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# PRESTON PARENT BULLETIN

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September 2023

## WELCOME TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24!

It was a joy to greet our returning Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomores, and to welcome the Class of 2027 on week 1, September 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>.

And so once again we turn to the serious business of academic achievement enhanced

by emotional and spiritual development: It is our hope that through our partnership – parents and teachers – we can serve the best interests of your daughters. Let's keep the lines of communication open.

### Important Reminders for Parents

- ❖ Please make note of the following parent and college admissions-related meetings

Parent Association Meeting, **Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**, 6:30 p.m. ALL parents welcome! (via Zoom)

Junior Parent Night, Thursday, October 6th, 6:30 p.m.

- ❖ Be sure to check our website ([www.prestonhs.org](http://www.prestonhs.org)) regularly for updates on events, breaking news, parent bulletins, school closing information, and information on how to contact specific teachers and administrators.
- ❖ As evidence of the value that Preston places on attendance, we continue to focus on increasing our students' personal responsibility by reducing the number of absences (including partial-day absences). **Therefore, please read *carefully* the section concerning absences, early dismissal and lateness on pages 17-19 of our Student Handbook. Note especially the penalty for excessive absences.** (You can find this in your daughter's Planner). Note in particular the following consequence: ***"Academic credit depends on instruction time, and as such will be withheld when a student misses more than 16 instructional days in a given class (8 for semester courses)."*** As parents, you have an important role to play in this process.

### Parent Association News

Welcome on board to all parents!

#### Halloween Festival

Join us on Saturday October 14th for our Halloween festivities and invite your friends! The Halloween Festival from 2:00pm - 4:00pm will have carnival style games and entertainment for children.

Tickets are \$20 for children and \$5 per accompanying adult. To purchase tickets, follow this

link: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/vHwsqem5> . If you're interested in volunteering for the set-up or at the event, please follow this link: <https://forms.gle/GjvFVNSjijBzYUJa9> . For questions, contact Ms. Gabriela Del Valle at [gdelvalle@prestonhs.org](mailto:gdelvalle@prestonhs.org) or (718)863-9134 ext. 143.

## Faculty News

Welcome to our newest Preston faculty members:

<u>L.O.T.E: Spanish</u>	<u>Josue Ocando, B.A. Central University of Venezuela</u>
<u>Mathematics:</u>	<u>Davis Montero, M.A. Relay Graduate School of Education</u>
<u>Science:</u>	<u>Libette Burgos, B.S. CUNY Lehman</u>
<u>Technology:</u>	<u>Peter Golden, B.S. Binghamton University</u>

We are also pleased to announce that Maria Doroni, a counselor/social worker from ADAPP, will continue to be providing prevention services to our school for this school year. ADAPP is the school-based student assistance program within the Department of Education of the Archdiocese of New York. Our school is very fortunate to have a counselor and the service.

The ADAPP counselor will be available 4 days per week. The service includes drug and alcohol prevention education, crisis intervention, as well as group and individual educational counseling. The purpose of the program is to help students develop positive life skills and foster healthy life choices. The ADAPP counselor will work closely with the school staff and me and is available to help parents with information and referral.

### PRESTON HAPPENINGS

#### **Preston Remembers**

On Monday, September 11th, the Preston community will offer special prayers for those who were directly or indirectly impacted by the tragic events of 9/11.

The **Co-Curricular Fair** was held on Friday, September 22nd, where students will check out the after-school activities available here and sign up according to their interests. It is possible that some Freshmen may initially “overbook” themselves, but eventually they will realize what they can reasonably commit to and make more

permanent choices. Co-curricular activities are such an essential part of school life and personal development that all students should be engaged in at least one after-school activity. As there are many to choose from, we trust that every student will find something to satisfy her interests. Students are also invited to propose new activities.

This summer, students from the Preston Scholars Program were given the opportunity to travel to Berlin, London, and Japan, thanks to a generous donation from a Preston alumna.



Students in Japan, where they not only immersed themselves in the history and culture of Japan, but also learned about medicine and cybernetics, visited an interactive museum to better appreciate the art, visited the Yamanashi Prefectural Maglev Exhibition Center to experience what it feels like to float on air, and even made their own sushi rolls!



Students in Berlin, Germany, where they participated in EF Tours' Global Leadership Summit on sustainability. Our students worked alongside students from all over the world to create a prototype that can help them build a more environmentally friendly world. They also took in the sights of the city, and visited a cooperative community and hydroponic farm. See bottom left photo.

Students in London, where they participated in multiple STEM workshops throughout the week-long trip. Students learned about the technique behind code-breaking during World War 2, participated in a forensics workshop in which they worked together to solve a homicide case, and learned how to use simple machines to create their own version of Stonehenge. Students also had the opportunity to visit the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, Stonehenge, and even took a ride on the London Eye. See bottom right photo.



