



PRESTON

Then & Now

DIGNITY. HONOR. RESPECT. COMPASSION.

Message From Our Principal



Dear Alum,

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

Preston High School is once again bustling with activity. Play practice has switched into high gear, and our basketball and cheer teams have been busy with practices, games, and competitions. We held another successful food drive, raising over 12,000 pounds of food, which helped multiple food pantries and ministries, as well as earned the students and faculty a day off in February. We brought back music classes, and they performed for us at the Christmas assembly- it's nice to once again hear instruments playing in the building. As we begin our second semester, students and faculty are working hard and beginning to think about the end of the year and what will happen next year; for some that means choosing their classes, but for our seniors, that means choosing their colleges!



While we have a lot to celebrate this year, I did want to acknowledge a recent loss. In September, senior Amanda Tamburrino passed away. We have held prayer services to honor her memory, and held fundraisers including Dance Marathon, with the donations to charities that help support and raise awareness for Hodgkin's lymphoma. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

We are continuing Preston's legacy of empowering young women by providing them with the skills needed for success in their college and career, and to become compassionate leaders for change in their world.

I hope you will share with us your news (marriage, births, deaths, job changes, career achievements, relocations, retirements, etc.). And please don't forget to let us know if/when you change your address, home or email, so we can update our records and keep you in the loop about what's happening at PHS.

We continue to rely on the generosity of our alumnae and friends to help us meet the challenges of today. We are very grateful for your support!

Sincerely,

Jennifer R. Connolly, Esq.

Class of 1992

Principal



75 YEARS OF MEMORIES

Give to “The Fund for Preston”
and help make memories.



1952



Memory Bites (FROM PAST PANTHERS!)

1. The Class of '51 writing the *alma mater*
2. Prom on the back porch
3. The "new building" added in 1960 with a gym and additional classrooms
4. The expansion of the new building in 1965, the addition of a second floor and the cafeteria
5. Music at lunch with the jukebox in the cafeteria
6. Typing Class
7. The second-floor renovations with new science labs and 2 computer labs
8. Co-curriculars from Anime to Women's Empowerment
9. 5 Sports Teams
10. Compassion Connection's Cardboard City
11. Mr. Abel and Dr. Vellani performing at Preston Idol
12. Singing "We are the Family" at the end of Mass
13. Mr. Cooper and the Happy Birthday song, while slamming textbooks on the podium
14. "Walk with alacrity" Sr. Laura
15. Sr. Laura telling students to "Leave room for the Holy Spirit" at dances.
16. Sr. Mary Lucille introduced us to the music of Charles Aznavour and we all quickly became fans.
17. Emmaus Retreat
18. Lock-In
19. Plays and talent shows
20. SMEB taking her English classes to Rm. 9 on Halloween-playing up the Archie connection, and playing a record of the tell tale heart on a portable record player.
21. Sr. Mary Lucille, she wore a modified habit into the 90's-in the hallways with a quarter measuring earring size
22. Mrs. Wicks "Chem is try"
23. Ms. Connolly and handing out pocket Constitutions
24. Sr. BettyAnn in the cafe, at lunch-A seagull just flew in told me it was so and so's birthday!
25. Last day of class for seniors bike/roller skate/drove around the block
26. Senior Prank Day: Chickens in the senior locker room
27. Baby Freshmen Day: Junior sisters dressed up their Freshmen sisters
28. SMEB in English class "You're not as smart as your sister!"25 years later I still am not as smart as my sister, but I make more money
29. Gospel choir with Doctor Morton
30. Step Up Day
31. Take a Veteran to School Day
32. Reading *Catcher In The Rye* in freshman English with Ms. Grendell
33. Volleyball with Mac as coach!



Memory Bites (FROM PAST PANTHERS!)

34. Mr Kravatz used to also do translated sayings, phrases and proverbs and I still remember when he used "semper ubi sub ubi."

35. Mr. Abel: "yalla yalla yalla"

36. Sr. Evangelista (I think) at a pop hop dance where I was wearing a halter dress; "put your jacket on there are men here".

