

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021

A Message From Our Executive Director Dr. Helen V. Griffith

Greetings to The Preuss Family of Learners:

Welcome to the fall season of the 2021-22 academic year. We are grateful to be in service to you and your scholars. This year has been filled with challenges and triumph. We were able to successfully return to in-person learning on The Preuss campus with a full staff and all scholars in grades 6 through 12. In spite of the persistence of COVID-19, we have been able to minimize the campus spread due to the numerous protocols in place on the campus of UC San Diego. We are thankful for your support in taking advantage of our vaccination clinics, ensuring all scholars complete the daily COVID screener, reinforcing the importance of masking at all times, using good hygiene and sanitization, and working to follow the quarantine and isolation periods when necessary. Your diligence has helped to maintain a safer campus for all members within our learning community. Thank you.

We are currently working to return to our school schedule of 8:55 am to 4:00 pm for the next academic year, August of 2022. We are excited to announce that MTS will launch a Blue Line that will have its first riders on November 21st of this year. As we seek to return to our traditional schedule and employ a sustainable and green transportation plan, our high schoolers will have the opportunity to pilot using the Blue Line Trolley this academic year

free of charge. We have worked with SANDAG and MTS and advocated to support free transportation passes for all scholars, ages 18 and under. This new initiative passed and will launch in March, 2022. At that time, it is the hope that some of our high schoolers will pilot riding the Blue Line. Please stand by for more Parent and Scholar Town Hall meetings to address our innovative initiatives to create transportation justice for all.

It is our plan to move to a Preuss Electric Bus Fleet in the near future. The electric buses will provide daily transportation to our middle schoolers, internships, job shadows, field trips, athletic events, academic competitions, Saturday Enrichment Academy and parent training activities. We will keep you posted on our progress.

We will continue to plan the structures to support each of our scholars academic growth, social and emotional well-being, and preparation for successful living habits. We will celebrate our Preuss Family connections in our Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon on Friday, November 19. It is during this time that we will give thanks for all the many benefits that we enjoy as a Preuss Community of Learners over a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

Please accept our sincerest thanks for the support of your scholar and our school. I firmly believe that our scholars will experience a wealth of success because of your involvement in their educational journey.

Much love and Respect,

Dr. Helen V. Griffith
Executive Director

thankful

A Note From Attendance

Dear Families,

As we prepare to take a break from school for Thanksgiving, I want to express gratitude for everyone involved in ensuring students attend school every day, on time, and ready to learn. Thank you to:

Our students and families for making daily attendance a priority and avoiding taking extra days off from school before and after the holidays. Just a few missed days here and there, even if they are excused absences, can add up to significant lost learning.

Our wonderful teachers and counselors who dedicate their time and energy into being partners with the Attendance Office by following up with students and parents when a student is developing a chronic absence pattern.

Our support staff and community volunteers who provide the extra hands in supporting our students.

I wish you all a wonderful and restful school break.

Happy Holidays!
Patricia Villanueva



Absences?

Remember, parents must call the school at (858) 822-0311 to report and explain the reason for an absence.

Reporting 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.

Please feel free to contact the attendance office if you have any questions about attendance.

Thank you for helping us promote attendance.

Reminder

School will be closed during the holidays. There is no school during the week of Thanksgiving from November 22 Through November 26 and the Winter Break from December 20 Through December 31.

Whispers from the Copley Media Center (Library)

We featured Banned Books Week (September 26 – October 2) with a mini-book jacket contest. The mini-book jacket had to represent a banned book, explain why it was banned, and include an about the author section. Our winners are 12th grader Jenny Giang with 1st place, 8th grader Philimon Michael in 2nd place, 6th grader Wi Ka Yah in 3rd place. This year we had so many great entries that we have three honorable mentions. Emily Phanthavilay 12th, Arsama Kibrom 6th and Leidna Vera Hernandez 6th. All winners will get a book of their choice.

