

PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL

# PRESTON ECHOES

*Revisited*

VALUES. VISION. VOICE





### Dear Preston Family and Friends,

On Saturday, June 5, 2021, Preston staged its 71<sup>st</sup> Commencement Exercises in our sun-filled backyard. Fortunately, the limits on the size of outdoor gatherings had been raised enough to accommodate the 125 members of the Class of 2021 and their parents, plus Preston’s administration, faculty and members of the Board of Trustees. And thanks to the technical expertise of several of our teachers, we were able to live stream the ceremony to our graduates’ extended families and friends.

The Class of 2021 has much to be proud of. Collectively, they have earned more than \$25 million dollars in scholarships and grants, and two members of the class earned over \$1 million each in scholarship and grant awards from the colleges to which they applied. While 39% of the class earned Regents Diplomas, over 60% earned Regents Diplomas with Advanced Designation, and 6.4% of those students earned Advanced Designation with Honors, while 10.8% of our graduates were recognized for Mastery of Math and/or Science as well.

Perhaps an even greater achievement worth noting is the development of resilience and flexibility that enabled our newest alumnae to persevere in their studies, while adapting to changing learning environments and class schedules. These qualities will certainly help them as they head off to college and future careers.

I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to our dedicated faculty, staff, and my administrative colleagues for their creativity, adaptability, and dedication as we worked together to develop a workable reopening plan last summer that met the requirements of the Archdiocese, the Department of Health, and the Department of Education. It was no easy task to be able to teach in two different learning/teaching environments simultaneously, while trying to master new technology. Their empathy and concern for our students was remarkable. Our maintenance staff, too, deserves recognition for working tirelessly to keep our facilities not just clean, but sanitized, for the safety of all of us.

We were saddened when members of our Preston community fell ill with COVID and prayed for their quick recovery. We grieved when we learned of the passing of family members due to COVID and prayed for the repose of their souls and the comfort of those whom they left behind. The Religious of the Divine Compassion (RDC), our sponsoring congregation, suffered the loss of a number of their Sisters, including some who had taught at PHS in years past, and we grieved for them too.

Now we are looking forward, with hope, to the coming academic year when we can gather together, laugh together, learn together, pray together, and give thanks for simply being together again.

Best wishes for a restful summer,

Jane Grendell, *Principal*

### Dear Preston Family and Friends,



Last month I had the distinct pleasure of attending the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2021. Never before has a class been challenged in the way this group of 125 young women was throughout their junior and senior years when they were abruptly thrust into the world of remote learning. I would have expected that it would extend for as long as it did! Yet despite the challenges, the Class of 2021 demonstrated their resiliency and determination and persevered. They gathered on the back lawn on a hot spring day to accept the accolades of their Preston administration and faculty, their families and friends and to share one last celebration with one another before venturing into their future as true young women of compassion!

Now we look ahead to welcoming the Class of 2025 in the Fall and Mrs. Grendell and her staff are busy preparing to return to full time in school learning in September. The Board of Trustees too, is looking ahead to a busy year in ensuring the needed support as we move into a post pandemic world. The Board is committed to ensuring that Preston responds to emerging issues, that we do everything possible to ensure that our students have a state of the art education and that we provide the social and emotional supports needed as students return to school after this difficult 18 months. We know that re-entry will be an adjustment for many with new challenges and that there will be a “new normal” but the Board, administration, faculty and staff are all united in their determination to make the 21-22 school year one of growth and recommitment to the values that are the hallmark of a Preston education.

The future is bright at Preston. We emerge from the last year with resolve, optimism and faith in our future building on our traditions of quality education, Christian service and compassionate presence. I look forward to opportunities to meet many of you in the coming year and I send my best wishes for a happy and healthy summer. I pray that you may all enjoy God’s blessings throughout this coming year.

Sincerely,

*Barbara McMurray*

Barbara McMurray  
*President, Board of Trustees*



Dear Preston High School Stakeholders:

Last year about this time I wrote you with a heavy heart because the pandemic had already caused us so much loss, in the lives of family and friends and economic resources. And we were asked to isolate at a time we needed one another most. Even social distancing did not deter us from coming together as a group to assist others in their moment of need. An unbreakable will to survive and seamless compassion for our fellow humans in need are our greatest strengths and have dominated our stand against the pandemic from the start.

