

1971



1985



2001



PRESTON *Then & Now*

DIGNITY. HONOR. RESPECT. COMPASSION.



As we look back on the past 75 years of Preston High School, it is difficult to envision how any of it would be possible without the Sisters of Divine Compassion and the Class of 1951.

For four years, the members of the inaugural class paved the way for future Prestonites to come with kindness, consideration and understanding. Their legacy of love, loyalty and gratitude to their Alma Mater has continued in the generations of those that have walked these halls since. To the 58 graduates of 1951, we dedicate this issue of Preston Echoes Revisited.

Barbara Baird *
 Adrienne Becker McCabe *
 Carol Benincasa Denahan *
 Madeline Blum Shruell
 Arlayne Both Grimes
 Eileen Bransfield
 Joan Campbell *
 Marilyn Cassi
 Janet Di Bella O'Neill
 Joanne Dorr *
 Patricia Dowd Kurpat *
 Joan Durr McDowell
 Marie Violet Dwan Kelly *
 Joan Edridge Sherlock
 Joan Falcone Zamprelli
 Madeline Fay Sheerin *
 Joan Fien Bourke *
 Sandra Floyd
 Marilyn Ford Moroney *
 Marietta Giuffrida Opisso
 Marie Hagan Mischorr
 Jeannette Halpin Thatcher
 Marjorie Harvey Lopez *
 Maureen Hetzer McNamara *
 Mary Kelly Ingram *
 Anne Killackey Karas
 Lorraine Lankes Callanan
 Adrienne LaPenna Parisi *
 Naomi LaVoie Snyder *
 Claire Lineen Schaefer
 Mary Lorenz Tamoni *
 Mary Loughran

Margaret Lynch
 Helen MacArthur Murphy *
 Arlene Maglietta Smith
 Mary Martocci Aery *
 Patricia McCormack
 Mary Kathleen McGrory
 DeLillis McGee aka Sr. Christine McGee, RDC
 Joanne McLain Litvack *
 Eileen McManus Edwards
 Geraldine Menge Gregory
 Elaine Milyko Thaler
 Joan Metz
 Margaret O'Keeffe
 Barbara Ollweiler Reynolds
 Nancy Phelps Kiernan
 Marion Preusse Yergeau
 Arlene Probst Harding
 Mary Purcell Groll
 Audrey Quigley Piazza
 Marie Sbano (A) Harris
 Marie Sbano (B) Suggett *
 Lillian Shanley O'Neill
 Maureen Somers Thomma *
 Marion Subotich Hiatt *
 Virginia Sullivan Hughes *
 Frances Walsh Filos

* Signifies a deceased alumna

** The information listed above is per our records and may not reflect current standings.

Message From Our Principal



Dear Alumnae,

There is so much to be thankful for and so much to celebrate at PHS right now. On Saturday, June 3rd, we graduated 98 seniors, while also honoring Amanda Tamburrino, the senior we lost this September to cancer. It was a beautiful day on our back porch, with the view of the water, the graduates all in white seated under the shade of the Ginkgo tree, surrounded by their loved ones. It's such a lovely tradition and a link between the classes of the past and the present. Prior to graduation we celebrated the Baccalaureate Mass at St. Frances de Chantal Church and the seniors had their prom at Mulino's at Lake Isle Country Club.

The celebrations aren't just for the Seniors. On Tuesday, May 23rd we held our Academic Honors Convocation and honored 163 students for their hard work and dedication in their classes, evidenced by their grades. The Friday before that we held our Leadership Assembly, honoring all of the student leaders in the building, who run our clubs and honor societies, and at the end of April we held Sports Night and recognized our athletes.

This has been an exciting year for me and for the school, as we have expanded some of our offerings and formed new partnerships. We became the first high school in the ADNY to partner with Fearless+, a non-profit described as LinkedIn meets TikTok meets Master Class, which will enable our students to build an online portfolio for college recruiting purposes, take free classes and workshops to learn soft skills, and gain access to internships and networking.

Thanks to a generous alum donor, the Preston Scholars Program has been able to fund amazing opportunities for some of the members. This summer we have students and faculty attending seminars in Japan on Robotics, Germany on sustainability, and Great Britain on STEM.

At the end of March, Mrs. Fragale and I took a trip to the NYSE where some of our Juniors and Seniors participated in a financial literacy workshop specifically aimed at young women, and one of the students was selected to stand on the podium for the closing bell ceremony. We are in the process of working with yet another alum to bring Rock the Street to Preston- a program to encourage more women to go into Finance, which would bring female mentors to Preston, and allow our students to visit their firms in Manhattan. Students have participated in Engineering Tomorrow workshops, visited the Bronx Supreme Court, attended a Color of Justice event at Monroe College, and others are participating in the Billion Oyster Project at SUNY Maritime.

Post pandemic we have seen an increase in mental health issues, so we have started a mental health initiative this year- sharing resources with parents and students, running social-emotional learning homerooms, and hosting mental wellness homerooms with a certified instructor in the Winter and Spring. Beginning next year, we are partnering with JED, a mental health and suicide prevention program specifically for young people.

We are enjoying the lull in activity and looking forward to a successful 2023-2024 school year! Thank you for your support, and enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jen R. Connolly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jen" and last name "Connolly" clearly legible.

Jennifer R. Connolly, Esq.
Principal
Class of 1992



Congratulations Class of '23!

ON SATURDAY JUNE 3, we bid farewell to the Class of 2023 as they celebrated their graduation from Preston High School. The class of 98 graduates sat facing the beloved back porch surrounded by their family and friends. At the beginning of their senior year, the Class of 2023 suffered a loss as their classmate Amanda Tamburrino succumbed to cancer. During the ceremony, her mother Jennifer Tamburrino received a diploma in her place.





