

The Preuss School UC San Diego Insight Newsletter

9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0536 Main Phone Line: (858) 822-3000

MAY-JUNE 2022

Congratulations Class of 2022!



A Message from the School Principal



Dear Preuss School Community,

It is hard to believe that the school year is ending. The end of the year is an exciting time for our entire community. We are finishing our Advanced Placement testing with nearly 800 tests taken by our scholars. We will take the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) at the end of May. On June 16th, we will be graduating the scholars from the class of 2022!

I want to thank all of the parents for their support. This year, we had parents on campus running concessions for several of our athletic events and Friday celebrations. We have also been able to have parents return to campus for various events, a real sign that we have begun to live within the new lines drawn by the pandemic. I want to thank all parents for choosing to send their scholars to The Preuss School UC San Diego. The faculty and staff at the Preuss School believe in our mission and believe in your children. Together we are fulfilling our mission in ways that are being continually recognized by others as we again rank as the #1 School in San Diego County.

As we begin our descent towards summer, it is not time for us to let up on our efforts. Please continue to stress the importance of our COVID safety protocols with your scholars: wash your hands often, wear a face-covering indoors, do not share food or drinks, clean work surfaces, and rewash your hands!

Matthew Steitz Ed.D.

A Note From The Attendance Office

By: Patricia Villanueva, Attendance Coordinator

The current academic year is ending, and we are asking for your support in encouraging your student to continue attending school and remain engaged with their learning during the final weeks of school. Although this has been a very busy and exiting school year, there is still over a month to go. Please talk with your child about the importance of attendance and being prepared for their final exams.

With summer around the corner and students excited for the time off, it is important for your child to attend their classes and complete assignments until the last day of school. With your support and encouragement for your child to attend school every day, we can keep our students on track.

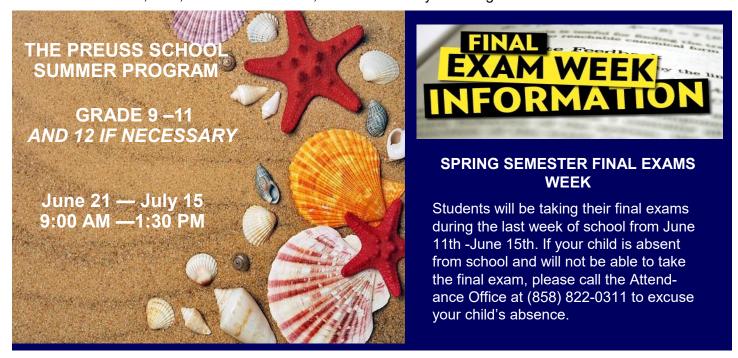


Students must present to class until the last day of school on June 16, 2022, which is a minimum day (10:00am – 1:28pm). We will have all the usual bus routes running in the morning to drop students off at 9:50am. Buses will arrive at 1:20pm to pick up students after dismissal.

The Preuss School will be offering in-person summer school for students in grade 9 to 12. Summer School is an opportunity for students to be on track with their course credits for graduation. Teachers and school administration will refer students for participation, so students who are recommended to attend Summer School will receive a notice from counselors and Ms. Watson with registration details. Summer school session is June 21 - July 15 from 9:00am-1:30pm. The same attendance expectations and procedures for absences apply during summer school. Parents must notify the attendance office at (858) 822-0311 if the student cannot attend school.

School resumes on Monday, August 8, 2022.

Have a wonderful, safe, and restful summer, and we will see you in August!



Whispers from the Library



We have eBooks available for all students through <u>Sora</u>. All the student will need is their student ID, a computer, tablet device, smartphone or MP3 player. A great way to pass the summer and not worry about incurring any fines! Additionally, we have free access to eBooks through <u>OpeneBooks</u>. Please ask the librarian for a code for first time users. Finally, <u>AudioFile presents SYNC</u>: Young Adult Literature for your Earbuds. Each week two audiobooks are available for download for free all summer long.

We have one last event for the school year. We will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair here in the library. It will run from Friday, May 27th through Friday, June 3rd. It is a BUY ONE GET ONE FREE EXTRAVAGANZA. A great time to get some fantastic summer reads.

It is time to for students to return all materials. All computers, chargers and hotspots will be collected as well. Each student is responsible for returning all items checked out under their name. Individual teachers will sign up to bring their classes in to return books, Monday, May 23rd through Friday, June 3rd. Students may turn books in early if no longer needed for class.

