

PRESTON ECHOES

Revisited

VALUES. VISION. VOICE





A POEM BY CASSANDRA GRECO CLASS OF 2020

I think of all that's going on,
and some of the things for which I long,
like throwing our caps up in the air,
making sure we don't ruin our perfect hair,
seeing banners that read "Congrats Grad,"
putting a smile on my face, they sure make me glad,
counting down the days until summer,
not experiencing that excitement is quite a bummer,
all of the long-awaited events,
their time and date just came and went,
our dream to dance at senior prom,
was interrupted by the COVID alarms,
but soon we'll all be together,
once everything starts to get better,

we'll go back to the school to collect our locks,
once that opportunity finally knocks,
and as we collect our works of art,
and see the love that fills our hearts,
we'll think back to all of our good times,
like poetry on the porch and all the clever rhymes,
our hearts will ache as we say goodbye,
and some tears might roll as we start to cry,
but for now I want you all to know,
how truly grateful I am to you for helping me grow,
to the school that gave me so many memories and new friends,
it's bittersweet to see this journey end,
but since it's almost done,
I want to take the time to say
"Thank you, Preston!"





Dear Preston Alumnae and Friends,

As I compose this letter, our seniors are marking their last day of classes with some mixed feelings. The pandemic and resulting school closure has impacted the entire Preston community, but especially the Class of 2020, in ways we couldn't image just a few months ago. In mid-March we had to pivot to distance learning in a digital environment on short notice, but our faculty, staff and students rose to the occasion and kept the learning moving forward. We had to postpone some of the traditional events associated with graduation in the hope that we will be able to gather together at some point in the summer to celebrate with our newly-minted graduates and their families. Should circumstances prevent such a gathering, our available technology will allow us to hold virtual gatherings.

I'm very proud of our students who showed such resiliency, flexibility, and determination to keep up with their studies and keep in touch with their teachers, guidance counselors, and friends via Google Classroom, Google Meet, and Zoom video conferences. I am equally proud of our faculty who adapted lesson plans and teaching strategies, developed or further refined their use of technology, and provided academic and emotional support to students who sometimes felt overwhelmed, especially when they or their family members fell ill. I am also grateful to our staff and my administrative colleagues for the care and concern they have shown our students, their families, and each other in these difficult times.

Beyond academics, the Preston community has come together in support of and in tribute to the many PHS alumnae and parents who are healthcare providers and first responders in the Bronx and nearby communities. Above all, we have stayed true to our mission to empower young women to become compassionate leaders for change in their world and to become women of dignity, honor, and respect in service to others.

We will continue to keep all the people in the Preston family in our prayers during the days ahead that you remain in good health, or if you are battling the coronavirus that you start to feel better soon and make a speedy recovery.

God bless and keep you safe,

Jane Grendell, Principal



Dear Preston Alumnae and Friends,

As I write this letter, we are ending our ninth week since the day to day life of Preston High School has undergone a cataclysmic shift as a result of COVID19 and the mandated stay at home order in the state of New York. Despite this dramatic disruption, however, I am happy to attest that **WE ARE STILL HERE!**

Under the remarkable leadership of Mrs. Jane Grendell, her dedicated administrative staff and faculty ensured that the shift to remote learning took place relatively seamlessly. Teachers and students were prepared for a new learning environment and efforts made to ensure engagement of all students. Business operations have continued without interruption and all necessary functions have been maintained.

The Board of Trustees as well, has continued in their active engagement in the life of Preston. Regular Board meetings have continued using the Zoom platform, new Trustees have been recruited and committees have been actively planning for the future. While there are certainly challenges to confront as we emerge from this period, the Board is working to anticipate the needs of the school, respond to the mandates of the state and local governments and above all work collaboratively with the administration to ensure a safe and healthy environment where we can welcome our girls back to our building at the earliest possible time.

Throughout this period none have lost sight of the core values of Preston High School and despite the limitations imposed, our students have risen to the challenge to practice the virtues of dignity, honor and respect and Christian service. Our administration, faculty and students have demonstrated that they are indeed compassionate leaders in the world and the lessons learned during this unprecedented time will serve them in good stead.