37. Soccer and softball teams

38. Preston Players

39. Sr. Laura: Footballs don't have wheels

40. Mr. Cooper, "striving to be women of dignity, honor, and respect."

41. Ms. Connolly, "Law and Order is not an reliable source." (In Law class)

42. Ms Martone: "Know your Worth!"

43. Spinning fire out back during the lock-in, while Dr. Morton MC'ed through the window and kept making comments like, it's getting hot in here!

44. Mr. Anderson's backflips in class

45. Ms. Desantis teaching us about Beowulf

46. Dissecting a cat!

47. Trips to the Poconos and Seaside Heights.

48. Ranger games with Mr. Anderson.

49. Ms Henry: "I should have been a Botanist"

50. Learning what the word "alacrity" means because of Sr. Laura

51. Halloween Assemblies

52. Senior Water Fight

53. Homeroom on a stick

54. Senior Halloween skit

55. Christmas assembly

56. Mr. De Bona's "How many seniors got into college?"



Pages from Preston's first yearbook: Class of 1951.

57. Our first day of school September 1965, 280 freshman appeared on the back lawn and the new building was not complete. Then June 1969, PHS teachers played the Alleluia Chorus on the PA so happy to send us off to college. 4 of the best years for us all!

—Sr. Carol Wagner '69



Pages from the most recent yearbook: Class of 2022.



Memory Bites (FROM PAST PANTHERS!)

- 58.** Christmas assembly
- 59.** Sr. Laura's "GOOOOOOOOOO Preston Panthers"
- 60.** Ms. Mac's "PHS YES"
- 61.** Volleyball's undefeated 2012 season!
- 62.** "I know nothing" "Be Holy Out there"
- 63.** Independent Senior Project
- 64.** Mrs. Porcaro and the Metropolitan Club
- 65.** Christmas caroling with Ms. Fusco
- 66.** Pickleball
- 67.** The pop hop
- 68.** Video production class
- 69.** Painting the mural in the Senior locker room
- 70.** Everything in the bake sale is now free!
- 71.** Ring Night
- 72.** The sisters using a yard stick to measure skirt length

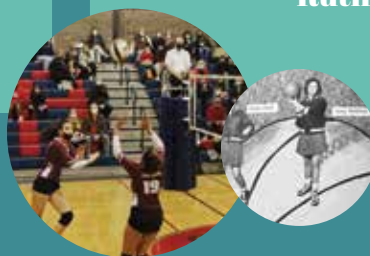
73. It was the day before my 17th birthday and my mother was in the hospital. We had a mass that day, and I have no idea who spoke to who, but the priest somehow found out my birthday was the next day and the whole school sang happy birthday to me. In the moment I was as red as a tomato and was mortified, but now it is one of those memories I always think of when I need a little boost in my day!

74. I have such wonderful memories of that time of my life. Wonderful friends and acquaintances and most of all the good sisters who tried their best. The classes really don't stand out much in my memory but what fun we had, on the porch and lunch room.

—Mary Rush Dowling '59

75. As the daughter of a pioneer, Florence Robinson, Preston was a special place from my mom. Even though she left after two years she continued to support Preston, attend their dances and make memories.

—Ruth Evers-Leich '78



1956



FRESHMAN A CLASS OFFICERS: *July Johnson, President; Wanda Cahn, Vice-President; Eileen Murphy, Treasurer; Miss Ann Maher, Secretary.*

1987



1968



1975



1997



1972



NEWS



← **Sheri Cafaro Johnson '03**, husband Michael, and older siblings Anthony and Hailey welcome Hunter Matthew Johnson on July 18th, 2022.



Announcing...

→ **Lauren Murphy Estep '11** and **Zach Estep** welcomed baby girl **Margaret** on July 15th, 2022.



← **Laura Acciarino Talarico '13** married **Rocco Talarico** on October 7th, 2022



↑ **Christina Lindsay Calamari '09** and husband **Peter Calamari** welcomed baby boy **Andrew Robert** on November 3rd, 2022.



← **Krista Picone Serrao '10** married **Joseph Serrao** on October 22nd, 2022.



← **Antonette Nikac Gaudio '10** married **Anthony Gaudio** on October 15th, 2022.