Make sure to confirm with your classroom teacher if the textbook is required for the final.

At the beginning of the school year, we announced to all students if there was any damage in their textbooks to bring it to our attention, so we could mark it down or else they will be held responsible for the damage. We will be charging students at least \$5.00 if the damage is beyond the normal wear and tear. Encourage your sons and daughters to go through and remove any papers/post-its, erase any pencil markings or pictures and white out any ink markings that should not be there. It is important that every student treat all their textbooks with care and respect so that future classes will have access to good quality books.

All 12th grade students must turn in all devices, library and textbook materials and pay all fines before receiving their cap and gown for the graduation ceremony. All 8th grade students must turn in all devices, library and textbook materials before participating in the "Celebration of Learning" ceremony. A letter was sent home in April with all 8th and 12th grade students to be signed, informing parents/guardians of the requirements for their student to receive their cap and gown or to participate in the 'Celebration of Learning'. Any student not able to pay may volunteer hours in the library to clear their account. If you have any questions about lost textbooks/library books or devices please call us (858-822-2150). We can let you know how to take care of this matter. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely, Karen Nance and Maria Gonzalez, School Librarians



All library books (does not include textbooks) are due by Friday, June 3rd.

No library book check-outs allowed after this date.

All textbooks are due by the last day of school.

Assigned summer novels will not be checked out until student's turn in all materials.

Health Office Updates

Vision To Learn

This school year Preuss will be collaborating with Vision To Learn, a nonprofit vision care organization. Students who participated in the program received an initial vision screening to determine if an eye exam and glasses are needed, all free of cost. Initial Screening Dates were May 5th and May 9th.

There were 219 students who failed the initial screening and were included in Vision to Learn Eye Exams. On May 12th, May 17th-19th, and June 8th Vision to Learn will be on Preuss campus to perform eye exams. If it is determined that a student needs glasses, they will have the opportunity to pick their frames while at the mobile clinic. Vision to Learn will then return to deliver the students their glasses. To learn more about the clinic www.visiontolearn.org.



Medications

Remember that if your child has any medications stored in the health office, that you should pick up their medication before the end of the school year. Physician's orders for medications expire after one year. If your child had any physician orders for medications at school, please update those orders over the summer.

Marie Doherty, School Nurse



COVID-19 Resources

- If you test positive and are at increased risk of getting very sick from COVID-19, treatment is available. Contact a healthcare provider right away after a positive test to determine if you are eligible for treatment, even if your symptoms are mild.
- You can also visit a <u>Test to Treat location</u> and, if eligible, receive a prescription from a provider at that location.
 - Don't delay: Treatment must be started within the first few days of when your symptoms started to be effective.
 - Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccination is still the best way to prevent serious outcomes of COVID-19, including severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

Where to get vaccinated: Call 2-1-1, visit <u>Family Health Centers</u>, <u>myturn.ca.gov</u>, primary care physician, Preuss Clinic dates are posted via Parent Square

Where to get tested: Call 2-1-1, visit <u>Family</u>
<u>Health Centers</u>, <u>San Diego County Free COVID-</u>
19 testing sites

A Note From The Volunteer Coordinator

By: Jacquie Azize-Brewer, PhD, Alumni and External Relations Specialist

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the 2021-2022 academic year, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for your participation and involvement this year.

Parents have continued to support their scholars by attending the PTA meetings and other school-sponsored events, serving as volunteers, chaperones for field trips, and fundraising by selling snacks and drinks during the at home sports games, school events and on Friday afternoon. All the money raised by the PTA goes back to the school!

In addition, a group of parents has been there every week to assist with breakfast distribution for our scholars. It is very important for scholars to see parents involved in the school, and your daily presence makes a difference!

We look forward to your continued involvement and participation!

The next PTA
General meeting will take place on May 21, 2022
via Zoom Webinar from 9:30am-11:00am.

The Parent Appreciation event will take place virtually during this meeting.



Dear Volunteers,

As we approach the end of the 2021-2022 academic year, I would like to once again thank all of you for your continued support of The Preuss

School UC San Diego. You are an integral part of the school and your involvement helps achieve our mission.

You have served in many capacities since the beginning of the school year, as mentors, tutors, interns and one-time/occasional volunteers. We average 20+ volunteers daily! Your presence on campus is truly inspiring. We are most appreciative of your willingness to donate your time and talent in service of our scholars, and we look forward to having you back next academic year.