We look forward to coming together again in the not too distant future. With my hope and prayers for God's blessings for you and your families during this time,

Sincerely,

Barbara McMurray

Barbara McMurray

President, Board of Trustees

COVID-19 CRISIS *Control*

BY CYNTHIA CHAMBERS

THE CRISIS

In late February, we began to learn about Covid 19 as an international problem. New York state progressed quickly from simply recommending self-quarantine after international travel to daily cleaning/sanitizing procedures to school campus closures. Preston High School, following the recommendation of our Archdiocesan Superintendent, closed our campus effective March 16th.

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN ADVANCE OF OUR CAMPUS CLOSURE

On March 6th and March 12th the faculty of Preston High School met to discuss distance learning options as well as to participate in training in Google classroom. Mr. Youngren set up a Google classroom for each class in advance of campus closure. This meant that teachers could jump right into lesson planning and posting rather than set up. For students, this meant that they did not need to join each class separately. Once a student logged into their existing Preston email account, they had access to a Google classroom for each of the classes they were enrolled in.

In addition, prior to the campus closure, Mr. Teemsma surveyed all students to learn if anyone would not have access to a device to access Google classroom. On March 13th students who needed a device were able to sign up to borrow a Preston laptop.

HOW ARE WE WORKING DURING THE CAMPUS CLOSURE?

Teachers have been posting an assignment or lesson for each class day by 8am with work due by 10pm. Teachers have continued to refine the length, type and format of their lessons and assignments as we learn more about how our students work and learn digitally.

Students have been able to take tests and quizzes using platforms such as Test Wizard and Google Docs

Students, teachers and counselors continue to connect using Google Meet, and Zoom (now that additional safety features have been enabled).

Thanks to the efforts and talents of Mr. Youngren, we have been able to collaborate on a number of videos as a community. On our YouTube channel and Instagram page you can view weekly editions of Nobody's Listening, athletic team videos, a reflection on the prayer entitled Lockdown, our Easter Prayer service and most recently a new collaboration of students, faculty and alum on We are the Family.

WHAT REMAINS UNDECIDED?

While we are certain that NYS is on pause until May 15th we are unsure of when we will be permitted to return to campus. While we are eager to see everyone again, we want to do everything possible to insure the health and safety of our community.

On a bright, sunny, and hot Saturday (July 18th) we were finally able to hold a graduation ceremony for the 113 members of the Class of 2020. Because of restrictions limiting the size of such gatherings, parents and families were not able to attend but were able to watch thanks to live streaming.

While we understand that students will need to return to campus individually if we are not able to resume school this academic year, we have not yet completed a schedule to permit students to access the campus while observing social distancing requirements.

While New York State has begun the process of "reopening" the various geographic areas of the state in progressive stages based on the decreasing numbers of new COVID-19 cases, New York City and parts of Long Island have

been the slowest areas to experience the lifting of restrictions on what business can open, how many people can gather in one place, and so forth. The reopening of schools will occur in the last stage of reopening. We anticipate that NYS will issue guidelines for schools, both public and private, to help us develop our plan for reopening some time around July 15th. The Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York is expected to issue his guidelines shortly after that. All schools in NYS are required to file their plan with the state for review and approval before they can again open their doors to students. This will, of course, take time. While we are eager to see everyone again, we want to do everything possible to insure the health and safety of our community.

WHAT ARE WE EXCITED ABOUT?

We were relieved to learn that the New York State Department of Education cancelled all Regents exams for this June and that students would instead receive an exemption, meaning they will not have to take these exams in the next academic year

There was also good news from the College Board regarding Advanced Placement classes. Students were able to take the national AP exams from home, on their own computers and will still have the possibility of earning college credit for the work they did in AP classes in the 2019-2020 academic year

Our partner in dual credit courses, SUNY Albany, will allow students participating in the University in the High School program to earn credit for approved classes that continued via distance learning

Thanks to the continued hard work and persistence of both teachers and students, we were able to calculate and publish third quarter report cards as originally scheduled and final report cards were published in late June.

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WHAT ARE WE WORKING ON FOR NEXT YEAR?

We are reimagining and rescheduling events that we could not enjoy because of the campus closure. We look forward to celebrating Ring Night and Honors Convocation in the fall. We will also hold Student Council elections and a Leadership assembly in late summer.

We are redesigning the curriculum of many classes to take into account what students were and were not able to master via distance learning.

