

PRESTON ECHOES *Revisited*



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VALUES. VISION. VOICE





Dear Preston Family and Friends,

As I am writing this letter, the first major snowstorm of the new year is falling and the trees and streets are covered in a beautiful blanket of snow and ice. It's hard to believe that we're almost at the mid-point of the academic year already.

It's also hard to believe that COVID-19 is still raging. When the school year started in September we were delighted to have all our students back in their classrooms along with their teachers. I love walking the hallways and hearing snippets of discussions, student chatter and sometimes laughter emanating from the classrooms.

Then came the highly contagious Omicron variant of the virus in late autumn. As we headed into our Christmas break, and as an increasing number of our students, faculty, and staff members were diagnosed with COVID, we made the decision that we would reopen in early January but pivot to remote learning for the first week of classes. On Monday, January 3rd, we also provided the opportunity for our school community to get tested for the virus before we return to in-person learning on January 10th. I'm happy to report that the vast majority of our community took advantage of this opportunity and we are looking forward to being together again very soon.

I wish to thank those of you who made year-end donations to support Preston High School for your generosity. Since the tuition we charge, steep though it may be, does not cover the full cost of a Preston education, we rely on our loyal alumnae and friends to help us bridge the gap.

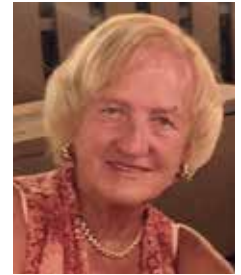
God bless you all!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Grendell".

Jane Grendell,
Principal

Dear Preston Family and Friends,

Happy New Year! 2022 promises to be a special one in the history of Preston High School as we prepare to celebrate our 75th anniversary this year. Since 1947, Preston has been dedicated to providing young women with the skills they need to become compassionate leaders for change in their world. Much has changed in our world in the last 75 years. One thing has not – Preston’s continuing commitment to the values of dignity, honor and respect – which you, as valued members of the Preston family exemplify in your daily lives.



We were delighted to welcome the Class of '25 to in person learning this September. While the pandemic has continued to rage about us, we have worked hard to provide a safe and comfortable learning environment for our students. It is our hope that any disruption in in person learning will be brief. The Board of Trustees remains committed to providing whatever support is needed to ensure a successful in person academic year. Simultaneously, we look forward to resuming the extra curricular activities which round out a Preston education. The Compassion Connection Club has continued its work without a hitch providing opportunities for students to give back to their communities and find new ways of giving every day.

The Board has continued its work as we look forward to transitioning our corporate structure to an independent Catholic High School for young women. As promised, we will continue to keep you informed as this process develops, but our commitment to the traditions and values which have defined Preston for the last 75 years remains steadfast.

We look forward to coming together this year to celebrate Preston’s history and look ahead to a bright future. My prayers are with you for God’s blessings for you and your families over the coming year and may Mother Mary Veronica and Msgr. Preston continue to watch over us.

Sincerely,

Barbara McMurray

Barbara McMurray
President, Board of Trustees

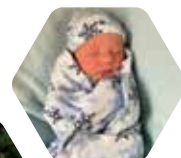
NEWS

Announcing...



Lauren Murphy '11 and Zach Estep were married on September 4th, 2021.

Julia Mooney Trainor '10 welcomed baby boy Noah Henry Trainor on December 19th.



Laura Acciarino '13 and Rocco Talarico III became engaged on October 19th, with plans to wed in October 2022.



Christina Sassone '13 and Christian Hauser became engaged on December 11th, with plans to wed in November 2023.



Graziella Fragale '10 and Matt Robertson were married on September 5th, 2021. Pictured are Graziella's sisters all Preston graduates (*from left to right*) **Gianna '17**, **Angela '13**, and **AnnaRose '15** along with their mom, **Cristina Fragale**, Sr. Director of Recruitment & Development at PHS.



Gina DeMarco Leone '05, husband Vincent Leone and big sisters Grace and Anna welcomed baby girl Christina Nicole to the family on December 7th.



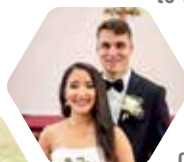
Angela Fragale '13 and Anthony Episcopo became engaged on November 7th.



Dianna Todino Tibbatts '03 and husband Mike Tibbatts welcomed baby Alessandra on June 7th.



Nazeli Acosta '15 and Jorge Morales were married on December 22nd, 2020. Nazeli has been accepted to a neuroscience PhD program at the Indiana University School of Medicine.



Kathleen Kelly Welton '01, husband Matt Welton and big brother Matthew welcomed baby girl Aileen Kelly Welton on December 31st.

HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?
EMAIL GDELVALLE@PRESTONHS.ORG



In Loving Memory

Dr. Richard Blasucci | father of Barbara Blasucci '86
(Date of Death: June 9, 2021)*

*We sincerely apologize for the spelling error that was printed in the Summer 2021 edition.

Lillian Tocci Candreva '56

Rose C. Federici | mother of Vicki Federici Causa '75 and grandmother of Jacki Causa Bassani '99

Donna Emhardt Fiore '74

Mary R. Johnson | mother of Mary Elizabeth Johnson '84

Sr. Anne Kelly, RDC '54

Kathleen C. Dede LaPine '70

Martin J. O'Toole | father of Maureen O'Toole Connolly '73

Mary Peters | mother of Brittany Peters '16

Elizabeth Zuppardi Poccia '78

Nicolo Rappa | father of Maria Rappa McCoppin '81

Chris Trembellos | father of Christina Trembellos '04

TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE IN OUR NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL GDELVALLE@PRESTONHS.ORG



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESTON ADMISSIONS OFFICE!

