Dear Parents:

The Preuss School UCSD has just been selected as a 2012 MetLife Foundation - NASSP Breakthrough School. We are one of ten schools selected this year. This is great news for Preuss, UC San Diego and the entire San Diego community.

We have received recognition from the United States Department of Education (National Blue Ribbon School), California Department of Education (California Distinguished School and Academic Achievement School), charter school associations (Best Charter School) and numerous publications (Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report, Business Week). We were also recently named as the #1 Transformative High School in the Nation (Newsweek). Now the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) has recognized us as a MetLife - NASSP Breakthrough School. By numerous measures, The Preuss School UCSD is one of the finest schools in the Nation.

This award is a tribute to our students and their parents for their commitment to our mission. It is also a great honor for our dedicated faculty and staff. I would like to thank each member of The Preuss School for the hard work you put into making our School the best in the country. I would also like to acknowledge and thank our donors and community members for their continued support. Your collaboration and encouragement is so important to the success of our School.

Preuss will receive a $5,000 grant and we will have the opportunity to share our best practices at the Breaking Ranks School Showcase during the NASSP National Conference. The Preuss School will also be featured in the May 2012 edition of Principal Leadership magazine.

I would like to thank Anne Artz for submitting the NASSP application and Jan Gabay for writing the responses for the NASSP visit to Preuss. The IST also played a key role in sharing information during the NASSP school site visit.
As we approach the cooler months of December and January, please remember to send a Preuss sweater and a Preuss jacket with your student. Attendance is very important at The Preuss School because we are funded by average daily attendance (ADA). When students are absent, we lose much needed revenue. Please see the chart below that shows our attendance. I would like to see our attendance remain above 98%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>8/22-9/9</th>
<th>9/12-10/7</th>
<th>10/10-11/04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle School</td>
<td>98.55</td>
<td>98.70</td>
<td>98.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>97.44</td>
<td>97.68</td>
<td>97.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 2\textsuperscript{nd} mid-semester ended November 18 and the 2\textsuperscript{nd} mid-semester Progress Report Cards will be distributed in advisory on December 1 (high school) and 2 (middle school). Please spend time reviewing your child’s report card and discussing what each grade in each course means.

Our FIRST Robotics Team sponsored a Lego Robotics Tournament on Saturday, November 12. It was a huge success with more than 500 students and families from the greater San Diego community. Robotics advisory teachers Dan Rupert and Walter Solomon, along with all of the robotics students, are to be congratulated for a job well done.

Our Science Department is sponsoring the Science Fair on December 13 (high school) and December 14 (middle school). On Thursday, December 13, in addition to viewing projects, students and parents will be treated to a “Science Night”. Local scientists from SPAWAR and UC San Diego, along with Preuss teachers and students will present amazing science experiments. This is a wonderful way to learn about science while seeing some really cool activities. Please see your science teacher for more information about “Science Night” and do come to support your students and the hard work they have put into their Science Fair Projects.

School is closed for Thanksgiving Break from November 21-25. We will also be closed for the Winter Break from December 19 through January 2, 2012. School will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

The Preuss School Homecoming will be held on Thursday, January 5. There will be Girls’ Basketball vs. Gompers from 3:00pm-4:00pm, ASB Activities from 4:30pm-5:15pm and Boys’ Basketball vs. Gompers from 5:30pm-7:00pm. \textbf{Homecoming is for HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY.} Buses will depart the UC San Diego campus at 7:30pm. There will be no late activity buses at 5:30pm. All middle school students and high school students not attending Homecoming will ride the 4:00pm buses home.

The Preuss School UCSD has an opportunity to make donations to the School matched by “GIVE BIG SAN DIEGO”. Supporters may donate from $25 to $10,000 and their donations will be matched dollar for dollar until the event funds of $500,000 have been exhausted. This is a program sponsored by the San Diego Foundation and will begin on December 14, at 7:00 am. Donors must use the internet and a credit card to donate. Please see this newsletter for more information.