Our Scholastic Book Fair was held November 1st through November 5th. We had one of our best sales ever! We earned close to \$2000 in Scholastic money and all will be spent on new books for our library. Thank you to our Scholastic Crew: Marco Casarubias, Andrew Vazquez, Luqman Noor, Bianca Delgado, Cabdishakuur Mohamed, Gissell Montufar, Heather Trinh, Zamzam Alshahhoud, Vanessa Venancio, Esther Agoh, Kale Silva and Rose Betancourt.

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.

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 effect your student? On the library page of the Preuss School website < Campus Life < Library < General Resources and 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.

Happy Reading!

Ms. Nance and Ms. Gonzalez

A FEW REMINDERS

1. 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.
2. 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.



Latest on COVID-19

Hello All!

Happy Holiday Season from the health office! Here are some reminders and resources:

COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 vaccinations are now available to San Diego children ages 5 and older.

The California Department of Public Health has approved Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for use in 5- to 11-year-olds, and health care providers in the region are now vaccinating children in this age group.

The Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine currently authorized for use in 5- to 11-year-olds and 12- to 17-year-olds. Parents should take their children ages 5 to 11 to their primary pediatrician for a vaccine, but if that is not an option, the majority of County-operated COVID-19 vaccination sites also carry the Pfizer vaccine, as do many pharmacies, clinics and other medical providers. Parents can also visit [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://www.myturn.ca.gov) or call the hotline at 833-422-4255 to find a nearby vaccination site.

UPCOMING PREUSS VACCINE CLINIC

December 3, 2021
Walton Center
11am-3pm



What vaccines will be offered?

Pfizer Vaccine: 1st, 2nd dose, booster dose for those eligible (age for 1st and 2nd dose is 5 years old and older)

Moderna Vaccine: 1st dose, 2nd dose, booster dose for those eligible (18 years and older)

[See here for who is eligible for booster doses](#)

Flu vaccine- anyone 6 months or older is eligible

How to sign up?

[Flu vaccine](#)
[COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

Latest on COVID-19 Continued



California Department of Public Health guidelines for enjoying the Holidays in 2021

As you gather with friends and family, keep COVID-19 in mind. Take steps to prevent its spread.

- Get vaccinated. It's the best way to protect others.
- Keep gatherings small
- If everyone at an indoor gathering is fully vaccinated, masks are optional
- If your guests are unvaccinated or you don't know their status, plan gatherings that are small,

short, and outdoors.

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth:
 - When social distancing is not possible
 - When you might be around unvaccinated people, especially indoors
 - When around older individuals or people with medical conditions.
- When gathering inside, ventilate well. Open doors and windows, run HVAC systems, and install high-quality air filters.
- Check local conditions. Your county may have stricter guidance than the state. Take extra precautions when local levels of virus transmission are high.
- Activate CA Notify and ask your guests to do the same. CA Notify anonymously notifies individuals of a possible exposure.
- Get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms. SD County Free testing sites.
- Stay home if you are sick

[Thanksgiving Meals and Supplies available in San Diego County.](#)

Health Office Reminders

*If your scholar is not fully vaccinated, they must comply with twice weekly COVID-19 testing. Testing is performed on campus outside of the health office.

Protocol for ill students:

Reminder that your scholar should complete the COVID-19 symptom screener daily. If they experience ANY of the following symptoms: *fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea* they should stay home and contact Preuss Health Office. COVID-19 testing is necessary before returning to campus.



If you need any assistance, please contact the Preuss Health office at 858-822-2291, email preussnurse@ucsd.edu, heatherowens@preuss.ucsd.edu, or reach out to us via Parent Square.

Thank you!

Marie Doherty RN
Preuss Health Office

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Going Strong!

By Jacqueline Azize-Brewer, Ph.D. Coordinator, Volunteer Programs

I want to take this opportunity to extend a big thank you to our very engaged parents who continue to be actively involved in their scholars' education and the mission of The Preuss School UC San Diego. By attending meetings and school events and by volunteering your time and talent, you are helping create success for all of our Scholars.