Salutatorian Marisa Miechphon, attending Macaulay Honors College, and Valedictorian Rukhma Chaudhry, attending Fordham University, addressed their fellow graduates one final time. The 2023 Distinguished Alumna Award was presented to Maura Cunningham '76, Founder & CEO of Rock the Street Wall Street.

As per tradition, alumnae mothers and grandmothers were given the opportunity to present their graduates with their diplomas. Those in attendance were Marianne Capiello-Porteus '66, grandmother of Charlotte D'Agostino, Teresa Falzetta Di Preta '89, mother of Grace Di Preta, Judith Gazzola Fegel '87, mother of Stephanie Fegel, Maria Paolucci Pirraglia '84, mother of Giovanna Pirraglia.

\$27,260,273 in Scholarships and Grants

Cecelia Cunningham Noonan Memorial Award
Jennifer Agbanyo

Patricia Langan Mrsich '70 Memorial Award
Sherlyn Puma-Duran

Barbara Ann Lee Feinberg '69 Memorial Award
Stephanie Fegel

Helen & Anton Wagner Memorial Award
Cariluz Munoz

Ronnie Donovan Memorial Award
Alana DeFedele

Anthony D'Abbraccio Memorial Foundation Award
Adi Gutiqi

Amanda Tamburrino Compassion Award
Kimaya Bruno



NEWS



Announcing...

Catherine (Kay) Reilly Fanelli '57 and her husband Joseph celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 1st 2023 in Florida.

Dr. Ijeoma Anyanwu-Emamezi '99 and her husband Victory Emamezi were overjoyed to welcome their first child, baby boy Noah Victory Emamezi, on Mother's Day May 14th, 2023.

Diana Jacyszyn '10 and Jefferson Rojas were married on April 22nd, 2023.

→ **Stephanie Mozzone '10** and Patrick Thompson were engaged on April 29th, 2023.



↑ **Maria Swieciki '09** and Niall Madine from County Down, Northern Ireland were engaged on May 19th, 2023.



← **Kerri Johnson Kuhl '10** and husband Dylan Kuhl welcomed their son Dylan Joseph Jr. on October 5th, 2022. "Big brother" Charlie is very excited!



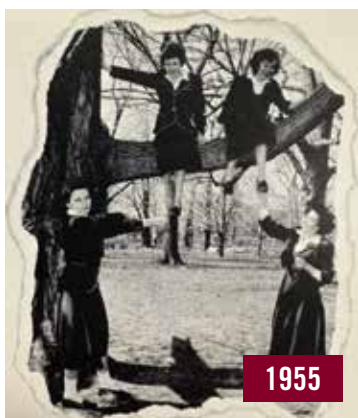
↑ **Sarah Como '10** and Vincent Cala were engaged on June 24th, 2023.



↑ **Emily Marino '11** and Steven Catanzarita were married on May 5th, 2023



← **Michelle Perez '15** and Quinn Scarpelli were married on January 14th, 2023.



1955



1964



1977

✝ In Loving Memory

William Birmingham, father of Christine Birmingham Pearse '88 and Kathleen Birmingham '94

Nora Langan Edgar '52, mother of Theresa Edgar Bartolotta '76, Regina Edgar Irizarry '78, Noreen Edgar Scott Zulaica '83

Thomas D. Lillis, brother of Eileen Lillis Clay '54, Rosemary Lillis '63, MaryLou Lillis Neddermeyer '72

James McQuade, father of Kathy Ann McQuade Fuerst '07

Josephine Nardi, mother of Laura Nardi '78

Kim Eager Pratt '88

Mae Stringer, mother of Patricia Stringer Wagner '72 and Catherine Stringer Jacobs '75

Marie Shano Suggett '51

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

OFFICE OF ACADEMICS



As our school year winds down, we celebrate achievements: Honors Convocation, Sports Night, Arch Media awards, Leadership Assembly, graduation. We share pins and stories; high-fives and hugs. Panthers should be proud of all they accomplished: scholarships and book awards, team plaques on the walls, sacraments in the gymnasium. Even during exam week, the Preston Spirit was joyful. It is satisfying to hear all the colleges and universities our seniors are attending next year as we ask them to review their final transcripts and pick up their prom videos. Little future panthers (and their siblings) frolic down our halls, while attending PCC's camp this summer, just as our college-bound seniors did during their last day and the senior run. We are reminded of all the generations of panthers and families that have had experiences in these halls over the last 75 years. We look forward to a pleasant summer: beach and books! We plan to return refreshed with new collaborations with St. John's University, JED Foundation, and Fearless+, with a fresh look at our curricula and with reverence for our past traditions. May all our Preston panthers be safe and productive this summer, and remember our motto: Virtue is a Thousand Shields!

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

We hope this newsletter finds you well and brimming with fond memories of your time at Preston High School. As the Office of Student Life, we're thrilled to share the exciting updates from our successful end-of-year festivities.

Co-curricular clubs have had an exceptional year, fostering a vibrant and inclusive community within our school. Their hard work and dedication resulted in numerous accomplishments, collaborations, and impactful events. From art to dance, STEM to photography, this year's 30 co-curricular clubs continue to make Preston the school that never closes.

Senior week was full of joy and nostalgia. Our beloved seniors generously shared their wisdom and advice with underclassmen on an advice wall. Laughter echoed on our porch as the seniors took part in the yearly senior water fight. As per tradition, the seniors painted a locker room wall with a signature piece of artwork, leaving a lasting legacy for future classes. This year, they chose Scooby-Doo's Mystery Machine as the inspiration for their theme. Senior week concluded with the Leadership Assembly and Passing of the Gavel, where we celebrated important members of the cocurricular clubs by distributing certificates and pins. The Passing of the Gavel ceremony from our outgoing student council to our incoming Big 4 marked the transition of student government with gracious speeches from the outgoing Big 4. The program included performances from our music class members who worked diligently all year to prepare for their end-of-year performance.

