

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

A Message From Our School Principal

Hello Preuss School Families,

We hope this newsletter finds you well as we transition into the beautiful fall season. We are excited to share important updates and upcoming events from our school community.

As we enter the heart of the school year, early admissions are beginning to come in, and our scholars and staff have already achieved significant milestones. We are immensely proud of our scholars' hard work, dedication, and resilience. Their accomplishments are a testament to the strength of our school community.

By the time you are reading this letter, our 2nd mid-semester grades should be complete. This leaves just around nine weeks of school until the end of the semester, January 12, 2023. Please be sure to contact your scholar's advisory teacher if there are concerns to be addressed. The SEA (Saturday Enrichment Academy) schedule can be found on our website at: <https://preuss.ucsd.edu/current-students/saturday-enrichment-academy.html>. This is an excellent opportunity for scholars to receive help and support from Preuss faculty.

The Preuss School will be closed from November 20th through November 24th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We wish everyone a joyful and safe holiday.

We will be launching our "I Ride The Preuss Way" trolley ridership program upon our return for Thanksgiving break. The program is designed to provide fellow commuters with a way to contact the school in order to support our scholars in riding the trolley safely. We will be passing out buttons with a QR code they can use to text directly to the school. It is our hope that together, we will all be able to ride the trolley The Preuss Way.



Visit our school website at <https://preuss.ucsd.edu/> for the latest updates, calendars, and resources.

Join our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) to get involved and stay informed about school activities and initiatives. <https://jointotem.com/ca/la-jolla/the-preuss-school-ucsd-pta>

Thank you for your ongoing support of The Preuss School UC San Diego. We appreciate your involvement in your child's education and look forward to a successful and productive finish to the fall semester.

Dr. Matthew Steitz

Principal, The Preuss School UC San Diego



A Note From Attendance

Dear Parents,

The holiday season is approaching quickly, and I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the value of daily attendance for student learning.

During the holidays, we ask parents to plan time off from school in accordance with our school calendar. There is no school during Thanksgiving Week and Winter Break. We urge students and families to avoid absences before and after the scheduled breaks.

Regular attendance is critical to student's success in school. Students who frequently are absent miss social interaction and direct instruction from teachers, even if written assignments can be made up.

As long as your child is healthy, please support the school by sending your student to attend class. If your child is struggling and needs support, please reach out to our nurse and counselors who can provide you with resources to better support your family. At the Preuss School, we are all committed to help your child learn, thrive, and succeed.

Thank you for your support and I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,
Patricia Villanueva
Attendance Office



Verification of Absences

Parents are required to verify an absence by calling or sending a note to the attendance office in order to validate the reason for the student's absence. You can report your child's absence to Mrs. Villanueva at (858) 822-0311 or e-mail to pavillanueva@ucsd.edu. If you verify an absence through ParentSquare, please make sure you clear the absence on the day the student missed school.

Parents may call to verify a child's absence up to 72 hours after the child has been absent. Absences that are not verified will be considered unexcused absences. After our attendance month accounting cycle closes, unexcused absences due to no verification cannot be changed.

Attendance Challenge

The School Attendance Challenge Program is a new positive enforcement strategy to encourage students to attend school regularly through a monthly competition between all grade levels. The class with the highest attendance will be recognized and rewarded with an ice cream social sponsored by the PTA. Our objective is to raise awareness of the importance of regular school attendance and to support student's efforts in attending school every day. Attendance is a path to the success of our students. The ultimate goal of the school is to achieve an overall attendance rate of 97% or higher and encourage students to attend school regularly. Please help us to achieve this goal. Your child's class may be the winner!



Month	Winning Class	Attendance Rate
August	10th Grade	98.19%
September	10th Grade	96.90%
October	8th Grade	97.54%

Well done to you all for this great achievement!