Are you the parent or guardian of someone who graduated from the school? Are you in contact with someone who is a Preuss Alumnus? If so, please e -mail me the name, e-mail (or phone number) and graduating year of any Preuss Alumnus. As Alumni Coordinator, I want to reach out to Preuss Alumni to create a network where Alumni can connect with others of similar career interests, educational experiences, etc. and to keep them informed of opportunities and events that they may benefit from and/or be interested in being part of.

I can be reached at: preussalumni@ucsd.edu

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you!

A Note from the School Family Support Specialist



May is mental health awareness month. Did you know that about 20% of youth ages 12-18 experiences a mental health condition in their life while 1 in 4 adults experience mental illness in a given year? Many times children and adults do not receive treatment related to mental health due to stigma, financial hardship, and lack of education. Mental illness is REAL and has very detrimental effects on a person's well-being just as physical illness does, which is why here at Preuss we want to make sure you can access the treatment you and/or your child need. Please do not hesitate to email me at attor-re@ucsd.edu or call me at 858-822-1484 if you would like me to provide you resources and referrals for mental health services.

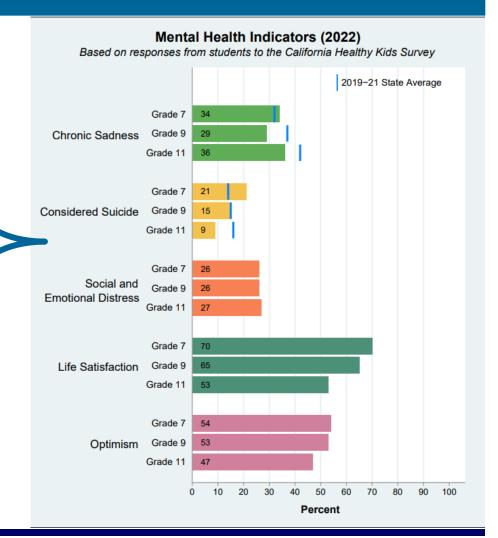
Here are some questions to consider when deciding to seek professional help:

- Are you or child experiencing prolonged and intense discomfort?
- Are you or child noticing the problem affecting other areas of personal development?
- Are you or child noticing the problem spread to other areas of daily functioning (i.e. school, job, relationships, etc.)?
- Is the family being affected by the problem?

Our NAMI on Campus Club has some great activities planned to raise awareness and reduce stigma for mental health in the month of May. As a general reminder, 211 (www.211sandiego.org) has a variety of resources available throughout San Diego.

Each year our students complete the California Healthy Kids Survey. This survey asks a variety of questions related to learning, safety, substance use, and mental health. This year we were provided a report showing the results for mental health indicators (See chart).

Amanda Torre, Family Support Specialist



Student Services & Counseling Department

Dear Preuss Families,

The Counseling team has had a busy college season and is excited for the upcoming Graduation! Read more about all of the great things seniors have been doing. We also hosted a Junior college kick off April 30th to help prepare our Juniors for their Senior year! As summer approaches we hope you all have a great end of the 2021-2022 School year and a wonderful Summer break!

Weekly Wellness Newsletter

The counseling weekly wellness newsletter will include a wellness quote, a wellness tip or resource, and a Kindness Challenge. Here are the latest issues of our Weekly Wellness Newsletter.

April 4: https://www.smore.com/m6kpj

April 11: https://www.smore.com/f3r7u

April 18: https://www.smore.com/0b2e8

April 25: https://www.smore.com/yndk4

Summer School

The end of the year is swiftly approaching and so is Summer School. Please use the QR codes or links below to schedule an appointment with your student's School Counselor if your student received D/F grades.

Preuss School UCSan Diego

How to make an appointment with your school counselor



Ms. Sara Silva s3silva@preuss.ucsd.edu calendly.com/sarasilva-1



GARCIA LOZANO -S. NGUYEN

Ms. Allyson Cobbs acobbs@ucsd.edu calendly.com/mscobbs LAST NAME T. NGUYEN - Z

Ms. Erin Patrick empatrick@ucsd.edu calendly.com/mspatrick





Counseling and advisory teachers working together!



CONGRATULATIONS!

2021-22 San Diego County Race to Submit Champion

Based on the California Race to Submit Dashboard,
The Preuss School is the CATEGORY II CHAMPION for having the
Highest Percentage of FAFSA/CADAA completions at 87%,

Category II (Senior Class of 2022 Enrollment of 100-299 Students)

Race to Submit is a statewide campaign that aims to increase the number of financial aid applications for California high school seniors who complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application (CADAA). In 2020, SDCOE kicked off the first San Diego County "Race to Submit" challenge to encourage districts and high schools to set a goal to increase their completion rates.