I wish each and every one of you a safe and restful Winter Break, and I look forward to seeing all of our students back to school on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

Sincerely,
Scott Barton
Principal/Director
A Message from The Preuss School PTA President— Maria Reid

Dear Preuss Parents:

Thank you for all of your support this school year. We have already sold our first 137 memberships and are still looking to grow with more members. The key to the success of your student is parent involvement. Please continue to attend the monthly Saturday Parent General Meetings. I encourage all of you to get involved and join the PTA. Buying your membership makes you a voting member when decisions are made in the PTA, and members are encouraged to attend our monthly executive board meetings held the first Tuesday of the month.

There are many ways to volunteer, in and out of school.

The PTA is always in need of your help and support, so we can give back to our students. Turn in your Box Tops, sign up for eScrip at www.escrip.com with group id #6554660, support our merchandise sales, and buy your PTA membership. Every little bit counts and goes to our students.

On behalf of our 2011-2012 PTA Executive Board, we look forward to working with you this school year.

Sincerely,

Maria Reid
Preuss PTA President

Upcoming important dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/6/2011</td>
<td>PTA Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Conference Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/04/12</td>
<td>PTA Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td>5:30pm - 6:30pm</td>
<td>Conference Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/21/12</td>
<td>Parent General Meeting</td>
<td>9:30am—11:00am, Walton Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* NO PARENT MEETING IN DECEMBER

GIVE BIG to Preuss & See Your Dollars Doubled!

On December 14th and 15th, your financial support for The Preuss School UCSD will count TWICE as much! GIVE BIG, an online networking and giving event in San Diego, gives Preuss supporters the chance to raise extra money for the school we love. GIVE BIG has a pool of $500,000 and our donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar until the event funds have been exhausted. We will be competing with other San Diego non-profit organizations, so mark your calendars, log on and help our students! This special one-time event is administered by The San Diego Foundation.

WHO: Anyone who wants to support The Preuss School UCSD
WHAT: GIVE BIG online fundraising event
WHERE: Log on to www.bettergivingsd.org and select The Preuss School to make your gift.

The process is simple and secure. All gifts will be processed through BetterGiving, an online resource and community-wide giving program administered by The San Diego Foundation. This event is open to the public. Anyone who wishes to participate will be able to make a secure donation on the BetterGiving webpage www.bettergivingsd.org. Minimum gift: $25.00. No maximum gift amount.

The fine print: Any individual or business may donate. All donations must be made via debit or credit card through www.bettergivingsd.org. No gifts from checks, cash or donor advised funds will be accepted for this giving event. All donations are tax deductible and irrevocable (donations will not be refunded) and will be for the unrestricted use of your chosen charity (The Preuss School). Please note that BetterGiving is a program of The San Diego Foundation. Therefore, your credit card statement will read: The Preuss School via BetterGivingSD.org/TSDF. No maximum per charity. All donations will be paid to the chosen charity net of credit card transaction and processing fees paid to vendors. The full transaction fee is estimated at six percent. The San Diego Foundation, which administers the BetterGiving website, takes no fees and supports the GIVE BIG event as a community service at no additional charge.

Spread the word!
Hello all,

Many wonderful events have been and are happening in the Library. After getting all 815 students their textbooks; we featured Banned Books Week (September 23 – October 2). The winners of our Banned Books Poster Contest were:

**Middle School**
- 1st place: Juliette Ornelas 6th grade
- 2nd place: Ikran Ibrahim 7th grade

**High School**
- 1st place: Kathy Ha 12th grade

Our Scholastic Book Fair was held October 31st through November 5th. Thanks to our Scholastic Crew we had a great and successful fair. Money earned will be used to buy new books for the library. Congratulations to all our raffle winners.

All students received digital key cards through their advisory class. These key cards are provided by the San Diego Public Library System. It allows your child to have online access to the public library system. There is a live homework help line from 1 pm to 10 pm at night each weekday. There is a 24 hour homework help line that allows you to send in questions. The students will now have access to all the public library databases which are very helpful in research. These key cards can be turned into library cards by downloading an application, getting parental permission and dropping it off at your local library branch.

