



Legislators visit the Preuss robotics class.

Western State Legislators Pay Preuss a Visit

Preuss recently received a visit from 35 members of the Council of State Governments (CSG), a nonpartisan organization that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy. The legislators—all of whom were from western states and sat on education, higher education and appropriations committees—attended a meeting in Coronado before visiting Preuss to witness firsthand how the charter school operates. During their visit to Preuss, they visited several classes and also shot footage of Preuss students and teachers. The footage will become part of CSG’s “communication tool kit” for legislators, which will include video vignettes showcasing innovative school programs across the country.

Preuss Students Explore Corporate America Thanks to Key Donor

For Jerome Shaw, co-founder and executive vice president of Volt Information Sciences, Inc., education was the key to his success.

“The ability to complete my education using GI Bill benefits was one of the greatest opportunities I ever received,” said Shaw. “An education gave me the foundation and confidence to start Volt with only \$13 with my brother in 1950. Without having an education, I believe that neither I nor Volt would have experienced the growth and success of today.”

Shaw has shared his success story with students at The Preuss School before, but recently he took his involvement with Preuss one step further and invited the entire junior class to a daylong immersion event at Volt’s West Region Corporate Headquarters in Orange, Calif. Transportation to Volt was generously provided by UCSD Alumni and Shaw.

Students toured the 200,000-square-foot facility and heard from the leaders of Volt, a global provider of talent, technology and consulting solutions throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia Pacific. The field trip gave students insight into corporate America and demonstrated what is possible when they achieve their educational goals.

“By experiencing Volt’s day-to-day activities—from our computer center to our corporate departments, including procurement, accounting, contracts, legal and human resources—students had the opportunity to see firsthand the connection between completing their education and

possible career opportunities and the chance for a better life,” said Shaw.

“My message to students is that every class and every activity is important for your future, including homework,” Shaw continued. “I encourage them to take advantage of every opportunity because each positive step you take will contribute to a brighter, stronger tomorrow for yourself as well as our nation.”



Preuss students recently toured Volt Information Sciences, Inc.



BULLETIN BOARD

- **Principal Scott Barton** was invited to speak at the recent National Convening on Expanding Learning Time in Boston, Mass. The meeting was presented by Harvard Graduate School of Education and the National Center on Time and Learning, which is dedicated to expanding learning time to improve student achievement and enable a well-rounded education.
- **Preuss has been named a Breakthrough School** by the MetLife Foundation–National Association of Secondary School Principals. Preuss will receive a \$5,000 grant and will be featured in the association's monthly magazine, *Principal Leadership*. Thanks to teacher Anne Artz who nominated Preuss for this award!
- Just a few months to go before the return of **Preuss' annual benefit celebration!** The festivities will take place on **Saturday, April 21, 2012**, at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The evening promises to be full of good fun—and all for a good cause! For more information, call Maryann Laphorn at (858) 534-1404.



Preuss alumna Jackie Nguyen with her mentor, Lucy Killea, at the 2011 benefit.

Hawk Named Coach of the Year

Congratulations to Lisa Hawk, chair of the Exercise and Health Science Department and Preuss' athletic director! Hawk was recognized as a 2011 Coach of the Year by the national youth sports organization Up2Us, and the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports and Childhood Obesity Task Force. The award is given to deserving youth coaches who have inspired children on and off the field and played meaningful roles in the lives of the young athletes they serve. Hawk was one of four coaches from across the country honored at the recent Up2Us Coach of the Year ceremony and reception in Washington, D.C.



Lisa Hawk

One Gift Will Have Twice the Impact Dec. 14–15

You can make this holiday season truly special for Preuss by participating in GiveBIG San Diego, a 36-hour online giving event taking place from 7 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15. During this time every gift you make to Preuss would be matched dollar for dollar by the San Diego Foundation. The catch? All gifts must be made to Preuss via credit or debit card online at www.bettergivingsd.org, and the San Diego Foundation has a limited pool of funds (\$500,000) it can use to match gifts. These matching funds will be made available to several other local nonprofits as well, so the sooner you make your gift, the better. For more information, please contact Kim Wenrick at (858) 534-4132 or kwenrick@ucsd.edu.