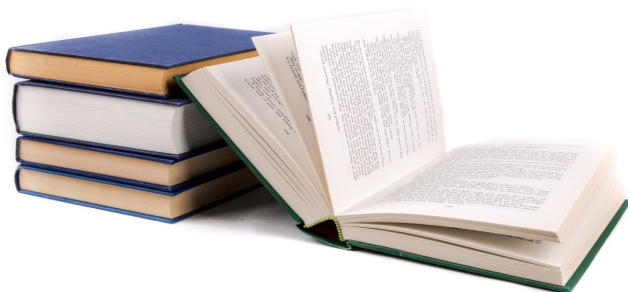
Whispers from the Copley Media Center (Library)

We featured Banned Books Week (October 1st – October 7th) with a mini-book jacket contest. The mini-book jacket had to represent a banned book, why it was banned and an about-the-author section. We had great participation this year! Our HS winners were 9th grader Di Ho with 1st place, 12th grader Vy Ho in 2nd place, 10th grader Jasmine Nguyen in 3rd place and two Honorable Mentions, 10th graders Philimon Michael and Gisell Montufar. Our MS winners were 8th grader Win Ka Ha in 1st place, 6th grader Hamza Rahimi in 2nd place, 7th grader Thao Kim in 3rd place and Honorable Mentions 8th grader Stephanie Hernandez and 7th grader Yasir Hussein. All winners will get a book of their choice.

Our Scholastic Book Fair was held October 30th through November 3rd. We earned close to \$800 in Scholastic money and all will be spent on new books for our library. Thank you to our Scholastic Crew: Ashley Morales, Gissell Montofar, and Aniyecia Lopez.

Library notices are sent every month via students' email. If a student has late textbooks or fines over \$5.00 they are not allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activities. This includes athletics, after school clubs and school sponsored social events. Please encourage your student/s to bring in any late textbooks or to begin paying off their account a little bit at a time. We can also discuss volunteering time to cover fines.

Happy Reading!
Ms. Nance and Ms. Gonzalez
Preuss School Librarians



A Few Reminders

1. The California Department of Education provides **free, live homework help!** This resource is staffed by vetted college and graduate students. Please visit [Brainfuse Help Now](#)

2. Students have access to online eBooks. On the library page of the Preuss School website <Campus Life<Library<eBooks then click **Sora** to access these eBooks. The site will walk you through downloading the correct app for your device. All your student needs for access, is their student ID # on their planner or picture ID card.

3. The library has a great resource for researching online. On the library page of the Preuss School website <Campus Life<Library<Databases. All materials are reviewed by experts in their field and is reliable information. You can use this resource for every subject matter. There are even eBooks, online magazines, tutoring sites for homework, and tutorials on how to do research.

4. Are you looking to know more about what your students have access to online or what social media sites are trending and how they might affect your student? On the library page of the Preuss School website <Campus Life<Library<General Resources, click on [Common Sense Media](#). It is a not-for-profit site providing everything from book, movie and TV reviews to studies on what our teens are using on social media and its effects.

Multicultural Empowerment Club News

Day of the Dead

On Friday, October 27, 2023, The Preuss School's Multicultural Empowerment Club held their 8th annual Día de Los Muertos celebration. This year the celebration was an afterschool event and welcomed not only the Preuss students but also their families. The Multicultural Empowerment Club collaborated with all our diverse clubs at the Preuss School such as MCE, BSU, APIA, High School and Middle School ASB, Badminton Club, Fashion Club, Henna Club, Art Club, Ecology Club, Crochet Club, MUN Club, Interact Club, Dreamers Club, and Volleyball Club. Each Club led a booth activity in relation to the Dia de los Muertos and food items. It was a great way for clubs to participate in the event and also advertise their event and what their club is all about. MCE also collaborated with the Spanish IV department classes. The students had a section where they were able to present their *altares* they made in their Spanish class.

The celebration began with The Multicultural Empowerment Club President Adilene Flores explaining the importance of honoring our ancestors on the Day of the Dead and it being a day where family is being celebrated. The performances started off with the Mariachi band, Mariachi La Joya del Sur from our former alumni Natalia Robles of the Preuss School's Class of 2021, followed by student performances. Arely Gomez is a current senior at the Preuss School who sang *Baila Esta Cumbia* by Selena. We had a wonderful performance by none other than the Multicultural Empowerment Club Ballet Folklórico dancers who danced to *El Sinaloense*. After the wonderful performances, the booth activities were opened for everyone in the Walton Center and in the food court area.

