

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023

A Message from the School Executive Director Dr. Helen V. Griffith

Hello and Happy New Year. We are excited about the great things happening in 2023 and I'm pleased to announce the hiring of our permanent Vice Principal, Ms. Danielle Agliam. She successfully competed for the position through the UC San Diego hiring process and began this new role on January 3, 2023.

VP Agliam is no stranger to The Preuss School as she has faithfully served here for the past 16 years as our Exercise & Health Science Faculty member, and most recently, as Interim Vice Principal. Further, her experience includes serving as an Advisory teacher, Athletics Coach, Middle School ASB Advisor, 6th Grade Camp Director, a Facilitator for the Preuss Parent Academy, and on many school committees. Prior to joining the Preuss team, VP Agliam served as a Physical Education teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District for two years.

As a highly qualified educator, Ms. Agliam earned a Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from San Diego State University and a Master's degree in Education from Ashford University. She holds a Single-subject Teaching Credential and the Administrative Services Credential both from the state of California.

VP Agliam believes that scholars come first and holds high the positive relationships that she develops with all students. She describes her approach to student support as one that is restorative and seeks to employ non-traditional practices in order to help every scholar become a person of integrity and excellence. Her forward journey will include co-leading and building a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) that includes Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) to produce successful outcomes for all within our Learning Community.

Please join us in welcoming VP Agliam to her new leadership position. We salute her accomplishments and achievements thus far and look forward to supporting her success.

With Gratitude,
Dr. Helen V. Griffith
Executive Director



Words From The Principal

Hello Preuss School families,

Happy New Year! When the new calendar year begins, our excitement begins. In just a few months, we will be graduating the Class of 2023! Our senior scholars are beginning to receive acceptance to various colleges and universities, and we are gearing up for the testing season. This year we are having two significant visitations to our school. In February, we will welcome a team from San Diego Unified for our Charter Authorization. In April, we will welcome a team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges for our school accreditation. Both of these visits provide us with an opportunity to shine, and we look forward to it.

Our second semester is underway, and that means we all have a fresh start. It is time to improve your efforts from the first semester and show some growth in your learning. Colleges look for these kinds of trends so let's take our effort to the next level. If you need support, please contact your University Preparatory Teacher (Advisory Teacher).

I recently attended the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) Equity Conference, to represent The Preuss School as a Lighthouse Award recipient. The SDCOE Lighthouse Awards are given annually to people who are beacons in the educational community by channeling and leading others in diversity, equity, and inclusion. The work that we all do at Preuss is transformational. At Preuss, we are all changed by the kinship that we discover with one another and the realization of so many dreams.



Thank you all for sharing this with me.

Dr. Matthew Steitz
Principal, The Preuss School UC San Diego

Admissions Lottery



February 23rd, 2023

Our admissions application window for the 2023-2024 school year closed and we will be hosting our admissions lottery webinar on Thursday, February 23rd, 2023 from 5:30-6:30 pm.

All who submitted a complete application by our deadline will be entered in the lottery. During this event we will be selecting students at random for enrollment to begin next school year, for grades 6-12

An email to all applicants with the webinar link will be sent. For any questions please email: preussadmission@ucsd.edu

Vanessa Gomes
Admissions Coordinator

A Note From Attendance

Dear Parent/Guardian,

With the 2022-23 second semester underway, many absences are being reported. This is a good time to highlight the importance of attending school every day and tackle this problem. At Preuss, students are considered chronically absent when they miss 19 school days a year for any reason (10% of our 190-school day calendar). That works out to less than 2 days per month. Over the course of a student's high school career, missing 10 percent of school days would equate to missing almost an entire semester of school.

There are students who miss a few days of school each year without long-term consequences. However, when they miss many days, the effects are almost always negative. The California Department of Education classifies a student as being "chronically absent" when they miss 10 percent of

school days, and it is different from truancy, which only counts unexcused absences.

