

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2021

## A Message from the School Principal

Preuss School Community,

By the time this newsletter is published, we will have completed more than five weeks of school. Despite our challenges with the COVID-19 virus, we are still moving forward, making our school safer and safer as we implement new policies and procedures. Our goal in this area continues to be to create the safest school in San Diego County.

It has been a pleasure meeting many of our scholars during lunch sessions. I have noticed scholars are extremely polite while picking up their food from the cafeteria staff. Please remember that the way we treat others is a reflection of who we are. I have also noticed that the energy levels are significantly different between the middle school and high school lunches. Middle school scholars, please remember that classes are in session during your lunchtime, and while we want you to enjoy your lunch, near the classrooms are not a place to raise your voice or runabout. I would also like to encourage everyone to pick up after themselves at lunch. There are over eight hundred scholars that attend our school, and it is not the job of our custodial staff to clean up after us. Their job is to support us during our daily operations. Therefore the more time our custodial staff spends cleaning up from lunch means less time that they can spend supporting our school.

Please wear your masks, know the people you are around, and continue to work towards your dreams.

Dr. Steitz Principal      Vice Principal Watson

## Mark Your Calendar!

Our Back to School Night has been scheduled for September 16th and will be held virtually through a webinar starting at 6:30pm. During this webinar Dr. Steitz will be giving instructions on how to navigate the event. Teachers will be providing videos about each of the classes they are teaching. All advisory teachers will have live presentations. This will be a great way to have your scholars show you what they have been up to.

### Webinar Link:

<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/94626>



## September is Attendance Awareness Month

With the transition back to in-person learning and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize that families continue to encounter challenges with ensuring their student attends school daily. We need parents as partners in promoting and encouraging attendance.

Our counselors and teachers are also available if parents notice that their child is losing motivation or are having a difficult time with their student attending school.



Listed below are some tips for parents to talk to their student about the importance of not missing school.

### WHAT CAN PARENTS DO

#### Make school attendance a priority:

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

**Remember, parents must call the school at (858) 822-0311 to report and explain the reason for an absence.** This must be done for each day the student is absent. When a student is marked absent and the parent does not notify the school, the school will call the parent to find out why the student did not attend school. Thank you for helping us promote attendance.

Patricia Villanueva

## Meet the New Staff



**Allyson Cobbs, M.S.  
School Counselor**

Allyson Cobbs has worked in education for over ten years and has worked in school counseling for the last six years. Allyson received her bachelor's degree from UC Davis in International Relations with a focus on Peoples and Nationalities. Allyson then received her Master of Science in Educational Counseling from the University of La Verne. Her passion to provide high-quality student-focused, to help students develop the necessary skills to be successful. It is her goal as a school counselor, to focus on positive connection and inclusion; advocate for and empower students to reach their full potential. School Counseling and education is what Allyson believes she is called to do and is thrilled for her journey at The Preuss School. Allyson Cobbs is the counselor for students whose last names are H. Garcia - S. Nguyen.

## Meet the New Staff, Continued



**Hannah Griffith, M.Ed**  
**English Teacher**

I'm Ms. Hannah and I'm the new 8th grade English, 6th grade Creative Writing and 6th grade Advisory teacher! I am a first generation college graduate from Orange County, and I recently received my B.A. in Literature/Cultural Studies and my Masters degree in Education from UC San Diego. I come from a *huge* family, and I was originally inspired by my seven younger siblings to become an educator. Although I miss my family tremendously, I am constantly inspired by the activism of everyday people in San Diego who selflessly fight for equality, anti-racism and social justice within our institutions. I'm so excited to bring this creative fortitude into my classroom community, and to explore great works of literature and other artistic mediums from a multitude of backgrounds, cultures and perspectives. I believe it is my duty as an educator to ensure that my curriculum is relevant, relatable and rigorous; but it is also my goal as an English teacher to be a mentor and guide to my students as they fill their intellectual tool boxes. I believe my classroom is a space to foster community and collaboration as students take risks, explore diverse perspectives, and grow academically, emotionally and socially. In my free time, I like to take walks through downtown SD, read graphic novels and different kinds of literature, analyze pop culture, watch live music and roller skate. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Preuss community, and I look forward to building strong connections with all of our community members!