Stay Connected! If you would like to receive email communications, including important announcements, videos and more from The Preuss School, please send your email address to mlaphorn@ucsd.edu.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Season's greetings! We have had a lot of opportunity recently to share The Preuss School's work and achievement with outside groups. In late September, we were visited



by 35 legislators from a number of western states who were in town as part of a conference put on by the Council of State Governments.

Many of the legislators

asked me to share our most important best practice at Preuss; I told them it was expanded learning time. In fact, in October, I spoke at the National Convening on Expanded Learning Time sponsored by the National Center on Time and Learning (NCTL) and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The conference was attended by more than 400 representatives from

government and education, as well as by select funding organizations with an interest in improving K–12 public education. The Preuss School was placed among the most innovative expanded learning schools in the country. Expanded learning time is an emerging national initiative, and the National Center for Time and Learning is at the forefront of the advocacy push. Preuss will continue to be on the radar for NCTL as an exemplary model of what this extra time in school can achieve.

One of the most successful programs facilitated by extra learning time is our Advisory group course, which consists of personal development, college preparation and exploration, reading and math support, and tutorials provided by UC San Diego students. Students stay with their advisory "family" from grades six through 12 and truly benefit from the continuous support. Right now, our Advisory teachers and college adviser are working tirelessly, writing

letters of recommendation and assisting our seniors with the college application process. All our 12th graders submit four applications to UC campuses, including UC San Diego, and many also apply to colleges and universities throughout the U.S. We are very proud that more than 90 percent of our graduates are accepted to four-year colleges and universities every year.

We are so grateful to our teachers, tutors, mentors, donors and other friends who continue to support The Preuss School and the work of our students. I wish you all a happy holiday season and a healthy and productive new year.

Best regards,

Scott Barton
Principal

SPOTLIGHT Natasha Ippolito—Teacher

In Natasha Ippolito's class, students learn by reading, writing and—of course—acting. From Shakespeare and Arthur Miller to Neil Simon, Ippolito's drama students bring to life the literature they study through scene work and monologues.

"It's an amazing experience to see these classics through the students' eyes," says Ippolito, "and to see them bring the literature to life."

Ippolito, who teaches AP Literature/Composition and Drama, is entering her 20th year of teaching and her 11th year at The Preuss School UCSD. Looking back, Ippolito remembers when she first found out about Preuss. Her father, who was teaching at UC San Diego, sent her a flurry of excited emails about the university's plan to open the charter school.

"There was so much excitement about starting this new school," says Ippolito. "I wanted to be a part of it, and a part of the mission of the school."

For Ippolito, part of the magic of The Preuss School is that its grade-level structure and small size allows teachers to get to know students very well. "It's a powerful structure. You start working with students in sixth grade, when they are really just beginning to become students, and you see them through to 12th grade, when they are preparing to leave for college. It's amazing to see their development," she says.

In her drama class, students creatively explore the curriculum while building important interpersonal and communication skills, foundational skills that will prepare them for careers in any field. "At Preuss we



Natasha Ippolito (front, center) with students from her first musical theatre class.

embraced the art component of the high-school experience," says Ippolito. "We know, and the students know, that the arts are important for academic success."

FOCUS ON Preuss and UC San Diego Athletics

From donations of time to donations of equipment, UC San Diego's athletics and recreation departments have been generous to The Preuss School UCSD. Over the last few years, the university has donated running shoes, athletic uniforms and fitness equipment to Preuss, and UC San Diego student athletes have volunteered their time with coaching or running clinics.

"We are very fortunate to have benefited from UC San Diego's generosity," said Eric Brazelton, physical-education teacher at Preuss. "Their involvement has truly made a difference in what our students can accomplish on and off the playing field."



Members of the UC San Diego women's basketball team with members of The Preuss School girls basketball team.

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For more information about The Preuss School, or to learn how you can help, please contact Kim Wenrick at (858) 534-4132 or kwenrick@ucsd.edu.

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