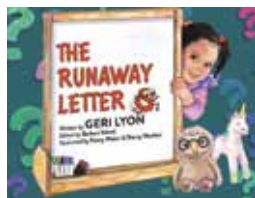
→ **Lindsay Giorgio '08** married **Mark Connolly** on October 7th, 2022.



↑ **Angela Fragale Episcopio '13** married **Anthony Episcopio** on October 9th, 2022.



← **Pat Lambrou '09** married **Manos Kalognomas** on July 31st, 2022 in Athens, Greece.



← Since retiring, Preston alumna, **Geri Lyon '69** has begun a new adventure as an author. Her first publication, *The Runaway Letters* is a children's book appropriate as a picture book for preschoolers and a mystery to solve for the 5-8 year-old set. When letters disappear from a dry erase board, it takes the efforts of Grandma Geri and her three grandchildren to solve the mystery. The letters are discovered in a most unusual place!

† *In Loving Memory*

Lydia B. Campoamor, mother of **Lizamarie Campoamor-Hondros '87**

Marilyn Hermann Dengler '53

Barbara Shea Donahue '53

Cormack Flynn, husband of **Patricia Brett Flynn '61**

Kathleen Cooney Francis '71, sister of **Nancy Cooney Juliano '74**

Marianne Clay Hansen '83, daughter of **Eileen Lillis Clay '54**, sister of **Catherine Clay '79**, niece of **MaryLou Lillis Neddermeyer '72** and **Rosemary Lillis '63**, and aunt of **Caitlyn Duffy Argulo '06**

Edward Hession, father of **Lisa Hession '81** and grandfather of **Sophia** and **Josephine Hession '25**

Frances Nowell Kartz '61

Marie Violet Dwan Kelly '51

Jean Roy Maliszewski '52

Petar Nikac, father of **Antonette Nikac Gaudio '10**

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 I walk through our halls, it has become crystal clear that we ask a lot from our students: diagram the tabernacle from the Old Testament, program a phone app on your chromebook, assess Abigail Williams' motives in *The Crucible*, calculate how long it would take to pay off student debt from a year at Columbia University, paint a full set of tertiary colors (add orange, not black, to make a midnight blue tone), etc., etc., etc.

AND not only do our Panthers rise to these challenges, I see joy and smiles and some head-scratching along the way. How marvelous are our human brains that can do so much! I applaud the efforts of our current national scholars and future travelers, filmmakers, coders, CFOs...

With generous support from an alumna like you, our Preston Scholars Program can once again sponsor Panther learning outside our walls, even outside our country with trips planned to Japan, Germany, and Great Britain. Go panthers! Thank you.



Craig Youngren

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

The Office of Student Life is continuously working to ensure the safety of the students and staff while promoting a unified community. In December, a schoolwide Christmas Homeroom Door Decorating Contest was held to keep the Preston Christmas spirit alive. Our Counseling Department also had a Gingerbread House Decoration Contest. Winners were chosen for various categories and were given prizes and certificates at our Christmas Assembly. The assembly also included an ensemble of performances: A senior skit, courtesy of the Student Council; a recital by our musicians in this year's music program; and a Dance Team and Step Team production.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. As such, on January 10th, we invited Homeland Security Special Agents and NYPD officers to a school-wide assembly to bring awareness to this serious and sensitive topic.

We are currently in preparation for the return of Lock-In, Preston's annual slumber party celebrating the end of midterm exams. Students will dance, play dodgeball, make arts & crafts, sing karaoke, and more all night long on Friday, January 27th. The last week of January also brings the beginning of Spirit Week. Each day of that week, students will have a themed dress down to show their Preston Pride. The week will culminate with an assembly of minute-to-win-it games.



Edgar Martinez

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESTON ADMISSIONS OFFICE!

The start of our 75th anniversary school year has been successfully underway! Our PHS admissions events were able to commence and we are proud to have welcomed prospective students from private, Catholic, public, and charter middle schools through our doors for Shadow Days and our fall Open House events. We were ecstatic to connect with many future Preston Panthers at numerous in-person one-on-one school visits, and high school fairs as well. We are eagerly anticipating the upcoming Salute To Scholars Reception and Accepted Students Night, where we will be officially welcoming the Class of 2027 scholars and their families to the Preston community. If you have any questions regarding admissions, please contact Mrs. Angelique Rodriguez at acrodriguez@prestonhs.org or (718) 863-9134 ext. 131.

