

Special points of interest:

- Saturday, May 12, 2007
Saturday Enrichment 9:00-11:30
- Saturday, May 12, 2007 PTA-
Parent Council General Meeting
9:30 A.M. Walton Center
- Staff Appreciation Breakfast
May 26, 2007—8:30 A.M.
Walton Center
- Monday, May 28, 2007 Holiday-
Memorial Day- School Closed

REMINDER

PTA General Parent Meeting

***Saturday, May 12
9:30 a.m.***

Walton Center

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A Message from Our Principal-Director Dr. Doris Alvarez

Dear Parents,

The Parent Dinner Dance was a great success thanks to the wonderful committee that put it together. First and foremost, we must thank Mr. Eduardo Puente who donated and cooked all the food. The lasagna and chicken were great as well as the various desserts. Then we must thank Mahjabeen Usman, your President and Connie Perez, your vice-president. Through their leadership, tickets were sold, donations for the raffle were secured and they got many parents involved. Maria Gastelun and Angeles Cortes made beautiful table centers and Brian Norquist put together a great slide

show. All in all it was a fantastic evening.

We are so proud to announce that we have been selected as a California Distinguished School. We are one of nine high schools in the county to be selected. On Friday, May 18 I and a few teachers will be on hand in Anaheim to receive the award. Congratulations to all of us.

We have also been named as a California Academic Achievement Title 1 School for the second year in a row. As an achieving Title 1 school, the state looked at how we are meeting the achievement goals for all of our students.

Finally, I just heard that we will be named one of the National Charter Schools of the Year. The ceremony will be in Washington, D.C. on May 16.

Our seniors have done wonderfully in securing admission to colleges and gaining scholarships. Five seniors received the Gates Millennium Scholarship which will pay for four years of college and graduate school. They are: Marlene Lleva, Brian Frazier, Monika Languarica, Minh Tran, and Summer Puente. Also 8 seniors, the most of any school, received the Ford Scholarship of \$1,000 each and a chance to win a Ford Explorer or truck.

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A Message from the PTA President Mahjabeen Usman

Hope all of you had a wonderful Spring Break.

On Saturday, April 21, we had the PTA Parent Dinner Dance at the Walton Center. The presence of about 135 parents at the Dinner Dance made it a wonderful success. A special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Puente for providing the food, and all our parents and vendors for their generous donations. We made a net profit of over \$ 2000, and all the money will be going towards 2007-2008 transportation funds. Also a big thanks to all the volunteers who helped put together this event. We do have very important dates coming up soon. We have TV Turn off week from April 23rd to April 30th, School Clean-Up Day on May 5th, AP and Star Testing during the month of May,

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News from Dr. Alvarez Cont'd.

Next month starts the month of testing. Parents, make sure you encourage your student to do his or her best on each and every test. It means much to them when they start applying to colleges.

Parents and faculty alike are proud of what our students are achieving and the recognition that the school has received. It is going to be hard to top the accomplishments we've received this year. However, I never underestimate our students and teachers. They may very well top this year's successes!!!

Sincerely,

Dr. Doris Alvarez

Congratulations!

News from the PTA President Cont'd.

our second Scholastic Book Fair from May 7 to 12, 2007 (a fundraiser for the 10th grade trip to Los Angeles), the PTA Executive Board Elections at our Saturday meeting on May 12, 2007, and our Teacher Appreciation Breakfast on May 25th. Please make sure your children are well rested and eat a nutritious breakfast so they can perform well on AP Tests and Star Testing.

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NEWS FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS By Scott Barton

Dear Senior Students and Parents:

As the senior year draws to a close, it is important that all seniors be reminded that they must maintain appropriate grades and behavior standards. In order to participate in senior activities and the graduation ceremony, a student must:

- Maintain at least a 2.0 citizenship GPA.
- Maintain at least a 2.0 scholarship GPA.
- Maintain an acceptable attendance record with no trancies.
- Maintain an acceptable behavior record (no referrals, no excessive uniform violations, etc.).
- Complete a successful Senior Project presentation.
- Maintain a clear indebtedness record. All fines must be cleared before students will be allowed to purchase tickets to senior events.

Seniors who do not follow the above policies will not be allowed to participate in senior activities and the graduation ceremony.

Sincerely,

Scott Barton

What Every Parent Should Know

Researchers have been studying the effects parent attitudes and actions have on their children's academic success for more than 30 years. They have shown that when parents are involved in their children's education, the children are more likely to earn better grades, score higher on tests, pass their classes, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, be more positive in their attitude toward school, complete homework assignments and graduate and continue their education.