Please remember that we send out library notices at the beginning of each month through advisory classes. If your child has late textbooks or fines over $2.00 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 to bring in any late textbooks or to begin paying off their account a little bit at a time.

The winter break is slowly approaching and we ask parents to encourage students to continue to read during this time. Books that are checked out for winter break must be returned on January 3, 2012. Students are able to checkout a total of three library books if their fine is under $2.00. We are continuously adding new books to our collection that have been requested by students. Please encourage your student to visit the library to check out a library book or clear their fine.

Happy Reading!

Ms. Nance and Ms. Gonzalez

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### Tutoring Schedule

#### Math Tutoring Schedule (revised)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>High School Lunch</td>
<td>Dr. Weber</td>
<td>D102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00-5:20pm</td>
<td>Ms. Neri</td>
<td>D103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>High School Lunch</td>
<td>Dr. Weber</td>
<td>D102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00-5:20pm</td>
<td>Ms. Harward</td>
<td>A101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00-5:20pm</td>
<td>Dr. Lederman</td>
<td>D101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>High School Lunch</td>
<td>Dr. Weber</td>
<td>D102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00-5:20pm</td>
<td>Ms. Bean</td>
<td>D103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00-5:20pm</td>
<td>Dr. Weber</td>
<td>D102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Science Tutoring

**AFTER SCHOOL**

4:00pm - 5:20pm

Limit of 15 students per classroom

- **Monday**
  - Mr. Flesock C102
  - Ms. Baird C101
  - Ms. Biersbach C202

- **Tuesday**
  - Mr. Solomon A103

- **Wednesday**
  - Ms. Artz B103

- **Thursday**
  - Ms. Burd Room C201

- **Friday**
  - Ms. Bravo (B Days) Room B202
  - Mr. Barajas (A Days) Room D201

#### Spanish Tutoring

**AFTER SCHOOL**

4:00pm- 5:20pm

- **Tuesday**
  - Mr. Meka Room A203

- **Wednesday**
  - Ms. Milloy Room D203

- **Friday**
  - Ms. Bravo (B Days) Room B202
  - (Also during HS Lunch)
  - Mr. Barajas (A Days) Room D201
  - (Also during MS Lunch on B Days & HS Lunch on A Days)
# Student Support Services

## Upcoming Events and Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/18</td>
<td>10th Grade trip to SDSU &amp; USD 11th Grade trip to Museum and Claremont Colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/21-11/25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break—NO SCHOOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>Official Deadline for UC, CSU, and EOP Apps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/1 &amp; 12/2</td>
<td>Progress Reports Distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/3</td>
<td>SAT for Seniors (Preuss is not a testing site)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>SEA ACT for Seniors (Preuss is not a testing site)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13-14</td>
<td>Science Fair Night for Parents: 12/13 Middle School 12/14: High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/19-1/2</td>
<td>Winter Break—NO SCHOOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 &amp; 1/5</td>
<td>Pink Progress Reports Distributed to At Risk Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/5</td>
<td>Preuss Homecoming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/7</td>
<td>Financial Aid Workshop for Seniors and Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/27</td>
<td>1st Semester Ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>1st Semester Report Cards Mailed Home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Academic Supports

There are many services at Preuss to support your child’s academic progress and achievement such as: SEA, After School Tutoring, UCSD Tutors in the Classroom, Learning Specialist, Counselors, & Advisory Teachers. **Important Note:** Students who wish to stay after school for tutoring must make arrangements with teacher and parents ahead of time. Students must sign up in advance (no later than lunch on that day) to reserve their spot in a classroom for tutoring or they will not be allowed to stay after-school.

## New Parent Academy

Thank you to all parents and guardians who attended the New Parent Academy in October! We were pleased that so many of you came to learn more about The Preuss School and how to help your students be successful here. A lot of important information was given out at the Parent Academy meetings, so if you are a new parent who wasn’t able to join us, please see Parent Coordinator Antonio Mora for a folder of information.

