



PRESTON PARENT BULLETIN

October 2024



It was great seeing so many parents at the annual 11th & 12th grade level meetings! We hope you found them informative and helpful in advising your daughters about their academic goals and college planning.

Interim Reports: On October 8th, the mid-first quarter progress reports were made available to students and parents via RenWeb's Parent Portal. As this will be the first evaluation of the year, it is a good time to follow up on any difficulties your daughter may be having and, of course, to encourage her in her strengths. Please reach out to teachers if you have questions. IR's are not a part of the permanent record, but a snapshot in time to let you know how she is doing.

Parents and students will be able to view the 1st Quarter **Report cards, via RenWeb's Parent Portal, at the end of the day** on Tuesday, November 19th. On Thursday, November 21st, teachers will be available to talk with parents from **3:00-5:00 and 5:30-7:30**. (Please note that **students will be dismissed that day at 2:30** and that there will be a 1/2 hour dinner break at 5PM for the faculty.) In the meantime, do not hesitate to call or email a teacher or an administrator if you have concerns or just want to be sure things are "on track" relative to your daughter's academic achievement.

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS AND THANKS

The Freshman Family Liturgy & Picnic was held on Saturday, September 28th. We welcomed many freshman families for a Mass, lunch, and games. We thank those who joined us and hope to see you again soon!

The PHS Children's Halloween Festival was held on Saturday, October 19th. At the Halloween Festival young children enjoyed pumpkin decorating, arts & crafts, a magic show, games and more!

Preston High School's Annual Father Daughter Dance is scheduled for Thursday, November 14th from 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm at Marina del Rey. Fathers, uncles, brothers, grandfathers, or loved ones, wear your Sunday best and show our students how special they really are.

Come spend an evening full of music, dinner, dancing and photos. Tickets are \$85 per person or \$170 for a pair and can be purchased here: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/mMnBZQMI>. More information has been emailed.

Please try to attend the monthly Parent Association meetings! We will discuss academics, school events, and all the upcoming information you will need for months to come. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12th at 6:30pm in-person. Mrs. Maria Doroni, our ADAPP counselor, will be joining us to give a presentation titled "Hidden in Plain Sight" where she goes through where teenagers can possibly hide drugs and alcohol in their room.

College Information

Instant Decision Days at Preston

What Is Instant Decision Day?

- **Instant Decision Days allow you to** meet with admissions representatives, review your application, and **receive an instant application decision.**
- Applicants will **meet with the admission representatives one-on-one for 10-15 minutes** to review their transcripts, letters of recommendation, essay(s), and applications.
- **This is a non-binding commitment and a wonderful opportunity! Fee Waivers are provided for all students who wish to participate in Instant Decision Days.**
- All students who meet the requirements are encouraged to apply. Please look out for each College/University requirement and Complete the Google Form for each school once an announcement has been made.

Upcoming Instant Decision Days:

***Pace University** on November 13th*

***Iona University** on November 15th*

***Mercy University** on November 18th*

We are happy to announce SUNY & CUNY institutions are again offering free applications for students later this month. We encourage all seniors to take advantage of these free applications. Please take the time to research the various campuses and programs of study by working with your senior to create a safety, target and reach list of schools for both [CUNY](#) and [SUNY](#). We have found this [guide](#) to be helpful when breaking down a college list to determine students safety, target and reach schools.

On **October 22nd and 24th** the Counseling Department will be assisting seniors with their SUNY and CUNY applications. We will provide step by step guidance and a breakdown of how to apply. This information will also be shared on their Counseling Google Classroom for review. More detailed information about both free application opportunities and other resources are listed below.

CUNY (City Colleges of New York):

Seniors can apply to CUNY for FREE beginning **November 4th-November 15th**. NO FEE WAIVER CODE IS NEEDED. CUNY advises the students to apply to 6 campuses, 1 campus being a community college. [The CUNY Application – The City University of New York](#)

SUNY (State Colleges of New York):

Beginning **Monday, October 21st**, and ending **Sunday, November 3rd** students can apply to up to five SUNY campuses with no application fee! This includes all 64 SUNY campuses, no matter if the student is applying via Common Application or the SUNY Application. Click the link [here](#) for more information.