While each of us individually seems to have lost so much, collectively the burden is easier to bear. Preston High School, like many of its competitors, both public and private, has been beset with challenges that will continue to affect us for a number of years. Families’ inability to pay, increasing out-of-state relocations, and a soft job market have become the major factors in our declining enrollment projected for September.

In response to the initial wave of the pandemic, Preston’s Administration received BoT approval of \$20,000 in emergency tuition assistance (ETA) funds to defray a portion of tuition for its families most affected by COVID. In 2020-21, we continued to serve an even greater number of families with our own program (\$500 – \$1,000-qualifying family), and nominated and assisted families in their application for the parallel ADNY COVID-ETA program (\$700 – \$1,400-qualifying family), while waiving late fees and structuring tuition payment plans. We have not cut programs or resources; rather, we have added additional college-credit elective courses and extra Math 9 labs to address any deficiencies in math skills exacerbated by recent inconsistencies in regular in-school attendance. And for 2021-22, we have planned the most ambitious tuition discount offerings in over 10 years to serve over 70% of our students and make the case for the advantages of a Catholic education. A very generous donor, inspired by our commitment to our families, recently donated in excess of \$50,000 to enable us to continue serving those most in need. In the long-term, we believe that giving to our families in need during these most uncertain times will yield a higher rate of return on our investment because that greatest human strength – our compassion for our fellow humans in need – is contagious.

The pandemic has forced us to evolve. We appeal to you and hope you’ll consider the furtherance of our evolution to keep Preston as relevant today in an ever-changing, post COVID world, as our founders had envisioned almost 75 years ago. We pray for you and your loved ones and the souls of the 4 million lives cut short by the pandemic,

Mario F. Fava, CPA  
Mario F. Fava, CPA  
Director of Finance

Current Tuition Discount Analytics 2021-22			
	\$	Students	Avg Award
Academic Scholarships	\$ 415,700	60	\$ 6,928
Service Grants (MMV)	\$ 15,000	4	\$ 3,750
Financial Assistance	\$ 70,000	50	\$ 1,400
Student Sponsor Partners	\$ 458,300	41	\$ 11,178
Inner-City Scholarships	\$ 142,020	45	\$ 3,156
Columbus Citizens	\$ 42,130	8	\$ 5,266
All Other Tuition Assistance	\$ 10,350	5	\$ 2,070
Legacy Discount	\$ 15,000	10	\$ 1,500
ADNY Employee	\$ 6,000	6	\$ 1,000
Sibling Discount	\$ 9,000	7	\$ 1,286
Early Payment (EPD)	\$ 20,000	20	\$ 1,000
All Other Discounts	\$ 6,250	5	\$ 1,250
	\$ 1,209,750	261	\$ 4,635
Gross Tuition	\$ 5,630,500		
Enrollment		365	
Tuition Discounts % Gross Tuition	21%		
% Students with Tuition Discounts		72%	

GRADUATION 2021



The Class of 2021 celebrated graduation in person on Saturday June 5, 2021 in the backyard. As graduates were given two tickets each, guest chairs were set up in pairs and distanced, with the event also live streamed for those who could not attend due to the capacity restrictions.

Once again, the class had a 100% graduation rate and acceptance rate into institutions of higher learning, both public and private.

We welcomed back five alumnae to present their daughters and granddaughters with their diplomas: Sheila Garvey ’93 to daughter Hailey Badalati, Marianne Cappelio Porteus ’66 to granddaughter Chloe D’Agostino, Melissa Paradiso Kibler ’85 to daughter Jessica Kibler, Gina Cardinale Troiano ’90 to daughter Alexis Troiano, and Lisa Viola Zollbrecht ’91 to daughter Kayla Zollbrecht.

Alumna Sasha Panaram ’09 was awarded the Distinguished Alumna Award by the Board of Trustees and delivered her keynote address to the graduating class of 125 students. Valedictorian Ingrid Alikaj and salutatorian Analisa Matranga both had the opportunity to say a final goodbye to their classmates in their speeches.

The Class of 2021 raised \$25,855,096 total in scholarships and grants! Two students were recognized as Million Dollar Scholars for being awarded over \$1,000,000: Margaret Varenne and Linda Melendez! Thea Tinawin was awarded the Corazon C. Aquino Scholarship from the College of Mount Saint Vincent, a full four-year tuition scholarship given only to a select few achieving students of Filipino descent.

