

## JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021

### A Message from the School Executive Director Dr. Helen V. Griffith

Dear Preuss Families:

We have learned a lot since the COVID-19 pandemic hit and caused us to radically change the way we teach here at The Preuss School UC San Diego. Not least among the lessons has been a deeper appreciation for the advantages to bringing scholars and teachers together for in-person instruction.



That said, we were ready to implement Phase 1 of a plan starting January 22 that would return grade levels to campus for 1 day of instruction. In view of the worsening pandemic, however, and directives from the State Department of Education and the County Office of Education, I have determined that the best interests of The Preuss School community require that we delay implementation of the plan for now, and continue to teach scholars remotely at least through February 2021.

#### ***The Preuss Reopening Plan***

In December 2020, Governor Newsom released for California schools, a proposal to launch a reopening plan for grades TK-2\* in February, 2021. This plan includes the following four major components:

- 1) State Funding for schools in addition to the funds previously provided
- 2) Safety and Mitigation
  - a) Testing - Bi-weekly testing in Yellow/Orange counties; Weekly testing in Red/Purple counties
  - b) PPE - Distribution, and mandatory masking for all staff and students
  - c) Contact Tracing - Onboarding schools in the School Portal for Outbreak Tracking (SPOT) system
  - d) Vaccinations - Spring 2021 target to prioritize vaccinations for school staff
- 3) Oversight and Assistance from state and county agencies, and
- 4) Transparency and Accountability through the establishment of a dashboard designed to monitor progress statewide for all schools.

*\*To date, we are awaiting the state's proposed plan to reopen schools for grades 3 and up.*

Our faculty and staff, under the leadership of our administrators, have designed what we believe will be a safe Phase 1 reopening plan that best supports the instruction, culture, and the structures that help to realize the mission and vision of The Preuss School. In short, Phase 1 provided for bringing scholars back onto campus one day a week (Fridays) and one grade-level at a time (that is, all sixth graders one Friday, all ninth graders the next Friday, and so on).

## Message from Dr. Griffith Continued...

Input for our Phase 1 reopening plan has continued to include all stakeholder groups in order to arrive at the best decision possible. We have continued to follow local, state and federal pronouncements; considered the decisions of other Southern California school districts; and conferred with education professionals, public health experts, the Preuss School's teaching staff, and parents of Preuss scholars. We have also involved the leadership of the Preuss Board of Directors (and, in particular, the Finance Committee of the Board) in understanding the challenges and implications of various options available to us.

Further, we remain in consultation with UC San Diego partners Robert T. "Chip" Schooley, M.D. (Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health), Cheryl A.M. Anderson, PhD, MPH, MS (Professor and Founding Dean, School of Public Health), Natasha Martin, DPhil (Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health), Robert Neuhard (Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives) and his team, and most recently, the UC San Diego COVID Monitoring Team.

### ***Decision to Remain in Full Remote Learning and Delay January Phase 1 Reopening***

Notwithstanding our confidence that our reopening plan can and will, under the right circumstances, be a safe and effective way to bring scholars back to campus, I believe the following factors tip the balance in favor of delaying our Phase 1 reopening originally set to commence on January 22, 2021:

- The current worsening COVID-19 case count in San Diego County (particularly serious in the communities where most of our scholars live);
- The fact that San Diego county has been placed in the Purple tier;
- Mandates from the State of California, Department of Education (CDE) prohibiting new schools from opening in counties that are in the Purple tier;
- The CDE's proposed plan to re-open schools, grades TK-2 is suggested to occur in February, 2021;
- Concerns about repeated and sustained on campus exposure to potentially infectious per-

sons; and

- My desire, and my team's, to commit to an educational model that we know we can sustain through the end of the Spring semester.

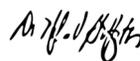
We take very seriously our role in leading an academic community that prides itself on being a model for others to follow with measurable results. We will continue to dedicate significant time and effort to constantly evaluate the implications of this decision and will work to make it possible to bring students back to campus, as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.