## Happy Holidays Preuss Families!

Student Services is working hard with Advisory teachers to make sure all students are on track for academic success this school year and we really appreciate all of your efforts and support! We are pleased to see that many students who require additional academic assistance have been attending SEA and After School Tutoring regularly. Your student’s Advisory teacher should be in contact with you if there are concerns about your student’s academic progress.

As always we are available to support students and families with any concerns you may have. Please don’t hesitate to contact us at the email or number below.

Ms. Nieto—School Counselor Grades 9-12
jjnieto@ucsd.edu (858) 658-7216

Ms. Patrick—School Counselor Grades 6-8
empatrick@ucsd.edu (858) 658-7408

Ms. Resendez—College Advisor
jresendez@ucsd.edu (858) 658-7478

## Financial Aid Workshop (también en español)

**Saturday, January 7, 2012**

The Preuss School Walton Center from 9:00am-12:30pm

Special guests and presenters: UCSD Financial Aid Counselors!

- How to complete the FAFSA
- Understanding the Student Aid Report (SAR)
- The Components of a University Financial Aid Offer
- Have questions answered by experts
- Families will actually complete and submit the FAFSA during this workshop!

*This event is mandatory for 12th grade students and parents.*

Free parking will be available in the School Lot and across the street

## Readistep (grades 8, 9, 10) and PSAT (grades 8 and 11) Results

Parents, during the month of January your child will bring home their Readistep (grades 8, 9, 10) and PSAT (grades 8 and 11) results. These tests are practice tests for the real SAT exam. Preuss 8th graders took both the Readistep test and the PSAT. If your child is in the 8th grade, they may have commented on how hard the PSAT was for them. The PSAT is a high school test and it should have been challenging for them. I have included an explanation sheet of both exams in this newsletter. If you have any questions please feel free to call or email me at jjnieto@ucsd.edu.

Jennifer Nieto, School Counselor
The National Council of Teachers of English writes: “People in every walk of life, in every kind of work, and at every age write more than ever before for personal, professional, and civic purposes. They write through text messages and IMs, they use…cell phones, and, yes, even traditional pen and paper. The social nature of writing invites people in every walk of life, in every kind of work, and at every age to make meaning through composing.”

Why do people write?

We write to entertain, to inform, to heal, to reach out to our fellow human beings; we write to get our emotions out, to persuade others to see an issue from our point of view, to effect change. Writing is a powerful medium and so much a part of our everyday lives that we sometimes cease to recognize the power of the written word.

This year on October 20th, the second annual National Day on Writing, the English Department at Preuss celebrated the power of the written word with a school-wide writing contest. With over 175 submissions of fiction and nonfiction writing from middle and high school students, one fifth of the school participated in the contest. Six winners in middle and six in high school were honored at an assembly attended by all of the students who participated in the contest. Excerpts of the winning pieces were read, prizes were awarded and winning writing is posted on The National Gallery of Writing website. [http://galleryofwriting.org/galleries/50771](http://galleryofwriting.org/galleries/50771)

Congratulations to our winners and to all of the students who participated in the contest. We look forward to reading your future work and encourage you to continue to submit your writing to contests.

Middle School Winners:

**Nonfiction:**
- Luis Vidal 1st
- Natalie Ruybal 2nd
- Guadalupe Valle

**Fiction:**
- Natalie Moy 1st
- Johnny Hayes 2nd
- Patricia Lopez 3rd

High School Winners:

**Nonfiction:**
- Lensa Ali 1st
- Daniel Million 2nd
- Sarabi Rodriguez

**Fiction:**
- Mayra Martinez 1st
- Briana Uribe 2nd
- Allen Rios 3rd

-The English Department
Welcome parents and students. Thank you for taking the time to be involved with your child’s school. Your support and encouragement is priceless and very important to your child’s growth, education and future. Teenagers and young adults continue to need parental guidance and support even though they are growing closer to becoming adults. It is important for parents to set good examples for children by living “healthy lifestyles” themselves. Parents and adults can improve by taking note of their daily routine, asking oneself questions such as: “Am I a safe driver, do I set a good example”, “do I eat healthy foods?”, “do I exercise?” Answers to such questions and many more can help evaluate how well we are doing in our adult role of being examples to our future. Children learn their habits from their surroundings whether they are good, bad or just “so so”. The better example ones habits and lifestyle are, the better habits our children will learn.