welcome



**Mario Patiño M.Ed., M.L.Sc., NBCT**  
**Middle School Science**

I was born and raised in San Diego. A first generation college student, I graduated from San Diego State University and moved into a career in biotechnology and pharmaceutical research. Working in the lab was satisfying to me because it was abstract work. The acts of 911 caused me to question my life and career in a lab. I followed an opportunity to be a field biologist with USDA's PBARC NWRC Field Station in Hilo, Hawai'i. This opportunity then evolved into teaching science at the Kamehameha Schools, a school for native Hawaiians. My passion for education has continued to evolve over my nineteen year career as a science educator where I have been fortunate to teach at private & public schools in California and Hawai'i.

Teaching satisfies all three of my passions, helping others succeed, supporting my family, and connection to place/self. There is nothing more satisfying than creating experiences that help students become independent thinkers and creators of their own knowledge. Education can be a liberating experience and helping my students to understand the power of education drives my efforts.

I am proud to call myself a nerd, I am constantly seeking new knowledge. In my career I have over 10,000 hrs of professional development in a wide range of topics which has helped catalyze my growth and see topics from different perspectives. I hold advanced degrees from the University of Maryland, Concordia University & possess a National Board Certification in *Adolescent Youth-Sciences*. When I'm not teaching, I can be found biking, enjoying soccer, parenting two teenage sons, spending quality time with my life partner, protecting natural resources, or connecting with my Wixárika culture through artisan projects.

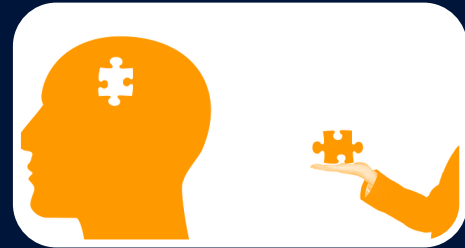
**Why did I come to Preuss?** I have been in search of a school that resonates with my soul, ethos, and educational philosophy. In 2014 I visited Preuss and was in awe with the amount of effort the school does to help students succeed. This summer I was already set to work at another school but then I received a call in June asking me if I was still interested in a science position. The rest is history. I am blessed to be at this school and a part of a community of educators who are fueled by the hearts of our students and the energy of our work.

# A Note from the School Family Support Specialist

Hello Preuss community!

For those who are new to The Preuss School UC San Diego, my name is Amanda Torre. I am a Preuss alum, class of 2005. I have been working at The Preuss School UC San Diego for six years as the Family Support Specialist. As Family Support Specialist, I provide assistance to students and families regarding resources for individual and family counseling, employment, shelter, food, and any other needs that may arise. If you and your family are needing additional supports please do not hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to provide you with information and resources to help you. You can contact me at 858-822-1484 or [a1torre@ucsd.edu](mailto:a1torre@ucsd.edu).

Since we've been in the midst of a pandemic for a year and a half, it is difficult to remember how important feeling safe is to our mental health. But safety is vital, and if needs like safety aren't met, a mental health condition may develop. A lot of kids and teens haven't been able to feel that sense of safety for a long time. Not only are they dealing with fears that a family member (or they themselves) might be exposed to COVID-19 or the Delta Variant, but some have had to face an abusive home environment, a family financial hardship, or a family loss recently. We know from research that an estimated 1.5 million children worldwide lost a mother, father, or other caregiving relative in the first 14 months of the pandemic. When a kid or teen experiences this kind of hardship, it can feel as if the world is crashing down on them. That's why it's crucial right now, as students return to school, for parents, teachers, and administrators to do everything they can to foster a safe and secure environment. School can be a refuge from some of these difficult situations at home, and a place that students feel out of harm's way. Still, even in the safest of environments, we are in a youth mental health crisis, and many students will exhibit symptoms of depression and anxiety