We are discussing how best to transfer the skills students and teachers have developed in this remote learning environment into the traditional classroom setting next year. We are excited to have the ability to try new things such as a “flipped classroom model” on our return

THINGS WE HAVE LEARNED AS A COMMUNITY

- How to streamline the communications process in a digital environment
- Students value virtual check ins – both with and without video
- We can keep learning, sharing and supporting one another from a distance

GRADUATION 2020

We are committed to celebrating the graduation of the Class of 2020. Because current restrictions limit the size of outdoor gatherings to a maximum of 150 people, we will not be able to accommodate all 113 seniors and their parents, let alone family, friends, and faculty. We have surveyed our seniors and their parents about their preference for one of three options: a virtual ceremony; two separate in-person ceremonies on the same day with half the class and their parents in attendance; or holding a single outdoor ceremony for the entire class and live streaming it to parents and families who can watch from afar. The third option was the overwhelming preference of those students and their parents who took the survey. Of course, if NYS lifts more restrictions that allow for larger gatherings, we will quickly and happily be able to open our ceremony to more people. Plans now call for graduation to be held on Saturday, July 18th as an outdoor ceremony, with the rain date being July 19th.



NEWS

Announcing...

C & G Vincent Photography, owned by Christine Stone Gaudio '70 will be celebrating 34 years in business
Grace Fragale '10 and Matt Robertson were engaged on April 10th



In Loving Memory

Leann John Campbell '81
Laura Sammet Glowacki '81
Helen McMahon | Mother of Bernadette McMahon '10
Theresa Flick Stone | Mother of Christine Stone Gaudio '70

Kay Devine Pagni '63
James Hearn Jr. | Husband of former faculty member Bernadette Stewart
Sr. Janet Meehan, RDC
Vincent Warner Sr. | Father of Sr. Patty Warner, RDC

TO SHARE YOUR NEWS OR TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE IN OUR NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL [GFRAGALE@PRESTONHS.ORG](mailto:gfragale@prestonhs.org)



ALUMNAE *Spotlight*

ZAYNAB ABDULLAH '99

The four years I spent there shaped my life more than any period of time ever would. In those four years I found my voice, made lifelong friendships, and really started to grow into the person I am today. I always knew I was incredibly creative, but at the time, to me and my parents, college seemed the only acceptable pathway and so I headed to Fordham University in the Fall of 1999. Being the creative spirit that I was, I didn't do very well in college and its lack of structure left much to be desired for me. Like many students, I had to reset.

I left Fordham, took some time to assess what I wanted and then re-enrolled in a small community college. The smaller campus and setting helped me realize that I did want a college degree and made me recognize the work I had to put in to be successful. Two years in a community college coupled with hard work and dedication landed me the opportunity to study at Columbia University!

Fast forward and I graduated with a degree in Middle Eastern Studies. Like most college graduates, I didn't work in anything related to my degree, but I did land a job as a Project Manager for an IT company and my adult life was off to a good start. However, I always felt something was missing as my creativity was not being addressed. And so I started to bake! I found joy in bringing joy to others as they enjoyed every bite and morsel. It was an incredible feeling, but I never thought of it becoming my profession.

All of that changed in the Summer of 2013. I received a phone call from a family member that started along the lines of "you know how to bake and I want to open an ice cream shop. Can you help me?" This was not a path I ever imagined going down.

The opportunity was in Amman, Jordan, so I worked my regular 9-5 job remotely and helped build a company into something that I loved. This was not easy, but we were dedicated and persistent. There were lots of ideas, clashing minds, testing, tasting, and just pure hard work, but after 6 months we were set to open. To my extreme surprise, the business took off and, as I came back to the States, the owners of the business rejoiced at its success and my time had come.

They offered me a full-time position as their Head of Product Development! As a reward to myself, I put myself through culinary school to study Pastry. I managed to get all my work done and get my pastry degree in 8 months, but in order to complete the requirements, I had to intern in a restaurant. So, out into the culinary world I went and landed a job in the Pastry department at Del Posto in Chelsea. If I thought the work of building an ice cream menu was hard, I was in for a rude awakening. Working in a restaurant, on the line (the service kitchen) is some of the most difficult, fast paced work I have ever done. I had a newfound respect for restaurants. Please know and recognize how hard the employees of a restaurant work to get you your plate of food, because it is TOUGH!

From Del Posto, I decided I needed a different experience, even though I was still developing menu flavors for the ice cream business. I landed a job as the morning baker for Mah Ze Dahr in the West Village. That meant a 4am start time and working through the morning to get those treats ready for the morning rush. I loved it! I was tired, but I knew that one day this was the path I would want to take in my own professional life.