Thank you to all the parents who have supported the PTA's sale of school clothing. The PTA still has PE pants and PE t-shirts for sale, although the sizes are limited. If you are interested in buying some of these clothing items, please contact Mrs. Lizbeth Garcia, PTA Treasurer, at 619-764-1554. She prefers that you contact her by text.

I would also like to thank the following parent volunteers who have completed the volunteer clearance process to be able to volunteer at the school on an ongoing basis,

- Lizbeth G.
- Ruth K.
- Victoria B.
- Maria S.
- Rashmi S.
- Maria A.

The following prospective parent volunteers are currently going through the clearance process (thank you!)

- Adan G.
- Mauricio B.
- Gebeyehu B.
- Robert J.
- Chentell H.
- Silvia R.
- Naeema H.
- Ana G.

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 **November 20 & December 11, 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 General PTA Meeting following the Executive Board 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 **December 7, 2021 & January 4, 2022.**

We look forward to your continuing participation!

Interested in volunteering?

Parents who would like to go through the clearance process to volunteer at any school events, the library, etc., please complete the online application (link follows). This is the first step in the clearance process: <https://www.volqistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=2082338657&OR=1#Tutor-Intern-Application>

Preuss Studiostatic

By Tamima Noorzay

Being back on campus has inspired Preuss artists to new heights! While Studio I students have been creating ceramic pieces and graphite portraits, Studio II artists have been studying climate change on our marine ecology. ArtsbusXpress generously funded a trip for 50 art and drama students to visit the Canyons of La Jolla lithomosaic at La Jolla Shores. There we met up with marine biologists Beth Besom and Shawna Weaver from the Walter Munk Foundation for the Oceans. We were also honored to meet the wife of the late Walter Munk, Mary Munk, who welcomed us and gave us an account of Walter Munk's contributions to oceanography, marine biology, and humanity (his work helped in planning the landing at Normandy during WWII).

Because climate justice is inexorably linked to the condition of all living systems, and especially of concern for marginalized populations, we have held this thread in our curriculum. One way in which art plays a role in the community, locally or globally, can be in service of activism. The lithomosaic demonstrates how art can highlight information, serve to activate those who want to help reverse the anthropogenic effects on marine life, and inspire sustainable practices large and small.

Over the last five years, art students have worked with the Torrey Pines State Reserve to learn about and see firsthand the unfolding of climate change and the effects on the ecology of the park. We work with Ellie Cohen, CEO of the Climate Center in Northern California - <https://theclimatcenter.org/>, who is seeking a carbon neutral CA by 2030 and just went to the COP26 in Glasgow as an official Observer NGO, Scripps Institute -specifically the Latz Lab - <https://latzlab.ucsd.edu/> and the Walter Munk Foundation for the Oceans- <https://waltermunkfoundation.org/>. We also work with ArtsbusXpress who funds all the bus trips to these locations!



The view!



Lithomosaic



Mr. Romer!

Preuss Studiostatic Continued



Some of the plein air paintings

Each of our community partners not only teach us about the issues, offer ways in which we can all participate in activism and sustainable practices, but also have offered Preuss students career pathways in these fields. Anyone from an accountant to an artist, a scientist to an engineer can find a place at the table. For Preuss scholars these experiences are invaluable. Working with the amazing individuals at these organizations models career paths for Preuss scholars.

Drama students participated in the trip because they were in the midst of a unit on documentary film styles. This was a perfect "real life" opportunity for Drama students to approach the documentary genre from different cinematic and narrative approaches. Each team did not make the same documentary, rather every group was tasked with a perspective, a narrative, and had to select an aesthetic. For example, one group chose to interview the marine biologists about their work with the Foundation, another group made a black and white visual narrative of the ocean, another group wanted to capture a day in the life of a Preuss student, etc.