Below are the memorial scholarships that were awarded to this year’s graduating class and their recipients:

The Cecilia Cunningham Noonan Memorial Award for the Intended Study of Nursing  
**Gianna Catherine Zillitto**

The Patricia Langan Mrsich ’70 Memorial Award for the Intended Study of Law  
**Chioma Ohadoma**

The Barbara Ann Lee Feinberg ’69 Memorial Award for the Intended Study of English  
**Valentina Rose Menta**

The Helen and Anton Wagner Memorial Award for Outstanding Service and Compassion in School and Community  
**Linda Marie Melendez**

The Ronnie Donovan Memorial Award for Courage  
**Angelina Lee Bozzelli**

The Parent Association Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Leadership and Service  
**Leandra J. Archibald**

The Board of Trustees Award for Unique Leadership and Service to the Preston Community  
**Kailey Briana Blowe**

The Principal’s Award for Leadership, Service and/or Academic Achievement  
**Raisa Jada Brissett  
Ekaterini Dupi  
Jaileen J. Espinal**

The Sister Mary Carmella Stapleton Alumnae Association Award for Exemplary Preston Spirit  
**Elizabeth Ashley Kalaj**

The Divine Compassion Award for Integrity, Generous Service, and Exemplary Leadership  
**Brianna Meaghan Schroeder**

FROM THE PRESTON ADMISSIONS OFFICE!

This year presented some changes for the admissions office. Like all other restrictions, we were not able to host prospective students for shadow days or welcome their parents to our beautiful campus for an open house. We were happy to hold the in-person placement exam and will welcome them to the summer academic Boot Camp in August. The Boot camp is a two-week program that serves as a crash course for everything Preston. Teachers will review what to expect the first semester and our PHS students will get them acclimated with what to expect their freshmen year and is a great way to meet their new Preston sisters. Help spread the word and become an alumnae ambassador!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Fall TACHS Prep  
September 18 – October 30 (9 am – 12 pm)  
Saturdays ONLY

Fall Virtual Open House  
Wednesday, September 29, 2021  
(6 pm – 8 pm)

Fall Open Houses  
Sunday, October 24, 2021 (11 am – 2 pm)  
Monday, October 25, 2021 (6 pm – 8 pm).

Please let us know if you would like to volunteer and serve as an ambassador or speaker. RSVP to acruz@prestonhs.org

Shadow Days  
Tuesdays and Thursdays starting the week of October 6, 2021 through February 2022. Available upon request. Call Mrs. Cruz-Rodriguez at (718) 863-9134 ext. 131 to schedule a visit.

Spring Open House  
Wednesday May 25, 2022 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm)





## Announcing...



→ **Angelique Cruz '10** and **Torrey Rodriguez** were married on July 4, 2021.

↑ **Karen Guzman Wszolek '04**, husband **Christian Wszolek** and big brother **Luke** welcomed baby **Liam** in February 2021.



← **Anna Lisa Colonnelli Weiss '81** wrote a children's book titled "Always Ask His Name" about four lovable animals who are excited to tell a precious young girl their names. It is available for purchase on Amazon.



↑ **Tiffany Melillo '11** and **Rocky Singh** were married on July 17, 2021.

## ✝ In Loving Memory

**Dr. Richard Blasucci**, father of **Barbara Blasucci '86**

**John Brown**, father of **Kaitlin Brown '09**

**Linda Rustico Cafarelli '66**

**David DeFede**, father of **Alana DeFede '23**

**Joan Fitzgerald '57**

**Christa Meinhardt Janssens '61**

**Elaine Jones**, mother of **Jeanine Jones McCarthy '99**

**Barbara Gallichio Litrell '61**

**Elizabeth Cleary Lonergan '61**

**Charles P. McCarthy**, husband of **Mary Donohue McCarthy '55**

**Irene Phelps O'Connor '56**

**Emily Paterno**, mother of **Janet Paterno Shaw '80**

**Robert Steiner**, husband of **Rosemary Campbell Steiner '54**

**Regina Connelly Sullivan '73**, sister of **Margy Connelly Munsch '75** and **Maureen Connelly Dowling '66**

**Teresa Tanner Vecchio '76**

**Jimmy Ziliani**, father of **Jessica Ziliani Miano '10**

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

## STUDENT *Spotlight*

### INGRID ALIKAJ:

My very first class of freshman year was Music with Mr. Hayes, and I had come to it prepared with ten different notebooks and a few binders, just in case any teachers had a preference. It is perhaps ironic that I ended senior year with a laptop being the only thing I brought to school, but in reality, I find it a fitting tribute to how much I have changed over the years.



an almost virtual senior year, there is a sense of friendship and vitality in this class that I think is indicative of Preston as a whole. I was able to become the person I am today because there was never a time where I didn't feel supported, or pushed to be my best self. My friends and the teachers of Preston have taught me how to be strong and confident, and take up space in the world; lessons that I will take with me for the rest of my life.