SIR (Statement of Intent to Register) Day:

On April 29th, the Preuss counselors and Senior advisory teachers celebrated the annual College Signing Day originated by Michelle Obama. Seniors presented their college pennants representing their paths. We have 50 seniors attending a CSU, 38 attending a UC, 7 attending private colleges and 10 attending community college!



Student Services & Counseling Department Continued



CONGRATULATIONS

We are so excited to announce this year's Valedictorians and Salutatorians. Our class of 2022 Valedictorians are: Mateo Duenas, America Marin, Analy Perez Sanchez. Our class of 2022 Salutatorians are: Abigail Alemayeho, Lillian Huynh, and Judy Truong.

We had to have three and three because they are all so amazing. They were announced at this year's Senior Assembly.



The Triton Virtual Calming Room is a place for students and families to find tools and strategies for managing emotions and feelings. Please take advantage of this page!

<u>https://sites.google.com/preuss.ucsd.edu/tritoncalmingroom/home</u>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- AP Testing (May 2- May 18) - Graduation (June 16) -Summer School (June 21-July 15)

News From ASB: Prom Night



After more than three years in remote learning and the inability to host formal dances, the Preuss Senior ASB recently held the first prom since 2019. The event was hosted at the Natural History Museum and themed, "A Night at the Museum." Seniors and Juniors joined together at this remarkable venue and came dressed in their best. This unique venue was filled with dinosaurs and prehistoric photo opportunities for students to enjoy. The event flew by and was a great return to regular in-person events in the year.

Abigail Alemayeho, ASB VP

Grade 6 & 7 Science Activities

By: Mario Patino, Science Teacher

Grade 6-Advanced Science



Ever wonder what happens to all those spaceships, rocket parts, and old satellites that go up to space? Scholars in my Grade 6 Advanced Science are currently trying to solve the trash problem that exists in

space. NASA states there are over 2,000 inactive satellites and as many as 34,000 pieces of "space junk," which can be found within mid through high range orbits. This "space junk" is known to damage space ships, satellites, and research equipment, such as the Hubble Telescope. Solutions to reduce these technological artifacts have been problematic for many countries that have invested many resources to explore space. Scholar teams use the Design Thinking process to find solutions for this space problem. This process involves identifying the problem, ideating solutions, and presentation of their ide-



as. To promote sustainability and creativity scholars have been tasked to build prototypes with materials found at home which would normally would be recycled or thrown away. Here are some quotes from Scholars working on project:

"I LOVE this project, you could collect so many things from the streets to represent the space junk." -Deicy A.D.

"I like this project for removing space junk from space. We get to use our creativity to create a model to help the world." -Yvonne C.

"Yes, I enjoyed the project it was fun. Me and my partner had fun while building it"-Andrew V.

"I like this project on removing space junk from space. I enjoy doing this project because it sparks my creativity, it uses teamwork, and it is fun! First, it sparks my creativity because it makes me use materials from my home that are unique to make a machine. I would have to plan and make a template."-Richard Y.

"I like this project. The reason I like this project is because it uses creativity and colors. I also like this project because I like working with Omna and Luqman. This project is fun and the painting was a good part in this project"- Luz M.



Scholars will go through several iterations of prototypes and present their final version of their machines to the class in the middle of May 2022. We will have an informal debate on the most effective design in solving the "space junk" problem.

Students teams with advanced designs will continue their efforts and reach out to NASA scientists at the Kennedy Space Center through electronic communication. We also will write a request for a visit from Dr. Jessica Meir, Phd. UCSD-Alum & NASA scientist to solicit her feedback on the prototypes!