Parents should contact the attendance office when a student is absent or tardy. The Preuss School sends automated Attendance Notifications to parents whose child is marked "Absent" or "Tardy" on a given school day. These notifications are received by email or text via ParentSquare. If your student is having difficulty attending school, please contact your child's counselor for advice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to discuss your student's attendance further with you. Thank you for your support.

Patricia Villanueva
Attendance Office Phone: 858-822-0311

Important information from Attendance Works:

Attending school regularly helps students feel better about school and themselves. Parents can help building this habit so they learn that going to school on time, every day is important. When students attend regularly, they are much more likely to read proficiently, do well in middle and high school and graduate.



What you can do

- Avoid scheduling vacations when school is in session. They are considered unexcused absences.
- These absences, even if they are excused, break the routine of daily attendance that contributes to students feeling connected and engaged in learning. Please consider these steps to keep your children healthy and in school this winter.
- Develop back up plans for getting your children to school. Check who can give your children a ride if you can't take them.
- If your children get sick or you are concerned about Covid or the flu, talk to your child's medical provider or the school nurse for advice.
- Stomach pain and headaches can be signs of anxiety and may not be reasons for keeping a child home. If you feel that anxiety or stress is playing a role, talk to your child's teacher, the school nurse or counselor or your medical provider about how best to support your child.
- Encourage children to wash their hands before and after eating and after using the restroom.
- Avoid sharing cups and utensils with other individuals.
- Dress your children for the cold weather. If you need help with winter clothing, call the school.
- Encourage healthy habits such as getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods, drinking fluids and getting exercise.
- If your children need to stay home for a prolonged period due to illness, talk to your child's teacher to find out about resources, including computer or internet access, that they can use at home to keep learning once they feel well enough.

Whispers from the Copley Media Center (Library)

Welcome to 2023!

Our Annual Bookmark Contest has begun!!! All Preuss students are welcome to participate. The theme this year is **'Favorite Book or Quote from an individual that address/or promotes Social Justice.'** Bookmarks can be picked up in the library starting Tuesday, January 17th. The completed bookmark is due Friday, January 27th. Students will vote on their favorite design from Monday, January 30th through Friday, February 3rd. **Winners will be announced Monday, February 6th** in the Daily Bulletin. The top two bookmarks from middle school and high school will have their bookmark published for the whole school to enjoy and will receive a new book of their choice. All entries will be displayed at UC San Diego's Geisel Library to honor World Bookmark Day (WOBODA 2023) February through the end of March.

Paper copies of library notices are sent at the beginning of each semester. Any student with fines over \$5.00 or one late textbook will be placed on the 'Do Not Participate' list. Students will not be able to participate in clubs, sports, dances or socials until the late textbooks are returned, or some amount of the fine is paid or the student volunteers to reduce the fine.

Online library information is on the [Preuss School website](#). Check us out. We have links to our databases, the school catalog, and Sora by Overdrive (our ebook collection site). Students are also able to access eBooks by downloading the SORA APP on their phone and using their student ID number to login.

Keep Reading,
Ms. Nance and Ms. Gonzalez
librarians@preuss.ucsd.edu



DATABASE HIGHLIGHT



Sora is an online platform that gives our students access to online books and audiobooks. The students are able to download the app and use it on their phone or go directly to [Sora](#). To access Sora the students will need to set the Preuss School as their library and the username is the student's school id number. They are able to check out a total of three books and/or audiobooks at a time for two weeks. Check out this [video](#).

Student Services & Counseling Department

Dear Preuss Families,

We are about half way through the year! Please encourage your students to continue to work hard on their academics but to also incorporate self-care. Reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

CONTACT THE STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Ms. Sara Silva

School Counselor, A-Garcia Guillen.
sarasilva@preuss.ucsd.edu
(858) 822-2002

Ms. Allyson Cobbs

School Counselor, Garcia Lozano- S. Nguyen
acobbs@ucsd.edu
(858) 822-0409

Ms. Erin Patrick

School Counselor, T. Nguyen-Z
empatrick@ucsd.edu
(858) 822-0996

Ms. Shaoni Bandy

College Workforce Coordinator
sbandy@ucsd.edu

Ms. Yazmin Ghonaim

School Psychologist
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(858) 822-1485

Ms. Paty Macedo

Registrar
preussregistrar@ucsd.edu
(858) 822-2525

Vacant

Family Support Specialist

1st Semester Grades:

Schedule an appointment with your student's school counselor if your student received 3 or more D/F grades last semester

Mrs. Cobbs will be out on maternity leave until April but until she returns please reach out to Mrs. Silva (for last name starts with A-K) or Mrs. Patrick (for last names that start with L-Z.)