The celebrations for Seniors continued with a memorable Baccalaureate Mass at St. Frances De Chantel, led by the esteemed Monsignor Graham. This special service provided our graduating seniors with an opportunity to reflect on their academic journey, express gratitude, and seek blessings for the future. As the final hurrah of their high school experience, our seniors attended prom night at Mulino's at Lake Isle. The venue provided a stunning backdrop for an evening of dancing and fun. Courtney Ennis was crowned Prom Queen as the winner of the customary red and white rose contest.

Preparations for Step Up Day were in full swing as homerooms decorated their doors and hallways in the grade-level colors of pink, red, and blue. Step Up Day shirts were made available for purchase, allowing students to proudly wear their Preston pride and celebrate on Step Up Day in a pep rally that included minute-to-win-it games.



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESTON ADMISSIONS OFFICE!



As our 75th-anniversary academic year comes to an end, we are happy to share some exciting updates! The new Panther Class of 2027 is composed of over 100 students from all areas of the Bronx, Westchester, and Upper Manhattan. This past winter, they were welcomed and celebrated during our Salute To Scholars Reception and Accepted Students Night. They returned in March to take the PHS Placement Exam, which helps determine course placement for their upcoming classes in the fall. We are eager to see them again this summer at PHS 101 and Student Orientation during the first two weeks of August. PHS 101 is specifically designed to prepare incoming freshmen for the rigors of high school reading, writing, and mathematics while getting a head start on meeting their classmates, making new friends, and adjusting to their new surroundings. **If you have any questions regarding admissions, please contact Mrs. Angelique Rodriguez at acrodriguez@prestonhs.org or (718) 863-9134 ext. 131.**

Our Reach for Excellence Program is underway and kicking off for another summer season. Rising 7th and 8th-grade students began Project PREP this July! For three weeks, students will not only receive TACHS preparation but also have the opportunity to immerse themselves in classes that are career driven as well as help solidify basic fundamental skills in Math, Science, History, and English. In addition, PHS will also host our annual fall TACHS Prep course starting on September 16th for rising 8th-grade students who will be taking the TACHS Exam this November 2023. This program is only conducted 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.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Fall TACHS Prep

September 16th - October 28th (Saturdays ONLY)
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Fall Open House

Saturday, October 28th, 2023 **OR** Monday, October 30th, 2023
11 am – 2 pm prompt start at 6:30 pm



STUDENT *Spotlight*

RUKHMA CHAUDHRY:

Dear Preston Alumnae,
As the valedictorian of the Class of 2023, I am honored to be featured as one of the student spotlights. My name is Rukhma Chaudhry, and I am filled with gratitude for the experiences and opportunities that Preston High School has provided me.

During my time at Preston, I was actively involved in many extracurricular activities and held various leadership positions. Some roles I had the privilege of holding are the Co-President of Compassion Connection, Vice President of Co-Curricular Affairs on Executive Board, and the Treasurer of Asian Club. These roles not only helped me cultivate leadership skills, but also taught me the significance of dedication. In addition to the above, I was also an active member of many other extracurriculars including Book Club and Leaders of Color. Clubs like these offered me the opportunity to connect with peers who shared my interests.

One of the most memorable experiences I had in high school was the Class of 2023's Senior Retreat. It was a beautiful day spent with my class. My friends and I explored the grounds and spoke for hours by the river. The retreat is a core memory for me as it allowed me to reflect on my experience at Preston and begin preparing for the next chapter of my life.

Another notable experience was hosting a bake sale on Valentine's Day to raise funds for the victims of the Turkey-Syria earthquake. The bake sale was a huge success as panthers showed up after school to support. On the day of love and care, our school community did not fail to show what it knows best: compassion!

I was lucky to have been taught by a multitude of wonderful teachers. Señora De Los Santos was the best Spanish teacher I have ever had and I will always remember the amazing stories she shared with us in class. Ms. Andrea Forlini was always there for us,



especially after the AP English Language Exam, when she gave us a safe space to vent about the exam and unwind by watching *The Great Gatsby*. I also could not forget Ms. Farrell, who always made sure to check in on both me and Moseby the Llama.

As I prepare to attend Fordham University in the fall, I am excited to see where my journey will take me. I am confident that the values I have learned at Preston will guide me to success.

I am forever grateful for the experiences I have had at Preston High School. I will always cherish the friendships and memories I made during my time there.

GoOo Panthers!
Rukhma Chaudhry

MARISA MIECHPHON:

Hello Alumnae!
My name is Marisa Miechphon and I am the Salutatorian of the Class of 2023. I can't believe I'm at the end of my time at Preston. These past four years have flown by. Even now, it feels like walking up to the gates of Preston for the first time in September 2019 was just yesterday. If I'm being honest, my first few weeks were a blur, but for all the tiny details I may not remember, I'll always remember how Preston has made me feel.

Having come from a middle school with a graduating class of 30, coming to Preston for high school was daunting. I remember being a mixture of nervous and excited for what was to come. Of the various classes I had in freshman year, English with Mr. Abel stands out the most in my memory. From having to leave lunch early to get to his classroom all the way in Room 15, to his vocabulary games, to his three second Kahoots, Mr. Abel was quite the character to meet in my first year of high school. Still,

I learned a lot from him. Besides Mr. Abel, freshman year was marked by my joining of Art Club and Asian Club, where I made some new friends. I continued taking part in both throughout my time in Preston, later joining additional clubs like Photography Club and the newly formed Allies Club. I was part of the various honors societies within Preston, including the National Honors, National English Honors, Spanish Honors, and Math Honors Societies. I spent a lot of time at Preston after school, either for service hours, to tutor, aid in various club duties, or attend club meetings. This year, I drew the pictures for the countdown to graduation on the window in the cafeteria, changing the image weekly. I was also asked to do the mural in the senior locker room, the Scooby Doo "Rolling Out" theme having won in a vote sent out to the class.