This year, we were overjoyed to have the opportunity to open our doors to prospective students for Shadow Days and follow current PHS 9th graders for a day. We hosted prospective students and their families at our fall events, including one virtual and two in-person Open Houses. We also had the chance to meet future Preston Panthers at a number of high school fairs and admissions visits, both in-person and virtually. We are looking forward to welcoming the new Class of 2026 to the PHS family with our Salute To Scholars Reception and Accepted Students Night. If you have any questions regarding admissions, please contact Mrs. Angelique Rodriguez at acrodriguez@prestonhs.org or (718) 863-9134 ext. 131.

Project P.R.E.P. is returning again this summer! Rising 7th and 8th graders are invited to join us for this four-week program to start preparation for the TACHS exam and explore educational opportunities through games, practical experiences, collaboration and project-based learning. This year's program will run from Tuesday July 5th to Friday July 29th. If you would like more details or to enroll your child in the program, please contact Mrs. Cristina Fragale at cfragale@prestonhs.org or (718) 863-9134 ext. 132.

Help spread the word and become an alumnae ambassador!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Spring Open House
Wednesday May 25th
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Project P.R.E.P.
Tuesday July 5th – Friday July 29th
9:00 am – 1:30 pm

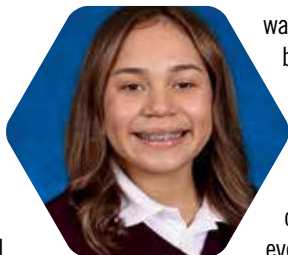
Fall TACHS Prep
September 17th – October 29th
9am – 12pm Saturdays ONLY

STUDENT *Spotlight*

TAYLOR ANNE COLÓN '22

Hello Preston Alumnae!

My name is Taylor Anne Colón and I am a member of the graduating class of 2022. It is so surreal that I am reaching the end of my academic career at Preston High School. I am forever grateful for the memories and experiences I have created for myself. Throughout my four years here, I played volleyball for 2 years, joined the Art Club, Spanish Club, and Student Council, co-founded Food Club with my sister Isabella Colón '21, became a Preston Player, and am currently co-editor and chief of the school newspaper, Preston Echoes.



My time at Preston has been enriching both academically and personally. I've learned so much about who I am as a student and individual. The biggest lesson Preston has taught me is to get out of my comfort zone. As I sat in my bedroom completing my junior year on Zoom, I tried so hard to remember everything I did at school before the pandemic. Although I was proud of myself for achieving what I had, I realized there wasn't much I was a part of. I wanted to be more involved, so when we finally got the opportunity to go back into the building, I gave myself a challenge to go for it, whether it be in or outside of school. I wanted to put myself out there. I discovered my passions, hobbies, and even some hidden talents through Preston.

Ms. Wolovich has helped me fall even more in love with writing. She was one of the first teachers I had who kept it real when we would learn about U.S History. She was brutally honest and enlightened me that the traditional way we learn about history is not and will never be the reality of our situation. She has not only inspired me, but she has also taught me how to think and question, and for that I am so grateful.

Mrs. Rodriguez, Director and Choreographer of the musicals at PHS, is someone else I am grateful for, as she has helped me to further come out of my shell. Every year at Preston, I was amazed by the musicals, the actors and actresses, the singing and dancing, and yet I never dared to be a part of them. The musical

was something I needed to do for myself. Just being able to walk into room 3 of the mansion to audition was an accomplishment for me.

After meeting her and landing one of the leads as Vanessa in this year's production of *In The Heights*, I realized that she was one of the first teachers to believe in me even when I didn't know what I was doing. Her encouraging words and constant confidence boosters have positively impacted me.

Jamie Skrapits, Athletic Director, is one of my absolute favorite people at Preston. She has always been there for me on and off the court. She is the first person that I tell about exciting news and someone I look to when I need advice. Her kindness and warm hugs have gotten me through high school. She has genuinely changed my life and I will never forget her no matter how far I go.

Next up for me? I'd like to become a journalist, which connects two of my favorite things: connecting with others and writing. I want to report on the things that matter and be a voice for those who have so much to say and don't know how. I don't know where my future will take me, but Preston has taught me that I have so much to offer the world. Thank you Preston for shaping me into the person I am today.

KALIA NOBLE '22

Hello Alumnae! My name is Kalia Noble and I am currently a senior. I have always heard people say, "high school goes quickly", but I never believed them. That was until I lived it. I truly feel like I was just a Freshman learning about the different vocal ranges in Music with Mr. Hayes or in Art struggling to make straight lines. I remember panicking on the first day because I did not know what to expect. Little did I know that the unconfident and nervous girl would develop into a self-assured young woman. In my four years attending Preston High School, I believe that I was taught a new lesson each year.

When I first arrived at Preston, I was scared of the unknown, but was eager to try everything and anything. I tried every extracurricular I could

write my name on. From the Preston Players to the Italian Club, I wanted to experience everything. I can remember being scared to audition in front of the directors for the play, *As You Like It*. I wasn't the most musically gifted, but I enjoyed being on stage. Mr. Abel made auditioning and coming to practices so easy and joyful. I am so thankful that I listened to my heart and tried out. I had the best time of my life and was able to create friends who are some of the most amazing people I have ever met. I learned from Freshman year to take the path I would never usually take. I needed to make an effort to try new experiences and step outside of my comfort zone. By stepping out of my comfort zone, I gained the courage to run for Sophomore Class President and was elected by my classmates.

In Sophomore year, I started out the year seemingly normal. Attempting to understand proofs in Geometry Honors, preparing for the Flacs Exam in Italian 3 and having classes in person felt like regular occurrences. I had been a part of the JV Cheerleading team, Preston Players, and many other extracurriculars. I believed that it would never change, but I had a less regular year than I anticipated. We transformed from in-person school to asynchronous classes and everything changed. I had something new to encounter and overcome. With having to adapt to my surroundings, I am grateful for my teachers who made it easy for me to make the transition. A specific memory I enjoy is Ms. Farrell creating a Google Meet for my class to play Geometry Jeopardy. I loved having a little sense of normalcy in my life. Despite many changes, I still was admitted into the Italian Honor Society, Preston Scholars Program, National Honor Society, and National English Honor Society. I have learned to adjust for change, even with no notice. I had to be ready to expect the unexpected and with Preston's great guidance, I am now prepared to handle anything that comes at me.