LAST NAME A - GARCIA GUILLEN

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SCAN FOR APPT.



LAST NAME GARCIA LOZANO - S. NGUYEN

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SCAN FOR APPT.



COLLEGE WORKFORCE COORDINATOR

Ms. Shaoni Bandy
sbandy@ucsd.edu
calendly.com/preussbandy

SCAN FOR APPT.



Financial Aid Follow Up

Please check in with your School Counselor if you were unable to attend the Financial Aid Workshop or if you have not submitted your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application. March 2, 2023 is the deadline.

Farewell Message From Student Volunteer Coordinator



Dear Parents, Volunteers, Alumni, Staff and Teachers,

My appointment as Coordinator of Alumni and Volunteer Programs at the school has come to an end. It is a bittersweet transition for me as I have grown fond of all the people that I have worked

with over the last 4+ years in this position. I am confident that everything will continue to run smoothly with Vanessa Muños, a Preuss and UC San Diego Alumna who will temporarily be assisting with the duties associated with this position. In addition, she will be working closely with Audria Montalvo and Joshanne Chiang, UCSD student employees who assist with the volunteer and alumni programs.

The e-mail accounts where you used to reach me are role accounts and will continue to be monitored by Ms. Vanessa Muños. In addition, you may reach Audria at: preuss-vci@ucsd.edu or Joshanne at: preuss-mpa@ucsd.edu with any questions you may have. They are in the office approximately 20 hours per week total, 10 hours each.

To the volunteers, I am in awe of your commitment to the Preuss Mission as you generously give your time and offer your talents to assist the students. To the parents, I am inspired by your

commitment to your children's education which is exemplified by your attendance at PTA meetings, volunteering at school events and activities, raising funds by selling snacks and drinks on Fridays and during at-home sports games to assist with school field trips, clubs and many other things. To alumni, thank you for giving back to the school by serving as mentors, tutors, and speakers during Homecoming and at other events. Please know that we look forward to seeing you back on campus and to your continued involvement with the school. To the staff and teachers, it has been my privilege working closely with you and know that I leave Preuss inspired by your dedication and commitment to teach and guide.

It has been a pleasure knowing you and working with all of you. Thank you for all the shared moments. I will forever treasure them in my heart.

*Sincerely,
Jacqueline Azize-Brewer*



CONTACT INFORMATION

[For volunteer-related matters](mailto:preussvolunteer@ucsd.edu), please e-mail: preussvolunteer@ucsd.edu

[For alumni-related matters](mailto:preussalumni@ucsd.edu), please e-mail: preussalumni@ucsd.edu.

Phone number (unchanged): 858-822-0020.

Volunteers Needed For Spring Break Camp



Aloha, Parents, Scholars, and our Preuss Community!

Spring Break Camp is coming up on March 20-24, which gives us another chance to provide a week of off-campus enrichment opportunities throughout San Diego. This year's week will be deemed "Camp Aloha" and will emphasize traditional Hawaiian values and culture while our students enjoy trips to San Dieguito Park, the Japanese Friendship Garden, San Diego Air & Space Museum, and more.



We need volunteers: about 8 people per day. Our events usually go from 9am-4pm. You can volunteer for shorter shifts if you need to! This is a great time to get fully cleared so you can volunteer more than once and not have to renew!