Parents can serve many different roles in the educational process: home teachers, advocates for their children, volunteers, and fundraisers. And they can even serve in decision-making and oversight roles for the school. The more parents participate in a sus-

tained way at each of these levels, the better for student achievement. Parent involvement in education has a positive effect at all grade levels: elementary, middle, and high school. In both two-parent and father-only households where dads are highly involved in their schools, children are more likely to succeed academically, participate in extracurricular activities and enjoy school. They are less likely to have to repeat a grade or be suspended or expelled. One study found that students from families with above-average parent involvement were 30 percent more successful in school than those with below-average involvement. A three-year study of 12,000 high school students concluded that when parents come to school regularly, it reinforces the view in the child's mind that school and home are connected and that school is an integral part of the whole family's life. A two-year study of home and school influences on literacy

achievement among children from low-income families found that the single variable most positively connected to all literacy skills was formal involvement in parent-school activities such as PTA participation, attending school activities, and serving as a volunteer.

A Final Note
Why should parents get involved? Involvement can make a dramatic difference for their children.

Why should school administrators encourage involvement? Because it can make a significant difference, both in school atmosphere and in the success rate of students—especially when parents are included as partners in the educational process.

Parent involvement is a powerful tool. Spread the word.



Guidance News

The Preuss School UCSD Student Services

Important Information from The Preuss School UCSD Guidance Department

May 2007

Seniors set college admissions record!

A record 95% of the class of 2007 has been accepted to a 4-year college or university. This is the highest acceptance rate of any graduating class at Preuss School UCSD. The previous record was 91%.

College Admissions

In addition, more top colleges and universities throughout the United States have accepted students from the current graduating class.

Schools accepting current seniors include all UCs, all CSU's and many top private and out-of-state universities: Harvard, Yale, Stanford, NYU, Columbia, Duke, Fordham, Georgetown, Swarthmore, U Penn, Howard, Spelman, Colgate, Wellesley, Emory, SOKA, Dominican University of CA, Humboldt, Ithaca, LA State, Notre Dame de Namur, Pacific

Hawaii University, Whittier, Cal Lutheran, Boston College, Seattle Pacific University, Shaw University, Simmons College, Texas Southern University, U. of Rochester, University of Hawaii, USD, USC, Woodbury.

Scholarships

Although most scholarships have not yet been announced, **five seniors have been named winners of the coveted Gates Millennium Scholarship.** They are Bryan Frazier, Monika Langarica, and Marlene Lleva, Summer Puente, and Truc Minh Ta. Although Preuss has had previous Gates Millennium winners, five winners in one year is yet another record.

Congratulations to the record-setting class of 2007! We are proud of you!

FOUR MYTHS ABOUT PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Adapted from The College Board

- 1. College is just too expensive for our family.** College graduates earn an average of \$1 million more over the span of their careers than high school graduates. And financial aid is available to help students and their families make their college dreams a reality.
- 2. I'm not a straight-A student, so I won't get financial aid.** Many *scholarships* reward merit, but most federal financial aid is based on financial need and does not even consider grades!
- 3. I'll have to live at home to cut costs.** Financial aid typically *does* cover the cost of living on campus but *does not* cover commuting. Also, residents can get work on campus more easily!
- 4. Private schools are out of reach for my family.** Private colleges often offer more financial aid than public schools in order to attract students.

HOW TO COMPARE COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID OFFERS

While it may seem like the hard part of applying to college is filling out the applications, making sense of the financial aid packages you're offered from different schools can be just as challenging. Taking the time to understand, systematically compare offers, and make an informed decision, however, is very important.

The best financial aid offer is always the one that comes closest to meeting your full demonstrated need using the least amount of Self-Help Aid. When you receive your financial aid letters from the colleges that have admitted you, look beyond the total dollar amount offered, and take the time to compare these factors for each school:

- Cost of Attendance
- Scholarships from all sources
- Student loans
- Work study
- Expected family and student contribution.

To make comparing these factors simpler, use the spreadsheet form from The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFA). You can download it at:

<http://www.nasfaa.org/redesign/parentsstudents.html> Also: Be sure to ask the college or university if your initial financial aid package for freshman year is likely to change in any way in subsequent years.

If the thought of taking student loans scares you, don't immediately go for the package that offers less total money but no student loans. Student loans can be an effective way to pay for college, and, as long as you borrow wisely, they should not automatically be avoided.