In Junior year, with the change from asynchronous, I was ecstatic to be in person with my friends. However, it was still a year filled with SAT's and academically challenging classes. While I had not participated in as many extracurricular activities as before, I was



STUDENT *Spotlight*

still able to incorporate myself into the Preston community. I joined clubs that I had previously been in, such as joining Student Council as a Member at Large. Everything did not need to be “normal” for me to enjoy my time in school. I had the most fun in Basic Graphic Design with Mr. Edelstein. It was entertaining to learn about Photoshop and how I could edit a koala’s head onto a cat then put my newly created animal in a nightclub background. I learned many things from Junior year, including the importance of not taking life too seriously. Even with unforeseen circumstances, we still had a “normal” year filled with laughs and exciting new twists.

In Senior year, I was elected Student Body President by my classmates and was able to connect with many people I did not see in the previous year. Even with the stressful decisions of college, I was aided by the guidance counselors

on how to handle the new journey I will be heading on. Participating in activities such as Varsity Cheerleading, Step Team and more has helped me appreciate the community I have at Preston and the friendships I have made. Classes I have taken this year have been academically challenging, but just as entertaining. An example of this is learning about probability with bingo and creating histograms from random M&M’s. As I am continuing with my final year, I have been taught a life lesson for senior year. Cherishing moments and friendships are the most important thing during my high school experience.

After I graduate from Preston, I plan on majoring in Political Science. I originally got the idea from my grandma to be a lawyer, which started my interest in Political Science. Although I knew what I wanted my major to be, I would have never ever continued my love for it if I did not attend

Preston. To be specific, Ms. Connolly has helped me increase my knowledge of the subject while simultaneously assisting me to grow my passion for it. Learning about how the government operates and the different laws we have has helped me further my love for Political Science. I might be unsure of where I want to attend college, but I thank Preston for preparing me. In addition, I want to thank Preston for helping me develop into the person I wanted to be. If I had not attended, I don’t think I would have become the person I am today. Every teacher and faculty member I have encountered has taught me life lessons that I will carry with me as I continue my college career. Also, I would like to thank Preston for helping me meet friends that have made my high school experience the best it can be. Lastly, I believe that Preston has truly taught me to become a woman of dignity, honor, respect and compassion.

OFFICE OF ACADEMICS

First and foremost, thank you to our alumnae and community members for all of your continuous support. In-person instruction is ultimately our goal as we continue through this pandemic. In-person instruction provides strong engagement between students and teachers, students and their peers, and direct access to the full range of academic and wraparound services for all of our students.

This year, the Office of Academics made some changes to the curriculum to assist students as they continue to navigate school and learning throughout the pandemic. For incoming freshman students, Preston now offers Math 9 to ensure that they have the tools they need to succeed in the coming years’ math courses. For students with IESP, there are SETSS (Special Education Support Services) providers available five days a week to push into classrooms, small group instructions, and offer individual support if needed.

Office hours have also been embedded into the students’ schedules to further support those who are in danger of failing. During this extra time, students are able to meet with their teachers one-on-one or in groups to go over topics and review material. Preston also works in conjunction with SUNY Albany to offer 11th and 12th-grade students college credit courses before they even get to college.



Mrs. Carmen Lopez,
AP of Academics

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE



Mr. Edgar Martinez,
AP of Student Life

The Office of Student Life is continuously working to ensure the safety of the students and staff while promoting a unified community. In December, a schoolwide Christmas Homeroom Door Decorating Contest was held to keep the Preston Christmas spirit alive, which the students were very excited to participate in.

The Office of Student Life worked in conjunction with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to hold a RSVP (Raising Student Voices and Participation) extended homeroom in the month of December to discuss microaggressions. Students watched sample videos and engaged in discussions regarding what a microaggression is and ways to help those who are targets of microaggressions. A guest speaker will be visiting Preston in February to provide faculty and staff with training on advancing inclusive environments and affirming and embracing individuality.

ALUMNA *Spotlight*

ALEXIS SALKEY '14 serves as a Production Management Coordinator for the Unscripted News, Music and Specials team at BET Networks under ViacomCBS. There, she works with a team to oversee the end to end execution of television shows across the network and strategizes with marketing, social and digital leads to develop and promote the programming.

After graduating from Preston High School in 2014, she attended the State University of New York College at Oswego where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and participated in many organizations such as the National Association of Black Accountants, Omicron Delta Honor Society and The School of Business Advisory Board. Upon graduating in 2018, she served as a Senior Digital Analyst at Fortune 100 financial company, New York Life where she was able to streamline the development of NYL's global brand image from traditional to digital business practices. During her time there, Alexis took an interest in the marketing side of the business management cycle and pursued a Master of Science degree at New York University in Integrated Marketing and Management.

While her journey into marketing strategy started with her coursework as an undergraduate student her creative talents were cultivated as a teenager at Preston where she produced her first documentary film in Craig Youngren's Video Production class at just 16. She has fond memories of her time at Preston whether it was serving as the President of Ladies of Color her sophomore and junior year, learning how to play the alto saxophone with the Wind Ensemble, attending Student Council meetings as Senior Class President or taking her final bow as a Preston Player.