The company I had helped build was coming to the US and I was tapped as the Director of Operations. In two years, I built two stores for the company, but I had lost my creative outlet again because I was needed on the business side more than on the creative side. I didn't want to fall into that rut again, so I decided to step out on my own.

In the Summer of 2019, I set out to build my own little coffee shop. I found the perfect spot in Astoria, Queens and spent the entire summer and fall building out the space and opened Coffee Plus Cake on January 11, 2020. My goal was to create a welcoming space where you could get your perfect cup of coffee and a delicious treat. I loved seeing the faces of people walk in and exclaim how delicious everything was. Unfortunately, we were forced to temporarily close our doors due to the Covid-19 pandemic and my hope is that I can come back bigger and better. I cannot wait until the moment I can open the doors to my guests again and watch them smile at their first bite of food that I worked so tirelessly to prepare.

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



GAELIC SOCIETY CEILI: The Preston community gathered together on Tuesday, March 10th at the Ceili to celebrate St. Patrick's Day a little bit early! The annual event was hosted by the Gaelic Society and featured the classics such as corned beef and cabbage and Irish soda bread, and a special performance of Irish step dancing.

PRESTON PLAYERS MUSICAL

Once on this Island: The Preston Players performed *Once on this Island* for their annual musical production this year. The show tells the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl who rescues a wealthy boy from the other side of the island, Daniel, with whom she falls in love. Unbeknownst to Ti Moune, the pompous gods who preside over the island make a bet with one another over which is stronger, love or death, the stakes being Ti Moune's life. When she pursues Daniel, who has returned to his people, Ti Moune is shunned because of her lowly status. Her determination and capacity to love, though, is not enough to win Daniel's heart, and Ti Moune pays the ultimate price; but the gods turn Ti Moune into a tree that grows so strong and so tall, it breaks the wall that separates the societies and ultimately unites them. This production marks the directorial debut of alumnae Grace Fragale '10 and Angelique Cruz '10, who were also involved in the Preston Players during their time as students. Grace and Angelique both said that the experience of directing current Preston students as alumnae themselves was a memorable and sentimental experience and they were honored to share their passion with these students. Senior Leah Chin, who played the main character Ti Moune, shared that her Preston experience would not have been the same without the musical and is grateful for all of the amazing friends and memories she has made during her time as a Preston Player.



ANNUAL MOTHER DAUGHTER BRUNCH

Preston students and the mother figures in their lives celebrated the annual Mother Daughter Brunch at the Marina del Rey on Saturday, March 7th. The beloved tradition honored the relationships between the students and their mothers, aunts, grandmothers, and godmothers with an afternoon of delicious brunch, dancing, and making memories! The seniors presented their mothers with red roses, signifying love and compassion. Even though their daughters may go away to school, travel to new places and see new things, their love will never waiver. The mothers then presented their daughters with a white rose to symbolize friendship. Seniors, after you move on from high school, your relationship with your mother may begin to emerge as a friendship. Although your mom will always be your mom, she will also be someone you can go to for advice and guidance about the challenges that lay ahead.



SENIOR SWEATSHIRT DONATIONS: Thank you to all of the employees of PHS, Board members and alumnae who so generously donated to the Senior Sweatshirt fund so that each member of the Class of 2020 was able to receive their senior sweatshirt free of charge!



NHS DONATIONS: The Msgr. Thomas Preston Chapter of the National Honor Society created a GoFundMe page to help support those healthcare workers who are on the front lines and fighting for us all during this pandemic. They were able to raise almost \$2,000!



ITALIAN CLUB

Italian Club donations: our Italian Club had 48 donuts and large containers of coffee delivered to Lieutenant Ray Ferreira and his team at the FDNY EMS Station 3. This station, located at 501 Zerega Avenue, is close to our school.

In a taped message of thanks, sent to Lt. Ferreira, members of the club conveyed their gratitude for all of the work of our first responders.



MU ALPHA THETA

Congratulations to the members of Mu Alpha Theta for competing in and placing in the national online Math Madness competition into which Ms. Farrell entered them, after COVID-19 prevented them from tutoring other students and are doing an amazing job! Two members, Emmalee Gomez and Pearl Marines earned top spots with almost perfect scores in their rounds. **Go Math Panthers!**

PHS DONATIONS: Preston High School administration, faculty and staff donated meals to the hardworking staff at Montefiore Children's Hospital, Montefiore Gun Hill, and Jacobi Medical Center as a gesture of gratitude for the tireless effort they are putting in to help our communities during the COVID crisis. The Preston community would like to thank all of the front-line workers!

