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# PRESTON PARENT BULLETIN

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September 2024

## WELCOME TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25!

It was a joy to greet our returning Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomores, and to welcome the Class of 2028 on week 1, September 4-6<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

- ❖ 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!

#### Freshman Family Field Day

Saturday September 28th

Liturgy at 10am

First 4 tickets, including PHS student, are free. Additional tickets are \$2 per child and \$3 per adult.

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/rXbBWMba9yUthS7D7>

#### Halloween Festival

October 19th 2pm - 4pm

Tickets: \$20 per child, \$5 per accompanying adult

Link: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/6gItvgmq>

Flyer attached at the end of this bulletin.

## Faculty News

Welcome to our newest Preston faculty members:

<b><u>Administration:</u></b>	<b><u>Kelly Keane- M.A., Education Leadership, University of Notre Dame</u></b>
<b><u>Counseling:</u></b>	<b><u>Kaya Reynolds, M.S., School Counseling, Alfred University</u></b>
<b><u>Fine &amp; Technical Arts:</u></b>	<b><u>Nicholas Moore, B.S. , Adv &amp; Mktg Comm, FIT</u></b>
<b><u>History:</u></b>	<b><u>Katie Gannon, B.A. History &amp; Journalism, Purchase College</u></b>
<b><u>Mathematics:</u></b>	<b><u>Joanne Gannon, M.S., Mathematics 7-2, Lehman College</u></b>
	<b><u>Frank Randazzo, B.A., Economics, Fordham University</u></b>
<b><u>Science:</u></b>	<b><u>Imani James, M.S., Biomedical Science, Rutgers University</u></b>
	<b><u>Caroline Ozdemir, M.A., Earth Science, CUNY Hunter</u></b>
<b><u>Theology:</u></b>	<b><u>Alison Pepe, B.A., Theology, St. John's University</u></b>

We are also pleased to announce that Maria Daroni, a counselor/social worker from ADAPP, will continue 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.

We would also like to announce that we have added a part-time Math/Science SETSS teacher, Maryann Nagelee, who will be joining our full-time SETSS provider, Celeste Shanahan, in our learning center.

## PRESTON HAPPENINGS

### Preston Remembers

On Wednesday, 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, September 20<sup>th</sup>, where students checked 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 past summer, Ms. Wolovich and 11 students from the Preston Scholars Program traveled with EF Tours to the Azores, an archipelago of volcanic islands belonging to

Portugal. The Azores are known for their volcanic origins and dramatic landscapes. This trip focused around just that! To learn more about volcanic activity, students gained an understanding of the islands' origins with professors of Geology at the sismovolcanologic center to visits at the Gruta do Carvao, the longest lava tunnels on the main island of Sao Miguel. Students also collected water samples at the University of the Azores to study phytoplankton and their purpose in our ecosystems. To students' delight, they also went whale watching with local guides and were able to witness five different species of fish (from sperm whales to bottlenose dolphins) who are integral to the island's environment. Whether it was coastline walks to discover geological patterns or dips in natural, thermal pools, students thoroughly enjoyed their opportunity to learn, gain a cultural understanding of a new place, and form tighter bonds with their classmates. These PSP trips have been instrumental in broadening our students' worldviews and their educational horizons"



Another of our students, Junior Iris Rodriguez, had an incredible opportunity to intern in the Brooklyn District Attorney's office this Summer. Iris, who started and is the President of Preston's Future Lawyers club was thrilled to be interning in the field that she is passionate about.



## SPORTS NEWS



**Soccer Team**, coached by Christina Psomopoulos & assistant coach Nicole Burns~, Sophia Arciuolo, Xochitl Baeza, Gia Barone, Ella Burns, Gianna Cannella, Erin Crowe, Lauren Esposito, Bianca Fiore, Ava Frey, Dylan Frey, Mary Kilkenny, Giulianna Komonah, Madison Laboy, Victoria Malone, Emily Sampson, Kailey Siegmund, Olivia Tucci and Briana Vukdedaj.

**Varsity Volleyball**, coached by Ms. Milta Gonzalez & assistant coach Lesly Almonte, Valery Nunez & Joel Sanchez ~ Alexis Aviles, Jaclyn Aylward, Ava Carpenter, Amanda Dziuina, Samantha Hangan, Laylanie Huertas, Riley Merenda, Izabella Ortiz, Brianna Parchen, Arsa Pepushaj, Elisa Polanco, Katie Rios, Stephanie Rodriguez and Nicole Yencik

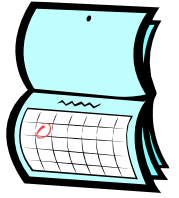
**JV Volleyball**, coached by Lesly Almonte & assistant coach Valery Nunez, Milta Gonzalez & Joel Sanchez ~ Mailey Alvarez, Ella Amelio, Aleah Cabrera, Leah Cabrera, Teagan Casey, Isabella Corniel, Jayla Cruz, Lia DellaCamera, Sloane Jameson, Cielo John, Bella Longo, Jaiden Medenilla, Francheska Vargas, Isabella Vazquez and Valentina Vazquez,



**Varsity Cheerleading**: coached by Ms. Lori Finelli (Head) & assistant coaches Alyssa Finelli, Gianna Zillitto & Liz Wickes: Malyia Barnes, Bianca Barrios, Ashley Buono, Elia Considine, Chloe Cravinho, Isabella Dinuovo, Kylie Duran, Annalyse Gorritz, Cori Lynn Hendricks, Isabella Lepore, Maureen Nickerson, Erika Olvera, Kylie Pineda, Natina Richards-Smith, Gabrielle Sanchez, Marissa Sanfratello, Juliet Serpa, and Jazmine Waller



## Looking ahead:



Sept. 26	Senior Parent Night: College Applications & FAFSA information, café, 6:30pm
Oct. 4	<b>Early Dismissal (1:30PM) for Faculty Meeting</b>
Oct. 7	Senior Informal and Formal Portrait re-takes
Oct. 8	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Interim Reports are available at the end of the day <b>Parent Auxiliary meeting, 6:30 p.m.</b>
Oct. 10	Student Council Induction ceremony, am- Full winter uniform required <b>Junior Parent Meeting, 6:30pm, cafe</b>
Oct 13	Italian Heritage/Native American Heritage Day Parade - Morris Park
Oct. 14	<b>Italian Heritage/Native American Heritage Day – SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
Oct. 15	ID Picture make-up day
Oct. 18	<b>Senior Retreat</b>
Oct. 19	Halloween Festival for Children, 2pm – 4pm
Oct. 23	<b>PSAT/NMSQT – All Sophomores &amp; Juniors take the PSAT</b> <b>Senior College Visit Day</b>
Oct. 28	<b>Evening OPEN HOUSE for visiting 6 – 8 graders and families- 6:30pm -8pm</b>
Oct. 29	<b>Sophomore Retreat</b>
Oct. 31	<b>Halloween Assembly</b>
Nov. 2	<b>OPEN HOUSE for visiting 6 – 8 graders and families- 11:00a.m. -2:00pm</b>

### 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.