There are a multitude of courses and teachers that contributed to her success but Alexis highlights Mr. Lender's Marketing course for establishing that there can be a bridge between business and creativity, Mr Abel and Dr Vellani's English courses for sharpening her writing skills and Ms. Forlini's Film History course for continuing her love of film and television. This blend of business acumen and interest in several aspects of multimedia have led Alexis to help produce multiple specials for BET, her most recent, a one on one chat with Vice President Kamala Harris and a pre-show to the 2021 Hip Hop Music Awards. She's also created dynamic campaigns, engaging social media content and effective strategy for grassroots brands in New York, Los Angeles and Atlanta. Despite graduating from Preston, Alexis defines herself as a perpetual student, constantly researching new subjects and trends in her field through self education or professional courses and she's grateful to Preston H.S. and her mom and sister (Simone Salkey '09) for giving her the platform to do so. To the class of 2022, do everything, and try everything (within reason) to gain perspective on what you like and who you want to be. The clubs that you join and classes that spark your interest ultimately blaze the trail for your very bright future. Listen to it.



CLASS OF '61 REUNITES Five members of the class of '61 gathered to reminisce, share some laughs and good food, and to celebrate just being able to get together for Susan's birthday, Thursday, Dec 9th, 2021. We remain ever grateful for all Preston meant to us back then and for all we continue to carry in our hearts from those days.

From left to right, Marion Scanza Mazzella, Pam DeFilippo Sloane, Pat Tannhauser Truta, Jane Scanlon Frawley, and Susan Dana Anczarki, from NJ, CT and NY at Pam's home in Old Greenwich, CT.

To share news or to remember a loved one, please email Gabriela Del Valle gdelvalle@prestonhs.org or (718) 863-9134 ext.143.

ALUMNA *Spotlight*

EMILY MARINO '11 After graduating Preston in 2011, I attended Iona College where I received a BA in Mass Communications and an MBA in Financial Management with a certificate in Health Care Management. I began my early career managing finances and coordinating development initiatives for a private nursing agency. After my father passed away from Pancreatic Cancer in 2017, I took a leap of faith into Nursing Education to ensure operational efficiency and program quality in the clinical area. Currently, I am the Director of Clinical Operations and Affiliations for an up and coming nursing program in Queens. I have had the opportunity to build a program from scratch with some of the best nursing education professionals in the Metropolitan area as well as various Chief Nursing Officers of major medical centers in the area. The purpose of my work is to ensure that nursing programs are producing safe and competent students who are ready to transition into professional practice. During the pandemic, the world put its faith in nurses across the world and it is important we do not fail in educating the next cadre of nurses. In my free time, I am an avid equestrian and horse mom to Benjie and Frankie.



It was a privilege to receive a Preston education and I recognize how hard the faculty and administration worked to support the student body. We not only received an academic education, but also an education in compassion, social responsibility and professionalism. Academically and Professionally, Preston has given me the confidence to thrive in the workforce and make a seat for myself at the table even if there is not one. More importantly, Preston has instilled in me compassion, empathy and social responsibility. We are taught how to listen to others, recognize their hurt and offer a lending hand. We are taught to treat people with kindness, offer a smile in passing and a simple thank you. We are taught to respect others, respect property and most importantly, respecting our earth. These lessons are invaluable and are now rooted in the hearts of every Preston graduate.

My father was proud to send me to Preston and he was proud of the young woman it allowed me to become. In honor of his sacrifices to afford me a private education, I developed the Salvatore P. Marino "Boman's Bunch" grant with the help of Mrs. Cristina Fragale in 2018. The \$500 grant is presented to a rising senior to cover the expenses of college applications and visits. In 2021, Jamie Leotta '11, Sofia Rocchio '11, Caitlyn McElroy '11 and myself developed the Friends of the Divine Compassion Fund in honor of our friendship and commitment to helping the next generation of Preston graduates succeed. The \$1,000 grant covers the financial burden of senior year including graduation, senior luncheon and prom expenses. The grant is awarded to a Preston senior. We hope to expand our contributions to the Preston community in the future.

ALUMNAE WORKING AT PHS

There are currently 11 faculty and staff members that once walked these halls as students too. Once a panther, always a panther!

Pictured from left to right, back row: Melissa Castignoli '07, Jennifer Connolly '92, Dominique Labate '09, Angelique Cruz Rodriguez '10, Sarah Chambers '18, Stephanie Mozzone '10. Front row, left to right: Gabriela Del Valle '16, Sarah Como '10, Eugenia Wolovich '10. Not pictured: Celeste Martino Shanahan '72 & Kathleen Kelly Welton '01



FACULTY AND STAFF *Spotlight*

ANAMARIE MURPHY:



I've worked for nine different financial institutions over the course of 22 years, never staying more than 2 or 3 years at

any one of them: I've been a reconciliation clerk; worked on SBA loans in the secondary market; CMO specialists (for those in the banking industry in the 80's yes, that CMO market); Supervisor; Manager; Cash Manager; Assistant Treasurer and Vice President. In as much as I excelled, using my creativity and critical thinking skills in each of these positions, I was not happy. I'd learn as much as I could and then move on because something was missing. I never felt like I belonged in the money-concentrated industry. Money wasn't my passion; it didn't drive my actions and — considering that I was one of 6 children raised by a single mother on the edge of the South Bronx — it was quite surprising to me and my family that I considered giving up my salary.

It took a family medical issue for me to call it quits and try something different. It was a series of events that ultimately led me to an interview at Preston High School. As soon as I stepped on the grounds, I felt like I finally found my home. These past 15 ½ years have been a whirlwind—to me, a sure sign that I love my job.

I watched around one-thousand students—one of whom was my very own daughter, Lauren Murphy ('11)—walk through the doors as ninth graders and then saw them mature and graduate, ready to take on any challenge. There have been good times, extreme sad times and, of course, incredible times throughout my tenure at Preston. But through it all, I consider our students like family. I jump for joy at their accomplishments and offer an ear when they're upset.

I think back on all of our Preston events, the Haunted Mansion being one of my favorites, and while there's a great deal of behind the scenes work being done to ensure a great event, it never crossed my mind not to do it all over again the following year. Well, if I'm being honest, I absolutely second, third and fourth guessed chaperoning the European trips again. Think about it: chaperoning anywhere between nineteen to one hundred 14 - 18 year-old students through Europe would challenge anyone. Believe me, the headaches, eye ticks and "OMG, what did I sign up for?" began at JFK airport! However, viewing the historical sites through the eyes of our young students (again and again) never ceased to amaze me and I was so happy to be a part of their experience.