Moving further into the academic year, we will continue to offer opportunities to middle school students who are interested in exploring the endless possibilities Preston has to offer. With the return of PrestFest, 7th-grade students will participate in career-related workshops in Art, S.T.E.M., and Mock Trial. Preston High School's PREP program will also return this summer for rising 7th and 8th-grade scholars! Project PREP was developed to prepare ambitious middle school students for high school success. Our program provides an alternative to students seeking to enrich their academics while exploring possible career interests through TACHS preparation, practical experiences, and group collaboration projects. **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:

PrestFest
Saturday, February 11th, 2023
9 AM - 2 PM

Spring Open House
Wednesday, May 17th, 2023
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Project P.R.E.P.
Tuesday July 5th - Thursday 28th, 2023
4 week summer program in July

FACULTY & STAFF

Meet the new Faculty and Staff



MRS. PASQUALINA ZEOLLA TRAINA

Director of Finance

Fun Fact:

Treasurer of Student Council at Preston.
Graduated from Preston in 1978.



MR. DONALD FOLEY

Teaches Global to Sophomores, US History to Juniors, and Economics/ Government to

Seniors

Fun Facts: Enjoys Reading & Watching Anime.

Heard about Preston through a former Preston teacher!



MR. GINO IRIZARRY

Teaches Communications & Reading Strategies to Freshmen and British Literature

to Sophomores.

Fun Fact: Set a Pinball World Record

His sister graduated in 2013 and he was a member of the Preston Players from 2015-2017.



MS. AMANTA KRASNIQI

History & Theology Teacher to Freshmen and Seniors

Fun Facts: Fluent

in Albanian, Won Top 15 in Miss NY 2020.

Many of her friends from Iona were Preston alumnae!



MS. SAMANTHA MARRERO

Teaches Theology to Freshmen

Fun Fact: Loves Watching Turkish

Soap Operas.

Graduated from Preston in 2015.



MS. MOLLY FEENEY

Teaches Earth Science to Freshmen

Fun Fact: D2 Softball Athlete in

College

Played Preston Softball Panthers as a Member of Rival Kennedy Catholic.



1989



MS. JEANETTE COULTHURST

Teaches Freshmen Computing where students develop and practice digital citizenship

skills and develop skills to design and code a mobile app.

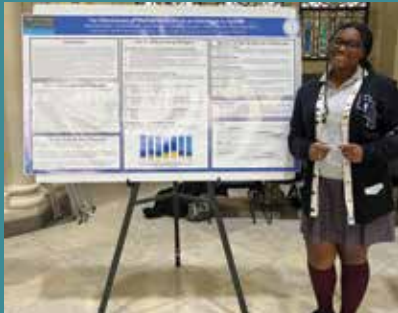
Fun Fact: Two current seniors are former students of Ms. Coulthurst from middle school and she has enjoyed watching them grow from young adolescents to academically successful, college-bound teenagers focused on pursuing careers in medicine.



1991

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

KYMEEKA DOUGLAS '23



Kymeeka Douglas participated in the 2-year Sophie Davis Health Professions Mentorship Program for high schoolers. This program allows high school students in New York City the opportunity to explore a career in the health field. At the conclusion of the program, Kymeeka presented to faculty and staff of the Sophie Davis College of Medicine on the use of medical marijuana in place of opioids. At Preston, Kymeeka is President of the Leaders of Color Club, Vice President of the Caribbean Club, Vice President of Student Life on Student Council's Executive Board and a member of the Step Team, National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society.

DOMENICA ZALLO '23



Senior Domenica Zallos was honored at NYC Bronx Borough President Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson's first Italian-American Heritage Month Celebration on October 13th at the Bronx Zoo.

Domenica was selected for her academic excellence and service to both the Italian Club and the Italian Honor Society for the past three years at Preston.