as they return to the classroom. It is important to let kids and teens know that support is available. Please know that there are various people on the Preuss School campus your student can reach out to if they are needing emotional or mental health supports. Those people include: your child's advisory teacher, your child's counselor (Ms. Patrick, Ms. Carrillo, or Ms. Cobbs), and myself, Ms. Torre. There are also serious signs that someone is in crisis and needs more immediate help. These include thoughts or plans of hurting oneself or another person. If you think a child or teen is in immediate danger of taking suicidal action, call the national suicide hotline at 1-800-273-TALK. Their trained crisis counselors can help you find local resources or suggest next steps. San Diego also has the access and crisis line available to assist with any crisis that may arise. The San Diego Access and Crisis line can be reached 888-724-7240. Additionally, please remember that San Diego has the 211 line you can call or access at [www.211sandiego.org](http://www.211sandiego.org) that provides updated information about health and social services, as well as disaster alerts and resources.

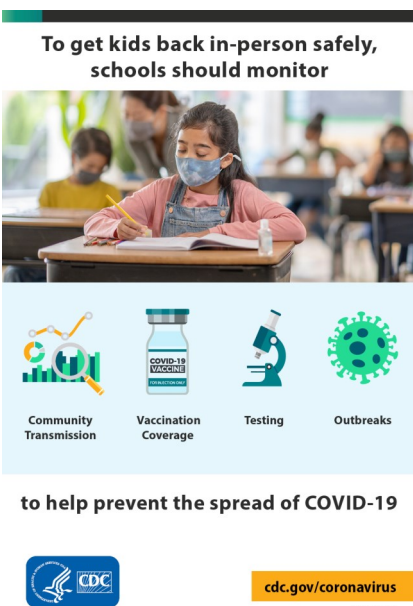
\*Please note: I will be on maternity leave during the months of October-January.

Ms. Amanda Torre  
 Family Support Specialist & Homeless  
 Coordinator  
[a1torre@ucsd.edu](mailto:a1torre@ucsd.edu)

# Latest on COVID-19

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our school community remains our top priority as we welcome students back to full-time, in-person learning. We have implemented updated COVID-19 safety protocols in alignment with California Department of Public Health mitigation strategies to keep our students and staff safe while on campus. It is our hope that through proactive safety measures and clear communication we can keep our schools open and students participating in in-person instruction for the entire year. It will take a collaborative effort between home and school to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 on our campuses and ensure a successful school year.



Help us prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our school community by screening your student(s) before school each day. Do not send your student to school if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher
- cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Muscle or body aches

- Fatigue
- Vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, or abdominal pain
- Runny nose, congestions, itchy or red eyes, or chills

Please contact Ms. Patty Villanueva to excuse your student's absence.

Students should be tested for COVID-19 with a PCR test if they have ANY symptom. They must remain home while awaiting test results. If the test is negative, they may return to school 24 hours after symptom improvement AND no fever without the use of medication. A copy of the negative PCR test result will need to be provided. COVID-19 testing is available for students and families at multiple locations throughout San Diego County. See testing site schedule [here](#). Please visit the San Diego County Public Health website for more information and to find a testing facility or call 2-1-1 for assistance.

If your child has a chronic medical condition and symptoms are typical for them, please contact the Preuss Health Office for a "Certification Of Chronic Medical Condition Form" to be completed by their physician.

If your child was identified as a close contact to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, they will have to complete a 10-day quarantine if they are not fully vaccinated. If your child has been identified as a close contact by County Public Health Department, please contact the Health Office at (858) 822-2291, email [safety@preuss.ucsd.edu](mailto:safety@preuss.ucsd.edu), or [preussnurse@ucsd.edu](mailto:preussnurse@ucsd.edu) for further instructions.

As a reminder, COVID-19 vaccines are available at no cost to anyone 12 years of age or older. While younger children diagnosed with COVID-19 generally have mild symptoms or remain asymptomatic, they can still transmit the virus to more vulnerable populations such as those with preexisting conditions. [San Diego County Vaccination Site Schedule](#).

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we work to provide outstanding educational opportunities for all students.

Sincerely,  
Preuss Health Office

# Become Involved in the School PTA

By: Isabel Yanez  
PTA President

Dear Preuss Parents,

I want to welcome you, the Preuss community, to the 2020-2021 school year. My name is Isabel Yanez, the PTA President for this year. On behalf of our PTA Executive Board we welcome all the parents and members of the school community.

