford urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Students created a video about what black history meant to them which will be posted on YouTube soon. During the assembly the club presented educational videos and an interactive piece about the history of Step. Students were able to Step together and empower each other in the name of Black History Month. They all came together to continue their celebration at the Paint n Sip afterschool.

**Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson** gave an inspiring speech to the student body on Wednesday, February 14th. In it, she spoke about the history and importance of the Bronx, about opportunities for students to get involved in City government and local Community Boards, and why being involved in government is important and empowering. The BP answered some questions from students and expressed an interest in returning to the school.



### **Other Sports New:**

FYI- Our Athletic Department is running a lottery fundraiser to support our sports program. For more information, please contact Jamie Skrapits, our Athletic Director, at 718-710-8849.

Calendar on the Next Page

## Looking Ahead

- Friday, February 16 1:30pm for Faculty meeting
- Monday, February 19 Presidents Holiday, **NO CLASSES**

### **PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED FROM FEBRUARY 19-23**

- Monday, February 26: Classes resume
- Thursday, February 29 **2024-2025 Re-Registration Period Opens for grades 9-11**
- Friday, March 1 **Junior Advisement, No School for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> graders**
- Saturday, March 2 **Mother/Daughter Brunch @ Marina del Rey, 11AM-3PM**
- Tuesday, March 5 Co-Co Dance Marathon, 3pm – 5pm
- **Wednesday, March 6 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Interim Grades Released after 5pm**
- Saturday, March 9: Placement Exam/Registration for the Class of 2028, 8:30am–2pm, gym & cafe
- Sunday, March 10: St. Patrick’s Day Parade, 9am Line-up at 11am  
**Daylight Savings time ends**
- Tuesday, March 12: Annual Ceili, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- Friday, March 15: 1:30 p.m. Dismissal
- Saturday, March 16: Preston’s Annual Card Party Wednesday,
- Sunday, March 17 Feast of St. Patrick
- Monday, March 18: Junior Retreat
- Thursday, March 21: Final Herff Jones Jr. Ring Payment due (during lunches)
- Tuesday, March 26: **2024-2025 Re-Registration Period Closes for grades 9-11**