STUDENTS *Spotlights*

JADE MUDAYH

My name is Jade Mudayh and I am a graduating senior at Preston High School. Unfortunately I, along with the rest of the Class of 2020, am going to be graduating from my bedroom. I'm not completely sad about this outcome because my class has so many great memories that we can reflect back on. Throughout the past four years, Preston had many events that I was able to attend after school in order to create closer bonds with my classmates and students that aren't in my class. I've gone to countless basketball and volleyball games every single year, and I can surely say that one thing about Preston I will miss is the school spirit. Every home game was roaring with Preston students screaming "PHS YES!" or one of the other chants that we have. Sometimes we'd even see our mascot Pinky come out to show some love. Not only did I create great memories with my classmates, but also with my teachers. The teachers at Preston make sure that their students are able to do the best they can, while motivating them along the way. Any classes I had with Mr. Abel, Ms. Farrell, Mr. Martinez, or Mrs. Wicks were my favorite (sorry history teachers). While this is unexpected for a student to say, I will definitely miss the teachers at Preston. I'll also miss the community of the student body as a whole. I had the opportunity this year to be part of the Big 4 as Student Body Treasurer. Before this, not many people knew my name or my face, but after my election to office, I was able to interact and meet a lot more students. I realized that this community is filled with great people and I can say confidently that Preston's community is the closest knit by a landslide in regards to every other school I attended (I've been to nine different schools!) My acceptance into Sophie Davis was a humongous feat for me and I cried when I received the letter. Sophie Davis Biomedical Education Program, also called the CUNY School of Medicine, is a 7 year program within the City College that is an integrated curriculum in medical studies. Throughout my first three years, I will be working to accomplish all of the requirements needed to earn my B.S (Bachelor of Science) degree. After, I



will have to take a test to be admitted into the next four years of my journey where I will earn my medical degree. I can choose to specialize in a field during these four years in order to get a jump start on my residency, or I can go with the flow and decide at the end. I can't speak for the future, but at the moment I want to strive to become a Psychiatrist. This is subject to change since there is so much more information and learning I have to do, and I am extremely excited for the ride. Going to Preston was a great advantage for me and I will never forget the experiences and what I've learned there.

ELONA NACAJ

I walked into Preston High School that September day in 2016 with enthusiasm and excitement to begin the remarkable years of high school, and I leave with gratitude and pride to be a part of this community. Although this chapter of my life comes to an end, it comforts me to know how much I have grown in these past four years. In my underclassmen years, I had habits of doubting who I was and growing anxious if I could do all I have sought to achieve. Too often I would be too hard on myself regarding my grades, especially while balancing my academics with my extracurriculars and my honor societies. There were too many times where I felt overwhelmed and lost in all I had to do. But it brings me joy to remember all the people that I've met who helped me with this struggle of mine. I've learned to gain confidence from my strong classmates, and through these friendships I've made, I found the strength in myself to keep moving forward, despite the obstacles that come my way. I'm so grateful for the friendships I've made and the memories and laughs that accompany them. I'm proud to be a member of this beautiful Preston community, because, not only did I find support from my peers, I found it within Preston's incredible faculty. As I would express any worry or concern I had about college or the future, (which would occur often), the Preston faculty reaffirmed my strength. Talks with



the guidance department eased my mind of the worry that constantly controlled my mind and these teachers gave me the confidence to believe in myself and believe that it will work out. Moreover, through the guidance counselors and their resources, I had the opportunity to volunteer and shadow surgeons, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants in both the clinics and operating rooms at Mount Sinai Hospital. Telling Ms. Tortorella that I was interested in applying for that program was one of the best things I did at Preston. In doing this experience, I discovered that I aspire to work in the medical field and treat vulnerable people in need of help. My teachers, such as Mr. Trosa, Dr. Zeoli, and Mr. Martinez, helped me by igniting that fire in me to learn more about science. In their classes, I always found myself immersed and intrigued by the lessons they taught me. They have motivated me to push myself and strive to be better than I was the day before. These are the teachers that people talk about when they say teachers truly change lives and inspire.