Documenting our learning while learning, discovering career paths and learning the effects of climate change and future steps to halt it are the tangible educational results of our off campus opportunities; however, these experiences also

support student social-emotional learning as well as their physical and mental health. The field trip included a long walk down the beach from Kellogg park to the Scripps Pier, enjoying the sunshine, surf and conversation. We were accompanied by the retired and beloved Mr. Romer who spent time catching up with students' achievements and gave encouraging advice for the future. From the pier we walked to Scripps Mary Birch Aquarium where students were awed by the jellyfish, touch tanks and view. The view of the Pacific was sparkling and a relief to our screen-weary eyes!

Also in October, the Honors and AP Studio art students ventured to Torrey Pines State Reserve for a nature hike, plein air painting and an update on changes to the Torrey Pines as a result of increasing climate change. Students enjoyed the day in nature and a special lunch donated by our long time donor, Ron Campnell who sponsors this trip every year. Our trips to TPSR gives students a scientific perspective on our local environment as well as an opportunity to engage nature and interpret it through their artistic expression.

Tamima M Noorzay
Arts Educator

Multicultural Empowerment Club

Written by Angelina Gonzalez

We celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in order to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to achieve success. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Multicultural Empowerment Club hosted a number of performances and activities for Preuss students to enjoy. Areli Hernandez ('24) sang Como La Flor, famously sung by Selena and Los Dinos. She also sang Los Aires del Mayab by Maria de Lourdes. Viviana Rojas ('23) and Michael Briones ('22) dance Jarabe Tapatío, a traditional courtship dance from Guadalajara, Jalisco. Our Ballet Folklórico group, Berenice Lopez Colon ('22), Dayana Yudho Garcia ('22), Ruby Santiago ('22), Xochitl Garcia ('22), Daniela Navarrete ('22), and Wendy Vidal ('22) also performed during the celebration. They were later joined by Viviana Rojas to dance another traditional Hispanic Dance.



In addition the Multicultural Empowerment Club also celebrated Day of the Dead in remembrance of our loved ones. Day of the Dead is a Mesoamerican, two-day celebration meant to guide the spirits of departed loved ones in the afterlife. Students were able to partake in a number of activities including face painting, chalk art, flower making, and much more! Areli Hernandez also performed during this event as well as the Preuss Choir. The Preuss Choir sang Remember Me and La Llorona from Disney Movie Coco.



Ofrenda Gallery Walk 2021



The World Language Department Spanish IV classes hosted an Ofrenda Gallery Walk. The Ofrenda Project focuses on honoring ancestors. Students shared their cultural beliefs and traditions as they learned about Dia de los Muertos, a celebration of Life, celebrated in different parts of Spanish-speaking countries and communities. As a way to share such celebrations, each student selected a family member or someone that they admire and created an Ofrenda.

An Ofrenda or altar is an offering in honor of individuals who have passed away. Students and faculty members took this opportunity to remember and honor the lives of individuals who have departed but still live in our hearts. Students learned about the main elements of the altares in the traditional Mexican culture and as they learned they planned their Ofrenda in several stages. Stage 1 focused on researching ancestors and asking family about the individual. Some students researched the individuals that they admire and focus on their contributions to society. Stage 2 focused on the planning of the Ofrenda. Students decided what materials to use to create the Ofrendas, and the elements that they would include based on the Mexican traditions. Stage 3 focused on the decorations of the Ofrenda followed by stage four preparation for presentations in target language. This year our students used shoe boxes to create their ofrendas. Elements to include in the Ofrenda were candles, flowers, water, salt, earth, wind, and personal objects. Stage 5 was presentations and final staging of the display of Ofrendas to the school.

This year, students invited younger students, staff and parents to visit the Ofrendas. During this Gallery, attendees had the opportunity to learn about students' ancestors and see their creative way of honoring their loved ones. In addition, attendees had a moment to reflect and remember those who have passed away during the past years and as a way to honor those individuals, students placed a flower on an Ofrenda dedicated to their loved ones.