SUNY EVENTS:

Over the next two weeks, The State University of New York will be holding a variety of virtual events to help your students and their families prepare for Free Application Week. Some topics include:

[Which SUNY Are You?](#)
[How to Apply to SUNY](#)
[Educational Opportunity Program](#)

Senior Reminders:

Students must submit a Counselor Review Form 10 school days before the institution's deadline. Students are responsible for turning in a Counselor Review Form for each of the SUNY campuses you apply to. When applying to CUNY keep in mind you will only need to hand to your counselor one Counselor Review Form, with the 6 campuses listed and your CUNYFirst ID which will be sent to you directly via email (after you apply in class).

Scholarships:

The counseling department works hard to update the [Scholarships 2024-2025](#) doc on the google classroom. We ask that you and your student check it weekly since it is a live document.

Please reach out to your student's counselor if you have any questions!



PRESTON HAPPENINGS



- ❖ **Class Parties** ~ In order to strengthen the Big Sister/Little Sister relationships, grade- level parties were hosted by the Big Sister classes on September 13th. Special thanks to Class Presidents and Treasurers who coordinated events.
- ❖ October is the Month of the Holy Rosary and Preston's Campus Ministry is inviting all students to join them on Fridays at 7:30 to pray the rosary in the chapel. 20 students joined Ms. Pepe and Ms. Dekajlo on the first Friday of the month. We're thrilled so many students wanted to participate in this beautiful Catholic tradition. We hope more students can join us as the month progresses.



- ❖ Compassion Connection is back in action. Over a third of the school has joined the club! At the first meeting, students made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the hungry ministered to by Lamp Ministries and they wrote cards and made candy packages for the senior citizens in Preston's Center of Compassion. Also, spare change, donated in Food Fest Friday collections this month, is being sent to Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts. Compassion Matters... Pass it On!



- ❖ On October 1, we hosted Sarah Harris, Senior Director of Education at the National Constitution Center, via Zoom to discuss Constitutional conversations and civil dialogue. Students were engaged and eager to participate

throughout the meeting. Students learned about the difference between political questions and Constitutional questions, how the Supreme Court Justices deal with disagreements during a case, and the role of civil dialogue in their own lives.

The National Constitution Center is a private, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, the center serves as America's leading platform for constitutional education and debate. The National Constitution Center brings together people of all ages and perspectives, across America and around the world, to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. If you would like more information on the National Constitution Center, please see their website at <https://constitutioncenter.org/>

❖ Co-Curricular Fair: 30+ Clubs and Counting!

This year's Co-Curricular Fair was a great success! We're excited to share that we have over 30 active clubs again this year. Even better, several new student-led clubs have emerged, showcasing the creativity and passions of our students. Among the newest additions are:

The Crumbl Cookie Club – where students can bond over their love of cookies and tasting Crumbl Cookies

Track Club – perfect for those looking to stay fit and have fun running,
Pretty & Personal – focused on self-care, fashion, and personal development
MyHero – a club for students who want to support single mothers who are heroes to our students.

Clubs continue to take members, and we encourage all panthers to explore their interests and find ways to get involved. There's truly something for everyone!

Looking forward to all the exciting events and opportunities ahead this school year!



- ❖ The Compassion Connection's annual **food drive** was off to an unforgettable start thanks to Mrs. Dekajlo and Mr. Martinez, who brought smiles to everyone by donning peanut butter and jelly costumes! The seniors took the lead, organizing a conga line in the gym while everyone joined in singing Preston's very own rendition of "HOT TO GO." The moment perfectly captured the spirit of giving and unity at Preston. Now the competition begins. Homerooms are already bringing in canned goods, rice, and pasta as we strive to meet the 10000lbs of food goal.



- ❖ **Pictures, Pictures Pictures...**Our school photographers were at Preston on October 7th for seniors who wished to re-take their formal and/or informal portraits and again on the 15th to take make-up ID pictures for those who missed the first day and to take the Senior Class yearbook picture in their year of graduation pose.
- ❖ **Columbus Day Parade:** Sincere thanks to our students, parents & faculty who demonstrated great school spirit on Sunday, October 13 in

Morris Park. Our participation was arranged by Ms. Rosemary DeMaio and Mr. Edgar Martinez.

- ❖ **Preston's STEM club** recently participated in The Department of Environmental Conservation's annual water quality survey. We went out on Maritime College's research vessel and conducted various experiments on the East River as part of a statewide initiative to monitor the health of our waterways. Student's learned about important health indicators such as dissolved oxygen and salinity and how to conduct and record data.