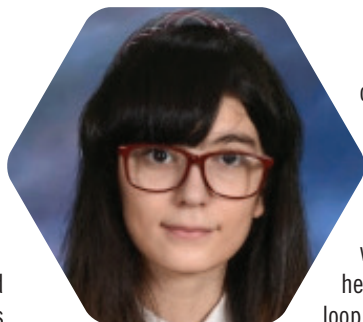
This part of the chapter is bittersweet, since I wasn't able to spend the last days of my senior year with my girls, but I have faith in the tight-knit bonds we have all made. I'm proud of what I have accomplished already in high school and I will carry the lessons I have learned as I embark on my journey after high school. I look forward to attending Hofstra University and being admitted into their dual degree physician assistant program and I believe Preston has prepared me well for this. As I look forward to the future, I can't stress enough my gratitude for being a part of the Preston community. Preston High School has shaped me into the person I am today and I will carry with me the confidence that I have developed as I begin this new chapter of my life.

EMMALEE GOMEZ

I distinctly remember my first engineering conference at Preston. The challenge was to create a cardboard windmill that spun rapidly around a rotor. I've never been great with

groups, so I was surprised when I started contributing ideas over the angle of the blades and glued pieces together. Looking back, the reason I felt comfortable with sharing my thoughts and gaining new perspectives was undoubtedly because the group consisted of "Preston girls." To be a Preston girl means to be fearless, compassionate, and hardworking. It means that you are ready to confront any obstacles and seize opportunities. Preston and its community were my catalysts to becoming a confident young woman who is motivated to reach for her goals.

I entered the school as a timid freshman and regularly chastised myself over the smallest of mistakes. Those self-loathing reflections over a lousy quiz grade or ineptitude at



communication manifested themselves in a journal entitled "Freshmen Regrets." My teachers and guidance counselors recognized that I was always hard on myself and helped me out of that pointless loop of negativity. As a senior, I'm still socially awkward, but I've learned to embrace that part of me. Other traits, such as my creativity and logical nature, allow me to derive enjoyment from Preston's social community. I've enjoyed multiple Step-Up-Days outside the hall, humming every year to Preston's Food Drive songs, and participating in activities during retreats. My favorite moments have to be cracking up at jokes in AP Calculus. Ms. Farrell is an exceptional math teacher who brought life to the classroom through her eccentric gestures and expressions. Preston has become my second family, and I

will sincerely treasure my experiences. My interest in computer science can largely be attributed to my time in Preston. Ms. Cuomo's Python class was my first introduction to coding. I had the opportunity to continuously improve through my independent senior project by designing and coding a functional app. I will be attending Boston University as a Computer Science major this coming fall. While I received acceptances from Cornell and NYU, I wanted an out-of-state college experience that offered a strong computer science foundation.

College will be a difficult transition period in our lives, but I feel prepared because of Preston's academic rigor. I have picked up time-management skills, effective ways of studying, and tenacity. I look forward to coming back and sharing my experiences with future Preston sisters.

FACULTY *Spotlights*



SUSAN CASARIO

Susan started working at Preston High School as the school secretary in September, 1987

and has been a staple in the PHS community for the past 33 years. Throughout her time at Preston, some of her favorite memories include the many events held outside on our beautiful campus such as graduations, fundraisers, social events with faculty and staff, and especially celebrating Craig Youngren's wedding! Susan shares that her relationship with the students is what she loves most about working at Preston. She builds a special connection with every student she meets and has fond memories about all of the students she has interacted with. Susan is also remembered for bringing the beloved annual Card Party fundraiser to Preston along with the Mothers

and Fathers Club back in February 1986. From that point on, she has made her mark on all who enter the school, and continues to be a beloved member of our community.



CHRISTINE FORLINI

Christine began working at Preston in September of 1995. She was hired by Sr. Mary Ellen

Bernard who was the English Department chairperson at that time. She remembers her fondly as she was dedicated, kind, honest, and supremely funny! Christine is thrilled to be the faculty moderator of Preston's chapter of the National English Honor Society, which is named in Sr. Mary Ellen Bernard's honor. She has taught every grade level, but the one class that has remained constant all these years is AP English Literature. She credits her

love of American Literature as her inspiration for continuing to teach juniors for such a long time. Her favorites include teaching *The Crucible* and *The Great Gatsby*.

Christine's love of classic movies also inspired her to create the Film History class which originally began as a half-year class and expanded into a full-year senior elective. She shares that exposing students to the joys of Charlie Chaplin, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, and Alfred Hitchcock has been one of the most fun and satisfying aspects of teaching at Preston!

She always looks forward to hearing about how graduates are following their dreams after their Preston education. She also enjoys baking, shopping, and travelling to Italy to practice Italian and buy shoes every chance she gets!