I encourage all of our parents to become involved in the school. Join the PTA. Support classroom and school-wide activities. The Saturday PTA General Meetings are a great way to learn about what is happening at Preuss, a great way to earn volunteer hours, and it is a great time to get to know other parents. Each meeting includes a Principal's Report, and a featured speaker will share information regarding school programs. Translation in Spanish is provided. Parents can gain volunteer service hours by attending the PTA General Meetings, and learn new information. The next General Meeting will take place on Saturday, September 18th and I look forward to seeing you there.

## Memberships:

Memberships are \$15.00 and can be paid by cash or check (written out to the PTA Preuss School UCSD). Anyone can join the PTA at anytime, including parents, grandparents, teachers, and friends. Funds from PTA membership dues support field

trips, parking, and many other school functions. We ask members to renew their membership each year. Thank you for supporting The Preuss School PTA!

We look forward to working with all the parents both in-person and virtually.



## UPCOMING PARENT MEETINGS

Parents please join us and participate in our PTA meetings. \*The Zoom IDs will be sent via a post on ParentSquare before the meeting dates. Parents, please look for that information in your communications from ParentSquare.

### Via Zoom Webinar:

PTA General Meeting from 9:30 am – 11:00 am on Saturday, September 18, 2021.

### Via Zoom Meeting:

PTA Executive Board Meeting of the 2020 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm on Tuesday, October 5, 2021.

# Preuss Studiostatic

We are back in the studio!!! How exciting it is to be in person, with all the supplies, space, and ability to help artists one on one! The fall semester has kicked off with an explosion of color on our campus as the nearly completed mural project, *We the People...I Am Preuss* has enlivened the campus from the front entrance to the amphitheater to the trailers! Students, staff and faculty, community partners and artist Jay Wolf Schlossberg Cohen all worked together to bring this project to life. We are going to be completing the project toward the end of September with some of the senior interns, art students and the artist adding text and details. There are three individuals behind the scenes who made this project possible, Mr. Dan Rupert who gave his time to cut the cement boards, and Mr. Manny Altez and Mr. Jose Cervera Jimenez, who worked tirelessly installing the boards! Without their help, the mural would still be just an idea!

We have so many opportunities ahead of us this year from Torrey Pines plein air painting, to artists lectures, museum visits and a gallery exhibit for a concert in 2022! Stay tuned for all the exciting details.

Tamima M Noorzay  
Arts Educator



Liam and his mother and family all came to work on his panel



Upper Walkway



Provost of Thurgood Marshall College and Preuss supporter, Dr. Leslie Carver



Nyareath Lual, artist, and her father standing below the panel with her artwork

# Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica 2021-2022 Membership



By: Viviana Zamora

The *Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica* (SHH) recognizes students for their outstanding scholarship in the study of Spanish language and encourages members to participate in Spanish language, literary, cultural and civic activities beyond the classroom. Members who have completed the requirements will be able to wear the red and yellow cord of SHH at graduation and receive honors and recognition for their achievements in Spanish language and community service.

New members must have a 3.75 overall GPA. Students commit to continue taking Spanish classes throughout high school through the highest level possible and to earning at least 10 hours of service credit throughout the year. Selection is based on character, leadership, seriousness of purpose, cooperation, honesty, service, and commitment to others.

## Congratulations to the 2021-2022 SNHS who will be inducted as new members this school year:

### ***New Members-Candidates***

*Emily Jasso 11*  
*José Luis Bautista Rojas 11*  
*Xenia Gómez 10*  
***Daniella Navarrette 12***  
*Jennifer Serna Angulo 10*  
*Darian Juárez 9*  
***Angelina Gonzáles 12***  
***Angeline Gómez Martínez 12***  
*Daniela Aguirre Ambario 10*  
*Jessica Mariano 10*  
*Fernando Villaseñor 11*