Next fall I will be attending Northeastern University in Boston, MA and plan on majoring in environmental engineering. I wanted to take the things that Preston taught me and apply them to a new environment, where I will once again be a freshman who doesn't know many other people, but who now will not even have the word shy as a part of her vocabulary. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for me and my sisters in the Class of '21.

### ANALISA MATRANGA:

My name is Analisa Matranga and I am now a graduate of Preston! I also had the honor of being the Class of 2021's Salutatorian. I can't believe my high school career has already ended, but I am very excited for the future and to begin a brand-new chapter in my life.



While my high school experience was far from ordinary, I am still so appreciative and happy to have attended Preston these past four years and learned so much during this time. Time has flown by so quickly and I can't believe I am officially an alumna of Preston High School. I remember my Freshman year, meeting new friends and teachers for the first time, learning how to work the lock for my locker, and even trying to memorize where each classroom was throughout the buildings. Although high school is scary for any young, timid freshman, Preston felt like home immediately. I felt comfortable in my new surroundings and the whole community was automatically

a very fun and welcoming place to be. I quickly got involved and joined the Star Club and the Italian Club, as well as Preston's Varsity Cheerleading Team. My sophomore year was also a fun and exciting year where I continued to make some amazing memories like winning Preston's first National Cheerleading title with my team. I also continued to become more involved academically, being inducted into the National English and Italian Honor Societies, the Scholars Program here at Preston, and continued my work as president of the Italian Club. My junior year, although cut short, and senior year were still great years with amazing memories as well. Our teachers tried their very best to make sure we were hanging in there when times got especially hard and when we weren't sure if we would ever be in a classroom together again. Despite how hard this year was for us, my senior class worked past each obstacle and setback that was thrown our way and we managed to make it to the very end. My class is a very special group of girls and I know that we were especially strong when it came to dealing with every hardship of our senior year.

Preston has made me the person I am today and I feel very prepared to begin my new journey in college. This Fall, I will be attending Fairfield University with a major in Information Systems and Operations. I know that I, along with all of my classmates, will flourish and succeed in college or whatever future plans are in place because we were prepared and molded by Preston to achieve success and do amazing things in this world.

I would like to thank Preston for allowing me to make great friends and form important relationships with people that I know will be close to me for the rest of my life. Now, after ending my senior year, I can confidently say that Preston has taught me so many valuable and important lessons about every aspect of life. I am leaving Preston as a hardworking, compassionate, intelligent, and determined young woman who is ready to take on life's next challenges and live out what I have learned here.



# ALUMNA *Spotlight*

## SASHA PANARAM '09

Sasha Ann Panaram is an Assistant Professor of English and an Affiliated Faculty Member in African & African American Studies at Fordham University, where she specializes in African American and Caribbean literature and culture. Sasha received her doctoral degree in English from Duke University in 2020, where she also completed certificates in African & African American Studies, Feminist Studies, and College Teaching. Prior to Duke, she received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Georgetown University in 2013 and also pursued minors in Theology and in Education, Inquiry, and Justice. Before starting her position at Fordham, she served as an Undergraduate Student Advisor at the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute at New York University. Sasha sits on the board and is a fellow of the Patrick Healy Fellowship at Georgetown University – an organization comprised of current undergraduate students and alumni at Georgetown dedicated to supporting students of color navigate higher education and the professional world. Sasha credits her time at Preston, especially learning from teachers such as Erin Ponton Fiero, Christine Forlini, Kristin Sample, and Joseph De Bona, for inspiring her to commit to a life of literature and to share her love of stories with others. More than 15-years since starting Preston in 2005, Sasha counts among her closest friends many people that she met during her freshman year of high school. Her advice to the incoming Class of 2025 follows the advice she gave to the graduating Class of 2021 at this year's Commencement Exercises: Hold close the memories you make in this place with these people and always work to ensure that those who come after you can do the same. Welcome to Preston. Welcome home.