Maria Alcantar Wiedemeier
Multicultural Empowerment Club Advisor



Middle School ASB Grade Level Socials

What has Middle School ASB been up to, and what's been going on for the middle schoolers

This year, Middle School ASB took the lead to plan and host social activities for each grade in middle school. Middle School ASB broke into different committees such as planning, clean up and set up, spirit, etc. Each and every student in MS ASB had a different role in making this possible. Something Middle School ASB really enjoyed about this process was being able to see all our work come together, and the middle schoolers enjoying it.



We started off with the 6th graders, welcoming them to Preuss. We planned a popsicle social; 6th graders had the opportunity to interact with the 8th graders and enjoy the games and their favorite was being able to eat popsicles and chat with their friends.



For the 7th grade social we had an event with lots of activities and an advisory competition. Activities that were a hit were bracelet making, ping pong, scattergories, board games, and thank you cards.



For the 8th grade social, we had a field day. We started off with an advisory relay race where 4 people from each advisory competed against each other. Students enjoyed activities such as pumpkin painting, volleyball, basketball, soccer, racing, etc. Since this activity was outside we also provided ice cold water for everyone.

Overall, having socials for each grade is something new to everyone, yet has been something that every grade can bond over. Each grade got time to bond, meet, and talk to each other. For Middle School ASB, this was the beginning of bigger things. In addition, Middle School ASB utilized and learned leadership and cooperation skills to make the events possible.

Maria Alcantar Wiedemeier
ASB Middle School Advisor

Student Services & Counseling Department

Dear Preuss Families,

It is a pleasure for the Student Services team to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year! We are excited to have a full team this year to support your students. We have two family support specialists, three counselors and a college/career advisor. Also, a special welcome to our new students. Our goal is to offer guidance and support to students in the Academic, Personal/Social, College/Career Planning areas. We are available to assist and meet with students about a variety of topics such as: anxiety, grief, academic organization, and other personal concerns. If you have any concerns regarding your student please contact us or your child's University Prep Teacher.

At the beginning of the year we held a 5-week middle school group for new students and after the first progress report we had a group on academic motivation. We are looking forward to upcoming presentations on preparing for college, FAFSA/CADAA workshop, managing stress, healthy relationships and early intervention education.

If you feel your child is in need of extra support, please reach out to their school counselor.

Our Family Support Specialists, along with UPAC, are providing direct therapy and counseling to students.

We look forward to another wonderful year with all of you!

Student Progress Report Reminders

The second mid-semester progress report will be sent home with students and available to families online via Aeries on November 15/16th. Please review your students progress report grades and discuss what improvements can be made.

If you need to contact a school counselor or our college advisor, please make an appointment:

The
Preuss School
UC San Diego
Counseling Department
2023-2024

**LAST NAME
A-GE**

Ms. Sara Silva
s3silva@ucsd.edu
(858) 822-2002

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SCAN FOR APPT.



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**COLLEGE WORKFORCE
COORDINATOR**

Ms. Shaoni Bandy
sbandy@ucsd.edu

calendly.com/preussbandy

SCAN FOR APPT.



High School Counseling Announcements

High School students have had the opportunity to experience different colleges across the US, on campus with many college visits happening from September to November.

Seniors submitted CSU applications at the end of October and UC applications on November 15, 16 and 17th which are our UC submit Days!

Financial Aid Workshop
February 3, 2024
11:30am-1:00pm

Attend the Financial Aid workshop and get assistance with submitting your FAFSA or CADAA.

October 10, 2023
We celebrated
World Mental Health
Day

Join us in celebrating
World Kindness Day on
November 13, 2023

7 WAYS TO START MAKING KINDNESS THE NORM IN YOUR DAILY LIFE:

- 1 Send an uplifting text to a friend or family member.
- 2 Let that guy merge into traffic with a wave and a smile.
- 3 Include intentional moments of kindness, laughter and delight in your daily routine.
- 4 Go slightly outside of your comfort zone at least once a day to make someone smile.
- 5 Share a compliment with a co-worker or friend.
- 6 Reach out to a family member you haven't spoken to in awhile.
- 7 Treat someone to a cup of coffee (a friend, stranger, or even yourself).

