

PRESTON ECHOES *Revisited*

DIGNITY. HONOR. RESPECT. COMPASSION.



Dear Alumnae and Friends of Preston High School,

This will be my final letter to you as principal of Preston High School. When I first joined the faculty back in September 1995, our family had recently moved to New York from the San Francisco Bay area. I never imagined that I would spend the next 27 years at Preston as a classroom teacher and chairperson of the English Department, then as assistant principal for curriculum and teaching, and for the last 14 years, as principal. To borrow a line from the Grateful Dead, “What a long, strange trip it’s been!”

As I look back at my years at PHS I am above all grateful for the opportunity to share my love of literature and discussing literature and writing about literature with hundreds of students. I delighted in introducing them to my favorite characters (I’m talking about you Mr. Darcy, Jay Gatsby, the Wife of Bath, and so many others); and my favorite authors (Shakespeare, Dickens, Chaucer, Donne, Fitzgerald, Poe, Wharton, and again, so many others). I firmly believe that as teachers, we learn as much from our students as they learn from us, and maybe more. Thank you to all my former students for wonderful memories and lessons learned.

I have also been blessed to work among wonderful, dedicated teachers, staff members and administrative colleagues who firmly believe in our school’s mission of compassion and who, again and again, put in extra time and effort in support of our students and their well-being. They are my heroes.

In making the move from classroom teaching to administration (not part of my original career plan, I assure you), I was most fortunate to learn from such generous and experienced mentors as Sr. Lucille Coldrick, Sr. Laura Donovan, Sr. Mary Ellen Bernard (also known as SMEB), Sr. Carol Peterson, and Linda Youngren. I owe them a debt of gratitude that I can never fully repay.

In my fourteen years as principal I have worked closely with the members of our Board of Trustees who do their work of supporting and promoting Preston behind the scenes as volunteers. I have always had their support in good times and challenging times, and there have been many challenging times, for which I am most grateful.

To my beloved family: It has been no easy task trying to balance my home life and my work life. There have been many occasions when work won over home. Thank you from my heart for your patience, understanding, and sacrifices. I hope I can make amends in the years to come.

And finally, to Preston’s loyal alumnae: As Preston prepares to celebrate the 75th anniversary of its founding by the Sisters of the Divine Compassion, I hope you will join us in celebrating this milestone by attending the various events planned for the coming school year and by continuing your generous financial support of our efforts to promote our values of Dignity, Honor, Respect, and Compassion, so sorely needed in our world today.

Jane Grendell

Introducing Preston's New Leadership Team



**Jennifer Connolly '92
as Principal:**

Dear Alum,

Greetings and well wishes from the halls of Preston High School! I hope that this newsletter finds you well,

and enjoying some of the pleasures of summer, and maybe brings back some memories of your summers during high school, whether that be summer reading, days spent poolside or at the beach, or summer nights spent with friends and families making memories.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new principal. Although I am new to this role, I am not new to Preston High School. In fact, I might not exist if it wasn't for Preston High School, as my parents met at a dance in the gym and were later set up by a PHS classmate of my mother's, and they have been together ever since! I began my own journey at Preston in 1988, and am a proud member of the class of 1992. While I attended Preston, I was an Honor student and very involved in student life, as a member of Student Council, the Soccer Team, Model U.N., Drama Club, and Yearbook. After high school, I continued my education at American University in Washington D.C.- where I received a BA in History and worked on Congressional and Presidential Campaigns, and in the White House, and was a member of the Catholic Student Association, Residence Hall Association, and the School of Public Affairs Leadership Program; and later at Hofstra University School of Law, where I made the Dean's List; graduated in the top 15% of my class; and received the Excellence in the Study of Employment and Labor Law award from American Bar Association and Bureau of National Affairs, and the school's Excellence in the Study of Family Law award at graduation, while also participating in Hofstra Law Women and the Public Justice Foundation.

After college graduation, I became a member of the History Department at PHS for two years, teaching Global Studies 10 and United States History, and was the moderator for the Soccer Team- I have many fun memories of driving that van on windy highways with a group of rowdy girls! During my time in the legal arena, I worked with municipal and corporate law, and continuing legal education. It was the time spent working on educating lawyers that reminded

me what my true passion was, and so I returned to Preston High School's History Department after an eight year absence. At this point, I have taught all grade levels and all levels of courses, as well as being the department chair. In addition, I am the Founding Director of Preston Scholars Program; and have also been the Assistant Dean for Student Life; and the moderator of Amnesty International, Ladies of Color, National Honor Society, Women's Empowerment Club; and one of the leaders of Emmaus Retreat Program.