## THE ROSARIO FAMILY

2021 marked the end of an era for the Rosario Family as they celebrated the graduation of their youngest daughter, Rita Rosario, the fifth Preston graduate from their family. Rita's older sisters, Sarah '13, Deborah '15, Joanna '17 and Priscilla '19, joined her parents after the graduation ceremony ended to commemorate this moment. We'd like to thank their parents, Anneris and Jose, for choosing Preston High School for their daughters' education and continuously supporting the school.



# FACULTY *Spotlight*

## EDGAR MARTINEZ:



Edgar joined Preston in 2009. Leaving engineering to pursue teaching seemed like a far-fetched idea at the time, but he quickly found out that his passion and calling was to teach students mathematics and science, two subjects which students approach with apprehension. Over the years, he has taught various mathematics and science courses, physics being his favorite. He is one of our three assistant principals, and in September he will take on the role of Science Chairperson.

Many of his favorite memories revolve around experiences of student successes. From the “a-ha” moments most of his students experience in his physics class, to mentoring students building beach buggies and prosthetics as part of their Independent Senior Projects, his time at Preston has been truly memorable. “There is nothing more rewarding than knowing and seeing the evidence that you’ve made an impact on someone’s life or multiple lives.” His continued commitment to the Preston community and their alumnae is positive. A member of the Throggs Neck community, he enjoys hearing about the successes that his students go on to achieve after they leave Preston.

## JENNIFER CONNOLLY '92:



Jennifer's time at Preston began as a student, graduating with the Class of 1992. She taught at PHS during the 1996-1997 and 1997-1998 school years, but

left to pursue a law degree; worked for the NYC Campaign Finance Board, Greenwich Technology Partners, and New York City Lawyers Association. Realizing that what she really loved was learning and teaching, she returned to PHS in Fall 2006. Sr. Lucille Coldrick, RDC hired her both times, and was a mentor as a strong, dedicated, and intellectually curious woman. Currently, Jennifer is a member of the teacher councils at the National Constitution Center, National Humanities Council, C-SPAN, Bill of Rights Institute, Untold, and iCivics.

At Preston, Jennifer used her education in history and law, as well as her professional development experiences to create a senior year elective on race, class, and gender in the US that has been very popular, and is proud of how well her students handle discussing “hard” history and wrestling with difficult questions, while also showing compassion. Her favorite part of the curriculum is when the students present their own lesson plans on contemporary issues.

Jennifer loves hearing from alumnae, especially when they tell her how they were able to apply the knowledge they learned in her classes to their lives beyond PHS.

In her free time, Jennifer loves to travel, to cook and entertain, to drink coffee, go for walks, to brunch with her girlfriends, and play with her nephews.

## KELLYANNE FARRELL:



Kellyanne started working at Preston in 2015 as a Mathematics teacher. After receiving a Mathematics/Education BA from Siena College, she knew she wanted to go back and teach in Catholic Schools. She loves teaching at Preston

because of the community and the students but also because she's allowed to inject some creative aspects into her Mathematics lessons. She has taught Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Financial Algebra, AP Calculus, and SUNY Algebra and Calculus, a course she submitted a few years ago for students who wanted to earn college credit for Mathematics but did not necessarily want to dive into AP Calculus. Her favorite memories include the many inside jokes she has with her AP Calculus students, driving Geometry a little nuts with scavenger hunts and something they never experienced before, MATH PROJECTS!, and of course, the murder of Mr. Smith at the start of Geometric proofs. Kellyanne also moderates Mu Alpha Theta, the national Mathematics Honor Society at Preston, and the Gaelic Society. As part of the NHS Faculty Council, she is also privileged to help students achieve even greater academic heights in the National Honor Society. While at Preston, Kellyanne also completed her MSEd in Mathematics from Lehman College, *Summa Cum Laude* in 2019.

Outside of Preston, Kellyanne teaches Irish dance with the Inishfree School of Irish Dancing. Her dance students keep her busy traveling to regional, national, and even international and world competitions. As an active member of the Irish community, she received the great honor of Community Champion from the Irish Echo newspaper in 2019.

“I have loved every moment teaching Preston students that Mathematics does not have to be that scary and, ‘No, you don’t NEED a calculator.’ I cannot wait to see what next year brings as I become the Mathematics Chairperson!”



# 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



## DOUGHNUT TRUCK

All of the in-school students and faculty and staff were treated to mini doughnuts after school the week before Easter Break. It's been a tough year for all and the Administration team wanted to do something to boost morale. Doughnuts were enjoyed by all!