On the first night of a trip through Germany, Austria, Prague and Slovakia, there was a black out at our hotel and surrounding neighborhood, so we brought the students to the main eating area, set-up flashlights, and came up with European Trip Jeopardy to help pass the time until the electricity returned. The students were split into teams and were asked questions about the sites they saw that day and the information supplied by the tour guide and were awarded points. It was such a hit, that we played every night. On the second to last day of the trip, the students were able to answer every question asked by the tour guides. The tour guides were not only very impressed but delighted that they finally had a school group that was interested and well informed. The students were so proud of themselves and the seniors on the trip said that the entire trip was an experience to be remembered forever. That's what Preston High School is, *an experience to remember forever.*

MELISSA CASTIGNOLI '07

I started working at Preston in 2014 as an Art teacher after receiving my Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the Fashion Institute of Technology and a Masters in Art Education from Lehman College.



My love for art began when I was a Preston student. I always looked forward to art class. The art room is where I always felt the most excited. I remember heading into the art room eager to continue working on a project or learn about a new artist. I still remember specific projects I created as

a student vividly. That is also why I am so grateful to be an art teacher at Preston. The best parts of my day are when students are able to create something that they are proud of and when students are able to share their artistic process with one another. For me, it is important for students to realize that there is more than one right way to find an answer and I think the art room is the perfect place to exercise this practice.

Making art is important because it teaches us that mistakes are an important part of the process. We learn so much by exploring and taking risks and that can sometimes be scary. We don't want to "mess up" but in art, these are called creative risks, they are encouraged and we are able to learn from them. My goal this year is for everyone to create at least one piece of work that they are really proud of.

SCHOOLYEAR *Snapshots*

9/11 20TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICE: On Monday September 13th, Preston High School paid tribute to the 20th anniversary of the tragic 9/11 attacks in an outdoor memorial service. The students, faculty and staff gathered around the flagpole to pray and honor the victims from that fateful day 20 years ago. To honor those who were affected within the Preston community, the names of friends and family members lost as a result of 9/11 were read aloud, followed by the lowering of the flag to half-staff and a moment of silence. The entire school came together for the first in-person ceremony of the year in solidarity to commemorate this event.



SOPHOMORE RETREAT:

The Class of 2024 attended their Sophomore Retreat on October 21st on our beautiful campus. Led by the chair of the Theology department Mrs. Dora Dekajlo, the theme was “Fearfully & Wonderfully Made”, meaning that God made them on purpose and for a purpose. Students had the opportunity to bond as a class and work to deepen their relationship with God in small and large groups in the gym, the chapel and the backyard. This was the first retreat to happen since the fall of 2019 so the Theology Department was very excited to make this event happen for the sophomores.

LITURGY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT & FALL HONORS CONVOCATION:

On September 22nd, we celebrated our first Mass of the year with the entire school. It was the first time since the pandemic that we were all joined together in prayer. We also commemorated all students who received honors last year as we were unable to do so last Spring.



FRESHMAN FAMILY PICNIC



On Sunday September 26th, Preston High School hosted Freshmen students and their families for the Freshmen Family Picnic. Mass was celebrated by Fr. James Heuser, President of Salesian High School, in the backyard, followed by lunch. After lunch, there was a friendly competition

amongst the freshmen class, upper-class students, parents, siblings and faculty with some relay races.



HALLOWEEN ASSEMBLY: After skipping a year due to the pandemic, the Halloween Assembly returned this year on Friday October 29th. Students, faculty and staff members were encouraged to dress up and participate in the Costume Parade at the end of the day, which crowned one winner from each grade level. The senior class put on a spooky skit inspired by the popular Netflix show, Squid Game, and the Step Team performed and was joined by their moderator, Ms. Eugenia Wolovich '10.



VETERANS DAY PARADE: Led by members of the Student Council, Preston High School students marched in the 37th Annual Throggs Neck Veterans Day Parade on Sunday November 14th. The Color Guard for the Veterans Day Parade was bright with Preston Pride as alums Erika Leich Rubbico '01 and Laura Leich '05 walked alongside senior Kayla Casey-Engeldrum '22, who also signed "God Bless America" at the closing ceremony.

COMPASSION CONNECTION FOOD DRIVE:

The Annual Compassion Connection Food Drive began Monday October 4th, with a goal of collecting over 10,000 pounds of food or dollars to donate. Mrs. Dekajlo, Theology Department Chair, parodied popular hit songs "Levitating" by Dua Lipa to "We Love Donating" and Olivia Rodrigo's "Good 4 U" to "Bring in Food". The school-wide friendly competition gets everyone involved but there can only be one winner and this year it was Ms. Farrell's Junior-3 homeroom. By the end of the food drive on November 19th, we raised a total of 14,215 comprised of 6,986 pounds of food and \$7,229, surpassing our goal by 42%. All donations were given to local food pantries in the Bronx, Westchester and New Jersey.



FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

On Thursday November 4th, Preston High School hosted its annual Father Daughter Dance at Marina Del Rey. Fathers and father figures of current Preston students were in attendance to enjoy an evening of dinner, dancing and raffles while bonding with their daughters. As per tradition, an attending senior and her father are randomly selected to be crowned the Princess and King of the evening and share a special dance; this year's winner was Priscilla Del Toro and her father John Del Toro (pictured), Assistant Varsity Softball Coach. "My daughter and I are so happy to have shared a special night together and can't wait to come back again next year," James Hayes, father of Abigail Hayes, Class of 2024.