I am excited to take on this role as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of Preston High School, and its long standing tradition of empowering young women to become compassionate leaders for change in the world. This will be a year full of celebration, and we hope to see all of your faces and hear your voices here at some point! After two years of uncertainty and transition, I look forward to noisy hallways and events.

Sincerely,
Jennifer R. Connolly, Esq.
Principal



**Donna Santarpia Spitz '77 as
President of the Board of Trustees**

Donna Santarpia Spitz was appointed President of the Board of Trustees of Preston High School in February 2022 by the Leadership Team of the Religious of the Divine Compassion

and says she "is very excited about what lies ahead for Preston with the new principal Jennifer Connolly and the upcoming celebration of Preston's 75th Anniversary." She grew up in the Morris Park area of the Bronx, attending Our Lady of Solace Elementary School. A graduate of Iona College in New Rochelle, NY, she currently works for Haymarket Media as their Chief Financial Officer. Donna has used her professional career as a CPA to continue her service to Preston as a financial advisor to the RDCs and the Preston Center of Compassion. Donna loves spending quality with her family including her husband Rich, her children Gregory and Alecia, and her new grandson Henry born in March 2022.



GRADUATION *2022*

Preston's 71st graduating class celebrated their final moments as Preston students in our picturesque backyard on Saturday June 4th. 90 graduates sat in their chairs surrounded by friends and family facing the historic mansion as they received their diplomas. In Preston tradition, alumnae mothers presented their daughters with their diplomas. Graduates and their alumnae mothers included Laurie Hillman-Drewes '88, mother of Nicolette Drewes, Meghan Fontaine Langguth '96, mother of Madison Langguth, Jacqueline Baumeister Marrero '89, mother of Alexis Marrero, and Jill McArdle Siegmund '94, mother of Megan Siegmund. Salutatorian Brianna Hall, attending SUNY Binghamton in the Fall, and Valedictorian Dritjona Dule, attending Fordham University in the Fall, addressed their fellow graduates. Rosemarie Havranek '74 was selected as the recipient of this year's Distinguished Alumna Award and her niece Suzanne Havranek '04 accepted and delivered a keynote address on her behalf.

**OVER \$26
MILLION**
IN SCHOLARSHIPS
& GRANTS



The Cecilia Cunningham Noonan Memorial Award for the Intended Study of Nursing

Sofia Cruz

Lauren Tierney

The Patricia Langan Mrsich '70 Memorial Award for the Intended Study of Law

Victoria Sawak-Rai

The Barbara Ann Lee Feinberg '69 Memorial Award for the Intended Study of English

Dritjona Dule

Kiara Rosas



The Helen and Anton Wagner Memorial Award for Outstanding Service and Compassion in School and Community

Cecelia Porter

The Ronnie Donovan Memorial Award for Courage

Lauren D'Abbraccio

Samantha Forese



The Parent Association Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Leadership and Service

Kalia Noble

The Board of Trustees Award for Unique Leadership and Service to the Preston Community

Francelys Tavarez



The Principal's Award for Leadership, Service and/or Academic Achievement

Rachel Occhiuto

Skylar Powers

Kaysie Richards

Kayla Vanterpool

100% of this year's class of 90 graduates were accepted into institutions of higher learning. Collectively, they received \$26,825,996 in scholarships and grants with one graduate also recognized as a Million Dollar Scholar for individually receiving over one million dollars. In the second year of the Biliteracy Program at Preston, 38 students received a Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma in either Italian or Spanish and an additional 6 students received two Seals of Biliteracy.



The Sister Mary Carmella Stapleton Alumnae Association Award for Exemplary Preston Spirit

Miranda Loughery

The Divine Compassion Award for Integrity, Generous Service and Exemplary Leadership

Annabel Savarese



75TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Preston High School is celebrating its 75th year of education since opening its doors in 1947. We are incredibly excited to share this milestone with all of you and commemorate the past 75 years while preparing for the next 75!

We are looking for 2 class representatives from each graduating year to help us get in touch with as many alumnae as possible! If you are interested in becoming a class representative, please contact Gabriela Del Valle at gdelvalle@prestonhs.org or (718) 863-9134 ext. 143.

Did you know?

The student council from the first graduating class wrote the alma mater themselves.



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESTON ADMISSIONS OFFICE!

PHS honored our newest Panthers, the Class of 2026, during our Salute To Scholars Reception and Accepted Students Night this past February 2022. In preparation to begin classes this fall, the incoming freshman took the Placement Exam in March and will be returning this summer for our Academic Bootcamp program and Student Orientation sessions running in August. During this time, the students will be able to become acclimated to the PHS environment while making connections with their classmates as well as meeting their incoming teachers. We are happy to announce that the Class of 2026 is composed of over 100 students from all areas of the Bronx, Westchester, and Upper Manhattan. If you have any questions regarding admissions, please contact Mrs. Angelique Rodriguez at acrodriquez@prestonhs.org or (718) 863-9134 ext. 131.