As a whole, I would say my time at Preston has been marked by becoming close with incredible people, learning so much about myself, and being able to give back to the school in a variety of ways. Most of all, though, I would like to shout out Ms. Wolovich. From the moment I first had her class, I knew it was going to be a good one. I've always believed that the teachers you learn the most from are the ones that are truly passionate about their subject, and Ms. Wolovich had passion by the ton from the day I met her. Throughout my time at Preston, she has offered her endless support, advice, and guidance. She has taught me so much, both in terms of history and in life, and she is someone that has always encouraged us all to be our best selves. I'm so grateful to have had her as a teacher.

Now, I have committed to Macaulay Honors College, and hope to pursue my own passion in creation and development as I pursue a major in chemistry in order to work in the field of food science. As I make my way through college, I know I will never forget the lessons Preston has taught me. I will forever cherish and hold dear all that Preston has given me as I stride to meet my future.



WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS & THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OUTSIDE OF PRESTON!

MIA CARASSCO '24



Junior Mia Carassco completed the NYU Tisch Future Filmmakers Workshop this Spring. This prestigious 14-week program allowed students to explore all aspects of filmmaking and work with professional filmmakers and Tisch faculty. The program culminated in a film festival of all the works created during the program. As a junior at Preston, Mia is exploring college options and considering New York University, Emerson College, and the University of Southern California for filmmaking.

GIOVANNA PIRRAGLIA '23 Awarded FIAME Scholarship



Senior Giovanna Pirraglia was awarded FIAME's 2023 Scholarship. At the FIAME Award Ceremony on April 27th, Giovanna was presented with a \$2,000 scholarship based on her service to the Preston community for the past four years through the Italian Club, Italian Honor Society and Compassion Connection. Giovanna plans to attend Providence College in the fall.

2024 Peter M. Flanigan Scholar: MEGAN SPENCER



Junior Megan Spencer became one of four 2024 Peter M. Flanigan scholars. This scholarship awards \$10,000 per year for college. To be considered, applicants had to write an essay and were then interviewed by the panel. At Preston, Megan served as Junior Class President for the 2022-2023 school year, President of the Leaders in Medicine Club, and a member of the Book Club.

Programma Ponte Study Abroad Scholarship Winners

This year, senior Alexandria Rufa '23 and alumna Isabella Cioffi '21 were two of the winners of the Programma Ponte Scholarship. This scholarship from the Association of Italian American Educators sponsors a two-week trip to Pisa, Italy in July. Free room, board, excursions and Italian lessons are covered and provided while students are responsible for the airfare. Alexandria Rufa will be continuing her studies at the College of Mount Saint Vincent as a nursing major. Isabella Cioffi is currently a sophomore at Iona University majoring in Italian Studies and International Business.

JANELLE MURRAY '25 Attended The Congress of Future Medical Leaders



Janelle Murray, a 10th-grader at Preston High School, was a Delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders held on June 21-23, 2023, just outside Boston,

on the University of Massachusetts Lowell campus. The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields. The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country interested in those careers, to stay true to their dream and, after the event, to provide a path, plan and resources to help them reach their goal. Janelle's nomination was signed by Dr. Mario Capecchi, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine and the Science Director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent New York based on her academic achievement, leadership potential and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine.

During the three-day Congress, Janelle Murray joined students from across the country and heard Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science recipients discuss leading medical research; was given advice from Ivy League and top medical school deans on what to expect in medical school; witnesses stories told by patients who are living medical miracles; was inspired by fellow teen medical science prodigies; and learned about cutting-edge advances and the future in medicine and medical technology. At Preston, Janelle is involved in the Leaders of Color club and played the role of Vanessa in the Preston Players' production of *In the Heights*.

ALUMNA *Spotlight*



MICHELLE BASELICE MITRIONE '92

Michelle is the Portfolio Manager for IBM's Cybersecurity Services business. After graduating from Preston as valedictorian, Michelle went on to get her BS in Business Administration from Manhattan College. She was recruited from college by IBM and continued to pursue education in parallel to working full time getting her MBA from Pace University. Michelle has had a successful career at IBM for 27 years starting out in their Business Transformation and Information Technology function where she worked for many years at the intersection of technology and business performing roles such as developer, systems analyst, project manager, application owner, and people manager. Ten years ago, Michelle was given the opportunity to leverage her IT experience and pivot to a new role at IBM, as a product manager in their growing Cybersecurity business. Today, Michelle leads Cybersecurity Services global portfolio management driving business performance and process improvement. Michelle has also obtained her Project Management Professional (PMP) certification from PMI and an Executive Women in Leadership certificate from eCornell.

Michelle has happy memories from Preston including yearbook committee, dissecting in Biology and Anatomy classes, planning her wedding in Religion class, ring night, prom, and trips to Seaside Heights and the Poconos. She credits teachers like Miss Kleck, Mr. Anderson, and Ms. Jordan with influencing her love of education.

Michelle lives in Darien, CT with her husband and twin 11 year old daughters and nearby to her twin sister Jennifer Baselice Johnson '92.



ALUMNAE WORKING AT PRESTON

At the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, there were 13 alumnae working about the halls once again. In April, one more alumna joined the group for a grand total of 14. Pictured from left to right, top to bottom: Sarah Chambers '17, Melissa Castignoli '07, Angelique Cruz Rodriguez '10, Jennifer Connolly '92, Stephanie Mozzone '10, Dominique Labate '09, Katie Kelly Welton '01, Gabriela Del Valle '16, Celeste Martino Shanahan '72, Eugenia Wolovich '10, Samantha Marrero '15, Sarah Como '10, Sr. Carol Wagner, RDC '69. Not Pictured: Brittany Smith '07

Updates...