CULTURAL THANKSGIVING: To

celebrate all of the different cultures and ethnicities that make up our Preston community, we hosted a Cultural Thanksgiving on Tuesday November 23rd during the lunch periods. Students and faculty were invited to bring in dishes from their cultures to share with their fellow students. We received an amazing show of support and the students were able to have a sampling from many different cultures.



SOPHOMORE JUNIOR WINTER FORMAL:

This year the Sophomore Junior Winter Formal was brought back. The gymnasium was turned into a winter wonderland and students danced the night away with their friends.



On November 9th the Class of 2022 came together for their Senior Retreat. Led by theology teacher Dr. Ilze King, the theme was “Dwelling in God’s Hands” and the seniors took the day to reflect on how God purposefully molded them into who they are. Activities included molding clay, creating prayer chains, and prayerfully writing letters to each other.

NHS SENIOR INDUCTION CEREMONY:

Members of the Preston community and their families came together on the evening of December 15, 2021 to celebrate the induction of nine students from the Class of 2022 into the Msgr. Thomas Preston Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Alumna and guest speaker Michele Manzo '09 shared some words of advice to the graduating seniors. Congratulations to the newly inducted members!



ATHLETICS *Updates*

Teamwork makes the dreamwork!



VARSITY SOCCER: Varsity Soccer placed 2nd for Tier 3 in the CHSAA after a nail-biting Championship game against St. Edmund Prep on Saturday October 30th. Seniors Danielle Brown, Jessica Dineen and Isabella Vento received All League Soccer Awards for the 2021 season. For their comeback season, the team kept a record of 6-3 with 54 total goals and only 7 goals allowed.



VARSITY VOLLEYBALL: Varsity Volleyball finished the season in 2nd place for Tier 1 in the Archdiocesan Championship in a match against Kennedy Catholic School. Senior Miranda Loughery received a CHSAA All League Volleyball Award for the 2021 season.



VARSITY CHEER: Cheerleading is back at Preston with a team of 27 students. At their first competition of the season, they placed first and won a bid to Nationals at Disney World in Florida!



FRESHMAN CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST:

The Class of 2025 came together on December 3rd to share a continental breakfast and sing Christmas songs. They were joined by their Junior Ambassadors and homeroom mentors. We're happy to put on events like this to give students time to connect with each other outside of the classroom.

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE UP TO OUTSIDE OF PRESTON!

2022 PETER M. FLANIGAN SCHOLAR



Angelica Chavez-Downes, a Preston High School Senior, was one of four high-school students to receive the Peter M. Flanigan

Scholarship. High school seniors with a cumulative GPA of 90 or above are invited to apply to receive scholarship funding of up to \$10,000 a year for four years at college. Upon graduation from Preston, Angelica plans to attend a 4-year university to receive a Bachelor's degree in nursing with a minor in business and spend a year as a travel nurse, all steps towards completing a personal goal of opening a worldwide nursing facility. Angelica holds a number of leadership positions at Preston, including but not limited to: Captain of the Varsity Cheerleading Team, Vice President of the DEI Task Force, President of the Photography Club and Art Club, Treasurer of the Italian Honor Society, and Secretary of the Women Empowerment Club.

SENIOR NAMED MISS COLUMBUS 2021



Senior Isabella Vento competed in the Bronx Miss Columbus competition and was awarded the title of Miss Columbus of the Bronx Columbus Day

Parade. Seniors of Italian American heritage with exemplary academic

achievement and active members of the community are encouraged to apply. Isabella Vento was an honorary guest at the parade aboard the Miss Columbus float, followed by fellow students from Preston High School. Isabella is Treasurer of Student Council, Captain of the Varsity Soccer team and a member of the Italian Honor Society & Italian Club.

BILL OF RIGHTS INSTITUTE STUDENT FELLOW



Cecelia Cullen, PHS Class of '23, was selected to be a student fellow for the inaugural cohort of the Bill of Rights Institute, a year-round educational program that

helps high school students develop their skills in building a civil society. The fellowship will allow students to engage in discussions about civil society, leadership and citizenship. After bimonthly meetings throughout the year, the program will culminate in a scholarship-funded weekend of programming in Washington, D.C. The Bill of Rights Institute is a civic education organization with a network of over 50,000 history and civics educators, thousands of classroom-ready history and civics resources and annual student and teacher programming. Alumna and faculty member Ms. Jennifer Connolly '92 is a member of the Bill of Rights Institute Teachers Council and shared the fellowship opportunity with her students. At Preston, Cecelia is a member of the Preston Scholars Program, National

Honor Society, National English Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, and a Junior Ambassador mentoring current Freshmen students to navigate their first year at Preston. She is also active in the Compassion Connection and Women's Empowerment Clubs.

FIRST PLACE WINNER FOR LEGAL CAREER DAY BY THE ALANYC



On November 18, 2021, three students from Ms. Connolly's Introduction to Law class participated in an online Legal Career Day program sponsored by the New York City chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators. The goal of the program is to introduce NYC high school students (grades 10th – 12th) to career opportunities in the legal industry and/or to enhance their current knowledge of the legal field, and is followed by a Mentoring Program, where students will be paired up with a mentor from the ALANYC for a period of 4 months where they would engage in phone calls, virtual meetings, and possibly a shadowing day at the mentor's office. While participating, senior Victoria Sawak-Rai won first place in the Kahoot Trivia Contest, and on December 7, 2021, John Connolly, on behalf of ALANYC, presented her with her prize, a \$75 gift card. At Preston, Victoria is a member of the Preston Scholars Program and the newly established Roundtable Club.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS



HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL & HAUNTED MANSION TOURS: Back for the first time since the start of the pandemic, Preston High School welcomed members of the community to their Halloween Festival & Haunted Mansion Tours! The Halloween Festival offered young children face painting, balloon animals, pumpkin & cookie decorating and carnival-style games. The beloved Huntington mansion was adorned with spooky decor for an eerie atmosphere for visitors to walk through.