Grade 7 Advanced Sciences



What if you were given the opportunity to learn through something you loved doing, your passion? Since April, my Grade 7 Advanced Science students have

been given the opportunity to self-direct their learning of NGSS science standards through projectbased learning [PBL] and design thinking [DT] processes. The hope is that Scholars will learn about chemistry through something they love. Why learn through a passion? The primary reason is I wanted to increase student engagement during one of the most challenging times of the year. When students are given the power to choose a topic they love, there is a higher chance they will sustain interest. Chemistry is everywhere and one challenge of this project is for students to find how chemistry connects to their passion. For some topics it is simple to connect chemistry to their passion. For instance, food has thousands of molecules that students can research, whereas topics such as the chemistry of emotions can be far more complicated to research. The project has many parts [e.g creating questions, research, science writing, building 2D models, creating digital presentations], yet all year students have

Photo Credits: Photo1: Bianca D. & Andrew V. prototype II, Photo2: Richard Y. & Aldo LR

Grade 6 & 7 Science Activities Continued

learned valuable learning, thinking, social, and intrapersonal skills which have prepared them for such a project. The project is broken up in parts and students receive lecture support, resources, and feedback needed to learn chemistry in a holistic way. A substantial time in class to work on their project. Beside the many benefits that independent learning can have on students, the findings of Scholars also provide me an opportunity to learn from the view of a teenager. Such insights are important to my own growth as a teacher.

A natural outcome of student-directed learning is that the student can become the teacher. How empowering is it for the student to teach the teacher? For scholar Maria Ayala-Morataya becoming a "teacher" of her passion happened naturally. She recently shared how she made paint from natural pigments and created an art piece and learned the science behind pigments. She extracted pigments from natural products such as flowers and vegetables. Prior to learning about Maria's topic, I had a limited knowledge of pigment extraction processes and learned so much from her presentation. I was amazed how Maria took this project, internalized it, and demonstrated mastery by applying herself to something she loves, art.

Maria states, "I do like this method of learning a lot; it encourages the curiosity of the mind and drives it to learn. However I do believe that we do need some sort of direction in what we're doing."

This student feedback is essential to improving future project work.

Self-direction study requires a variety of skills, attitudes, a growth mindset, and a belief that "they can do it." Being resilient is at the foundation of student success in this project, self-directed learning is a new experience for most scholars. For young scholars, such learning activities can be challenging but it's only through such experiences that they can apply skills, and build intrinsic motivation and confidence. The ability to learn independently is essential, not only in middle school, high school,

and college, but also in life. So why not provide middle school scholars opportunities to practice and drive their own learning.

Passion projects play a significant role here at Preuss School. The love for learning has to be cultivated whenever possible. A website is currently being created by Grade 6 Technology Wheel students to showcase all project submissions and will go live at the end of May 2022.

Grade 6-Technology Wheel

Technology literacy is an important skill students must be able to demonstrate. The focus of this class is to help students acquire portant skills they need to communicate present their ideas using a variety of formats. Students are also learning how to organize school work using G-Drive, send professional use Scratch emails. coding software, Canva, and Powtoons presentations tools, making infographics, and typing. Many students have shared they are using





the skills learned in the course in their other courses! In the latest learning activity, students created a presentation product on academic advice for incoming 6th grade students and suggestions on how to make the school better for new students. During the first week of May, students also used tech applications to create Teacher Appreciation videos to express their gratitude for their teachers and the hard work they do to help them learn.

In the middle of May, students will take their coding experience and work with Mr. Rupert, our in-house robotics teacher, to build Lego robots. Past classes have shared this is the most fun part of the class. Finally this class will start building a website to showcase their work as well as Grade 7 Advanced science courses.

8th Grade's Day Out!

By: Christobelle Tan, Mathematics and University Preparation/Advisory Teacher



News From Multicultural Empowerment Club

By: Maria Wiedemeier Alcantar, Spanish Teacher



Every year the Multicultural Empowerment Club (MCE) hosts the Multicultural Empowerment Celebration, which typically lasts a couple of hours. However this year MCE was able to host the Multicultural Empowerment Festival, a week-long celebration, with the help of several Preuss Clubs, Mandarin and Spanish Classes students. Clubs hosted activities in which Preuss students were able to participate in and learn about different cultures. Students were also given the opportunity to perform dances that are unique to their cultures.

Next, the Multicultural Empowerment Club will be organizing a panel discussion and an activity with several other students to celebrate the Asian American Pacific Islander Community on May 26th during High School Lunch and May 27th during SCS.

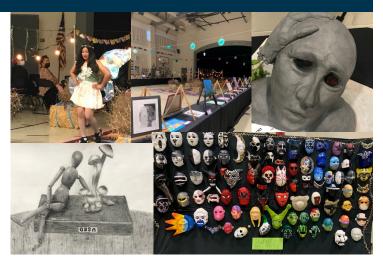
Preuss Studio Static End of the Year Wrap

By: Tamima Noorzay, Fine Arts Chair

What a year of in-person learning it has been! We have been so thankful to be on campus, in person, for events like the 2022 Festival of the Arts, the upcoming Shakespeare Festival and all the field trips and hands-on experiences we have had. I think our artists, actors and musicians have packed more into this year than any other has, and rightfully so. We have all wanted to participate in things that were "real" vs. virtual this year. We also realize that none of these opportunities would be possible without our community; it takes all of us working together!