Pat Lambrou Kalognomas '09 and her business Patty Pops will be living in a Barbie World this summer as they teamed up with the Barbie Café in New York City! Visitors can indulge in Malibu Barbie inspired cake pops from Patty Pops all summer long. Patty Pops is a custom design bakery in Pelham, NY and Patty shares that the idea and business plan were originally conceived in Ms. Connolly's Economics class her senior year.



Sasha Panaram '09 received the Alpha Chi Omicron Teaching Award from Fordham University for her outstanding teaching in upper division courses.

Jennifer Miller McCarthy '95 is a Trusts and Estates Attorney working as Trust Counsel at Fiduciary Trust International. She has two beautiful children, Aine age 8 and Gavin 7, and lives in the Crestwood section of Yonkers, NY.

Laura Bisignano '77 retired from the Bronx Supreme Court in December of 2019 after serving as Supreme Court Reporter for over 37 years. Her daughter got married in 2019 and Laura became a grandmother to Salvatore Joseph on March 31, 2021. Her mom passed away on May 18, 2019.

FACULTY *Spotlight*



JAMIE SKRAPITS, *Athletic Director*

My love for Preston started many years ago, 1969 to be exact when I was applying to high schools. I was so excited to join Preston's Class of 1973 to be a member of the athletics program. Unfortunately, my mom wrote the wrong TACHS code next to Preston on the application and they were not accepting any more incoming students so I went to St. Raymond's Academy for Girls. I finally got a chance to be part of the Preston community when my oldest daughter Melissa came in as a freshman in 1994, followed by Kelly in 1999. I remember asking Dr. Peggy Morton, Athletic Director at the time, if I could be more involved in the sports program. She proceeded to hand me all the team uniforms to wash. Laundry wasn't exactly what I had in mind but it was a start. When the Athletic Director position opened several years later, I asked Sr. Lucille if she thought I could do the job and her reply was so encouraging that I took the position 17 years ago and never looked back. Sr. Betty Ann would tell everyone that my spirit was always here and I truly believe that.

I cherish so many memories from my years at Preston, but the athletes are at the top. Every year at Sports Night, I tell the graduating athletes they each take a piece of my heart as they leave. I love when alum athletes keep in touch with calls and texts, but especially when they come "back home" to games and events. When they greet me with a hug and share stories of their lives now, I know I've done my job and I feel honored to have been a part of so many lives.

I have had a few accomplishments that really stick out in my mind. In my early years, administration had a strict rule that an athlete failing 2 subjects while in season would be removed from the team for that year. My philosophy however, is that without an incentive to study, an athlete won't feel motivated to better their grades. I advocated for a new rule: Any student failing 2 subjects while in season is suspended from games until passing. This model has been working since approved and student athletes continue to excel in their studies.

My greatest success story is a softball player whose grades were suffering. Her and I changed that by meeting with teachers, extra assignments, and making sure everything was turned in on time. We studied on the bus going and coming from games. She did her homework at my kitchen counter while I cooked dinner. She passed all her classes and played softball for Preston all 4 years. She went on to play in college and her coach would call whenever she slacked off. All she needed was a few words of encouragement from time to time. I hope she knows how proud I am of her for working as hard as she did, getting her degree and getting to play the sport that she loved.

Another Preston athlete went on to Scranton University and nominated me for being the most influential person at her high school. I was honored to stand next to and receive the Rose Kelly Award. Our bond did not end there. Upon finding out that I was diagnosed with breast cancer, she asked me to make a list of things that she could do to make my life easier. That was a difficult time in my life, but I had her and the Preston community by my side to help me through it. Who could be more blessed?

When I first started this position, Sr. Lucille said, "You are only as good as the people around you." I'm so blessed to have the most dedicated and hard-working coaches you could ask for and an administration team that supports us all. The sports program is thriving, athletes are working hard and happy to be on the field or the court. I remember all the athletes that have passed through Preston's doors. As we say, "Once a panther, always a panther" and I've been trying to find a way to bring them "back home". I'd like to start an Athletic Alumnae Association with an alumnae vs. students game for each sport, followed by a reception to reminisce and laugh about the good times. If you are interested and able to help spread the word, please email me at sportsphs@prestonhs.org with your name, year of graduation, sport(s) you played and contact info.

When you love what you do, you don't work a day in your life. Preston High School is a very special place and I am honored to be a part of it.

Panthers Forever, Jamie

FACULTY *Spotlight*



CRISTINA FRAGALE, *Senior Director of Recruitment & Development*

Cristina Fragale is nothing if not adaptable. After moving to Italy when she was 6 years old and starting school speaking no Italian, she eventually moved back to East Harlem, where she spent the rest of her childhood and young adulthood, this time speaking no English. She went on to graduate from St. John's University with a bachelor's degree in mass communication and quickly started her career in advertising with Wunderman Worldwide, one of the world's largest direct mail advertising agencies, as an Account Executive for Sony Music, Time Life, and American Express.

Seeking a career change, Mrs. Fragale joined Preston's faculty teaching New Testament to Sophomores and Christian Morality to Juniors in 1991. She was able to combine her degree and work experience when Sr. Lucille Coldrick asked her to create a Communications class for the seniors which would introduce them to Public Speaking, Advertising, and TV production. She proudly boasts that Preston's current principal, Ms. Jennifer Connolly '92, was a student in her Communications class. She also served as the Yearbook moderator and assisted with the annual musical. She is thankful to have worked with Sr. Lucille and Sr. Laura and considers them supportive and caring mentors who were a big part of the reason she quickly fell in love with the RDC and the mission of Preston High School.