With these considerations in mind, our timeline has been adjusted as follows:

Jan. 4	Return from Holiday break & continue Remote Instruction
Jan. 4 - 29	Monitor State Briefings and Reopening Mandates, and UC San Diego and SDUSD Instructional Reopening Plans
Feb. 15 - 19	Update The Preuss School Reopening Plan
Mar. 5	Launch Phase 1 Reopening Plan if circumstances and then-current governmental restrictions permit

Thank you for the support of your scholar and The Preuss School community as we have navigated this time of uncertainty. I look forward to any comments you may have about our plan to delay reopening for the spring 2021 semester. We value the opportunity to work with you and your family to make this spring semester a success for the school and its scholars.

Yours in Service,



Dr. Helen V. Griffith  
Executive Director



### Thank you, Preuss!

Dear Preuss Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you all for welcoming me. It has only been a little over two months since I joined the team, and it has been a most pleasant experience.

I have had the opportunity virtually meet students on multiple occasions, including during UC Submit Days, clubs and other meetings. Each time, I was welcomed with kindness and enthusiasm. I am thoroughly impressed with our student body and thrilled to join Dr. Steitz, Dr. Griffith and the outstanding faculty in leading them into the future.

I have also had the chance to meet many parents at PTA and other meetings. Again, I was met with positivity and welcoming sentiments! Parent involvement is an integral part of student success, and we are grateful to have active parents like you.

I look forward to the time when we can all return to campus and engage with one another in person. Until then, please accept my gratitude for making my last sixty-plus days both memorable and delightful, and my promise to be dedicated to fulfilling our mission!

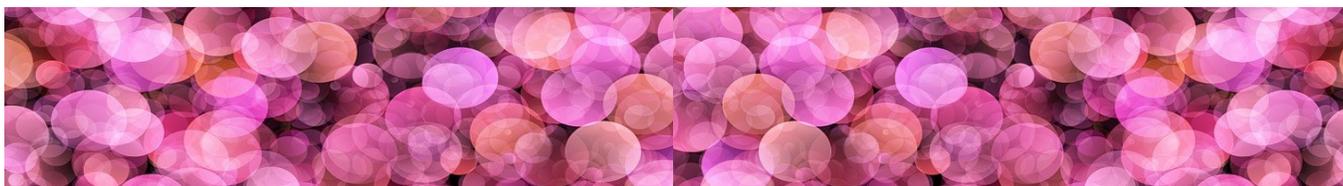
Best wishes,  
Nelika-Fai Watson  
Vice Principal

## A Note From Admissions Office

### Virtual Admissions Lottery

We would like to invite all families who submitted an application for the 2021 - 2022 school year to our virtual admissions lottery on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:30 pm. Here we will select students at random for enrollment. Anyone is welcome to attend and the link will be shared closer towards the date. After the event families will be notified via email if they received an admission offer or what number they are on the waiting list.

For any questions contact the Office of Admissions at [preussadmission@ucsd.edu](mailto:preussadmission@ucsd.edu) or 858-822-0408



## ATTENDANCE DURING COVID-19

Happy Start of the Second Semester!

I hope you and your family are settled in after the holidays. We understand that our students and families are facing challenging times during the ongoing pandemic, and we appreciate efforts being made by parents to promote good attendance. With a continuation of remote learning this semester, let's aim to continue with great attendance or to improve if your child has been experiencing difficulty with staying engaged.

In addition to the challenges of remote learning, this is the time of year when winter takes a toll on school attendance. We are now experiencing a different winter season with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting many people, along with the colds, fevers and earaches that often come with the winter months. Students who are not ill are expected to log-in and participate in their online classes.

Students affected by COVID-19 and cold/flu illness can present challenges to attending school. If the student must miss class, the student should contact their teachers and work out a plan to complete assignments that may count as having attended the class. If your child cannot attend a full day of school due to an illness, we require parents to notify the attendance office and provide a doctor's note to excuse the absence. Missed class periods can be excused

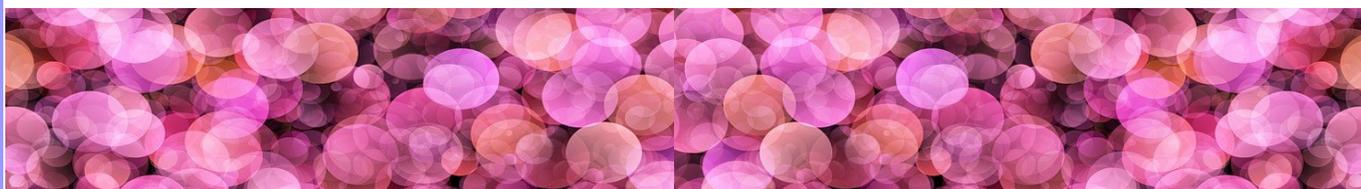


if a parent or guardian calls the attendance office with a valid reason. *As per policy, the student cannot report absences, only a parent or guardian can excuse an absence.*