Contact Ryan Scott at rwscott@ucsd.edu or Vanessa Van De Vanter at vvandevanter@ucsd.edu

ASB Activities



By ASB Students and Mr. Carr

This year's Homecoming was December 15 from 3:30pm to 7:30pm at the LionTree Arena. Homecoming is one of Preuss most spirited events filled with all types of showcases. It brings an opportunity for students to cheer on the girls and boys varsity basketball teams, the cheerleaders make a big performance, and Alumni get to visit and give advice to all types of generations of Preuss students. This year's theme was Teen Titans. The executive board within student government, which emphasizes the competitive spirit among each grade, usually chooses the theme. This year freshmen were the character Starfire (pink), sophomores were Cyborg (blue), juniors were Robin (red), and seniors were Raven (purple). The Student Government had their classes choose the decorations according to color and theme. We also had the help of the creative art students that portrayed their many talents on the boards and banners of each class.

This year we were beyond fortunate to have the generosity of our sponsors such as The Pegasus Group and Just Remember 88 Foundation. Pegasus is an organization that helps Preuss Alumni have a smoother transition into adulthood, similar to an advisory class. The Just Remember 88 Foundation wanted to remain anonymous about their contributions to the communities.

Towards the end of the night, we announced Homecoming Heroes:

Freshman Heroes: Amor Martinez and Yandel Flores

Sophomore Heroes: Aisha Amba and Addie Castillo

Junior Heroes: Antonio Ceron and Camila Puente

Senior Heroes: Jahmya Jordan and Ethan Le.

Each student went through nominations made by their grade level and voting took place until the day before homecoming.

Homecoming continues to be a lively tradition that the student body embraces each year to provide a welcoming and cheerful atmosphere to all our guests.



This year's ASB Ball was themed 007 at Sea and on January 21st, 2023. It was located on the beautiful William D. Evans Boat at Mission Bay. We embarked from the Bahia Belle Resort and cruised for 2 hours. Students took pleasure in the variety of views that the boat had to offer. As the boat was cruising, our students participated in activities on the boat such as enjoying fine dining, a photo booth, music, and dancing on multiple decks. The menu included buffalo-style chicken rolls, Thai-style keralon shrimp, tacos with steak, fajitas with chicken, as well as an unlimited assortment of desserts. ASB will be hosting its next formal event, Senior Prom in May 2023!



The Birch Aquarium & the Pincus Family Foundation sponsor Beach Science program for 6th grade

By Carla Petraglia, Science Teacher

In January of 2023, all of the 6th grade Science students participated in the Beach Science Program through the Birch Aquarium. The two-week program included a lesson from their science teacher, where students read one of four articles related to impacts of the El Nino weather phenomenon. The Birch Aquarium staff taught two days worth of science labs. Students were tasked to think about how temperature changes affect the ocean. Eventually, students used their knowledge of density variations and convection to create three layers of water from different temperature water. The following day students worked on explaining how wind impacts changes in the ocean. The program culminated with a field trip to the Birch Aquarium and the Scripps Institute of Oceanography's research pier. Students took a self guided tour of the Aquarium where they were able to observe the world's smallest penguins, a sea dragon dad carrying his eggs, and bioluminescent jellyfish. On the pier students practiced measuring wind speed with an anemometer and interviewed a scientist. Many also got to see wild dolphins, a peregrine falcon, stingrays and if they were lucky, a baby gray whale! The last lesson involved analyzing sea surface temperatures collected by students while on their fieldtrip.

7th grade students were able to take part in the same program in the Fall of 2022 with Mr. Patino.



Studio Static

MUSIC AND ART

By Ms. Tamima Noorzay, Fine Arts Chair

After school Rock Band and Composition classes are in full swing with exciting upcoming opportunities to showcase Preuss Musicians! With the Festival of the Arts just around the corner, both bands are rehearsing for the spotlight. Additionally, they are working toward a show on the UCSD campus for the end of the school year, as well as a potential CD offering some original compositions.