VICTORIA DIGIROLAMO '24



Sophomore Victoria DiGirolamo won an essay contest sponsored by the Italian Heritage & Culture Committee-NY and the American Association of Teachers of Italian. Applicants were in grades 9-11 and asked to write an essay on an Italian or Italian American Nobel Prize Laureate. Victoria DiGirolamo '25 researched Salvatore Quasimodo, an Italian poet who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1959. Victoria and her family were invited to attend the event at St. John's University in October celebrating Italian & Italian American Nobel Laureates.

MARIANA TURPIN '26



Freshman Mariana Turpin is the second prize winner of the Garibaldi-Meucci Essay Contest. Mariana won a \$150 cash prize. This essay contest also counts as a leadership opportunity. Fourteen Preston students participated in this essay contest, 9th - 12th graders. This essay contest was open to public and private high school students.

FIVE PHS STUDENTS RECEIVED NATIONAL RECOGNITION FROM THE COLLEGE BOARD



Preston High School received the news that five current students are recognized for their academic achievements in school by the College Board. Angelle Vasquez '24, Chelsea Cooperman '23 and Jacinda Corrado '23 received the National Hispanic Recognition Award. Jennifer Agbanyo '23 and Onyinye Umeghalu '23 received the National African American Recognition Award. These students ranked among the highest in the nation for outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT.

ALUMNA *Spotlight*

MAURA CUNNINGHAM '76

Maura Cunningham is the Founder and CEO of Rock The Street, Wall Street, (RTSWS).

Rock The Street, Wall Street is a financial and investment literacy program designed to bring both gender and racial equity to the financial markets and spark the interest of high school girls into careers of finance.

Maura combined her entrepreneurial skills and her passion for propelling the next generation of financiers to include more women, to found Rock The Street, Wall Street in 2012. RTSWS sparks girls' enthusiasm for finance at a critical age to guide and demonstrate the societal benefits personal financial knowledge and math-oriented careers can have.

RTSWS is one of the fastest growing nonprofits focused on the M of STEM in the nation. There are 60 high schools across 32 cities in the US with RTSWS student cohorts, (13 cohorts in Manhattan), and one cohort each in Vancouver, Canada and London, UK. RTSWS has been recognized by The White House, Catalyst, Nasdaq, Women's Bond Club of New York and The Today Show for its goals to engineer social and industrial change. RTSWS students are 73% BIPOC and 48% from low income families. This academic year RTSWS has over 1,200 students participating in its program at their high schools.

Maura has been committed to working with under-served girls for over a decade. She is helping girls view math-focused fields of study as compatible with a career that has a positive impact on the world.

After graduating from Preston, Maura attended Pace University and received a BBA in Economics. She then began her career on Wall Street with Merrill Lynch. After a successful 25 year career in finance, she pursued her MA in Civic Leadership from Lipscomb University in 2012, with her thesis on "How We Lose Girls in Math as Early as Age Nine." Armed with the research and her own work experience in finance, she set forth to change the ratio of women who are in key roles in the financial services industry as well as bring more women to understand what it is to have an "investor identity" so they too, could build wealth by participating in the capital markets.

A few of Maura's fond memories of her time at Preston are:

"All the fun we had on the back porch and backyard just to chill and hang with our classmates and friends; science lab with Sr. Gertrude; Sr. Veronica's youthful demeanor; Layla by Derek and the Dominoes playing on the cafeteria juke box over and over and over. It brings me back to my teenage self each time I hear it today."

In her free time, Maura enjoys hiking, biking, golfing, pickleball and kayaking. Maura is married to James Fenton and has lived in Nashville for the past 20 years. Her daughter, Kaitlin, is an attorney for Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County.



FACULTY *Spotlight*

ILZE KING:

Ilze King began working at Preston in September of 2005. She was hired by Maria Ronconi who was the Theology department chair at that time. Ilze remembers Ms. Ronconi as a caring, supportive and generous mentor who's presence and wisdom inspired and enriched her to learn all the necessary aspects of teaching. Ilze fell in love with teaching while working with the students at Preston. She has long gained inspiration from their eagerness to learn and willingness to take those first steps in journeying towards their life goals and dreams.