## SPORTS NEWS



**Soccer Team**, coached by Christina Psomopoulos & assistant coach Nicole Burns~, Sophia Arciuolo, Xochitl Baeza, Ella Burns, Mia Churchill, Erin Crowe, Lauren Esposito, Bianca Fiore, Ava Frey, Dylan Frey, Jamie Kibler, Mary Kilkenny, Victoria Malone, Sofia Ortega, Emily Sampson, Kailey Siegmund and Olivia Tucci.

**Varsity Volleyball**, coached by Ms. Mykalee Chambers & assistant coach Logan Ramo & Joel Sanchez ~ Jaclyn Aylward, Ava Carpenter, Amanda Dziurma, Samantha Hangan, Laylanie Huertas, Izabella Ortiz, Brianna Parchen, Brycelynn Paul, Elisa Polanco, Katie Rios, Alisa Rodriguez, Stephanie Rodriguez, Madison Sanchez, and Mia Tierney

**JV Volleyball**, coached by Logan Ramos & assistant coach Mykalee Chambers & Joel Sanchez ~ Mailey Alvarez, Ella Amelio, Alexis Aviles, Isabella Corniel, Lia DellaCamera, Charlotte Fitzsimons, Cielo John, Bella Longo, Jaiden Medenilla, Arsa Pepushaj, Francheska Vargas, Valentina Vazquez, and Nicole Yencik

**Varsity Cheerleading:** coached by Ms. Lori Finelli (Head) & assistant coaches Alyssa Finelli, & Gianna Zillitto: Scarlett Agosto, Aniya Allinger, Sophia Amos, Bianca Barrios, Ashley Buono, Tiffany Chaitram, Chloe Cravinho, Katylin Cruz, Ava Dattero, Isabele Dinuovo, Samantha Herrera, Isabella Lepore, Maureen Nickerson, Erika Olvera, Ky Pineda, Heide Lopez Ramirez, Natina Richards-Smith, and Marissa Sanfratello,



## Looking ahead:

- Oct. 3 **Early Dismissal (1:30PM) for teacher training on the new Digital PSAT exam**
- Oct. 3 & 4 Junior Ring measurements and orders are taken during lunch (\$100 deposit required)
- Oct. 5 **Junior Parent Meeting, 6:30pm, cafe**
- Oct 8 Italian Heritage/Native American Heritage Day Parade - Morris Park
- Oct. 9 **Italian Heritage/Native American Heritage Day – SCHOOL CLOSED**
- Oct. 10 Parent Auxiliary meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
- Oct. 11 Latino Night, 3pm – 5pm, cafe
- Oct. 12 **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Interim Reports are available at the end of the day. / Senior Retreat**
- Oct. 13 **Student Council Induction Ceremony, a.m-** Full winter uniform required
- Oct. 14 Halloween Festival for Children, 2pm – 4pm
- Oct. 16 ID Picture make-up day
- Oct. 18 **PSAT/NMSQT – All Sophomores & Juniors take the PSAT**  
**Senior College Visit Day**
- Oct. 28 OPEN HOUSE for visiting 6 – 8 graders and families- 11am – 2pm**
- Oct. 30 OPEN HOUSE for visiting 6 – 8 graders and families- 6:30pm -8pm**
- Oct. 31 Halloween Assembly**

## **PARKING PROHIBITIONS**

**Parking in the bus stop or double parking in front of the school is strictly prohibited!** We ask our parents to park up the block or on one of the side streets close to Preston.

There have been far too many close calls in front of the school at dismissal time. Parents: PLEASE be considerate of our students, our neighbors and other drivers when you pick up your daughters. We will get Parking Enforcement Officers involved if we have to.

## **SMOKING PROHIBITIONS**

### **FYI: NYC/NYS Smoking Laws Affecting Schools**

As part of its Smoke-Free Air Act, NYC Administrative Code:

- Section 17-503(d) **prohibits smoking in “all indoor and outdoor areas of...all public and private pre-primary, primary and secondary schools providing instruction for students at or below the 12<sup>th</sup> grade level, and any vehicles owned, operated or leased by such schools which are used to transport such students or the personnel of such schools”**
- NYC Board of Health’s administrative tribunal can impose penalties ranging from \$200 to \$2,000 for employer-type violations, and **\$100 to a person smoking in prohibited areas**

NYS law:

- **Prohibits smoking within 100 feet of school premises. Employees and visitors to PHS may not use any tobacco products within 100 feet of our campus, as defined by the gates and fences that surround our property.**
- Another NYS law prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes to minors.