Maria Wiedemeier Alcantar
Spanish Teacher



Making Memories: ASB News

Spirit Week

The first Spirit Week of 2021 took place November 1st through November 5th. It was the first in-person Spirit Week we have had in a long time. There was so much participation and excitement from our campus and our high schoolers. The games were so fun, and the student body was incredibly enthusiastic. The themes this year were: Crazy Hair Day, Crazy Sock Day, Dress in Preuss Colors Day, Jersey Day, and Pajama Pants Day!

Look out for Middle School Spirit Week the week before Winter Break!

Burton's Ball

On November 5th we had the Fall dance, and the theme was Burton's Ball. We had for the first time a movie theater-esque section that many people enjoyed that played Tim Burton movies. It was a spooky-themed social inspired by Tim Burton classics like *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *Edward Scissorhands*. The DJs brought so much excitement and the students loved using our new open-air COVID-friendly tent.

Homecoming

In case you haven't yet heard, the theme for this homecoming sadly, is not *Keeping up with the Kardashians*. The theme for the homecoming of 2021 is **Attack on Triton!**, where the Greek gods and goddesses try to take the crown from the Triton to see who really is the most powerful. The gods and goddesses for each grade go as follows:

Seniors are Zeus and their colors are white.

Juniors are Aphrodite and their colors are shades of red.

Sophomores are Apollo and their colors are gold and yellow.

Finally, Freshmen are Athena and their colors are green.

I hope we can see you on December 16th, 2021, for our homecoming basketball game at the UCSD RIMAC Arena!

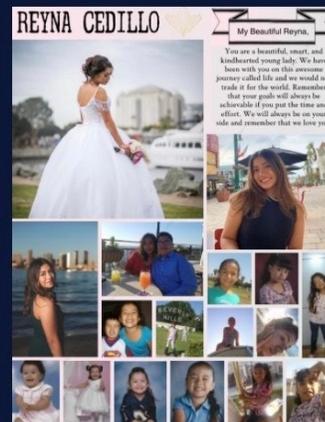
Preuss ASB

Yearbook Presales Online & at school!

Buy your yearbook online!
@yearbookforever.com

Yearbook presale on campus:
December 16th and 17th

Buy your own dedication page for a loved one! An example of an ad/dedication page is shown below! Dedication page can be purchased and designed online, or we can do it for you!



Filled with new activities and how students are adapting to the new school year, the 2022 Preuss yearbook is definitely one you want to take home with you!

Important Dates

November 10 2nd Mid-Semester Progress Report available	November 17-18 UC Application Submission Days for Seniors 10:00 A.M – 5:00 PM	November 19 Turkey Luncheon 12:02-1:14 PM	November 19 Fall Festival 7:00- 8:15 PM	November 20 General Parent Meeting Zoom Webinar 9:30 A.M-11:00 AM
November 22-26 Thanksgiving Holiday School Closed	December 3 Vaccination Clinic at the school 11AM to 3PM	December 4 Saturday Enrichment Academy 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	December 7 Virtual PTA Executive Board Meeting. 5:30 PM	December 17 The Preuss School application deadline for the 2022-2023 school year
December 20-31 School Winter Break No School	January 3, 2022 School Resumes Classes	January 4, 2022 Virtual PTA Executive Board Meeting. 5:30 PM	January 8, 2022 Saturday Enrichment Academy 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	

Become a Preuss Student!

Admission Process

STEP 1: APPLY

- 2022 - 2023 Application Available! For grades 6 - 12
- Deadline is December 17th, 2021 at 11:00 pm
- Online application with income verification attached
- Preference applied if low income, first generation, and live within SDUSD.
 - Sibling preference for 7 – 12 grade applicants
- Apply at preuss.ucsd.edu/admissions

STEP 2: LOTTERY

- Admissions Lottery: February 2022
- Randomly select scholars for enrollment using an excel formula
- How many scholars will be admitted per grade level
- Final numerical list produced per grade level
 - Includes a waiting list

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