Ilze has taught every grade level and every Theology class offered by Preston but one class that has stayed constant is the Foundations in Catholic Morality. She loves guiding her students in becoming more consciously aware of themselves as divine images of God, and how that awareness-or unawareness- impacts the decisions they make along their journey. Her religious and educational goals remain the same: guiding her students in becoming young women of informed moral character, who are positively connected to themselves spiritually and emotionally, to their community and our beautiful but wounded planet.

Ilze is also dedicated to helping students explore their inner world of emotions, dreams and phobias and how it can become another path to religious and spiritual wholeness through teaching the Psychology and Faith course. A full year/experiential elective exposing students to the different psychological views of personality and development, Psych & Faith explores how the psychological shapes and informs the quality of one's faith relationship to God, self, and others.

Ilze continuously challenges herself to step out of her comfort zone, both personally and professionally. Her introverted nature sometimes challenges her to be fully engaged with large groups and being the center of attention. Her long and varied experiences at Preston have helped her learn and grow in this respect. Having finished her doctoral studies in 2010, she still resists being called Dr. King, preferring Mrs. King. Her studies have both supported and enriched her taking the lead in all the aspects of campus ministry, like organizing communal prayers, retreats, preparing for masses, and, when needed as a spiritual counselor. Ilze has also enjoyed being a moderator of Asian club helping and supporting students to take the roles of leadership and service while also having fun.

In her free time she enjoys spending time with her family, her husband Mark and two boys David (17) and Jason (12). They love spending time in nature going on hikes, boat rides and taking camping trips especially to the Thousand Islands region. Ilze enjoys creating things; since the pandemic she has gained great spiritual and emotional satisfaction working in her expanded garden and her growing number of animals that include her chickens, dogs, rabbits, gerbils, and any other sort of God's creatures that wonder by her home in Danbury, CT. As the years pass, she gains greater joy working with her hands cooking, baking and canning food from her garden, and making their home as beautiful and in harmony with the greater world around.



SCHOOLYEAR *Snapshots*



FRESHMAN FAMILY PICNIC



To welcome the Class of 2026 & their families into the Preston community, we hosted the Freshman Family Picnic on Sunday September 25th. Parents and siblings joined the

students on campus for Mass followed by lunch and fun games. Teachers, upperclassmen, parents, and siblings all raced against the freshmen in different relay races. The winner? Teachers of course!

DISCOVERY DAY

For the first time since 2019, Preston brought back Discovery Day! Freshmen, Juniors and Seniors participated in class trips for a day and experienced a day in the city. The freshmen class visited the Museum of the American Indian. The Juniors went to Ellis Island and visited the Statue of Liberty. The Seniors were given 3 trips to choose from: the Museum of Illusions, the Intrepid Museum and the Museum of Modern Art.

CHALLENGE DAY

Instead of Discovery Day, the Sophomores participated in Challenge Day, a national program that invites participants to learn about themselves and interpersonal relationships.



“Challenge Day programs are designed to unite the members of a school community and to empower them to carry the themes of the program back to the greater school population.”

LATINO NIGHT



This year, Preston’s Spanish Club, moderated by Ms. Alexandra De Los Santos, hosted Noche Latina for the students and faculty. Attendees enjoyed homemade pastelitos and other foods as well as dancing and fun with friends.

HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL & HAUNTED MANSION

Preston High School opened its doors to the Throggs Neck community and beyond on Saturday October 15th for an afternoon of fun and scares. During the Halloween Festival, kids enjoyed pumpkin decorating, face painting, coloring and a magic show! In the evening, the Huntington Mansion was transformed into the Haunted Huntington Mansion as we invited visitors to tour the spooky rooms.





FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE

This year's Father Daughter Dance was one of the biggest we've had in recent years with 104 students in attendance with their guests. The evening consisted of good food, dancing and lots of fun for all. As per tradition, the King and Princess of the evening were randomly selected from the Seniors present and Sherlyn Puma Duran and her father Ivan Puma were crowned. In addition, each senior's escort was given a rose to hand to their senior to recognize their special relationship.

VETERANS DAY PARADE

Members of Preston's student body marched in the Throgs Neck Veterans Day Parade on Sunday November 13th. This year's Grand Marshall was David Leich, husband of Ruth Evers Leich '78 and father of Erika Leich Rubbico '01, Laura Leich '05 and Katie Leich '05.