Project P.R.E.P. is back in action for rising 7th and 8th graders! This four-week program is not only preparing students for the TACHS exam but allowing them to experience new educational opportunities and passions. For rising 8th graders, PHS will continue to offer our TACHS Prep program starting September 17th. The program will run on Saturdays between 9 am - 12 pm. 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!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Fall TACHS Prep

September 17th – October 29th
(Saturdays ONLY)
9 am – 12 pm

VIRTUAL Open House

Wednesday, September 28th, 2022
6:30 pm

Fall Open House

Sunday, October 23rd, 2022 (11 am – 2 pm)
AND
Monday, October 24th, 2022 (6 pm – 8 pm).



Announcing...



← **Anne Earthman Salonia '09** and husband **Joseph Salonia** welcomed baby boy **Lorenzo Cosimo Salonia** on January 24th, 2022.



↑ **Kerri Johnson '10** and **Dylan Kuhl** were married on October 1st, 2021. Pictured is the bride **Kerri**, with her mom **Rosemarie Fitzsimons Johnson '73** and father **Jeff Johnson**.



← **Donna Santarpia Spitz '77** became a grandmother on March 8th, 2022 as her son **Gregory** welcomed baby boy **Henry**.



← **Angelique Irizarry '10** married **Robert Gierum** on Saturday June 25th, 2022.

→ **Christine Colangelo Ianniello '09** and husband **Thomas Ianniello** welcomed their baby boy **Robert Anthony Ianniello** into the world on April 22nd, 2022.



↓ **Wyneisha Kinsey Hunt '10** and husband **Aaron Hunt** welcomed baby boy **Aaron Hunt III** on June 16th, 2022.



↑ **Gabrielle Cruz '13** and **Steven Palladino** became engaged on March 20th, 2022, with plans to wed in June 2024.

→ **Graziella Fragale-Robertson '10** welcomed baby girl **Mattie Juliette** on July 4th, 2022.



↑ Two members of the Preston community were honored at FIAME's Annual Awards Dinner Dance on May 13, 2022. Alumna **Stephanie Loretta '08** received The Andy Galdi Special Education Award. Preston's Sr. Director of Recruitment & Development and mother to 4 PHS alumnae, **Cristina Fragale** received the Dominic Capone FIAME Service Award.

† In Loving Memory

Meghan Burke '05, sister of **Christine Burke '01**, **Kathleen Burke Curran '02**, and **Tara Burke '05**

Elizabeth Cloonan Britz '69

Geraldine O'Sullivan '55, sister of **Sr. Joan O'Sullivan '52**

Domenick Landolfi, brother of **Lisa Landolfi Vasile '87**

Frances Lanza, mother of **Maryann Lanza Connolly '68** and grandmother of **Jennifer Connolly '92**

Joseph Leotta, father of **Jillian '09**, **Janine '11** and **Jamie '13 Leotta**

Linda Ruzzi-Fabrizio '71, mother of **Leann Fabrizio '06**

Sr. Maryellen Keefe, O.S.U. (PHS teacher from 1978-1986)

Alex DeFilippo, father of **Laura DeFilippo '17**

Yolanda & Alfiero Martino, parents of **Donna Martino Galbo '77**, aunt and uncle of **Celeste Martino Shanahan '72** and great-aunt and great-uncle of **Justine Shanahan '00**

Matthew Robertson, husband of **Graziella Fragale-Robertson '10** and brother-in-law to **Angela '13**, **AnnaRose '15** and **Gianna '17 Fragale**

TO SHARE NEWS OR TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE,
PLEASE EMAIL **GABRIELA DEL VALLE** GDELVALLE@PRESTONHS.ORG OR (718) 863-9134 EXT.143.

STUDENT *Spotlight*

BRIANNA HALL:

Hello Preston High School Alumnae!

My name is Brianna Hall and I am the

salutatorian of the Class of 2022.

Although my time at Preston was filled with challenges, especially with Covid, it has ultimately changed me for the better.



I've been involved with multiple clubs throughout my years here, such as Italian Club, Preston Echoes, Mind Over Matter, and Compassion Connection. I'm so grateful to be a co-president of Compassion Connection because of all the charity work they do. In addition to these clubs, I was inducted into the Italian Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, English Honor Society, and National Honor Society. As a member of the Student Council, I am the Vice President of Co-Curricular Affairs and the Vice President of Admissions/Advancement.