The 2022 Festival of the Arts was one of the most well-attended in our 7 years of this annual event! There was so much talent represented in the gallery show, the fashion show and the performances; we had so much appreciation for our students and celebrated their accomplishments - from Mauricio Salas' piano virtuosity to the energy of the rock band to Choir and the Multicultural dances. From the AP Studio artists to our Studio I artists, the Fashion Club with their collections of Fairy Camp, 7 Deadly Sins and the Wild West to the exciting performances seen in the trailer for the upcoming Shakespeare Festival (5/19 at 5pm in the Walton Center), all of our arts students were stars in our eyes!

As we wrap up this year, congratulating our AP artists for submitting their portfolios and looking for-



ward to our Art Olympics as this year's art finals approach, we are looking forward to enjoying the last two events of the year, a belated Shakespeare Festival, postponed so we could film in person together, and Jazz June! The location footage from Old Town creates the Wild West setting for our Shakespearean tale, a shared universe where Othello and King Lear's tragedies merge in an action packed plot, enhanced with stage design created in collaboration with engineering and art students! The composition students and our artist in Residence, Diego Rodriguez, who also worked with the Musical Theater group, wrote original score.



Jazz June will be held at 4pm on June 3, 2022 in the Walton Center. Students will be treated to the "dinner club" experience with dinner, live Jazz, performers, and in support of Pride month, a Drag Runway event within our "club" setting. Celebrating the birth of Jazz and its influence on contemporary culture is important to our shared history. We hope to create a memorable experience for our students as they culminate their 2021-202 school year!

Thank you to PTA for supporting our events, Mr. Rupert for indulging our designs, Mr. Rysberg for his tech assistance, Multicultural Club, front office staff, Admin, and most importantly, Manny and the night crew, Jose, Zuli, and Antonio, who are always helping us with everything!!! We could not do it without you. Have a great summer!

Music Events

By: Mercy Hwong, Music Teacher

Mark Your Calendar!



PAST MUSIC EVENTS



Mauricio Salas' performance at the Preuss Promise on April 22, 2022



Dr. Gabriela Fernandez's presentation on the Role of Music and the Environment on April 26, 2022

JMUN 2022 - Winners!

By: Ms. Boquiren & Ms. Esparza

Ms. Boquiren and Ms. Esparza are proud to announce that for the very first time Preuss took home the highest honor at the JMUN Conference: The Best High School Delegation Award!

Our students did an amazing job and we are so proud of them. We are also proud to announce that many of them won awards for their committees! We even got a gavel winner this year!

If you see the following students, please congratulate them!

1st - Aron Ekubaselase (Rapporteur and Outstanding

3rd - Darian Juarez (Outstanding) and Valerie Colin (Research)

4th - Stephanie Guerrero (Commendation)

IMO - Nathineal Getachew (Commendation)

WHO - Kenya (Outstanding) Fabian Garcia, Nate Coria and Mia Rodriguez (Research)

UNEP - Milki Neme (Outstanding) and Vincent Phan (Research)

UNDP - Sabrina Haji (Research)

UNESCO - Christian Juarez (Economic)

ECOSOC - Mahlet Mekasha (Gavel and Research)

Crisis - Ni Ni Tran (Research)

Thank you for your support this year with JMUN and we look forward to doing it again next year!

Ms. Boquiren & Ms. Esparza





Important Dates

May 2- May 18 Advanced Placement Testing May 21
General Parent Meeting and Parent Appreciation
Event
9:30am-11:00am

May 30 Memorial Day (No School)

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June 3
Last Middle School
Social of the year/ Field
Day Activity
2:36pm- 5:00pm

June 4
Mock Interview Session
for our Junior Class

June 6 - June 8 Senior Exhibitions 10:00am-4:00pm June 4
Saturday Enrichment
Academy
9:00am-11:00am

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June 10 – 15 Second Semester Final Exams

June 15 Final Exams Makeups June 16 8th Grade Celebration 10:00am-1:30pm June 16 Senior Class Graduation 4:00pm Manchester Field June 21-July 15 Summer School (Grade 9-12) 9:00am-1:30pm



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 School Main 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