Cristina has always loved being involved in her community, so when she decided to stay at home raising her five children, she also spent that time teaching CCD at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in East Harlem, running the St. Clare's Parenting Center, leading multiple Girl Scout troops as well as moderating the school's bowling league. She returned to Preston as a parent when her oldest daughter entered as a freshman. Mrs. Fragale took an active role as a dedicated volunteer working with the Parent Association and eventually joining the Parent Association Council as Chairperson for several terms. She is the proud mother of four Preston alumnae (Grace Fragale Robertson '10, Angela Fragale Episcopio '13, AnnaRose Fragale '15 and Gianna Fragale '17), and a son (John Fragale '18) who graduated from Fordham Prep. She is grateful to her husband Peter for being her biggest fan and encouraging her to take chances. She is the proud grandmother of Mattie Juliette Robertson. Her favorite place is wherever her family is gathered and the yearly trips to Lake George. She loves roller coasters, skydiving, playing board games, and a good game of continental.

In 2011, Cristina became Preston's Director of Admissions. In her twelve years in this position, she has worked diligently to market Preston to young women and their families in the Bronx, Manhattan, and lower Westchester. While her children don't consider her a triple threat – she can't sing, dance or act, she lives vicariously through the students by serving as the producer of the spring musical for the past ten years. She is also proud of the Preston Reach for Excellence Program that she developed and manages which incorporates three programs including Project Prep for 7th grade girls, the fall TACHS Prep course for 8th graders, and PHS 101 for incoming freshmen. Her infectious enthusiasm for everything she involves herself in and creativity have gone a long way toward making these activities enjoyable learning experiences for students and successful recruitment ventures for the school. She finds that the greatest reward is to see how the shy 8th grade student at Open House has transformed into an empowered graduate four years later. Cristina considers it a gift to be a witness to their lives.

In 2018, Preston merged the Admission and Advancement departments to create the Recruitment and Development Office. She is grateful to Jane Grendell for the opportunity and support. She is so thankful to Margaret Damo '77 for being her mentor (and for her friendship) and getting her through those first few years in her new role. She has embraced this new role and as she says to parents "we bring the students in as freshmen and continue the journey as alumnae – it's a full circle moment". She enjoys developing relationships with the alumnae and loves gathering their stories. Her vision is to one day create a documentary for all alumnae based on their memories.

The marvel in all this isn't that Mrs. Fragale does all these things; it's that she does them all so willingly and so well. If there is one characteristic that links all her many efforts over the years, it is her determination to be of service to others.

RDC Jubilee Celebrants



50TH JUBILEE: SR. CAROL T. WAGNER, RDC, LCSW

Born and raised in the Bronx, NY, Sr. Carol celebrates her Golden Jubilee this year! Sister has a lifelong connection to the Sisters of the Divine Compassion (RDC) having attended St. Frances de Chantal Elementary and Preston High School in the Throggs Neck community. Sr. Carol graduated from Good Counsel College/College of White Plains with a BS in Chemistry, and joined the Divine Compassion Community in 1973.

After teaching and school counseling for eight years at the Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel (GCA) and Preston High School (PHS), Sister earned an MSW degree at Fordham University, and post-graduate certification in Spiritual Direction and Family Systems Therapy. Her LCSW career continued as Clinical Supervisor at Our Lady of Mercy Out-Patient Psychiatric Clinic & The Center for Family Learning. In 1991, Sister returned to PHS as Guidance Chair, and in 1992 became the Founding Director of the Preston Center of Compassion Counseling Services, located on the PHS campus. Since that time, the PCC has provided quality, affordable

psychotherapy, counseling and a myriad of programs and services for Bronx women, children and families in need.

Sr. Carol served as RDC President and Treasurer, as part of the Leadership Team for 12 years, and as RDC Formation Director from 2001-12. Sister served in national leadership, as part of the LCWR, UISG, ACWR, & RFC National Boards, and as a Leadership Mentor, working with Sisters in Africa, El Salvador, and the Holy Land continue to expand her commitment to global networking and the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Ministry (DEI).

Sr. Carol created "Compassion Connection" mission programs in Appalachia during the 1980s, serving women and families living in poverty, immigrants, homeless mothers, victims of human trafficking, teaching ESL, and countless others most in need of compassion. While living and volunteering in Sr. Frances de Chantal parish in the Bronx, Sister played the guitar, singing with the RDCs at the Sunday folk Masses, and offering pastoral counseling in the school and parish.

Currently, Sr. Carol is PCC Director of Counseling Services, Mission & Spirituality. Her favorite gift to share is the gift of compassion she has received throughout her life, creating compassion circles, empowering culturally diverse women and children locally and globally. Sr. Carol loves yoga and dance, music, playing the piano, and outdoor activities at the water and in the woods, where in nature God speaks to her heart.



75TH JUBILEE: SR. PATRICIA HANNAN, RDC (Formerly Sr. Mary Aurelia)

Raised in Port Chester, NY, Sr. Patricia graduated from the Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, and entered the Divine Compassion Community in 1948. Sister earned a BS in Math from Good Counsel College, and Master's degrees in Math from St. John's University, and Computer Science from Pace University.

Sister began her ministry in education in 1950 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, followed by St. Frances de Chantal and St. Lawrence O'Toole elementary schools. From 1955-1965, Sr. Pat taught Math at Preston High School. She served as Assistant Principal at Preston for four years and Principal for 16 years. From 1988 until 2002, Sr. Pat was an Assistant Professor at Dominican University (formerly Dominican College). Sister was Assistant Manager of the Divine Compassion Finance Office until her retirement in 2015.

Sr. Pat is an avid reader, a talented seamstress and a loyal New York Yankees fan.



SR. MARY CELESTA KELLEY 1931-2023

Sr. Mary Celesta Kelley, RDC, formerly Joan Grace, Kelley, a Sister of the Divine Compassion, passed away peacefully on April 24, 2023 at Cabrini Nursing Home.

Sr. Celesta was born in Bridgeport, Ct. on Feb. 3, 1931, the daughter of Louis and Grace (Burke) Kelley. Sister's early education was in Connecticut. She went on to study at Good Counsel College and Villanova University, earning degrees at both schools.