THE LEGACY AND MEMORY OF SR. MARY LUCILLE BRIDGETTS, RDC AND SR. SUSAN GREENE, RDC

Known to most alumnae as “**Ma Sœur**”, **Sr. Mary Lucille Bridgetts**, Preston’s beloved French teacher, died peacefully at age 97 at the Wartburg Residence on April 24.

Sr. Mary Lucille came to reside in the PHS mansion in Throgs Neck and taught at St. Frances de Chantal in 1953-57.

We were blessed to have her serve as French teacher and and champion of the L.O.T.E. Department, educating each generation of students to love and excel in languages and cultural literacy.

As professional colleague, mentor and friend, Sister continued to be a beloved part of our Preston community, cheering us on ever since!



As life-long family friend, generations of former students at both schools here in Throgs Neck remember her as a woman of deep fidelity, compassion, wisdom and faith.



Sr. Susan Greene RDC, Preston’s beloved art teacher from 1977 to 1994, died on April 17. She was also a contemplative artist in residence at PHS, Good Counsel and St Cabrini Nursing Home, in Divine Compassion Mission sharing her spirituality and creativity with all she came in contact with, always inviting us to live out our Gospel commitment in service to those who are marginalized and all creation.

She created and developed the art program here at Preston, and so many alumnae remember her as a woman of deep compassion, a social justice advocate, and a spiritual mentor and friend.

Sr. Susan created a beautiful collage in honor of Mary Caroline Dannat Starr, founder of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion with Monsignor Thomas Preston.

During March this year Preston celebrated 150 years of Divine Compassion Mission, with this beautiful collage. In the back of the collage is photo of Mother Mary Veronica with girls from NYC who had were abused and abandoned - whom she gathered into the House of the Holy Family, which opened on March 25 1870 in NYC. The House of the Holy Family was moved to our Preston “mansion” building in 1927, and became Preston High School in 1947.



The Pink Panther Angel of Compassion Fund!

We are excited to announce that “The Pink Panther Angel of Compassion Fund” has been established to help fund a PHS student’s tuition if she is in jeopardy of not being able to complete her education due to the lack of funding for tuition payments.

A committee of PHS alum worked with PHS representatives to establish and launch the “Pink Panther Angel of Compassion Fund” beginning this year. Processes & criteria were written for granting aid, including that this fund will be utilized only after all other forms of financial assistance have been exhausted. We hope that you are as excited as we are about “The Pink Panther Angel of Compassion Fund” and we hope you will consider contributing to this fund, initiated by a PHS alumna. A \$10,000 initial

donation has been made and we also have our first monthly donor! We hope you will join in and be a part of this Preston High School initiative.

Visit www.prestonhs.org to donate today or to make a monthly donation! Press Donate tab on the top right of the PHS website, type in donation amount, open the (Optional) box drop down and click Scholarship Fund.

Please consider making a monthly donation to build up this fund over the next year! A \$25 monthly donation will build into +\$250 in the next year! A \$100 monthly donation will build into +\$1000 in the next year! YOU will be considered a MAJOR DONOR to Preston High School and all donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. **Who benefits? YOU(TH).**

ADMISSIONS

Update

Greetings from the Preston
Admissions Office!

We have been hard at work registering our incoming Class of 2024. Currently we have 94 students who will be joining our PHS community from 43 different schools throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, and Westchester. We look forward to hosting many of them during our summer academic Boot camp and getting them acclimated to both their freshman curriculum and new Preston sisters.

Our Admissions team will be hosting Summer information webinars for any families and students in middle school who are interested in learning more about what the Preston community has to offer. Please check our website and social media accounts for information on how to sign up.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

FALL OPEN HOUSES

Sunday, November 1, 2020

11 am – 2 pm

Monday, November 2, 2020

6 pm- 8 pm

FALL VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSES

Saturday, October 10, 2020

Thursday, October 22, 2020

Times TBD

SHADOW DAYS

Tuesdays and Thursdays

October 6, 2020—February 28, 2021

ATHLETICS

Update



VARSITY CHEER

- 2020: Competed in Nationals in Disney World
- 2020: Placed #3 in the nation and #2 in world competition
- 2019-2020: Placed #1 in three state regionals
Placed #1 in New York state