Let us know how we can help. Our teachers and counselors are making every effort possible to ensure they are reaching out to students, particularly when they miss instructional learning time. We want your children and all our students to succeed. And that means attending school every day possible. If your child is ill and will not attend school, please report the absence to the Attendance line (858) 822-0311 or send e-mail [pavillanueva@ucsd.edu](mailto:pavillanueva@ucsd.edu).

I wish you all a great semester ahead!

Patricia Villanueva  
Attendance and Transportation Coordinator



## *Whispers from the Library*

**Welcome to 2021!** Unfortunately, we still have not been able to see your students' wonderful faces up in the library. We continue to miss all the hustle and bustle taking place each and every day in our library.

We checked out many laptops, chrome books and hotspots. Your students are responsible for the care of these devices. Intentional damage will result in fines added to their library account. It is very important to contact [tech@preuss.ucsd.edu](mailto:tech@preuss.ucsd.edu) if any problems arise.

**THE PREUSS SCHOLAR SUPPORT MOBILE** (bookmobile) will continue the last week of every month until we return to learn. The schedule is announced via Parent Square and through student advisory classes every month. We are at four different locations in the community (See below). Students will be able to use the Destiny Catalog to request books. We will check the book/s out to the student and deliver via the Support Mobile. The student will then come to pick up the book. Loan periods have been extended to one month.

[The Bookmobile Flyer](#) (click on linked text)



<b>Monday:</b> Balboa	4255 Mt. Abernathy Ave, San Die-
<b>Tuesday:</b> City Heights	3795 Fairmount Ave. San Diego, CA 92105
<b>Wednesday:</b> Linda Vista	2160 Ulric St. San Diego, CA 92111
<b>Thursday:</b> Valencia	5148 Market St. San Diego, CA 92114

Library notices are sent via email the week before the bookmobile goes out. Notices will inform the students what materials are due by the end of the month and what materials are already late. The notice will let the student know what materials need to be returned to the upcoming Support Mobile.

No fines were added during the closure from March 16, 2020 until our first bookmobile outing in September. The only fines your student might have would be any lost books or fines that were on their account before our closure in March and on any late books since September. Students may return books via the bookmobile or email [librarians@preuss.ucsd.edu](mailto:librarians@preuss.ucsd.edu) to let us know to renew any materials if they cannot make the scheduled bookmobile locations. Students are notified of this option in every library notice that is emailed out. Students will be able to pay fines or volunteer once return to on campus learning.

Online library information is on the Preuss School website. Check us out under Campus Life > Library. We have links to our databases, the school catalog, the DCP and Sora by Overdrive (our ebook collection site). Students are also able to access eBooks by downloading the SORA APP on their phone and using their student ID number to login.

Keep Reading,  
Ms. Nance and Ms. Gonzalez  
[librarians@preuss.ucsd.edu](mailto:librarians@preuss.ucsd.edu)

# Alumni/Sensei Day

By Jacqueline Azize-Brewer, Ph.D.  
Alumni & External Relations Specialist

The afternoon of Friday, December 18, 2020 The Preuss School UC San Diego held its **2020 Alumni/Sensei Day**. We were pleased to have over 25 Preuss Alumni from many different graduating classes join us via Zoom for the afternoon. Each grade level was “visited” by Alumni who rotated between two Grade Levels.

Alumni shared with current scholars their experience while at Preuss and after graduating from the school. In addition, they answered scholars’ questions and provided their advice on life after Preuss, including college life and choosing a major, graduate school, their current career, etc. It was a very interactive afternoon full of great advice.

We are grateful to our Alumni for coming back and “paying it forward” by sharing their experiences with current Scholars.