Healthy Pointers for the Upcoming Holidays

Upcoming holidays can tax some of our habits. Did you know it is common to gain 5-10 pounds over the holidays? Habitually overeating extra calories can add up to weight gain and this can lead to health problems. Overindulging is ok once in a while and a special holiday meal can be that meal. However, there are ways to reduce some of the damage by choosing healthy alternatives.

One good piece of news is that turkey is actually very healthy.

Turkey contains lots of protein; it is low in fat, high in folic acid and is also a good source of B vitamins. Keep in mind not to eat the skin and reduce the amount of gravy, heavy sauces, potatoes and stuffing. Did you know that sweet potatoes, depending on how they are cooked (skip the butter and the marshmallows) are a healthy alternative, they have more nutrients, more fiber and a lower glycemic index than potatoes.

Serve extra vegetables and fruit and make your table extra colorful and healthy. When the meal is done, spend time socializing and plan for a family activity, perhaps a family walk to a local park, a family bike ride or a family game such as playing basketball, football or just throwing a Frisbee around, a walk on the beach can be extra special. It’s amazing how talkative family members can be without the distraction of TV or the computer.

Please keep in mind that time off of school is a good time to make that annual physical appointment and update immunizations such as the yearly flu shots and the California required Tdap vaccine. For next school year 2012-2013 all incoming 7th graders are required to have a Tdap booster. It’s very important to keep our students safe through the prevention of illness and vaccine preventable diseases such as the whooping cough. Some other action steps for prevention of the flu and other communicable diseases are: practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Cover your mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, if a tissue is not available cough or sneeze in your elbow or shoulder and not in your hands. Stay home if you or your child is sick for at least 24 hours after there is no longer fever or signs of a fever. Get your whole family vaccinated for seasonal flu (the flu shot includes the H1N1 vaccine) and for Tdap. Let’s all stay healthy!

Thank you,
Christine Richter RN, school nurse
YEARBOOK ADS & BOOK SALES
FIRST EVER ALL COLOR YEARBOOK!

Grades 6th – 11th  Seniors  Yearbook Prices:
FULL PAGE $250  FULL PAGE $230  6th – 12th: $53
HALF PAGE $175  HALF PAGE $120  (ONLY FOR 1st Semester)
QUARTER PAGE $100  QUARTER PAGE $60  *Contact the yearbook for online sales*

Dedications for sale!
*Cash ONLY: No bills greater than $20.

A dedication is a page in the yearbook that you can dedicate to your student. For example, you can explain how proud you are of them and surprise them. You can design the dedication page to yourself or with the help of the yearbook staff.

Una dedicación es una página en el anuario que usted puede dedicar a un estudiante. Por ejemplo, puede explicar que orgulloso esta de ellos y puede sorprenderlos. Usted puede diseñar la página a su manera o con ayuda de nuestra administración.

Please contact the yearbook class at yearbook.preuss@gmail.com for how to order your yearbook online and for any other questions or concerns.

SUNDAY PARENT MEETING DATES

No Meeting in December
January 21
February 25
(Potluck/Annual Family Event)
March 17
April 28
(Parent Dinner & Dance Fundraiser)
May 19
June 9
( Appreciation Event )

The Preuss School UCSD Insight Newsletter is made possible thanks to:

Michael P. O’Neill, Director of Manufacturing, CareFusion Corporation,
Chip Mutza, Site Manager from Ikon Office Solutions
Jose Garcia, Preuss Former Parent - Class of 2004
CareFusion Corporation
10020 Pacific Mesa Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92121