JV CHEER

- Competed in regionals and States in their first year as a team

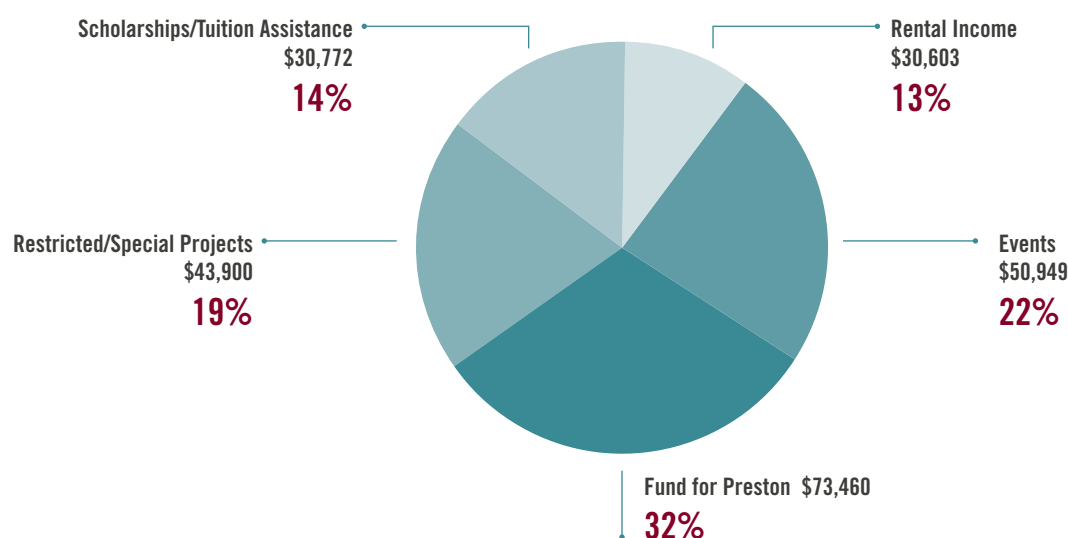


VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

- 2019: NYC Division A Champions

RECRUITMENT AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

DEVELOPMENT REVENUE 2019-2020



Over 60% of our students receive some form of tuition assistance from Preston, outside programs and foundations, or in combination. The shortfall to educate a Preston student for the 2019-2020 academic year is \$963. Tuition assistance \$ represent over 27% of gross tuition.

NEW TO CAMPUS

THE PRESTON FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING
FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Carmen Lopez | AP of Academics | clopez@prestonhs.org

Natalia Cruz | AP of Student Life | ncruz@prestonhs.org

Vera Rosario | Director of Admissions | vrosario@prestonhs.org

Stephanie Mozzone '10 | Italian & Spanish Teacher | smozzone@prestonhs.org

Stephane Strauss | Science Teacher | sstrauss@prestonhs.org

Melissa Alfaro-Velez | Campus Minister & Teacher | malfaro@prestonhs.org



MISSION

Through a broad and challenging curriculum, a diverse, faith-centered community and a commitment to Christian service, Preston High School empowers young women by providing them with the skills needed to become compassionate leaders for change in their world.

PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER

Hail to Preston alma mater fair
Banners high in triumph we raise
Ever mindful of your loving care
We will proudly sing your praise
We will strive to keep your honor bright
And we vow to add to your fame
The maroon and white forever
And the glory of your dear name
Preston High
We pledge our hearts to you
Preston High
To you we will be true
March on, march on to victory!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Cassandra Aquart '96
Michelle Benedetto '01
Laura DeMaria-DeMattia '92
Sr. Laura Donovan, RDC
Geraldyn Harty Giannini '74
Barbara MacMurray, *President*
Janice Mastropietro '80
Dorothea Rodd '77
Sr. Carol Wagner, RDC
Julia Wall
Jane Grendell, *ex officio*

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Principal | Jane Grendell, M.Ed. x 113
Assistant Principal of Academics | Cynthia Chambers, M.A., x 115
Assistant Principal of Student Life | Andrew Pipchinski, M.A., x 130
Assistant Principal for Administration | Dr. Judith Johnston, x 137
Registrar | Craig Youngren, M.A. x 196

OFFICE OF RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT

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PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL

— EST. 1947 —

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TELL US YOUR NEWS
gfragale@prestonhs.org

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YOU ARE A SHINING STAR!

♡♡♡ *Thank you to all the heroes and helpers
of the Coronavirus Pandemic.
We appreciate your selfless service.*

The Preston High School Community