Sister was a beloved educator at Preston High School in the late 60s and 70s. After moving on from Preston, she also taught at Good Counsel College and Pace University for many years. She traveled to numerous places to further her education and that of her students. In her roles as gifted high school Earth Science and IPS teacher, and college professor of Geology and Meteorology, Sister was loyal, organized, caring, and ever ready to share her expertise. Her fidelity, kindness and wonderful sense of humor will ever be remembered by all who knew her and shall long recall her commitment to compassion and education.

Sr. Laura Donovan, President of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion, said, "Celesta was a woman of deep faith who, throughout her affliction, trusted wholly in God's everlasting love... We shall cherish her memory, her love of our RDC Community, and her desire to serve others."

Sr. was predeceased by her parents and her only sibling, Katherine Kelley Feango. Sister is survived by her Sisters of the Divine Compassion.

We ask that you keep Sr. Celesta and all the Sisters of the Divine Compassion in your prayers. May Sr. Celesta rest in gentle peace of her loving God and may she be reunited in heaven with her beloved family.



CLASS OF 1951



SCHOOLYEAR *Snapshots*

FEARLESS+ PARTNERSHIP



On March 10th, Preston High School hosted an assembly announcing their partnership with Fearless+, a nonprofit organization that allows students to create

multidimensional digital portfolios, take classes that teach soft skills that are not part of the traditional curriculum, and makes mini internship and volunteer opportunities available to them. Described by the team as TikTok meets LinkedIn, Preston is one of the first high schools in New York City to partner with Fearless+ in hopes of helping their students stand out during the college application process. Prior to the assembly, founder and CEO Deepali Vyas and project manager Reena Surti from Fearless+ met with the Counseling Department and picked one student from each grade to preview the platform and give them feedback. These students, pictured, shared their experiences with the rest of the student body at the assembly. Vyas and Surti shared information and swag with the students who are all very excited to work with this new platform.

NYSE



THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE VISIT

On March 28th, 9 students from Preston High School visited the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street to attend the Young Women's Financial Wellness Forum, hosted by Seneca Woman and

Secret Deodorant. At the end of Women's History Month and on the cusp of Financial Literacy Month, six 11th graders and three 12th graders engaged with financial experts about financial wellness and celebrating women's financial future. "I learned that I want to be like the women I heard from that day, role models for the younger generation, giving them advice on how to make the best of their money," said junior Gabriella Schiliro '24. At the end of the day, all in attendance watched the ringing of the closing bell as senior Paris Briggs '23 saw it happen up close. Renowned financial experts shared their tips on everything from budgeting to investing and put together a five-part series on Seneca Women's Conversations titled Secret Money Tips in partnership with Secret Deodorant. Listen on Apple Podcasts and iHeartRadio.



BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY DARCEL CLARK SPEAKS TO STUDENTS

The Honorable Darcel Clark was invited by the Future Lawyers Club to speak to members as well as other interested students about her journey to becoming the Bronx District Attorney. She also offered advice and answered any questions students had about how to enter the field and ways to prepare for law school.





BISHOP WHALEN CONFIRMS 10 PRESTON HS STUDENTS AT EASTER LITURGY

On Friday April 21st, 10 students received the sacrament of Confirmation in front of the entire school during the Easter Liturgy. Bishop Edmund Whalen officiated the Mass for the second year in a row. In its second year, the Preston High School sacramental program has already grown in size to allow more students the opportunity to begin and/or complete their Sacraments of Initiation.

THE EASTER BREAK TRIP RETURNS: Preston HS Students Traveled to Spain

For the first time since 2019, PHS students traveled abroad during the 2023 Easter Break! Guided by EF Tours, 25 students packed their bags and crossed the Atlantic Ocean to immerse themselves in the history and culture of Spain for 10 days. While experiencing Madrid and the Andalusian countryside, some of their most notable stops were the Alhambra in Granada, Don Quijote's windmills, and the Catedral de Sevilla, the third largest cathedral in the world.



FUTURE LAWYERS CLUB VISITS THE HONORABLE JUDGE LLINÉT

On May 4, the Future Lawyers Club visited the Bronx County Hall of Justice for a Law Day with the Honorable Judge Llinét Rosado from the 12th District of the New York Supreme Court. They were able to learn about what takes place in the courthouse. Justice Rosado welcomed the students into her courtroom during the tour. While there, they were able to meet other inspiring women such as Savina Playter; Family Law Attorney; New York State Court Officers Jennifer Boyd & Tamika Rose; Resource Coordinators Melissa Broadwell Vargas & Karleen Ann Molina; Clerk Ishaira Garcia; Judicial Secretary Elizabeth Rivera who all spoke and answered questions of the work they do for the courthouse. The students were fascinated with the different careers which involve the justice system. President/Founder of the club, Iris Rodriguez '26 was honored to meet such amazing role models and wishes that one day she too, could be a lawyer. The club was designed to educate students about a career in law and to empower them to pursue one.



LOOKING AHEAD: JED PROGRAM IN THE FALL

Preston High School is proud to announce that beginning in September 2023, we will be a JED high school and begin a three-year technical assistance program. The Jed Foundation (JED) protects emotional health and prevents suicide for our nation's teens and young adults. In their short lives, our students have dealt with a global pandemic, changes in education, a contentious political climate, and much more. JED partners with high schools and colleges to help strengthen their capacity to support mental health, reduce substance misuse, and implement effective suicide prevention programs and systems. The program equips teens and young adults with the skills and knowledge to help themselves and each other, and encourages community awareness, understanding, and action for fostering adolescent and young adult mental health.

SCHOOLYEAR *Snapshots*

CONTINUED



PRESTON PLAYERS PRESENT: *IN THE HEIGHTS*

From March 23 - March 27, the Preston Players performed *In the Heights*. After a two year hiatus of the musical theatre program, the students were very excited to take the stage once again. They worked diligently from November to March to put on a spectacular show for the community.



STEP-UP DAY

The freshmen, sophomore and junior classes celebrated the end of the school year on Step-Up Day.