Sophomore Rock Band after a day of rehearsals with Mr Diego, Artist in Residence

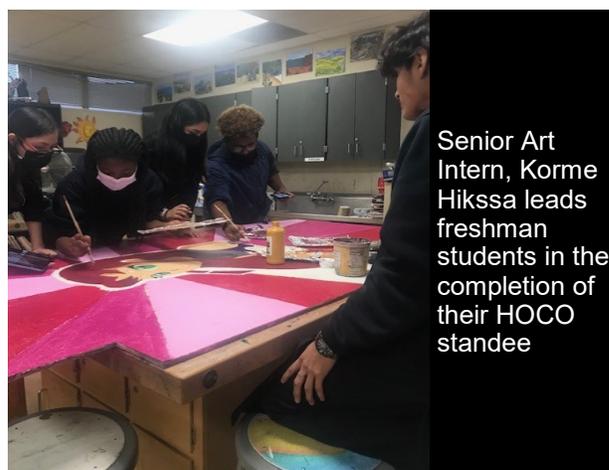
Composers Jefferson Lam, Mauricio Salas, and Liam Rodriguez provided their atmospheric scoring to the Friday 13th Film Festival, keeping the audience enchanted with the drama, horror and comedy of the feature films. These talented students have also been working with the guest composer for the La Jolla Symphony and Choir, Alex Stephenson, to create original pieces for the symphony musicians to play during a painting workshop for AP and Honors artists. Mr. Jay Wolf Schlossberg-Cohen has returned to San Diego from Baltimore to work with Preuss artists on a collaboration. The La Jolla Symphony will bring an ensemble to T101 to play the compositions created by the students while the artists draw and paint them! Mr. Jay will then take the student artwork and create compositions that will be painted by the students on banners to hang at the Symphony concerts at Mandeville. This has been a unique experience and opportunity to bring together many parts of our community in

creative expression! You can look forward to images of the banners in the next edition of Insights!

Artists are looking forward to working with Mr. Jay again, as well as having live models in the studio! The workshop process began with students brushing up on their gesture drawing skills, a practice session drawing and painting with Mr. Diego playing the guitar, then creating a practice collage out of their images. After this preparation, students are ready for the workshops with the musicians and Mr. Jay. Some of Mr. Rocca's film students will be capturing video footage of the process to be edited into a short documentary of the collaboration.

Studio I and II artists are looking forward to 3-D art in the form of sculptures, mask making and utilitarian aesthetic objects which will be on display at the Festival of the Arts 2023 on March 16. This showcase of performances by Choir, Rock Band and students, an art salon, a Fashion Club Runway, and the screening of the Shakespeare Festival trailer will celebrate creativity and the role it plays in scholar transformation.

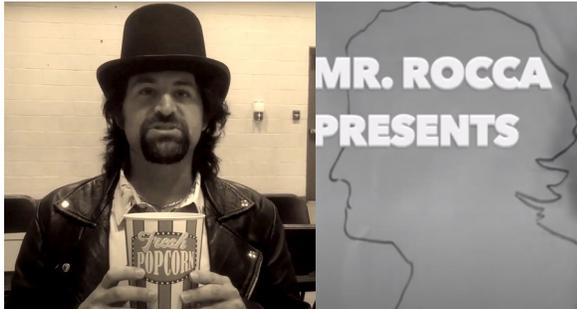
From the standee displays that punctuated Homecoming 2022 to cross curricular collaborations with AP African American Studies, the Preuss community is engaged both within our family and externally with our community partners like Mr. Jay and the La Jolla Symphony and Choir, raising the campus culture and climate.



Senior Art Intern, Korme Hikssa leads freshman students in the completion of their HOCO standee

Drama Class Updates

THEATER/ FILM



When the autumn wind blows and Halloween is near, The Preuss Drama Department puts on an annual horror anthology entitled FALL FESTIVAL. This year, however, we had several new developments including the birth of an Honors Drama course, an editing suite, and new technology for filming. In order to allow these exciting new elements to grow and evolve organically, we pushed back the date, rebranding to FRIDAY THE 13TH FESTIVAL and kicking off 2023 with a bang...