**make
kindness
the norm.**

#WorldKindnessDay
#MakeKindnessTheNorm
www.randomactsofkindness.org

Fall season champions: Join us in applauding our sports stars and welcoming the Winter season!

Dear all,

As we close out the Fall Sports season and transition into Winter Sports, I wanted to take a moment to congratulate our Fall teams on their achievements.

Firstly, a big congratulations to the amazing girls on the volleyball team for their successful season. Although they faced a disappointing loss in the quarterfinals, they can be proud of their overall winning season!



Best of luck to the Girls' and Boy's Cross Country teams as they enter their last week of in-season practices and prepare for the **CIF Finals this Saturday, November 11th**, at Morley Field. Let's show up to support and cheer them on as they cross the finish line! Coach Leah will follow up with more information about race start times.

WINTER SPORTS

As we look ahead to Winter Sports, Mrs. Greco will be taking over for Mrs. Esparza for the rest of the Esports season. After the Open Tournament ends in mid November, Esports will make the transition into the Winter Competitive Season. Practices will be held in E201 after school on Thursdays. Additionally, boys and girls' basketball as well as boys' soccer have their first official practices 11/6 after school.



Our Girls Cross Country team has won the Patriot League Championship title for the fourth consecutive year! Please join me in congratulating Coach Leah Anderson and the entire girls' team for their outstanding performances!

Finally, please see moments of joy 2.0 below:

Members of the Spanish National Honor Society participated in Community Service at the Day of the Dead Race in Los Angeles.



Viviana Zamora
Athletic Director

Admissions Update

PRIDE OF PREUSS

The Pride of Preuss Scholars embody a spirit of excellence and dedication. Their positive and uplifting demeanor have made a lasting impact not only on myself but also their fellow classmates and the students we have presented to throughout San Diego Unified School District. Admissions at the Preuss school has been rejuvenated by these 8 seniors and will never be the same for the better.

Vanessa Gomes
Admissions & Data
Coordinator

**DEADLINE TO
SUBMIT THE
APPLICATION
FOR FALL 2024:**

**FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 15,
2023
11 PM**



"The Pride of Preuss" is an extraordinary initiative that spotlights the exceptional achievements of eight senior scholars. These scholars have served as remarkable ambassadors, not only for their school but also as advocates for higher education and the values of a substance-free lifestyle.

These eight scholars have ventured beyond their school, visiting multiple elementary's to share their inspiring stories representing Preuss pride. Through their compelling narratives and accomplishments, they serve as living examples of the transformative power of education at Preuss.

"The Pride of Preuss" program, in its dedication to showcasing these scholars, plays a pivotal role in influencing future students. They demonstrate that through hard work, dedication, and the pursuit of knowledge, one can achieve remarkable success while staying true to a healthy and responsible way of life.



PTA News

NOTES FROM THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Hello Preuss Families,

Last month was The Preuss School's Día de los Muertos celebration, and we want to extend our gratitude to all of the parents who helped make this event a huge success. In case you were unable to attend, I have included some pictures below!

The PTA is looking for parent volunteers to help with the weekly Friday snack sales. This takes place after school from 4 pm to 5 pm. If you are interested in this opportunity, please reach out to Ms. Isabel Yañez via email (isabelyanez1398@gmail.com) or by calling me directly (858-822-0020).

The next PTA General Meeting is on Saturday, December 9 at 9:30 am. Please keep an eye out for future agenda details on ParentSquare! We will also continue to have groceries provided by the San Diego Food Bank at these monthly meetings. The next PTA Executive Board meeting is on Tuesday, December 12 at 5 pm in the Large Conference Room. Please note that both types of meetings will continue to be in person and not hybrid.

Feel free to reach out if you ever have any questions. Happy Holidays!

Warm regards,
Vanessa Muños Campos
preussvolunter@ucsd.edu

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27



Preuss Students Out & About



Preuss 6th graders got to know the greater UCSD campus during a series of fun scavenger hunts! They were tasked with finding UCSD landmarks like the Triton statue, the giant Bear, the Black Legacy Mural, the Chicano Legacy Mural, the Sun God statue, and the snake path. They used teamwork, communication, and a bit of physical endurance to complete these missions and learn more about UCSD.