Preston has provided me with tons of great experiences and memories that I know I will never forget. One memory that I treasure is when I was in sophomore year I would spend every free period I had with my best friend working on whatever ceramics project our class was doing. Ms. Castignoli would always let us stay and work on our projects even if it was only for a short amount of time. I will always remember this because it was a time I could relax and take a step back from the stress of homework and tests. This helped me stay motivated and focused on my schoolwork. She also gave me the opportunity to paint the set for the play my sophomore year. I would spend hours after school helping decorate the backdrop because I loved to paint, especially with my friends.

At the beginning of my freshman year, I joined the volleyball team, which pushed me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to meet so many new people. It became challenging to balance my sports life and school work. I wanted to keep my grades up but also put most of my time

into learning how to become a better player. With the help of my coaches, teachers, and friends, I became the best student and athlete I could be. Playing volleyball has not only taught me the importance of time management but of how crucial it is to surround yourself with people who support you.

One teacher who really influenced me was Dr. Zeoli. She inspired my love of science and helped me join clubs, like the Green Team, that placed recycling bins all over the school and spread awareness through short videos. She always made our lessons interesting and encouraged class discussions. Dr. Z made sure that everyone understood the material and urged us to ask her any questions we had. Looking back, this is what led me to pursue a major in geology in college at Binghamton University.

I'm so excited for what is to come, but I know that I will miss the family I have made at Preston. Overall, I just want to say thank you to everyone at Preston who made my years memorable. I know that I will use the experience I have gained here in the future.

DRITJONA DULE:

Hello Preston Alumnae! My name is Dritjona Dule and I am the Valedictorian of

the Class of 2022. On that bright morning in September of 2018,

I kicked off my first day as a Preston student with Ms. McEvoy's PE class. Now, even though the letters on the back of my PE t-shirt may be crumbling, I'll be graduating Preston knowing that for the past four years I have had the support and guidance of an incredible community.

My time here has been rich with opportunities to learn new things, grow as a person, and discover a sense of identity. Until I walked into that bustling cafeteria, I had never imagined myself as the one to start a conversation with an unfamiliar face. Although I am usually timid in



nature, the welcoming environment at Preston encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone. And I am very glad that I did. Two years later, I found myself becoming a Junior Ambassador where I welcomed incoming freshmen who were just as nervous and lost as I once was. I am now the Vice President of National Honor Society, the Secretary of National English Honor Society, a member of various clubs, and even a founding member of the Round Table Club.

Having spent the majority of my junior year in my bedroom, I realized that there was nothing quite like the bond that is built within the walls of Preston. Each classroom and hallway holds a special memory. Events such as Challenge Day in sophomore year really opened my eyes to just how close I had gotten with my peers. We felt comfortable being vulnerable and true to ourselves around one another.

It is without a doubt that the academics at Preston have prepared me for the next chapter of my life. And with teachers such as Dr. Unger, I was always reminded that I need to take the time to congratulate myself for my hard work and figure out ways to learn from my mistakes. Ms. Van Sicklin's AP Biology labs have furthered my interest and excitement for a career in STEM. I can always count on

Ms. Forlini to bring out my inner Shakespeare and I'm thankful to Ms. Farrell for helping me recognize that there's no point in dwelling on a bad grade. While there is no denying the challenges that come with high school, I will always be grateful to the Preston community for allowing me to experience what it is like to have classmates and teachers there for you every step of the way.

As I make my way towards my future, I will always cherish the people I've met and the lessons I have learned here. My academic journey at Preston has come to an end, but the memories I've made will be coming with me to Fordham University where I will spend the next four years studying Biological Sciences.

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

SENIOR NAMED CMSV CORAZON C. AQUINO SCHOLAR



Senior Erika Livica was awarded the Corazon C. Aquino Scholarship by the College of Mount Saint Vincent! This full tuition scholarship is given to a select group of students who exemplify outstanding academic achievement and who are of Filipino descent. Preston alumna and fellow Aquino scholar, Thea Tinawin PHS'21, and Erika's sister, Eliana Livica PHS'25, were also present to join in on the celebration. Erika is the 5th Preston student to receive this scholarship.

AATI HONORS SOPHOMORE BRIANA CHERUBINO '24

Sophomore and transfer student Briana Cherubino was honored at the American Association of Teachers of Italian Award Ceremony for her excellence in Italian Studies and her service to the Italian Community. Pictured from left to right is AATI President Mrs. Rosa Ricci Pietanza, Briana Cherubino '24, Ms. Rosemary DeMaio, and Mrs. Lucrezia Lindia, President of the National Italian Honor Society.