**STEP UP DAY:** For the first time, Step-Up Day was celebrated in the backyard! Each class rivaled the others while playing games and enjoyed snow cones from Kona Ice Truck. Two awards were also presented to rising seniors: The Salvatore "Boman's Bunch" P. Marino Grant to Aime Zelaya '22, presented by Emily Marino '11, and The Friends of the Divine Compassion Fund to Madison Langguth '22, presented by Jamie Leotta '11.



## MRS. ANITA WICKS RETIRES

After 19 long years at Preston, Mrs. Anita Wicks has decided to retire. Since coming to Preston in 2002, Mrs. Wicks has shared her love of science with her students. She began teaching biology, added chemistry in 2006, and in 2007 she developed a senior elective forensics class. She also served as chair of the science department from 2007 to 2015. We will miss you Mrs. Wicks!



**GOLF OUTING:** On Friday May 14, 2021 Preston High School welcomed alumnae and friends to its 12th Annual Golf Outing, sponsored by The Westchester Bank. This year's Golf Outing was the most successful one yet for the school! The event began in the early morning at Pelham Split Rock Golf Course when 68 golfers drove off in their golf carts to play an 18-hole scramble. The day continued with a delicious luncheon at Posto 22 in New Rochelle, plus prizes and raffles. Nick Mancini, owner of NR Cafeteria Services and Posto 22, the Del Greco Family of Tremont Offset, and Lori Finelli, head cheer coach at Preston since 2008, were all honored for their continued support and dedication to Preston High School. All proceeds will benefit the scholarship fund at Preston High School.

## ATHLETICS *Updates*

### VARSITY SOCCER

The team had a shortened 6-game season. Everyone worked hard all season and loved to be back with their teammates.

### VARSITY SOFTBALL

The Preston Softball Panthers are 2nd in the Division! There was no JV team this year but there is potential to have one next year.

### SOFTBALL ALUMNAE GAME



On Thursday June 17, 2021 the Athletics Department hosted a Varsity vs. Alumnae Softball Game at Veterans Memorial Park. It was a close game, but the Alums won proving that they still got it! A reception followed on the back porch. Next year, there will be alumnae games for all sports, so stay tuned!

## NYS COVID-19 VACCINE SCHOLARSHIP

Sophomore Charlotte D'Agostino was one of fifty teenage New Yorkers to be awarded a full four-year college scholarship to any CUNY or SUNY of their choice. The "Get a Shot to Make Your Future" vaccine incentive by the state entered New Yorkers 12-17 years of age who got the vaccine into a lottery to be awarded the scholarship. Charlotte was the only winner from the Bronx!



**LUAU CARD PARTY:** This year's theme was a luau and we felt waves of emotion having an in-person event again! We welcomed a little over 200 guests, a bit less than our usual attendees to keep in line with capacity restrictions and guidelines. Our 50/50 and birthday calendar raffles were very popular among attendees, and gifts ranged in price from \$25 to \$1,000! The night was a success and we look forward to having more guests on April 2nd, 2022.



# ALUMNAE REUNION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021!

This year we will be having a double celebration to welcome back alumnae from the graduation class years ending in 0s, 1s, 5s and 6s. We're so excited to be holding this gathering for alumnae to return to their alma mater, reminisce about their time here, and reconnect with old friends and faculty members.

We will get back on schedule and host another reunion on April 9, 2022 for class years ending in 2s and 7s.



Please contact Ms. Del Valle at [gdelvalle@prestonhs.org](mailto:gdelvalle@prestonhs.org) or (718)863-9134 ext. 143 with any questions.

## New Initiatives & Scholarships

### PRESTON LEARNING CENTER

In January 2020, Preston High School began working to develop the Preston Learning Center for the increasing number of our students who learn differently.

Other schools may refer to them as "students with disabilities" but here at Preston we simply refer to them as "our students." However, our academic and leadership teams understand that their learning needs offer us an opportunity to diversify our teaching approaches and that's why it was determined that Preston High School needed a program and physical place to meet our students where they are to help them reach their highest potential.

Research shows us that educational challenges are unrelated to intelligence, but rather are caused by differences in each person's brain functioning and other factors, such as stress, medications and our learning environments. We understand that our students are intelligent and hard-working but they simply learn differently. Our priority at Preston High School is to our students and to our values, which include dignity, honor, respect and compassion. These are the core values that guide the development of the Preston Learning Center.