ITALIAN HERITAGE PARADE

Students and faculty marched in the Morris Park Parade in celebration of Italian Heritage on Sunday, October 9th. Members of the Italian Club and the Italian Honor Society led the way for athletes, student council members and other members of the student body down Morris Park Avenue in the Bronx.



COMPASSION CONNECTION FOOD DRIVE

The Annual Food Drive, hosted by the Compassion Connection Club and their moderator Mrs. Dora Dekajlo,

once again surpassed its goal of 10,000 pounds. The Food Drive began October 3rd and collected a grand total of 12,426 pounds of food and dollars over the course of seven weeks.



CULTURAL THANKSGIVING

Right before we went home to celebrate Thanksgiving with family, we celebrated as a school

community and shared dishes from the many different cultures that make up this school. Each lunch period had so many options and new foods for the students and staff to try.



ALBANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

This year, the newly reinstated Albanian Club, moderated by Ms. Amanta Krasniqi, celebrated Albanian Independence Day with the school on December 2nd. The after-school event consisted of Albanian food and dancing among attendees, which included students from Salesian High School.





MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month in December, students were given the opportunity to learn the practice of mindfulness by Jennifer Monness, founder and director of The Meditation Lab. Each grade level had a dedicated homeroom to practice yoga and learn mindfulness tips to practice in their everyday lives to manage stress.

FRESHMEN CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

The freshmen class enjoyed breakfast together in the cafeteria at the start of the Christmas season on December 1st. Junior Ambassadors joined in the festivities and helped serve breakfast while interacting with their mentees.



SENIOR LUNCHEON

The tradition continues as the Class of 2023 enjoyed their Senior Luncheon at Marina del Rey on December 15th. They enjoyed an afternoon of good food, friends and laughter and savored this moment as a class.



ATHLETICS

Updates

Preston's Athletic Program is still going strong and the Panthers are on the prowl this year. Thanks to donations from local establishments, our student athletes can now work on their strength and conditioning with weights and other equipment. Shout out to all seniors for their hard work in their final seasons as athletic panthers!



JV VOLLEYBALL



VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Our **VOLLEYBALL** Panthers ended their seasons with tough losses against strong opponents. JV finished in third place in the regular season and lost their playoff game at Maria Regina. Varsity Volleyball went to Kennedy Catholic for a play-in game and played their best game of the year in a tough loss.



VARSITY CHEER

Once again, the Varsity **CHEERLEADING** Team is off to Nationals at Disney World in Orlando, FL. The team of 25 cheerleaders has been working so hard to prepare for this competition. Thanks to a generous donor, the team also received new team uniforms.



VARSITY SOCCER

After losing in the Tier 3 championship last year, our **SOCCER** Panthers moved up to Tier 2 this season and had a great year against tougher competition. Varsity Soccer ended the season in fifth place and lost a tough playoff game to Dominican Academy.



JV BASKETBALL



VARSITY BASKETBALL

The JV and Varsity **BASKETBALL** teams have had great seasons thus far, both undefeated in their divisions! The Varsity team hopes to move on to the CHSAA Tier 3 playoffs.

"Being able to interact and network with individuals from different backgrounds, ethnicities, and even countries, allowed me to further understand the world around me. I strongly believe that many, if not all, the individuals I met and connected with will continue to influence my views and understandings for the rest of my life."

- Cecelia Cullen '23, on her London experience



From left to right:
Jada Espinal,
Stephanie Fegel and
Cecelia Cullen in London.

PRESTON SCHOLARS ARE GOING INTERNATIONAL!

To be a member in good standing of the Preston Scholars Program, students are required to take an honors level course in the humanities and another in STEM as well as participate in one outside academic activity per semester. Last year, the program received a milestone donation from generous alumna Rosemarie Havranek '74 for members of the Preston Scholars Program to expand their horizons and participate in programs outside of school that may have been financially out of reach before. With her donation, we sent 1 student to California and 5 students to InvestIn Education's summer programs in London in July of 2022. This year, thanks to another donation from Mrs. Havranek, the Preston Scholars Program has the opportunity to travel abroad this summer! Three trips are being sponsored with 6 students traveling to Germany to learn more about sustainability, 14 to Japan to learn more about robotics and engineering and 12 to Scotland & England to learn about health sciences. All chaperones are Preston faculty and will be attending their own sessions, allowing them to bring information and lessons back to their classrooms.