NATIONWIDE PHOTOGRAPHY RECOGNITION IN SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING CONTEST



Ash Aull, a sophomore, has been awarded an Honorable Mention for Photography in the Scholastic Art and Writing

Contest. This is a national contest, where awards are awarded also on the regional level. The NYC Scholastic Awards is administrated by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers in partnership with Parsons School of Design and Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts.

COMMUNITY BOARD 10 HONORS CARILUZ MUNOZ AT YANKEE GAME



Cariluz Munoz, Class of 2023, was awarded the NY Yankees Leadership Award for her contribution to the community. The Yankees, along with Community Board #10 wanted to honor youth community leaders not just for their outstanding academics but also for the difference they are making in their community. Recipients were selected by their academic achievements, leadership, and volunteer work. Cariluz was awarded 6 tickets to a live Yankee game along with the honor of being presented with the award on the historic field.

PRESTON SCHOLARS PROGRAM SENDING 8 STUDENTS TO SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Preston Scholars Program is sending eight students to career programs this summer thanks to generous alumna Rosemarie Havranek from the Class of 1974 who donated a milestone gift of \$100,000 to the Preston Scholars Program. Five rising Seniors will be going to London this summer to participate and engage in Invest In Education's immersive 3-week career programs.



Pictured from left to right are rising Senior scholars participating in the following programs: Cecelia Cullen in "The Young Political Leader", Sherlyn Puma-Duran & Stephanie Fegel in "The Young Lawyer", Maria Criollo in "The Young Doctor", and Jada Espinal in "The Young Filmmaker". Another rising Senior will be attending the National Student Leadership Conference for Medicine and Healthcare and two rising juniors will be going to Washington D.C. for the National Youth Leadership Forum: National Security and Defense.

ALUMNA *Spotlight*



STEPHANIE LORETTA '08 I was born in New York City and grew up in the Morris Park section of the Bronx, NY. I attended St. Clare's Grammar School and Preston High School, and it was there I first found my passion for working with children. While in my senior year, I was enrolled in PLEX, the Preston Learning Experience, which provided students with the opportunity to intern in their respective fields of interest. I began an internship at P.S. 83 in the Bronx and was selected to work the after-school program in the fall of 2007. While I did not fully realize it then, this was the start of my career in education.

After Preston, I attended Pace University as a Psychology major and joined the sisterhood of Delta Phi Epsilon, Inc. Upon graduating from Pace University in 2013 with my Bachelor's degree, I applied and was accepted into the School Counseling program at the College of New Rochelle. In 2016, after concurrently working as a paraprofessional during the day and tutoring in the afternoons, I graduated with a Master of Science in School Counseling. It was at this point that I returned to P.S. 83, only this time as the Middle School Counselor for 5th and 6th grade, where I have been for the past 4 years. My work at P.S. 83 seems to have attracted some attention as I was recently honored as School Counselor of the Year in District 11, the youngest school counselor in the district, and awarded the Andy Galdi Special Education Award at the 36th Annual Forum of Italian American Educators Dinner Dance.

In 2015, while working at P.S. 83 in, I met my fiancé Julio Reynoso and we have plans to wed in Aruba in the Summer of 2023. My best friends from high school, Alana, Christina, and Jackie, are still my best friends today and will even be bridesmaids in my wedding. Some of my greatest memories were shared with these girls and we have Preston to thank for the special bond we share.

JANICE CASERTA MASTROPIETRO '80 There is no element of surprise in the fact that my career path has led me to become a Pre-K through 8 school principal. I have always been a lover of all things school related, and I was one of those kids who could not wait to go buy school supplies each August. I was born with that in me but was definitely influenced along the way by a few very special people.



My mother always set aside special time each day to read to me from books like *Grimm's Fairy Tales* and *Mother Goose*, and that helped me to develop a love of words and love of reading from a very young age. I was overjoyed when I was old enough to get a library card. That opened up a whole world to me! My second and fourth grade teacher, AnnMarie Terrone, helped to solidify this love of books because she was such a wonderful teacher who also loved to read. But would this be enough for me to succeed? When I was on my way to high school, I was warned that public school students like myself would have to compete with the skills of Catholic school students whose teachers had a reputation for focusing on grammar and writing. When I got to Preston, we were told we had to pass a huge grammar and usage test January of freshman year; needless to say, I knew I had to up my game, so I hung on every word Mrs. Mesick, my freshman English teacher, said. That is truly when English became my "thing." Sr. Mary Ellen Keefe was my English teacher both junior and senior year, and she was the one who helped me pull it all together, honing my analysis, research, and writing skills. So, it was no surprise that I majored in English at Queens College and started my career as a Contracts Analyst at Castle Oil Corporation. Later, I was promoted to a VP of Corporate Planning, and I loved my job, but knew one day I was going to become a teacher.