Alexa Lomborg
English, Social Studies
& Advisory Teacher



Preuss Studio Static

Turn your dial to creative expression and you will find Preuss artists, actors, musicians, composers, designers, writers and editors buzzing with productivity!

Studio I artists exchanged ideas with pen pals using snail mail through an initiative started by Chet Flaum, an Arts and Humanities teacher at High Tech High Point Loma who wanted students to examine the question, "In the age of ever growing technology, is there still value in doing things the old fashioned way?" Our students created a portrait of themselves using symbols and iconography to introduce themselves to the HTH students. We are eagerly awaiting the response postcards!

Studio II students are participating in the Memory Project, a nonprofit organization we have partnered with before. The Memory Project was started by Ben Schumaker in 2004 when he was a university student in an effort to create connections among youth, "... to provide handmade, heartfelt portraits as special memories to children in orphanages.

Now our intention has expanded to touching the lives of youth around the world facing many types of challenges, while opening our hearts and minds so they can touch ours in return."

This year we are creating portraits for Syrian children living in a Jordanian refugee camp. Many were born there and have not been outside the confines of the camp itself, never seen a tree or a lush landscape as they live in the desert. Our student's portraits will give them a sense of recognition and hopefully they will know that they are being thought of by the larger community. Please watch some of the videos linked here to see the joy created in this profound exchange from the heart:

<https://www.memoryproject.org/about>

Scroll down to see "Our History in Videos"



Studio II artists are also collaborating with Art of Elan to create a background set for their January concert at the Conrad's Jai venue in La Jolla. Our artists have been challenged to create a set design that partner's with Schubert's String Quartet #14 in D minor, written in 1824, also known as *Death and the Maiden*. Art of Elan will be performing parts of the work live in T101 on 11/29/23 during block 4 to give students a sense of the work and inspire their vision for their set design.

Preuss Studio Static Continued

AP Studio and Honor's Studio II artists attended the annual Torrey Pines State Reserve plein air painting trip on October 26th. There were fabulous ocean views and breezes, as well as time well spent contemplating the lands of the Kumeyaay and the splendor of nature which came through in their paintings.



AP art history students recently visited the San Diego Museum of Art to make connections with the artworks we are studying in class. The special engagement galleries featuring the *Korea in Color* exhibit is helping to build context for our unit on South, East and Southeast Asian artworks. The docents gave us a curated tour of Renaissance, Baroque, Modern and Contemporary works as well, providing an overview for the remainder of the school year. A Balboa Park Architectural "I Spy" added to a little competition to the day and we are looking forward to finding out which team or teams were the most observant in their quest to find the myriad of iconic architectural features from balustrades to barrel vaults!



Stay tuned for the upcoming articles on the Winter PTA performances from the Music Department as well as the Fall Film Festival

Tamima Noorzay
Fine Arts Chair

Important Dates



December 18 - January 1
Winter Break
No School

November 20-24
Thanksgiving Break No
School

November 28
11:30am-3:30pm
AP African American
Studies Field Trip to UC
San Diego

December 1
3:00pm - 3:45pm
Attendance Challenge
Celebration for 8th
Grade Advisory Classes,

December 7-8
Progress Reports for At-
Risk students distributed
in Advisory Classes

December 7-8
Junior SDSU Field Trip
9:00am-2:30pm

December 9
School Pantry Program:
Food Distribution to
students and families at
Saturday Parent

December 9
9:00am-11:00am
Saturday School
Enrichment Academy

December 9
9:30am-11:00am
PTA General Saturday
Meeting

December 12
5:00pm-6:00pm
PTA Executive Board
Meeting

December 13
1:30pm-2:30pm
Intertidal Explorations at
Cabrillo National Park,

December 14
3:00pm-8:00pm
Homecoming Games

December 15
11:00pm
New Student
Application Deadline for
2024-2025 School Year

Become a Preuss Student!

The Preuss School UC San Diego Admissions Application

**THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AN
APPLICATION FOR FALL 2024 IS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023
BY 11 PM.**

Please visit <https://preuss.ucsd.edu/admissions/index.html> for application details, instructions, and the link to fill out an online application through SchoolMint.

If you have any questions, please contact: preussadmission@ucsd.edu.



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