**If you are an Alumn/Alumna from Preuss, please contact me. I want to hear from you!**

I can be reached via e-mail at [preussalumni@ucsd.edu](mailto:preussalumni@ucsd.edu) or 858-822-0020 (leave a voice mail). If you know any Alumni from Preuss, please pass my message along to them (thank you!). We want to keep in touch with you/ Alumni, no matter how long ago you graduated! You have a wealth of experience and knowledge to share with Preuss Scholars who are currently where you were before. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Ms. Jacquie

## UPCOMING PARENT MEETINGS

**Parents please join us and participate in our PTA meetings. The Zoom IDs will be sent via a post on ParentSquare before the meeting dates. Please look for that information in your communications from ParentSquare.**

### **Via Zoom Webinar:**

**PTA General Meeting from 9:30 – 11:00 am \***

January 23, 2021  
February 20, 2021  
March 20, 2021 (PTA Elections)

### **Via Zoom Meeting:**

**PTA Executive Board Meetings from 5:30 – 7:00 pm \***

February 2, 2021  
March 2, 2021  
April 6, 2021

*Save  
The Date*



## A Note from the School Family Support Specialist, Amanda Torre

Welcome to 2021!

During the month of February, we will be focusing on raising awareness for healthy relationships, as February is national Teen Dating Violence Awareness month. We will have a domestic violence education and prevention specialist from the Community Resource Center present to our student about healthy friendships/relationships, boundaries, and communication during advisory class.

I am happy to share that we will begin providing food through the Preuss Support Mobile beginning January 2021. If you are in need of food at home, please do not hesitate to stop by the Support Mobile when it is in the community . See the Preuss School website for dates, times, and locations for the Support Mobile.

As a reminder, Community Groups are available for students to engage and socialize online during lunch time each week. Please see flyer for details.

**Preuss Weekly Community Groups**

Feeling a little isolated? Feeling a little lonely? Want a place to talk? You are not alone. Join us for some quality time. All meetings on zoom. Meeting ID: **596 023 5272**  
For questions contact Ms. Torre [a1torre@ucsd.edu](mailto:a1torre@ucsd.edu)

**Middle School Girls**  
**Tuesdays**  
**11:20-11:50pm (Lunch)**

**High School Girls**  
**Tuesdays**  
**11:50-12:20pm (Lunch)**

**Middle School Boys**  
**Wednesdays**  
**11:20-11:50 (Lunch)**

**High School Boys**  
**Wednesdays**  
**11:50-12:20 (Lunch)**

# Student Services & Counseling Department

January & February 2021

Dear Preuss Families,

Welcome to the new semester! Please encourage your student to continue to work hard on their academics but to also incorporate self-care. In addition to guidance counseling, other mental health services are available for students and families who may need them. Contact your student's counselor for more information.

**Ms. Erin Patrick**

School Counselor, Grades 6 & 7, 12 Go-Pen  
[empatrick@ucsd.edu](mailto:empatrick@ucsd.edu)

**Ms. Brittany Oka**

School Counselor, Grades 8 & 9, 12 A-Gh  
[boka@ucsd.edu](mailto:boka@ucsd.edu)

**Ms. Ruthie Hernandez**

School Counselor, Grades 10 & 11, 12 Per-Z  
[ruthieh@ucsd.edu](mailto:ruthieh@ucsd.edu)

**Ms. Yazmin Ghonaim**

School Psychologist  
[yghonaim@ucsd.edu](mailto:yghonaim@ucsd.edu)

**Dr. Ori Lidor**

Clinical Psychologist  
[olidor@ucsd.edu](mailto:olidor@ucsd.edu)

**Ms. Amanda Torre**

Family Support Specialist & Homeless Coordinator  
[a1torre@ucsd.edu](mailto:a1torre@ucsd.edu)

**Ms. Paty Macedo**

Registrar  
[preussregistrar@ucsd.edu](mailto:preussregistrar@ucsd.edu)

## Wellness Wednesday

The school counselors and Preuss staff realize that the mental and emotional wellness of students is of the highest importance. For this reason, each week of the school year we will post a Wellness Wednesday Newsletter for students. The newsletter will include a wellness quote, a wellness tip or resource, and a Kindness Challenge. Here is the latest issue of Wellness Wednesday: 1/13:

<https://www.smores.com/wt3gc>, 1/20:  
<https://www.smores.com/zvy8t>, 12/16:  
<https://www.smores.com/k9zdc>

## 1st Semester Grades:

Schedule an Appointment with your Student's School Counselor

If your student received 3 or more D/F grades, we encourage you to schedule an appointment with your student's school counselor if you need additional support to get your student on track. Use the links below to schedule a phone or Zoom appointment during a time/date that works best for your schedule. Counselors are available Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm.