FRIDAY THE 13TH FESTIVAL was the biggest Preuss Drama Production turnout yet: over 290 people were in attendance at the Walton Center! This collective experience of seeing a movie unfold on the big screen, sharing in laughter (and in this case, screaming) is precisely the kind of cinema magic that Preuss Drama Instructor Matthew Rocca is elated to share with our scholars from his background as a filmmaker: <https://youtu.be/8CR7d2yWIrQ>

In that same vein, Mr. Rocca has launched a

career pathway Film Internship program for our senior wheel. Scholars interested in pursuing an education and possible career in film will be given the unique opportunity to learn the tools, technologies, and vast array of vocations within the entertainment industry. It is Mr. Rocca's hope that this will pave the way for students to work on his set during production of his upcoming movie this summer!

But before then, interns will have the chance to collaborate with our Honors Drama students on the next big Preuss Production: SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL. In keeping with the annual tradition of adapting the characters and plots of Shakespeare while weaving them into a tapestry of cinema genre,

this year the students will be transforming *Macbeth* into a film noir! Noir was a subgenre of film which reached the height of its popularity in the 1940s, revolving around dark worlds of crime and corruption, cynical antiheroes, and sinister femme fatales. To Mr. Rocca, all of this fits the notoriously "cursed" play of The Bard's like a glove.

More exciting updates to come as the Film Internship is launched and SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL begins production in the following weeks. And be on the lookout for news about two live stage performances to come as well, POP CULTURE FESTIVAL and our annual epilogue JAZZ JUNE!

Matthew Rocca
Drama/ Film Instructor

Important Dates

<p>January 22</p> <p>First Semester Final Report Cards Mailed Home to Parents</p>	<p>January 27</p> <p>Schoolwide Spelling Bee 7th and 8th graders</p>	<p>February 4</p> <p>Saturday Enrichment Academy In-person class 9:00AM – 11:00AM</p>	<p>February 4</p> <p>Mock Interview Program Preuss Walton Center 9:00AM to 2:00PM</p>
<p>February 7</p> <p>Virtual PTA Executive Board Meeting 5:30PM</p>	<p>February 17</p> <p>Abraham Lincoln's Birthday *NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>February 20</p> <p>George Washington's Birthday *NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>February 23</p> <p>Admissions Lottery Webinar 5:30PM - 6:30PM</p>
<p>February 24</p> <p>Preuss Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic Preuss Walton Center 11:00AM-3:00PM</p>	<p>February 25</p> <p>Saturday Enrichment Academy In-person class 9:00AM – 11:00AM</p>	<p>February 25</p> <p>General Parent Meeting Zoom Webinar 9:30AM-11:00AM</p>	<p>March 11</p> <p>Saturday Enrichment Academy In-person class 9:00AM – 11:00AM</p>

COVID - 19 VACCINE CLINIC



Friday, February 24th
11AM- 3PM
Preuss Walton Center
[click here](#) to sign up!

Students without a parent present at the clinic must have a signed consent form. Forms can be found on Parent Square or in the office. Individuals must bring a copy of their COVID-19 vaccine record to the clinic.

Per the Preuss School UC San Diego Vaccine Mandate, all students must have completed the first 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine along with the initial booster or have an exemption on file. Individuals are eligible for the initial booster 2 months after their second dose and must get it by 6 months after their second dose in order to be compliant with the vaccine mandate.

Other options to get the COVID-19 vaccine: Sites & Appointments (sandiegocounty.gov) Additional Information from the CDC: [Vaccines for COVID-19 | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/COVID-19/)

Visit us on our Website:

<http://preuss.ucsd.edu>

CONTACT US

To contact the Preuss School Office Staff the parents need to leave a message and we will return their call as soon as we can.

Primary Links to Contact Us

(858) 822-3000

Front Office Line for general questions

(858) 822-0311

Attendance and Transportation
pavillanueva@ucsd.edu

(858) 822-0408

Admissions
preussadmission@ucsd.edu

(858) 822-2525

Registrar
preussregistrar@ucsd.edu