GIVING TUESDAY: This year's Giving Tuesday on November 30th raised over \$12,000! Students contributed during their lunch periods and you answered our call for contributions. We hope to raise even more next year, but it won't be possible without your help. Thank you for your continuous support of Preston.



SANTA'S WINTER WORKSHOP: On Saturday, December 11th Preston High School transformed its halls and invited the community to travel to the North Pole and visit Santa's Winter Workshop. Alumnae, current teachers and community members joined for an afternoon of fun and games. Santa brought gifts and the children participated in carnival-style games, cookie decorating and ornament making. Vendors were also present and attendees were able to do some Christmas shopping while supporting local businesses.

SAVE THE DATE
Card Party
April 2nd, 2022
6 PM - 11 PM.
Visit our website for more information.

Please feel free to contact Gabriela Del Valle, Alumnae Relations & Special Events Associate, to discuss any questions you may have regarding any fundraising events at Preston High School.



Class of 1955



Class of 1956

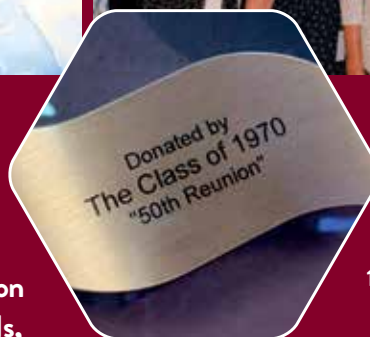


Class of 1961

ALUMNAE REUNION

After 18 months of postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Preston High School hosted an Alumnae Reunion for class years ending in 0s, 5s, 1s, and 6s on Saturday, September 18th. The double celebration began with Mass, followed by a delicious luncheon catered by Posto 22 in the cafeteria and on the back porch with alumnae from various years in attendance. With great joy and excitement, members from the classes of 1955 and 1956, were in attendance and recognized for celebrating their 66th and 65th reunion, respectively. The Class of 1970, the largest class ever to graduate from Preston, was ecstatic to celebrate their 51st reunion together and had the biggest turnout at the event. Those present and celebrating a milestone anniversary were recognized individually with a rose, which Nancy Weihe '70 said was "such a beautiful symbol of the love and friendships we've had at Preston, what a wonderful and heartwarming reunion!"

If you would like to purchase tickets or have any questions, please contact Gabriela Del Valle at gdelvalle@prestonhs.org or (718) 863-9134 ext.143.



Class of 1970 Leaf

We hope to see more of you at the next reunion, currently scheduled for

**SATURDAY
APRIL 9TH, 2022**

celebrating class years in 2s and 7s.



Class of 1971



Class of 1981



Class of 1991



Class of 2001

Preston Scholars Program

Preston High School recently received a generous donation of \$100,000 from The Myhrvold and Havranek Family Charitable Fund, made possible by alumna Rosemarie Havranek '78, to be used specifically to support students in the Preston Scholars Program (PSP), an honors program that encourages learning in and outside of the classroom, along with a service component. Students are invited to apply at the end of their Freshmen or Sophomore year based on grades. The application includes an essay and 2 teacher recommendations, with acceptance into the program also dependent upon course placement at PHS: must be in at least 1 honors or higher level Math/Science class AND 1 honors or higher level Humanities class each year, and complete 3 AP or Dual Enrollment courses while in the program. The PSP meets monthly as a group in homeroom and individually with moderator Ms. Jennifer Connolly once per semester. To remain in the program, students must be in the required classes, complete all activities, and maintain a 90 cumulative GPA.

In addition to maintaining several academic requirements, each member must complete an outside academic activity each semester, including essay contests, video contests, Saturday classes, summer institutes, and the like. In the past, Ms. Connolly has helped facilitate numerous opportunities for students in the PSP including but not limited to: a trip to the United Nations International Day of Peace celebrations, to the Museum of Tolerance to skype with a Holocaust survivor; and a meeting with Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Students have even received internships through the PSP, at Bronx Art Museum and the NY Historical Society.

Mrs. Jane Grendell originally had the idea to create the program when she was an Assistant Principal, with the intention of setting Preston apart from its competitors. As someone who believes in life-long learning, Ms. Connolly saw the program as an opportunity to both challenge and support Preston's highest achieving students and introduce them to the idea that education goes beyond the classroom. PSP students have gone on to attend notable colleges such as Dartmouth, Harvard and Columbia and receive admission into prestigious programs such as the Macauley Honors College, Sophie B. Davis School of Biomedical Education, and Gates Millennium Scholars.

So far, the grant has already been able to cover costs for one junior to attend NYU's High School Academy, 2 sophomores to attend a seminar on National Security at the Pentagon this summer and another 2 juniors to travel to London, England for 3 weeks in July for "The Young Doctor" and "The Young Lawyer" summer experiences from InvestIn Education.

DONATE TO A FUND OR SET UP A NEW ONE!

THE CATHERINE STENDERHOFF 10465 SCHOLARSHIP

The newly established Catherine Stenderhoff 10465 Scholarship, sponsored by Annmarie (Stenderhoff) Hawkins '78 is in honor of her beloved mother, Catherine Kellachan Stenderhoff. Mrs. Stenderhoff, a proud Aquinas alumna, valued Catholic education and worked to send her daughters to both St. Frances DeChantal and Preston High School in the Throggs Neck neighborhood of The Bronx. That was a very important value for Ms. Stenderhoff, and was much appreciated by her daughters.

The Catherine Stenderhoff 10465 scholarship in the amount of \$25,000 will fulfill its mission with the distribution of \$1,250 yearly to one incoming student for four (4) years who resides in the 10465 area. Each year, over the next 5 years, the admissions committee will select a freshman who meets the scholarship criteria. Five students will receive the \$5000 scholarship, paid across four years of Preston education.

The awardee will provide an annual letter with updates on her ongoing Preston experience. The \$25,000 will only be expended on scholarships for students from the donor's neighborhood of origin.