- **Ms. Oka (Grades 8-9, 12 with last name A-Gh):** (858) 951-7516 or <https://calendly.com/msoka>
- **Ms. Patrick (Grades 6-7, 12 with last name Go-Pen):** (858) 737-8482 or <https://calendly.com/mspatrick>
- **Ms. Hernandez (Grades 10-11, 12 with last name Per-Z):** (858) 737-8482 or <https://calendly.com/r-her>

## Middle School Counseling Announcements

Check out the latest presentation by our school counselors - [Social Media & Online Safety](#) and [Coping with Anxiety During COVID-19](#).

If you need additional support please contact the Middle School counselors directly:

[Ms. Patrick \(Grade 6-7\)](#) or [Ms. Oka \(Grade 8\)](#)

## High School Counseling Announcements

**9th Grade Parent Zoom Assembly - Spring Semester Reset**

Parents of 9th grade students that were unable to successfully pass courses this semester will be invited to attend a mandatory Spring Semester Reset presentation held by Ms. Oka. If your student received 3 or more D/F grades during the semester, please save the date - Thursday, January 28 at 5:30pm. More information will be sent via ParentSquare.

## Reminders/Upcoming Holidays

Friday, February 12, 2021 - Lincoln Day Observance (No School)

Monday, February 15, 2021 - Washington Day Observance (No School)

# Yale Model United Nations XLVII

By Chellyn Boquiren  
History Teacher  
The Preuss School UC San Diego

I'm proud to announce that later this week, **11** Preuss students will participate in the Yale MUN Conference. The event is virtual, and most events should not conflict with students' classes. I've linked the schedule for the conference which is from Thursday, January 21st to Sunday, January, 24th. You should be hearing from these students if they are in your classes. Please let me know if you have any concerns about students on the list.

Delegate Name	Delegation/Committee	Position
Agnes Agoh	The Preus NATO	Ethiopia
Alex Tep	The Preus DISEC	Myanmar
America Marin	The Preus SOCHUM	Indonesia
Anthony Sapp	The Preus CND	United States of America
Christian Garcia	The Preus HR Council	Peru
Emily Jasso	The Preus WHO	Nicaragua
Havaa Bahreidin	The Preus African Union (AU)	Namibia
Muhamed Mohamed	The Preus UNEP	Myanmar
Nicole Tran	The Preus NATO	Vietnam
Angela Perez	The Preus CND	Iceland
William Wong	The Preus UNEP	Mexico

This is our first time participating in YMUN. Nicole Tran and William Wong were instrumental in applying for a scholarship to waive the conference fees for our group. The students are a wonderful cross-section of Preuss; there are 9th-12th graders in the group, first time members, and veterans.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AZH9ctKkhr6S3AyZc7gb4vM9gOQBSPKyQGRuIQBPIUE/edit?usp=sharing>

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration Period - <u>Preuss Student don't need to go</u>
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	New & Advanced Delegate Training
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	International Schools Reception
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Opening Ceremony - <u>Preuss student start here</u>
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<u>Committee Session I - ALL STUDENT MUST BE PRESENT!</u>

FRIDAY 01/22 - Email your A-Day teachers about missing class for YMUN\*

Time	Event
7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Yale Day - optional
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Committee Session II -
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Dinner Break
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Committee Session III

## YMUN Schedule in PST

**Yale Model United Nations XLVII Schedule of Events \*All times in PST THURSDAY 01/21 - Preuss Students still need to attend their classes!\* Time Event 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration Period - Preuss Student don't need to go 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. New & Advanced Delegate Training 3...**

[docs.google.com](https://docs.google.com)

## Preuss Choir/ Honor Choir News

Preuss Insight Newsletter: January/February, 2021 By Dr. Mercy Hwong.