Our school leaders recognized that a year of remote learning and personal challenges experienced by many of our students, in addition to the students who have documented educational plans and those who have yet to be screened, meant that our students would need us to be ready to meet and embrace their challenges as our own. All students need learning strategies and support to help them thrive. The good news is that there are teaching approaches, specially trained teachers, built environments and coping strategies to support our students who learn differently. Our plan is to make changes now, with additional

and extensive modifications over the summer of 2022. Whether students come to Preston with an Individualized Educational Services Plan, a Student Assistance Plan or are recognized by our astute teachers as needing extra assistance with their studies, our goal is their academic success.

### Our Commitment: Better support for students starting September 2021

We call on you for your support of students who learn differently. We ask you to partner with us to ensure that the Preston Learning Center is available in September 2021. This will be a place for students in need and we plan on raising \$750,000 over the next 5 years to enhance student learning. May we count on you to give and stand beside our students? Your immediate gift and/or a multi-year commitment before August 31st and your belief in our students can ensure we may embark on this project and make the Preston Learning Center a reality in a few short months.

We are pleased to announce that one dedicated, generous alumna from the Class of '1961 has given a lead gift of \$35,000 for the Preston Learning Center. She treasures her Preston High School education and experiences and remembers Preston as a school where everyone could learn and find success. In an aggressive attempt to apply for grants, we have sent Letters of Intent to more than 40 foundations and organizations that favor Catholic initiatives with the hopes of them seeing the needs of our students and helping us fill those needs. We ask you to help us fill those needs too.

As a neighborhood school of excellence, we invite our supporters to join The Preston Community in a look forward. We seek gifts at any level, and also ask for your prayers to guide us as we speak with past supporters and new donors in our endeavor. We know that our founders, Msgr. Thomas Preston

and Mother Mary Veronica, would continue to support all students in their education at Preston High School.

We will be reaching out to all our alumnae in this important fundraising endeavor. If you are moved to make a gift, we welcome a call to discuss the difference you can make in the lives of our students right here in the Bronx as they prepare themselves for a world of service and accomplishment.

Please feel free to reach out to Cristina Fragale at (718) 863-9134, ext. 132 or at [cfragale@prestonhs.org](mailto:cfragale@prestonhs.org) to talk about your commitment to our students. Whether you make a gift by check or stock transfer, credit card or through your Donor Advised Fund, you can help a student move from struggling to soaring by supporting the Preston Learning Center.

### THE SALVATORE "BOMAN'S BUNCH" P. MARINO GRANT – EMILY MARINO '11

The Salvatore "Boman's Bunch" P. Marino Grant was created by Emily Marino in honor of her late father to help a rising senior attend college visits in the summer before senior year. To apply, rising seniors must submit an essay about how the actions and decisions of their parents, grandparents or other relatives spoke, or speak, to their hopes for their children, how they've benefited from their sacrifices and what they've learned from these examples.

### FRIENDS OF THE DIVINE COMPASSION FUND – CLASS OF 2011

Five members of the Class of 2011 came together to create The Friends of Compassion Fund for a student as they enter their senior year. The purpose of this grant is to ease the financial burden of senior year. This grant will be applied to graduation

and senior luncheon fees while the remaining balance may be used to help with other expenses associated with senior year, such as the Senior Prom and its related expenses (dress, shoes, etc.), or college application fees. To apply, students must write an essay about the life lessons they've learned while at Preston and how they plan to implement them in the future.

### THE PINK PANTHER ANGEL OF COMPASSION FUND

Since its inception, The Pink Panther Angel of Compassion Fund has accumulated over \$25,000 to help students who are in jeopardy of not being able to complete their education at Preston due to lack of funding for tuition payments. The fund will be used only once all other forms of financial assistance have been exhausted. Initiated by a PHS alum, this fund aims to help fellow Prestonites take full advantage of the benefits awarded to them by a Preston education. Please consider donating to this fund to ensure that financial hardships do not stand in the way of a student's journey at Preston.

