



PRESTON PARENT BULLETIN MAY 2024

Our fundamental task as human beings is to seek out connections - to exercise our imaginations. It follows then, that the basic task of education is the care and feeding of the imagination.

--Katherine Paterson

We are proud to announce that, thus far, our seniors have submitted college acceptance documentation from a variety of schools including, but not limited to: CUNY School of Medicine B.S./M.D. Sophie Davis Biomedical Education Program (3 students accepted), NYU, Cornell University, Sarah Lawrence College, Fordham University, UCONN, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, Pace University, Penn State, University of Alabama, Morgan State University, University of Rhode Island, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, College of Charleston, Coastal Carolina University, St. John's University, Hofstra University, Iona University, Elmira College, and numerous SUNY and CUNY campuses and honors programs.

Parent Auxiliary News:

Preston HS Golf Outing

Preston's Annual Golf Outing took place at Pelham Bay/Split Rock Golf Course & Posto 22 on Thursday, May 9th, 2024. This year's honoree was Donald Gallant, Jr., contractor for Preston High School for 30+ years. We had over 60 golfers and many sponsorships which helped us to raise much needed funds to go towards our Scholarship Fund. Special thanks & gratitude go out to all the parents who participated by golfing, taking a sponsorship, or making a donation to ensure the success of this venture!

Parent Association

Thank you to all of the parents, grandparents and friends who helped, volunteered, donated, and/or supported the 2023-2024 events! We are very grateful for your support and for your generous

spirit. On behalf of all at Preston High School, we would also like to say farewell to our senior parents! Your dedication and support over the past four years has been amazing. We wish you and your graduating seniors the best of luck as they leave Preston and continue their journey onward! You will always be a Preston Parent!

Please consider joining the 2024-2025 Parent Association as a Class Captain if you are a Class of 2025, 2026, or 2027 parent. The Recruitment and Development Office would not be successful without the help of our dedicated parents. If you have any other questions, please reach out to Ms. Gabriela Del Valle at gdelvalle@prestonhs.org.

Again, we thank you for a great school year and wish you a relaxing summer. See you in September!

Summer Reading

Preston's Summer Reading assignments will be posted on the school's website (www.prestonhs.org), under "Academics>Academic Departments>English>Summer Reading" by early June. Please click on the specific grade level to find particular book lists and their accompanying assignments. Please note that, while students receive reading tasks, additional, brief writing assignments enable better understanding of their reading. After all, reading and writing as much as possible amount to the best ways for students to improve vocabulary and thinking skills. Some courses, especially AP and Theology classes, may also require specific tasks in addition to the general grade level requirements. Please, in any case, encourage your daughter to manage her time wisely during the summer months and to avoid waiting until the last days of summer to complete her assignments. She should keep a record of the books she reads (especially title & author), and should prepare herself to discuss and/or write about these works come September

Requirements for Promotion:

Please take time to review academic requirements on page 12 of the Student Calendar/Handbook (Planner), and attendance policies pp 17-19, and especially pp. 11, regarding attendance at exams. School policy requires that students pass ALL courses and required exams, both NYS Regents and school-generated tests. As you are aware, diploma requirements include a passing grade in certain Regents exams, also noted in the Handbook on page 9. Students who fail courses or Regents exams are not eligible to return to Preston unless the failed course and/or exam are re-taken in summer school. Students failing three or more courses in June incur academic dismissal. No failed course can be re-taken at Preston the following academic year. Summer school information – about both private and public high schools - will be available on the PHS web page in early-to-mid June and at school on June 26th.

Reminder (1): Any tuition payments made after **Friday, May 10 must be made in cash or money order only. Your first installment of 2024-2025 tuition is due promptly by June 1, 2024, for which you will receive a FACTS reminder ten (10) prior.**

Reminder (2): Report Card grades will be made available the evening of Wednesday, June 23rd. **If your daughter's grades are not available due to an Academic, Debt Sheet or Financial Hold, then she must report to school on Thursday, June 27th.** It is *not* required that parents accompany their daughter to pick up her report card on this day. Counselors and teachers will give students the information necessary to register in the various summer schools. **Please speak to your daughter, prior to the 26th, about which summer remediation program you would like her to choose.** If your daughter has passed all her courses & Regents exams, and has cleared her debt sheet, you and she can access her report card on **FACTS ParentsWeb** on/after June 23rd and she does not need to come in on June 26th.

PRESTON HAPPENINGS...

The **Preston Players** delighted audiences with four amazing performances of *Grease* on April 18-21st. Preston High School welcomed back Mary Katherine Breen '03 as she shared Co-Director responsibilities with her husband Michael Breen. Under the direction of Ms. Mary Katherine & Michael, the cast and crew worked for two and half months to bring this production to life. From costumes and props to lights and sound, the stage crew outdid themselves with their creativity and dedication. The cast shined onstage with their acting, singing, and dancing talents (thanks again to Mary Katherine and Michael, Co-Directors: Ms. Cristina Fragale, Producer: Mr. Gino Irizarry as Assistant Producer and Michael Breen (again) as the Choreographer).