Finally, if the financial aid offer from the college you most want to attend seems impossible based on your family's financial circumstances, contact the financial aid office. Explain any special circumstances that may not have been taken into account, such as family medical expenses, parent unemployment or a drop in income, etc., and ask

financial aid office will review your financial aid paperwork. Financial aid officers are typically very willing to do so, and may adjust the amount of aid you've been offered.

You can read a helpful article on appealing financial aid offers at: <http://collegehunt.blogspot.com/2006/11/want-more-financial-aid-show-special.html>

Additional excellent advice on comparing financial aid offers can be found at FinAid (www.finaid.org) and the College Board (www.collegeboard.com).

Guidance News is a regular publication of The Preuss School UCSD Guidance Department / Student Services Team:

Jamie Esperon, 6-8, jesperon@ucsd.edu, 858 658-7216

Kenia Milloy, 9-10, kmilloy@ucsd.edu, 858 658-7408

Phil Ensberg, 11-12, pensberg@ucsd.edu, 858 658-7478

News from Eva Mejia

A huge THANK YOU to all the parents involved in the planning of the Dinner Dance!

Let's get to the 15!

With only 2 months of school left, it is important that all parents finish the 15 hour service requirement. You will get a report of your hours with your child's grades on May 16 or 17. Please review it and make sure to call Mrs. Villanueva at 858.658.7412 if you find that any hours you have done are missing. Make sure you report all your hours from athletic events, donations and participation even if you finished your 15 hours. The events listed are great opportunities for you to help and get to the 15.



Llegemos a las 15!

Solo quedan 2 meses del año escolar así que es muy importante que todos los padres participen y terminen su requisito de 15 horas de servicio. Recibirá un reporte con las calificaciones de su hijo/a el 16 o 17 de Mayo. Por favor revíselo y llámelo a la Sra. Villanueva al 858.658.7412 si ve que faltó que le apuntáramos algo. Asegúrese de reportar todas sus horas de los juegos de deporte en Preuss, donaciones, y participación aun si ya termino sus 15 horas. La siguiente lista tiene buenas oportunidades para ayudar y

During school hours (8am to 4:30 pm).

We can always use your help at school. If you know when you are available, you can call me ahead of time or you can just show up. You can help in the classrooms, in the library, in the office or with the custodians.

Durante las horas de la escuela (8am a 4:30pm). Siempre hay maneras de ayudar en la escuela. Si sabe cuando puede venir, me puede avisar o puede venir sin avisar. Puede ayudar en los salones, en la biblioteca, en la oficina, o con los conserjes.

For more information please call
Eva Mejia, Volunteer Coordinator
858.658.7473

Para recibir más información llame a Eva Mejia, Coordinadora de Voluntarios al 858.658.7473

UPCOMING EVENTS... Eventos Próximos...



May 5th, Clean Up Day 8am-12pm. Help make our campus beautiful by cleaning and doing minor repairs. Earn hours and have fun while making a difference with other Preuss parents.

5 de Mayo, Día de limpieza 8am-12pm. Ayúdenos con la limpieza y pequeñas mejoras de la escuela. Reciba horas de servicio y diviértase mientras ayuda con otros padres de la escuela.

May 7-11th, Book Fair. We'll need lots of volunteers every day from 8am-4pm

Necesitaremos muchos voluntarios toda la semana de 8 AM a 4PM. Although proceeds of the sale go to the 10th grade class any parent can volunteer. Please contact Dora Olivas to sign up to help at (858) 576-1410 or dolas@sandiego.edu

7-11 de Mayo, Feria del libro. Vamos a necesitar muchos voluntarios de lunes a viernes de 8 AM a 4pm. Aunque este evento es para beneficio de la clase de 10^o cualquier padre de familia puede ayudar. Por favor llame a Dora Olivas para ayudar en este evento



Faculty and Staff Appreciation

May 25th, Staff Appreciation.

Help the PTA thank the Preuss Staff by sending a dish between 7 and 8:30am for the Staff Appreciation Breakfast. You can also help with the event from 7-10am. Please call Ruben Romero to sign up at (619) 264-4167



25 de Mayo, Agradecimiento al Personal de Preuss.

El PTA hace un desayuno de agradecimiento para el personal. Usted puede contribuir con un platillo ese día de 7 a 8:30am o puede ayudar con el evento de 7 a 10am. Por favor llame a Ruben Romero al (619) 264-4167 para participar.



For testing in May, Advisory Parents will be coordinating a project to give students a small gram and post encouraging messages from parents. They will be calling you to ask for your assistance.

Para las pruebas de Mayo, los padres representantes de Advisory van a coordinar un proyecto para dar mensajes positivos a los estudiantes. Recibirá una llamada de su representante de Advisory para pedir su ayuda en esto.