### ***Honorary Members***

***Xochitl García de Jesús 12***  
*Ismerai Barragán 11*  
***Alexandra Mata 12***  
***Geovanna Garza 12***  
*Nael Alzalde 11*  
***Andrea Chavez 12***  
***Mariana Arévalo 12***  
***Ellery Juárez 12***  
***Valeria García 12***  
***Karla Castañeda 12***  
***Alexis Gonzáles-Chávez 12***  
***Alexia Meléndez 1Cristian García Molina 12***  
***René Elejorde 12***  
***Victoria de la Cerda 12***  
*Diego Vásquez Rojas 11*





# Welcome Back Volunteers and Parents

By: Zenaida Flores, Volunteer Programs Intern & Joshanne Chiang, Mentor Program Assistant

As the new school year starts, we wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you all back. We are transitioning back into in-person classes and also taking the necessary precautions for those who come and volunteer in-person. This past year has brought unforeseen challenges. However, we still had volunteers put their hard work and efforts into the school. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers who assisted. Without volunteers like you, we would have not been able to go through this time.

To the parents who continue to support our scholars by attending the Zoom PTA meetings, we thank you! We know that our current circumstances can be difficult to navigate, so we welcome you back as we continue to figure this out together. Our PTA team is still hard at work. Please continue to attend the meetings to not only be informed and provide input but also to gain participation hours for the 2021-2022 school year. This year's general PTA meetings (at least through January 2022) are on select Saturdays via Zoom Webinar from 9:30am-11am. The next two PTA General meetings will take place on **September 18 & October 16, 2021**.

In addition to the general meetings, the PTA team holds Executive Board meetings, which are open to all the parents. These meetings will be done through Zoom meetings at least through January 2022. In these meetings you can be on camera, ask questions and provide input. You will also get to talk to the Principal, Dr. Matthew Steitz, on what you would like to see covered/presented at the next General PTA Meeting. The Executive Board meetings happen the first Tuesday of every month from 5:30-6:30pm via Zoom meeting. The next two meetings will take place on **September 7th & October 5th, 2021**.

This year, we look forward to working with volunteers and parents both in-person and virtually. As the school year begins, we are very excited to see everyone so engaged in the Preuss community. We hope for a safe and exciting 2021-2022 school year!

## **Farewell to The Preuss School UC San Diego Community**

*Preuss Community, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for providing me such an amazing community to be involved in. I have truly enjoyed my experience here as the Volunteer Programs Intern. The passion of all the members here made me proud to be involved in such a remarkable community. I would describe Preuss as a community instead of school because I see the endless support that the administration, staff, faculty, parents, and volunteers put forth for the scholars. This community puts endless efforts to go above and beyond for the population that it serves.*

*I graduated UC San Diego this past June with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a specialization in Human Health and an Education Studies minor. As for my future, I hope to work with a community such as the Preuss community as a School Psychologist. For this year, I will take a gap year to volunteer and gain experience before applying to graduate school. Once again, I would like to thank the whole Preuss community for being a part of my journey.*

*Sincerely,*

*Zenaida Flores  
Volunteer Programs Intern*

# Whispers from the Library

**Welcome to the 2021-2021 School Year! We are so happy to have students once again in our library!**

We checked out textbooks, laptops, chrome books and hotspots. Your students are responsible for the care of these devices. Intentional damage will result in fines added to their library account. It is very important to contact [tech@preuss.ucsd.edu](mailto:tech@preuss.ucsd.edu) if any problems arise. A broken screen or damaged keyboard is \$40.00, a lost or chewed charger is \$15-\$25. A missing barcode is \$5.00. Please encourage your student to carry the device with both hands; do not carry by the screen, and minimize food and drink near the device.

Library notices are sent via email at the beginning of each month. Notices will inform the students what materials are overdue and any fines they need to pay. Students may volunteer before school and at lunch to work off their fines. For every hour we waive \$10.00.

Online library information is on the Preuss School website. Check us out under Campus Life > Library. We have links to our databases, the school catalog, the DCP 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.

Our first library contest is in full swing, 2021 Banned Books Week Mini-Book Jacket Contest. All information is available on our library webpage.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out via:  
phone: 858.822.2150 or  
email: [librarians@preuss.ucsd.edu](mailto:librarians@preuss.ucsd.edu)

Keep Reading,  
Ms. Nance and Ms. Gonzalez  
[librarians@preuss.ucsd.edu](mailto:librarians@preuss.ucsd.edu)

# Latest Information About School Transportation

As we kicked off the new academic year, we have encountered challenges with the buses, some of which are related to a bus driver shortage, bus arrival delays, and bus route changes. We are doing our best to accommodate requests for bus changes while adhering to COVID-19 protocols and resulting restrictions. We appreciate the patience of parents and students as we continue to work with the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) Transportation Department in maximizing available buses and drivers.