"As I prepare to travel internationally for the first time ever, I'm so excited for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience a new country and its culture while also learning leadership skills and making new memories with my Preston sisters."

- Briana Cherubino '24, on her upcoming trip to Germany

The inaugural Preston Scholars from 2009-2010.





1959



1985



1968



2008



2020

MEET THE PRINCIPAL:

To introduce our new principal to the community in August, the Recruitment & Development Office hosted an evening of appetizers and drinks for parents and alumnae to meet Ms. Jennifer Connolly, Esq. '92.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA:

The Throgs Neck community traveled to the North Pole to visit Santa on December 10th. Guests enjoyed breakfast, played games and crafts, decorated cookies, and even got to see Santa and share their wish list.

GIVING TUESDAY:

Giving Tuesday is a national day of giving where individuals give to organizations close to their heart. Thanks to individuals like you who hold Preston close, we received an overwhelming amount of donations this year!



YOUNG ALUMNAE BRUNCH

Back for the first time since 2019! On January 5th, graduates from the Classes of 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 walked the halls once again when they visited for the Young Alumnae Brunch. The alums were happy to offer advice and share anecdotes with the Class of 2023 as they prepare to move onto the next phase of their lives.

ONCE A PANTHER, ALWAYS A PANTHER



PHS ALUMNAE WORKING AT MS 101 IN THE BRONX, NY

From left to right: Jeanmarie Welton '94, Dr. Megan Tricoli Lewis '10, Courtney Lyver '12, Gina Giannone '00, Kristen Murphy Hartly '94, Alissa Rivera '09, Christine DeCola Scuccimarrì '95

CLASS OF 1998 REUNITES OVER CHRISTMAS

From left to right: Melissa Skrapits Wagner, Kimi Reina Becker, Daniella Visvader Pradas, Shannon Pisaniello Coscia, Krissy Caramelle Riss, Jean Zarnoch Kwartler and Erin Mulligan Williams



CLASS OF 2003 REUNITES OVER CHRISTMAS

From left to right, top to bottom: Annie Duffy McConville, Janine Keenan Shaver, Lindsay Carr Farley, Amanda Parisi Donovan, Nicole Owens Senk, Kelly Skrapits Kempf, Alex Dzuima Orth, RC Bellino Capezuti (Spellman HS), Christine Davis O'Donnell



LAMBROU WEDDING

A few Preston alumnae from the Class of 2009 attended Pat Lambrou's wedding in Athens this past summer. Pictured from left to right: Janette Martinez, Maria Sweiciki '09, Zoyla Agovino '09, Patricia Loughery Quinn '09, bride Pat Lambrou '09, Jackie Befanis '09, Liz Riviuccio, Jacquie Ventrella '09, Jasmin Hernandez, Lissette Martinez '09.

SAVE THE DATES

Grease Lightning Card Party
Saturday April 1, 2023

Annual Golf Outing
Thursday May 11, 2023

WAYS TO DONATE



MAIL IN
a cash or
check



VISIT
our website
to donate online



CALL
to donate
over the phone



MATCHING
Gifts from your
company



ENDOWMENT



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

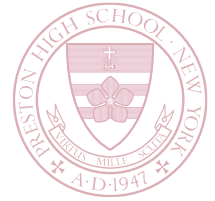
Cecelia Cunningham Noonan
Memorial Award

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. x 113
Assistant Principal of Academics | Craig Youngren, MA x 196
Assistant Principal of Student Life | Edgar Martinez x 130

OFFICE OF RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT

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— EST. 1947 —

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**FEAST OF MOTHER MARY VERONICA 75 HOUR
GIVING DAY FEBRUARY 3RD**

**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

SPRING OPEN HOUSE MAY 17TH

**SUMMER PROJECT P.R.E.P.
JULY 5TH — JULY 27TH**

**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.