PROM

Class of 2023
Prom at Mulino's
at Lake Isle.



ATHLETICS

Updates

JV Basketball CHSAA Tier 3 Champions

The team of 14 student athletes upheld an undefeated season and worked diligently to become champions. This is the first time the JV basketball team has won a championship since 2012. Pictured is the team with Assistant Coach Brian Parchen on the left and Coach Benjamin Piacquadio on the right.



JV BASKETBALL



Varsity Basketball CHSAA "B" State Champions

The 2022-2023 Varsity Basketball Team became CHSAA "B" State Champions on Saturday, March 11th. The nail-biting game at Fordham University against St. Mary's from Buffalo, New York resulted in a win for PHS!

PHS Athletics Alumnae Association

The Athletics Department is looking to start an alumnae association for former PHS athletes. The Alumnae Softball Game has been a great success and we'd like to have one for each sport. If interested in joining and keeping up to date with all things PHS sports, please scan the QR code to complete the interest form.



SCAN ME



CARD PARTY

The 2023 Greased Lightnin' Card Party was a hit! Attendees showed up in their "Pink Lady" jackets and cat eye glasses ready to win prizes and sing along to the soundtrack. This year's grand prizes included a pizza oven, David Yurman earrings, a \$1,000 Delta gift card, a one week vacation and much more! The event net profited over \$25,000 thanks to the support of donors, attendees and volunteers. Save the Date: Saturday March 16, 2024



75 HOUR GIVING DAY:

Thank you to all who participated in our 75 Hour Giving Day campaign and contributed to its success. We raised over \$4,000 in just 75 hours! What a wonderful way to honor Mother Mary Veronica, the foundress of the Sisters of Divine Compassion. Stay tuned for next year's Giving Day: Friday, February 2nd!



ALUMNAE REUNION

On Saturday April 22, alumnae from classes ending in 3s and 8s returned to their alma mater to celebrate their high school reunion. As the Class of 1973 celebrated 50 years since graduation, 48 of them joined from around the country to take part in this special day. Each attendee was presented with a rose to recognize their anniversary followed by lunch catered by Posto 22.

ONCE A PANTHER, ALWAYS A PANTHER



GOLF OUTING

The Annual Golf Outing was held on Thursday May 11th at Pelham Bay/Split Rock Golf Courses followed by a luncheon at Posto 22. We were blessed with a beautiful day on the green honoring Mrs. AnaMarie Murphy & Mr. Alexander “Bubba” Mckillop, both longtime members of the PHS community. A great big thank you to our major sponsors: Posto 22, DRP Solutions, Virginia McGovern Giuffre ’61 & Joel Giuffre, Professional Wealth Associates, Brookside Painting Inc. and Liebman’s Uniforms. This was one of Preston’s most successful golf outings with a net profit of nearly \$30,000. We look forward to seeing even more of you at next year’s Golf Outing on Thursday, May 9th, 2024.



THE NORTHEAST BRONX COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET RETURNS THIS SUMMER

The Farmers Market held on Preston’s campus will be back once again for the Summer 2023 season. Until September 26th, the farmers market will run on Tuesdays from 4pm – 7pm featuring fresh produce, food, crafts and local vendors. Healthbucks are accepted. If you need more information or are interested in becoming a vendor, please email bronxfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Virginia McGovern Giuffre ’61 & Joel Giuffre



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ESTATE
Gifts

Where does your donation go and who benefits?

Whether it is a donation to support scholarships or a graduation award, the choice is yours to make.
Contribute to any of these funds or grants or set-up a new one!

The Fund for Preston
Scholarship Fund

Angel of Compassion Fund

Preston Scholars Fund

The Learning Center

Cathy Claussen Nelson Grant

Catherine Stenderhoff 10465
Scholarship

Patricia Langan Mrsich '70
Memorial Award

Anthony D'Abbraccio
Memorial Foundation Grant

Salvatore P. Marino "Boman's
Bunch" Grant

Friends of the Divine
Compassion Fund

Cecelia Cunningham Noonan
Memorial Award

Barbara Ann Lee Feinberg '69
Memorial Award

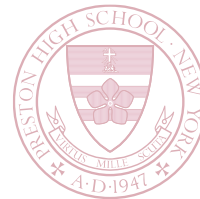
Ronnie Donovan Memorial
Award for Courage

Helen & Anton Wagner
Memorial Award

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.

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

Jennifer Connolly '92, *ex officio*
Laura DeMaria-DeMattia '92
Sr. Laura Donovan, RDC
Tanya Douglas
Judge Doris Gonzalez
Lorrin Johnson
Donna Santarpia Spitz '77, President

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Principal | Jennifer Connolly, Esq. '92
Assistant Principal of Academics | Craig Youngren, MA
Assistant Principal of Student Life | Edgar Martinez
Director of Finance | Pasqualina Zeolla Traina, CPA '78
Sr. Director of Recruitment & Development | Cristina Fragale

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FALL TACHS P.R.E.P.: SEPTEMBER 16TH – OCTOBER 28TH
(SATURDAYS ONLY) 9AM – 12PM

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH 11AM-2PM
MONDAY, OCTOBER 30TH 6PM

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE MOVIE SHOWING:
SUNDAY DECEMBER 10TH 2PM

YOUNG ALUMNAE BRUNCH 2020-2023:
THURSDAY JANUARY 4TH 11AM

FEAST OF MOTHER MARY VERONICA GIVING DAY:
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2ND

CARD PARTY: SATURDAY MARCH 16TH 6PM

PRESTON PLAYERS MUSICAL PRODUCTION:
APRIL 18TH – APRIL 21ST

ALUMNAE REUNION CELEBRATING 4S AND 9S:
SATURDAY APRIL 27TH 11AM

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING: THURSDAY MAY 9TH

SAVE THE DATES



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.