We would like to inform parents of important conduct policies that promote the safety of all onboard. On the right are recommended guidelines for a safe ride.

Furthermore, students who disobey instruction from bus driver and who are disruptive on the bus will be subject to disciplinary action based on the rules governing misconduct on the bus. Persistent infraction of rules and damages caused to a bus or private property at a bus stop may result in denial of school transportation services. The driver can issue a "Bus Referral" for unacceptable behavior, which can result in disciplinary action.

## Z Pass ID card

SDUSD Transportation provided a Transportation Student ID Card (also known as Z Pass card) to each student receiving transportation services throughout the school year. Students are required to have the Z Pass each day when boarding and exiting the school bus. If the Z Pass is lost or stolen, the student must immediately notify the school bus driver and the school staff to receive a temporary pass to ride the school bus. If a student does not have a Z Pass card or temporary ID slip for more than three (3) days, a bus referral will be written. A replacement card can be order at the Main Office for a \$5.00 fee.

For more information, please contact the school transportation department at (858) 822-1738.

Patricia Villanueva  
Transportation Coordinator

We encourage all the children to do their part to stay safe both in and around school buses. The [American School Bus Council](#) offers the following tips:

## Tips for a Safe Ride

### At the Bus Stop

- \* Arrive early at the bus stop – at least ten minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- \* Wear a mask while waiting for and on the bus
- \* Stand away from the curb while waiting for the bus.

### Around the Bus

- \* Cross in front of the bus – and make eye contact with the driver before crossing.
- \* Never walk behind the bus.
- \* If you drop something near the bus, do not pick it up; tell the bus driver instead.

### Getting On/Off the Bus

- \* Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before approaching the bus or standing up on the bus.
- \* Use the handrail.
- \* Secure any loose or hanging objects like straps on a backpack or drawstrings on a hood.

### Behavior on the Bus

- \* Buckle up if seat belts are available.
- \* Stay in your seat keeping head, arms and papers inside the bus, and talk quietly.
- \* Keep aisles clear of books and bags.
- \* Inappropriate use of cell phones may be stopped by the bus driver. Use of external speakers is not allowed. Students may not take photos or video of the driver or other passengers aboard the bus.



# Important Dates

September 16  
Virtual Back to School Night  
6:30pm  
Zoom webinar information will  
be sent via ParentSquare

September 18  
General Parent Meeting  
Zoom Webinar  
9:30am- 11:00am

September 22-23  
First Mid Semester progress  
reports will be available

October 2  
Saturday Enrichment  
Academy  
9:00am -11:00am

October 5  
Virtual PTA Executive Board  
Meeting  
5:30pm – 6:30pm

October 16  
General Parent Meeting  
Zoom Webinar; 9:30am-  
11:00am

October 23  
Saturday Enrichment Academy  
9:00am -11:00am

October 30  
Open House Webinar  
9:30am – 11:00am



November 2  
PTA Executive Board Meeting  
5:30pm – 6:30pm

November 6  
Saturday Enrichment Academy  
9:00am-11:00am



## VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

**Are you interested in enrolling your child at the Preuss School UC San Diego?**

**The Preuss School is having a virtual recruitment event for families interested or who have already applied to The Preuss School to learn more about what we offer.**

**Please join us at Open House Webinar**

**October 30, 2021**

**9:30am – 11:00am.**

**For further information contact Crystal Flores, Admissions Coordinator at  
(858) 822-011**

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](mailto:pavillanueva@ucsd.edu)**

**(858) 822-0408**

**Admissions  
[preussadmission@ucsd.edu](mailto:preussadmission@ucsd.edu)**

**(858) 822-2525**

**Registrar  
[preussregistrar@ucsd.edu](mailto:preussregistrar@ucsd.edu)**