COUNSELING CONNECTIONS

By Jamie Esperon

May is Testing Month at The Preuss School UCSD. As a school site we take pride in the success our students have had with testing. Please review the schedule and speak with your child about the upcoming tests that they will be taking. It is important that your child is studying, not absent during testing, is getting enough sleep, and eating properly. Please note that on May 11 and May 18 school will start at 8:55 a.m. instead of 10:15 a.m. We appreciate your support at home. The Preuss School UCSD goal is 100% student participation!

Questions about testing? Contact Jamie Esperon, Assistant Dean of Students

858-658-7216/jesperon@ucsd.edu

STANDARDIZED TESTING AND REPORTING (STAR) PROGRAM

Students in grades two through eleven participate in the STAR Program in the spring of each year. The purpose of the STAR Program is to measure how well students are learning the knowledge and skills identified in the California content standards. The content standards describe what students at each grade level should know and be able to do in English-language arts, mathematics, history-social science, and science.

Advanced Placement Testing

All students enrolled in an AP class will take the appropriate AP exam to receive weighted credit for the course. Students who are late or absent will not be able to take the test, and there are no refunds. No calculators, cell phones, pagers, beeping or electronic aids allowed in the testing room.

	<u>Morning Session</u> 8:55 a.m. – 12:30	<u>Afternoon Session</u> 12:30 p.m. – 4:00
Monday, May 7	Government & Politics: United States Grade 12	
Tuesday, May 8	Spanish Language Grades 9-12	
Wednesday, May 9	Calculus AB Grade 12	
Thursday, May 10	English Literature Grade 12	
Friday, May 11 (early start)	United States History Grade 11	European History Grade 10
Monday, May 14	Biology Grade 12	
Tuesday, May 15	Chemistry Grade 12	
Wednesday, May 16	English Language Grade 11	Art History Grades 11-12
Friday, May 18 (early start)	Spanish Literature Grades 9-12	

Test	Dates	Grade Levels
CAT 6 (Grade 7) and CA Standards Tests (Grades 6-11)	May 23-25 And May 29-31	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Seniors exempt from testing

WORDS FROM THE LIBRARY & MEDIA CENTER by Ms. Kaheny



“A book is a garden in the pocket.” ~Chinese Proverb
Spring is in full bloom at the Library and Media Center at The Preuss School UCSD. The seniors are avidly pursuing their research topics as they enter into their last trimester at Preuss with pride. Searching on the academic databases at Preuss as well venturing to Geisel Library, the seniors are showing independence and drive as they push the envelope and prepare for graduation. The Library and Media Center has received generous donations citywide in support of our literacy program and Preuss continues to be grateful for the community support from all donors. Their contribution has helped to build new classroom libraries. April is National Poetry Month and the library is celebrating by hosting Poetry Slam contests for our students. Additionally, April 23-28 is Turn off TV week. The library offers books on crafts and hobbies, offering new and exciting alternatives to virtual life. On the heels of the Barnes and Noble Bookfair comes the Scholastic Bookfair, hosted by Jen Howard and her 10th graders to support their 10th grade trip to Los Angeles. The fair begins on May 7th and extends through May 12th. Scholastic offers the best of young adult literature as well as contemporary novels and nonfiction. Mark the date on your calendar and come support the students of Preuss! With all the rain San Diego has had this year, the spring promises to be bursting with bright color and brilliant blooms. We invite all students to come visit the Library and Media Center, pick out an outstanding book from our collection, and kick back and read in the sunshine.

News from ASB by Mrs. Artz

April is a busy month for ASB – elections are being held for ASB officers and also for class officers. After the elections, students who wish to be members of the ASB class may apply for a spot. Interviews will be held and 20 students will be selected for next year’s class. Students will be notified by the end of May if they are in the class.

As this year winds down, students are busy preparing for end of the year activities including the ASB Banquet in May, senior activities in June, and Hand Down Day where officers from this year meet with newly elected officers to pass along important information about their jobs. We will sadly be saying goodbye to two ASB officers who have been in ASB for four years – Monica Langarica and Moises Esparza. Both have contributed countless hours to ASB and their community spirit and dedication to Preuss are well recognized. They will receive special recognition at the ASB Banquet in June for their hours of service and dedication to the students at Preuss.

The AirBand competition in March was a huge success! Many thanks to the seniors and their parents who helped organize the evening. The Walton Center was full and the students performing on stage were a delight. DVD’s of the evening are in the snack shack for purchase for \$5 with all proceeds going to the senior class. It’s a good way to remember a fun evening full of talent.

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