### DANIEL T. HARTY SCHOLARSHIP

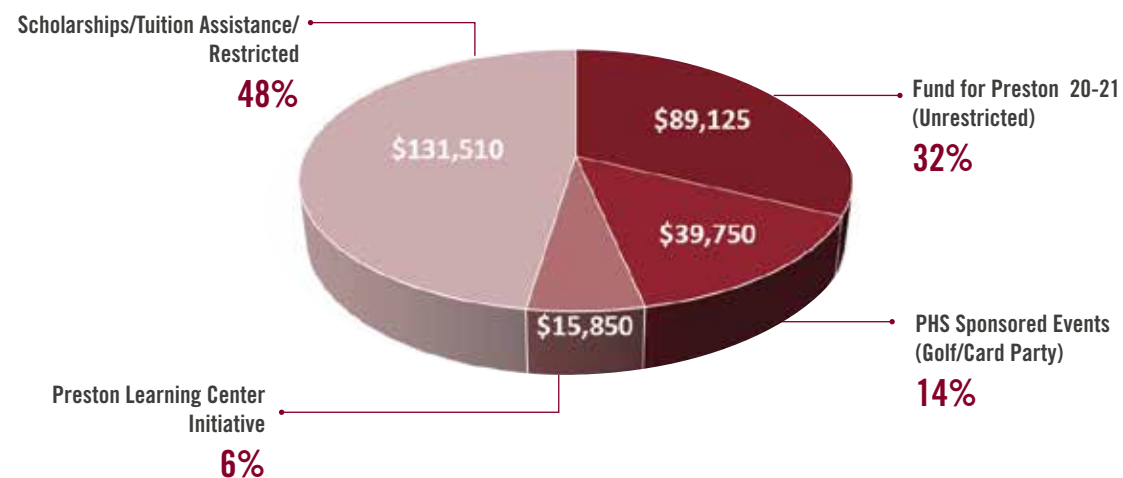
The Harty sisters, Theresa Harty McHugh '73, GERALYN Harty Giannini '74, Rosemary Harty Wilbert '78, and Christine Harty Fontaine '81, have created a scholarship in memory of their loving father, Daniel Harty. Mr. Harty was an involved parent during his daughters' time at Preston, supporting them at their extracurricular activities, and becoming President of the Father's Club for many years. The Daniel T. Harty Scholarship will award one Freshman student in need with \$4,000 total, \$1,000 per year to assist with tuition. The student must maintain good academic standing throughout all four years to keep her scholarship.

To set up a fund or donate, please contact Cristina Fragale at [cfragale@prestonhs.org](mailto:cfragale@prestonhs.org) or (718)863-9134 ext. 132.



# RECRUITMENT AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

## DEVELOPMENT REVENUE SEPTEMBER 2020 – JUNE 2021



Over 72% 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 2021-22 academic year is \$1,105. Tuition assistance funding represents over 21% of gross tuition.

### NEW TO CAMPUS

THE PRESTON FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING  
FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Mrs. Maria Bento Tomas | Religion Teacher & Campus Minister

Mrs. Angelique Cruz-Rodriguez | Associate Director of Admissions

Ms. Gabriela Del Valle | Associate Director of Alumnae Relations & Special Events

Ms. Lamteng Williams | Science and Math Teacher

Mr. Joey-Frederick Magsambol | Science Teacher

Ms. Lauren Van Sicklin | Science Teacher

### 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  
Sr. Laura Donovan, RDC  
Tanya Douglas  
Geraldyn Harty Giannini, '74  
Judge Doris Gonzalez  
Jane Grendell, *ex officio*  
Lorrian Johnson  
Janice Caserta Mastropietro '80  
Barbara McMurray, *President*  
Beverly McNeely  
Donna Spitz '77  
Sr. Carol Wagner, RDC '69  
Julia Wall

### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Principal | Jane Grendell, M.Ed. x 113  
Assistant Principal of Academics | Carmen Lopez, M.S., x 115  
Assistant Principal of Student Life | Natalia Cruz, M.S., x 130  
Assistant Principal for Administration | Edgar Martinez, x 671  
Registrar | Craig Youngren, M.A. x 196



### OFFICE OF RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT

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## **PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL**

— EST. 1947 —

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# **SAVE THE DATES**

**SEPTEMBER 18:**

**ALUMNAE REUNION 0s, 1s, 5s & 6s**

**OCTOBER 16: HAUNTED MANSION**

**MARCH 24 – 27: PRESTON PLAYERS**

**APRIL 2: CARD PARTY**

**APRIL 9:**

**ALUMNAE REUNION 2s & 7s**

**MAY 12: GOLF OUTING**

**TELL US YOUR NEWS**  
**GDELVALLE@PRESTONHS.ORG**

If you would like to RSVP or donate prizes, sponsorships or for more information, contact [gdelvalle@prestonhs.org](mailto:gdelvalle@prestonhs.org).