Not only did the students put on a fantastic show, but they added to their own learning experience. The play is a significant vehicle for teaching social

skills, time management, problem-solving and critical thinking. It increases confidence and self-esteem, and provides an opportunity for our students to use and share their talents with the whole community.

Thank you to all the Preston Player parents for supporting your children involved in the play. A special thank you goes out to those parents who provided food for the cast and crew during "tech week" and who helped out selling concessions during the performances.



Our **Step Team** competed against schools from all 5 boroughs and brought it home on April 13th! Third place in the CHSAA competition. Gooooooooooooo Step Panthers.



On April 24, Preston's Class of 2024 joined 2000 seniors from various ADNY high schools at the Senior Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Cardinal Timothy Dolan celebrated Mass in the packed

cathedral. Senior Abigail Hayes was given the honor of being one of the gift bearers during the service. It was a memorable experience for all - especially as the concluding hymn was a Preston favorite - "Our God is an Awesome God!"

Our AP students have been preparing all year for the AP exams that were taken between May 8th - May 14th. They've worked hard and we wish them well.

Preston gathered as a community on May 6 to venerate Mary in our annual May Crowning Prayer Service. Senior Maria Munoz crowned Mary's statue and all in the community were invited to bring their personal prayers to our Mother in Heaven. Thank you to Dr. King for putting together the beautiful service.



Congratulations to...

- ❖ Danielle DeMattia and Christa Petriello were selected as winners of the FIAME Scholarship.
- ❖ All of our sports team players! On April 26th, we celebrated them during an awards banquet held in the school's gymnasium. Each year, an outstanding player(s) from Preston's athletic history is inducted into our Athletic Department Hall of Fame. This year sisters Jessica Signore '13 and Angelina Signore '18 received the honors. Jessica played for our Volleyball, Basketball, Softball and Soccer teams and Angelina played on our Basketball and Soccer teams. Both were tremendously dedicated athletes and still continue to either officiate games, teach basketball and play intramural sports. This year's winner of the Lou McSwigin Award for displaying "outstanding achievement and commitment to student athletics and sportsmanship" was Gianna Barbieri, a member of our Softball

team all 4 years. Marianna Jaquez, who also played 4 years on our softball team, was awarded the Babe Leath Award for “outstanding commitment to the Preston Sports Program, and for the leadership and spirit exemplified by Babe Leath.” The Donald Collins “Heart” Award, was created in memory of the father of Athletic Director Jamie Skrapits and former Swim Coach Donna Callahan. It is given to the “heart” of the team, one who is competitive yet always encouraging to her teammates and who leads by “doing”. The winner of this award was Jamie Kibler, who played on our Soccer and Softball teams. This year’s Donovan Award recipient was Joannie Capazuti, grandmother of freshman Ella Burns, who supported our teams this year.

- ❖ **The 2024-2025 Student Council** “Big 4” elected officers; **President:** Kailani Andrisani; **Vice President:** Amber Garcia; **Secretary:** Sophia Arciuolo and **Treasurer:** Kailey Siegmund.
- ❖ **The 2024-2025 Italian Honor Society** elected officers: **President:** Rachael Trosa; **Vice President:** Gerella Matranga; **Secretary:** Nicole Yencik and **Treasurer:** Mary Trosa

Athletics

- ❖ Congratulations to Seniors Gianna Barbieri, who will be playing softball for Dominican College; Jamie Kibler who will be playing soccer for Maritime; and Heide Lopez Ramirez who will continue her cheerleading career at Fordham University.
- ❖ Our Athletics Department is conducting a fundraiser, to purchase a new Preston school bus, by selling Preston Lawn Signs for \$20 each. For more information, please contact Jamie Skrapits.
- ❖ Our Preston Alumna Soccer game is scheduled for this Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 1:30 at Ferry Point Park. Lunch will then be served on the Preston porch. To reserve your spot please contact Jamie Skrapits McKillop at 718-863-9134, ext. 199.

Looking Ahead

May 16	Leadership Assembly	May 31	Service time cards due. Students must return these documented cards to receive service credit which is required for promotion and graduation.
May 17	Student Council Passing of the Gavel. Last day of Classes for Seniors		
May 20 – 22	Senior Exams	Saturday, June 1	Graduation, 3:00 PM. Seniors should arrive, dressed in cap and gown, by 2:00PM. Tickets required for guests to sit in reserved seating and indoors, in the event of rain.
May 21	Academic Honors Convocation, 7PM		
May 23	Senior Prom @ Lake Isle		
May 24	School Closed	June 7	Last Day of Classes
May 27	Memorial Day – School Closed		
May 29	Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal, 9:45am Senior Class Day 11:30-1 PM.	June 10-25	School & NYS Regents/CC exams
May 30	Required Baccalaureate Liturgy, 7PM at Preston The Class of 2024 is inducted into the Alumna Association	June 26	Final Report Card grades to students & Parents via Panther Portal
		June 27	Summer School registration & students with outstanding debts must report to school.