THE ANTHONY D'ABBRACCIO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION GRANT

Created by the Anthony D'Abbraccio Memorial Foundation, this grant is awarded to a graduating senior applying to college to put towards college expenses.

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

The Salvatore P. Marino "Boman's Bunch" Grant was created by Emily Marino in honor of her late father to help a rising senior afford 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 benefitted 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 conception, The Pink Panther Angel of Compassion Fund has accumulated over \$30,000 to help families facing financial difficulties. The fund will be used only once all other forms of financial assistance have been exhausted. Initiated by PHS alumnae from the Class of 1975, 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 come in the way of a student's journey at Preston.

**TO SET UP A FUND OR SCHOLARSHIP
OR TO DONATE TO ONE OF THESE
SPECIFIC FUNDS, PLEASE CONTACT
CRISTINA FRAGALE AT CFRAGALE@
PRESTONHS.ORG OR (718) 863-9134
EXT. 132.**

FACULTY & STAFF



SR. LORETTA SCHOLLHAMER, RDC '64

After serving the Preston community for over 34 years as the school librarian,

Sr. Loretta Schollhamer, RDC, has retired. An alumna of the class of 1964, Sr. Loretta was the bridge between the earlier graduating classes of Preston and the new. She kept graduates of the 60s up to date with Preston happenings and offered current students numerous resources to help them succeed while at Preston. We will miss her presence in the building and wish her a restful retirement!



MRS. CAITLIN FITZPATRICK

A member of the Guidance Department for over 11 years, Mrs. Caitlin

Fitzpatrick moved on from Preston High School. As a counselor to ninth and tenth grade students and guiding seniors as they applied to colleges, Mrs. Fitzpatrick was there for students throughout all four years at Preston. We will miss her and wish her the best of luck on her next endeavor!



MR. CHRISTOPHER TEEMSMA

After dedicating almost 15 years of teaching many Preston Panthers, Mr. Christopher Teemsma

has moved on from PHS. Known affectionately as "Mr. T", he has taught students in a variety of subjects including Health, Physical Education, and Computing over the years. It is with a heavy heart that we bid adieu to someone who has truly made a positive impact on the Preston community. His electrifying spirit and charisma will be missed throughout the halls, within the classrooms, and during our PHS events. We will miss him and wish him the best of luck at his new position!

SR. ANNE KELLY, RDC '54



Sister Anne Kelly, RDC (Sr. Mary Kevin), a Sister of the Divine Compassion, passed away peacefully on

October 6 after a long illness.

Sr. Anne was born in New York in 1936, the daughter of Thomas and Annie (McKnight) Kelly. Sister attended St. Frances de Chantal School and Preston High School in the Bronx. She graduated from Good Counsel College with a Bachelor's

Degree and continued her education at Villanova, receiving a Master's Degree in Math. Sister also attended Providence College and received training in Religious Studies. Her teaching career began at St. Bernard's School in White Plains. She also taught at St. Mary's School in Katonah, and St. Joseph's School in Croton Falls, NY. In 1972 Sister began as Director of Religious Education at Emric's Parish in Manhattan. She also served as DRE at St. Benedict's Parish in the Bronx for many years. In 2003 Sr. Anne began The Preston Center of Compassion in the Throgs Neck area of the Bronx. The Center offers services to families in need and continues to thrive to this day.

Sr. Laura Donovan, President of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion, said

"Sr. Anne was a devoted, faithful member of our congregation. She was a compassionate presence no matter where she served. She began the Preston Center of Compassion extending her gifts and reaching out to families in need. She will be missed."

Sr. Anne is survived by her Sisters of the Divine Compassion, two sisters-in-law, Bridget Kelly and Anna Kelly along with many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her parents and four siblings.

NEW TO THE STAFF:

Mr. Eustace Barnes | Custodian

Ms. Sarah Chambers | Office of Student Life Assistant

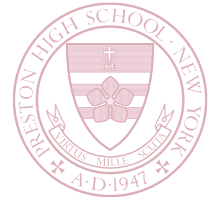
Ms. Shari Drummond | ADAPP Counselor

Mr. Jerome Gooden | SETSS Provider

Ms. Ashley Olan | Graphic Design Teacher

Ms. Shannon Ortega | Guidance Counselor

Mrs. Kathleen Welton '01 | Librarian



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
Laura DeMaria-DeMattia '92
Sr. Laura Donovan, RDC
Tanya Douglas
Judge Doris Gonzalez
Lorrin Johnson
Janice Caserta Mastropietro '80
Barbara McMurray, *President*
Donna Santarpia Spitz '77
Sr. Carol Wagner, RDC '69
Julia Breen Wall
Jane Grendell, *ex officio*

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Principal | Jane Grendell, M.Ed. x 113
Assistant Principal of Academics | Carmen Lopez, M.S., x 115
Assistant Principal of Student Life | Edgar Martinez, B.S. EIT, x 130
Registrar | Craig Youngren, M.A. x 196

OFFICE OF RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT

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Sr. Director of Recruitment &
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718-863-9134 x 131

GABRIELA DEL VALLE '16
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Special Events Associate
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ANNAMARIA RELLA
Administrative Assistant
arella@prestonhs.org
718-863-9134 x148



PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL

— EST. 1947 —

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SAVE THE DATE 2022:

MARCH 24-27TH:

Preston Players: *In the Heights!*

APRIL 2ND:

Card Party

APRIL 9TH:

2s & 7s Alumnae Reunion

JULY 5TH - JULY 29TH:

P.R.E.P. Program

PRESTON'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

2022-2023 Schoolyear

SEPTEMBER 17TH - OCTOBER 29TH

TACHS Prep



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RSVP OR DONATE PRIZES, SPONSORSHIPS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT [GDELVALLE@PRESTONHS.ORG](mailto:gdelvalle@prestonhs.org)