- ❖ **The PSAT/NMSQT** will be administered to all Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen on October 23. For the Juniors, this is their first official college admission test, which results in students receiving informational literature from prospective colleges. It also serves as the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship program. For the Freshmen, Sophomores and Freshmen who take it, this is a trial run, but since the feedback is very helpful, it is in their best interests to take the exam seriously.
- ❖ Each year the **Italian Club and our Athletics Teams** hold a bake sale, T-Shirt sales and a volleyball game for Breast Cancer Awareness. This year, they raised \$2,200.00 and the proceeds were donated to the American-Italian Cancer Foundation's Breast Cancer Screening Program.

- ❖ **NHS** started scheduling **Peer Tutoring** the week of September 30. For our new families, the National Honor Society members have a service requirement each year and the way we satisfy that requirement is through helping peers with quiz and test prep, homework help, lesson clarification, etc. A member of the NHS is paired up with someone who has requested tutoring and they meet up during studies, after school, or before school. Please click [here](#) to complete the request form.

- ❖ Tutoring in **MATH** and **Science** courses is available afterschool as follows:

- Math – 203 Mon-Tues. and 202 Wed.
- Earth science – 231 Tues. -Thurs.
- Chemistry – 222 Mon., Tues., Thurs.
- Biology and AP Biology – 220 Mon.
- Physics and Anatomy & Physiology - by appointment

- ❖ We at Preston understand the difficulty in the transition from Middle School to High School. The purpose of the **Freshman Academy** is to assist all freshmen in this pivotal time of academic and social transition. The program includes: Peer Mentoring
Each freshman homeroom is assigned a Junior Ambassador who will meet with them throughout the year to assist and instruct on matters of Preston life such as academics and extra-curricular events.
- Tutoring- Extra help is provided through each academic department as well as through peer mentors.
- Dedicated Staff- The program is composed of dedicated professionals who work collaboratively to ensure the future success of all Preston girls. This group will meet on a regular basis for the sole purpose of making freshman year a success both academically and socially.

CONGRATULATIONS To...

- Seniors Adrianna Zillitto and Gerella Matrenga, recipients of the Italian Heritage College Scholarships. The scholarships were determined based on academics, service and leadership, an essay and a final interview. The awards ceremony was held on September 29th at the Davenport Mansion. We congratulate them for their achievements.
- Senior Mary Trosa for her Academic Excellence and service and to Sophomore Grace Abraham, winner of the Italian Heritage Culture Committee 2024 essay contest. Both young ladies were honored at the Italian Heritage Celebration at the Schiff Family Great Hall at the Bronx Zoo on October 16th.
- Junior Helenea Pizza who won 1st place in her weight class at the New York State Weightlifting Championships. Helenea competed in the clean, jerk and snatch lifts, which requires a great deal of athletic ability.



Calendar for October and November

- ☑ October 23 – PSAT/NMSQT for Grades 9, 10 & 11/ Senior College Visits
- ☑ October 28 – Evening Open House Event – 6:30pm
- ☑ October 29 – Sophomore Retreat
- ☑ October 31st – Happy Halloween – Halloween Assembly
- ☑ November 1 – All Saints Day Liturgy / 1st Quarter Ends / 1:30pm early dismissal
- ☑ November 2 – OPEN HOUSE 11am – 3pm / All Souls Day
- ☑ November 4 – Second Quarter Begins
- ☑ November 5 – Election Day – **School Closed – Faculty conference**
- ☑ November 7 – Junior Ring Night Ceremony, 7:00p.m.
- ☑ November 8 – TACHS Exam day-SCHOOL IN SESSION
- ☑ November 10 – Throggs Neck Veteran's Day Parade
- ☑ November 11 – Veteran's Day - **School Closed**
- ☑ November 12 - **PA Meeting, 6:30pm- HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT presentation**
- ☑ November 14 - **Father/Daughter Dance at Marina del Rey, 7:00pm- 11:00pm**
- ☑ November 19 – Report Card grades become available to parents/students at 5pm
- ☑ November 21 - **Parent/Teacher conferences.** Students will be dismissed at 2:30. Teachers and Guidance Counselors are available at the following times: 3:00 to 5:00 and again between 5:30 -7:30.
- ☑ November 22 – 1:30pm Early Dismissal- Grade Level faculty meeting
- ☑ November 27- Noon Dismissal
- ☑ November 28 – **Happy Thanksgiving – School Closed**
- ☑ November 29 – **School Closed**
- ☑ December 2 – Classes resume
- ☑ December 3 – **National Giving Tuesday**