Fast forward to the births of my daughters, Laura ('09) and Bianca ('12). I went to the College of New Rochelle to earn my MS Ed in education with specialized certification in Gifted Ed. I began teaching English at Villa Maria Academy (after a one-year stint as the foreign language teacher), and never looked back. The sisters there asked me to take over campus ministry when the last of their local sisters retired from teaching, and I wholeheartedly obliged. Now, twenty-one years after the beginning of my teaching career, I have assumed the role of principal and I could not be more humbled or more excited. A huge part of what I bring with me to this vocation comes from my four years in high school. Preston is where I found my voice, became confident in my creativity, became part of a hugely supportive sisterhood, and most importantly, became a woman of compassion. A piece of my heart will always belong to Preston. I have had the honor of serving on the Board of Trustees for the past six years with talented and amazing people and will continue to do so as an officer. This is just a very small way in which I am trying to say thank you to our beautiful high school. *Hail to Preston, alma mater fair...!*

FACULTY *Spotlight*



KATHLEEN HENRY:

I have found it almost impossible to stay away from a classroom! My return to Preston last year, 19 years after leaving, was like a blast from the past! I had taught at Preston during the 90's and part of the 80's and then left in June of 2001, to teach at Mamaroneck High School, shortly after completing my second Master's degree.

After many years at Mamaroneck, I tried retirement, but couldn't stay home and found myself going back to Mamaroneck many times to teach Math as a long-term leave replacement for teachers who were on maternity leave.

Two summers ago, I saw a part-time position for a Math teacher at Preston High School and was really excited to apply and get the job! So many memories became alive once more as I entered the building, walked through the beloved mansion and admired its ceilings and fireplaces, and visited the chapel. And, oh, the memories, like when one of my classes locked me in the closet outside Room 9, just for fun, memories of all the years when the faculty participated in the Halloween and Christmas assemblies by putting on a surprise skit for the students. We were always a hit! Memories of making ring warmers with the freshmen for their junior sisters, chaperoning the sophomore dance, working on Yearbook, giving a speech on Senior class day at the end of the year. Of course, time brings changes, but some things have remained the same.

Teachers used to hand write every single progress report and also hand write the name of every student in each of their classes in gradebooks with green spiral covers; there was no such thing as Google Classroom or RenWeb or Zoom! We would also carry a black spiral lesson plan book with our handwritten outlines for the day; now we carry our laptop and a charger! We were always thrilled to have "snow days;" now we "go remote" when it snows! Teachers were covered in chalk at the end of the day; now we use Expo markers! What has remained? Just as back in the day, my classes still sing the "Quadratic Formula" song. Demerits still exist, the senior water fight, the pink Panther, and the wonderful Preston spirit among students, teachers and staff! That was and still is the best part of Preston. I'm so happy that I had the opportunity to experience it all again!



SR. MARYELLEN KEEFE

Sr. Maryellen Keefe, OSU (aka Sr. St. Martin) of the Bronx, died peacefully on Tuesday, April 12, at Andrus on Hudson, Hastings on Hudson, NY after a long illness. Maryellen was born June 28, 1936, in New York, the daughter of Mary Horan and Martin Keefe. Sr. Maryellen taught at Preston High School for eight years from 1978-1986. As well as being a classroom teacher, Maryellen was an active member of the school communities serving on many committees. She was a Professor of English Literature at SUNY Maritime College until her retirement in 2021. She is survived by her brother John and her sister Veronica, both of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware as well as nieces and nephews.

SCHOOLYEAR *Snapshots*

VALENTINE'S DAY SOCIAL

Student Council planned the first ever Valentine's Day Social this year. Students enjoyed the afternoon with pizza, bracelet making and music and dancing.



BLACK INVENTORS SHOWCASE:

In February, Preston High School's Leaders of Color Club, moderated by Ms. Eugenia Wolovich and Ms. Shannon Ortega, hosted a Black Inventors Showcase for the school community. Students and staff members were invited to the gymnasium-turned-gallery hall for an immersive exhibit that highlighted the contributions of notable Black inventors. Each chair represented a contributor and their invention, those with a candle denoting one who has passed on, with an audio description of each contributor. Students were then invited to reflect on their experience at the exhibit and add it to our "Black History is Now" banner.



MOTHER DAUGHTER BRUNCH

On Saturday, March 5th, students and their mother and mother figures gathered at Marina del Rey for the 2022 Mother Daughter Brunch. Back for the first time since the start of the pandemic, attendees were happy to gather for an afternoon of games, dancing, good food, and quality time with each other. To honor the seniors and their moms as they prepare to move on to college, roses were exchanged to symbolize their special bond and the love and friendship they share with each other.



GAELIC SOCIETY'S CEILI:

The Gaelic Society brought back its Annual Ceili on March 8th for over 100 guests who enjoyed traditional foods from Ireland, games and an Irish step dancing performance from members of the Inishfree School of Irish Dance in Yonkers.



FRESHMAN RETREAT

The Freshmen class participated in their first class retreat in the gym, focused on the theme Friendship. They made tissue paper flowers to symbolize the garden of life while bonding and making new memories.

NHS INDUCTION CEREMONY:

The Monsignor Thomas Preston Chapter of the National Honor Society held their 2022 Spring Induction Ceremony where PHS families were invited to see their students honored.



JR RING NIGHT: The Class of 2023 celebrated their Ring Night, the first of many events to commemorate the completion of their high school journey. Class of 2023, we hope you'll wear your graduation ring with pride, even after you leave these halls!

CONFIRMATION: On Thursday May 19th, 6 Preston students received the sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Edmund Whalen officiated the Confirmation Mass with Fr. Paul Richmond from St. Simon Stock Church in the Bronx, NY. This year Mrs. Dora Dekajlo, Theology Department Chair, began a Sacramental Preparation course after receiving interest from several families for their daughters to receive one or all of the Sacraments of Initiation. Throughout the year, one student was baptized, two received their first communion, and now six have been confirmed.



JR RETREAT

The Class of 2023 came together as one on their Junior Retreat, hosted throughout our school building and centered around the theme of "God's Masterpiece". The students placed rocks on the altar in the chapel to symbolize placing their burdens on Jesus Christ, wrote their fears in the sand & wiped them away, shredded their regrets & cut the vices out of their life.

MAY CROWNING



Senior Erika Livica '22 was chosen by her classmates because of her courage, bravery and faithfulness to crown Mary in our May Crowning ceremony. Students & faculty and staff were given the opportunity to go up and pray to Mother Mary. Parents and loved ones were also honored during this ceremony with the names of deceased alumnae parents read aloud.

SENIOR PROM:

The Class of 2022 enjoyed one final party together and danced the night away at their Senior Prom on Wednesday May 26th at Mulino's at Lake Isle in Eastchester, NY.



DECISION DAY: The Class of 2022 excitedly shared their college decisions with the Preston community!





ALUMNAE SOFTBALL: Even though the season officially ended in May, 12 graduating Seniors and the rest of their teammates from the Preston High School Varsity Softball team came back for one more game against a rival opponent: PHS alumnae. For the second consecutive year, Varsity played alumnae at Veterans Field to see if the alums could keep up with the current student-athletes. 19 alumnae from 1983 all the way to 2019 joined the fight to defend last year's winning title, but couldn't beat this year's powerful Varsity Softball team. After the game, many gathered on Preston's back porch to catch up and reminisce about old times.

ATHLETICS

Updates

Although the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted sports across the CHSAA over the past two years, we are proud of all the Panther athletes for persevering through the hardships and playing for the love of the game. We are especially proud of the following six Panthers from the Class of 2022 for their hard work and dedication to their respective sports, so much so that they will continue their athletic careers in college!



Angelica Chavez-Downes
CHEER AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY



Natalie Polanco
VOLLEYBALL AT HUNTER COLLEGE



Priscilla Del Toro
SOFTBALL AT PACE UNIVERSITY



Kaitlyn Dallariss
SOCCER AT MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE



Erika Livica
BASKETBALL AT COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT



Kaitlyn Feliciano
VOLLEYBALL AT MERCY COLLEGE

Class of 1972



Class of 1982



ALUMNAE REUNION

Preston's graduating class years ending in 2s and 7s gathered together on Saturday April 9th for an afternoon of reminiscing about the good old times, delicious food and even better company. The Reunion Mass was celebrated by Fr. Paul Richmond from St. Simon Stock in the Bronx, NY and the food catered by Posto 22 in New Rochelle, NY. The Class of 1972 celebrated their 50th anniversary and were recognized with a yellow rose to honor this momentous occasion.

We can't wait
for next year's
reunion on
Saturday April 22nd
from
11 AM to 4PM!

Class of 1987



Class of 1992



Jennifer Connolly '92 &
Sr. Carol Wagner '69, RDC



Jane Grendell, Ellen Gaughan Porcaro '67,
and Elizabeth Mulligan Donnelly '72



Class of 2007

Donate to a Fund or Set Up a New One!

THE CATHY CLAUSSEN NELSON GRANT – CLASS OF 1973

Members of the Class of 1973 come together to support a student with a good GPA in need of financial aid.

THE CATHERINE STENDERHOFF 10465 SCHOLARSHIP

The Catherine Stenderhoff 10465 Scholarship, sponsored by alumna 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.

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 PATRICIA LANGAN MRSICH '70 MEMORIAL AWARD – CLASS OF 1970

The Patricia Langan Mrsich '70 Memorial Award was created by graduates of the Class of 1970, the largest class to ever graduate from PHS, to remember their dear classmate. This award is presented at graduation to one student with the intention of studying law in college.

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 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 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 \$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 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.

THE MAD HATTER CARD PARTY

on April 2nd was a huge hit! With capacity restrictions lifted, we were able to host over 300 guests in our gymnasium. The event raised \$23,000.

SAVE THE DATES

**Card Party
Saturday April 1, 2023**

**Golf Outing
Thursday May 11, 2023**



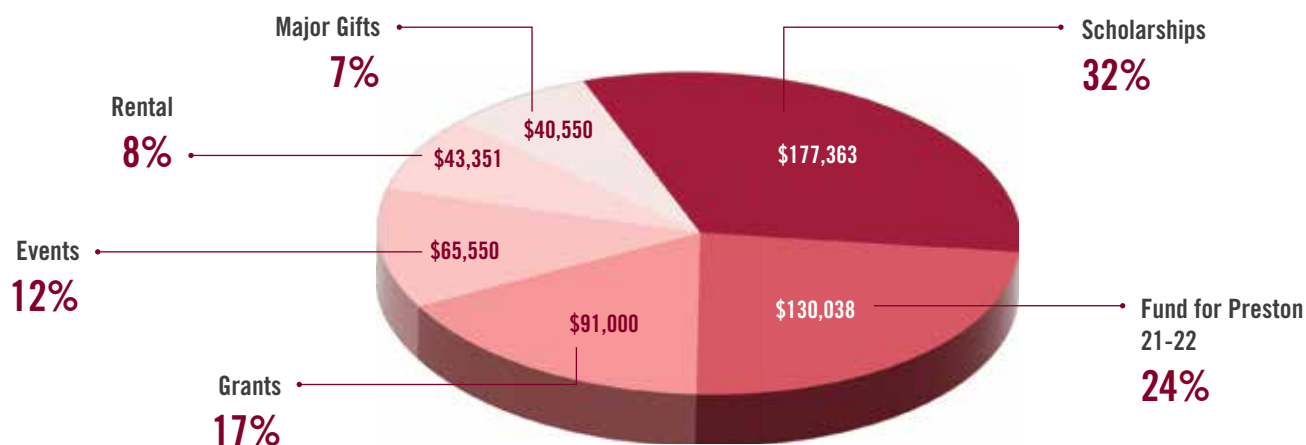
PRESTON’S ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

took place on Thursday May 12th at Pelham Bay/Split Rock Golf Course & Posto 22. Mrs. Jane Grendell was honored for her 14 years as Principal of Preston High School and over 27 years of service to this organization. The many sponsorships we received helped raise much needed funds to go towards our Scholarship Fund so that we may continue to support our students’ needs and offer them a robust education. This event raised \$24,000.



RECRUITMENT AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

DEVELOPMENT REVENUE SEPTEMBER 2021 – JUNE 2022



Nearly 70% 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 2022-2023 academic year is \$1,250. Tuition assistance funding represents over 25% of gross tuition.

This year, the Recruitment & Development Office has worked diligently to secure funding from several foundations. See below for the organizations that have supported us this fiscal year.

The Thomas & Agnes Carvel Foundation

The Hyde & Watson Foundation

Michael Gordon Foundation

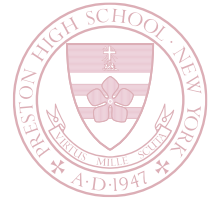
The Kurr Foundation

The Miles Hodson Vernon Foundation

Columbus Citizen Foundation

Student Sponsor Partners

The Inner-City Scholarship Fund



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

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

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Principal | Jennifer Connolly, Esq. '92.
Assistant Principal of Academics | Craig Youngren, MA
Assistant Principal of Student Life | Edgar Martinez

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PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL

— EST. 1947 —

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SAVE THE DATES

FALL TACHS P.R.E.P.:
SEPTEMBER 17TH – OCTOBER 29TH
(SATURDAYS ONLY) 9AM – 12PM

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE: SEPTEMBER 28TH

**OPEN HOUSE: SUNDAY OCTOBER 23RD AND
MONDAY OCTOBER 24TH**

PRESTON PLAYERS PRESENTS IN THE HEIGHTS!:
MARCH 23RD – MARCH 26TH

CARD PARTY: APRIL 1ST

ALUMNAE REUNION CELEBRATING 3S AND 8S:
APRIL 22ND

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING: MAY 11TH

PRESTON'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT:
SEPTEMBER 17TH



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.