Three choir and honor choir students' performances were spotlighted at the December PTA meeting. They are Nova Solan (9<sup>th</sup> grade) performed Last Christmas by Wham, Angie Solis (10<sup>th</sup> grade) performed Noche De Paz, Xiomara Olivares performed El Nino Del Tambor Sang and Helen Trinh (12<sup>th</sup> grade) performed That Christmas Feeling.

The Tri-M Music Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society, and National Honor Society hosted a holiday event on December 18, 2020. There were 130 Preuss students, faculty, and parents attending the event. Congratulations to all the students who participated in this event. The event covered the presentations of the holiday celebrations from different cultures such as the sacred and secular Christmas songs, the celebrations of the Kwanza, Latin American culture and celebrations, Hanukkah celebrations from the Jewish community, and Lunar new year celebrations from the Asian commu-

Celebration of Kwanza

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/10PIOYCaKXGClsvAyOmLI2q\\_WL6a-RS\\_w/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10PIOYCaKXGClsvAyOmLI2q_WL6a-RS_w/view?usp=sharing)

Blanca Navidad by Irving Berlin

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1om-ZnaDN7RXG5gKuZta4GmohMMj-6-RS/view?usp=sharing>

Chinese Happy New Year Song

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1om-ZnaDN7RXG5gKuZta4GmohMMj-6-RS/view?usp=sharing>

Xiomara Olivares singing EL Nino Del Tambor Sang

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HPaIqNJv1rlrj9uW7WVS6BxY589G1HH3/view?usp=sharing>

Mozart's Sleigh Ride

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZQn82My9zeqD8NSkYJ3IKSXeAjV7nJ2i/view?usp=sharing>

Hanukkah Song

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14p-V3mfrUk0aGoRDKpTPfMpKhqJW1-hE/view?usp=sharing>

Students Spotlighted at the December PTA Meeting.



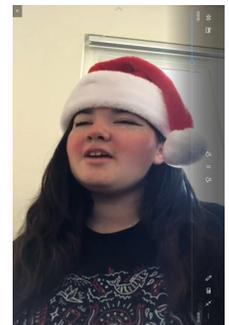
Helen Trinh (12th)



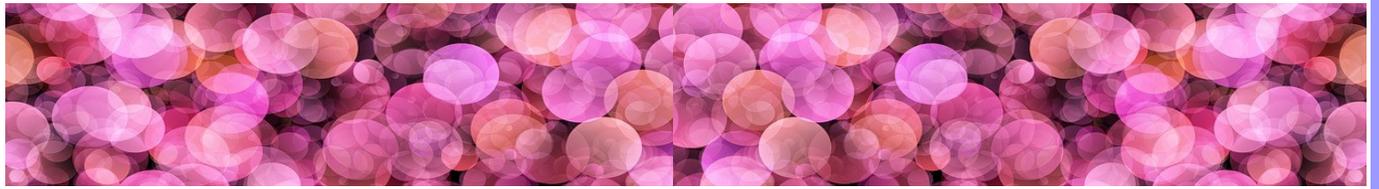
Xiomara Olivares (11th)



Angie Solis (10th grade)



Nova Solan (9th grade)



# Preuss Studio Static...

Preuss Studio Static Updates: January 2021

By Tamima Noorzay

Arts Educator

Preuss artists finished first semester strong, creating artworks based upon collaborations with our community partners! Studio I & II artists working with Baltimore artist Jay Schlossberg Cohen submitted their collages to the artist who will begin designing our mural which we plan to paint in the late spring on campus, if restrictions lift. He will incorporate part of each artist's work to create a new narrative that will tell the collective story of our students. Some Studio I & II artists participated in the national #USVSHATE design contest which is currently collecting votes on submissions to determine the winners. Upper division students were able to complete diverse interpretations about climate change as inspired by their remote field trip, provided by ArtsbusXpress. We are so appreciative of our community partners for their generosity and support in order to provide such rich and profound opportunities for our Preuss artists.

Finally, we are proud to announce two artists who were winners in the national Youth Art Month contest, San Diego: Claudette Diaz (8th) and Isabel Gallegos (12th)! They represent Preuss excellence as artist scholars to all of San Diego and beyond.



# Important Dates

**January 23**

General Parent Meeting:  
9:30-11:00am.

**January 27**

Semester Final Report  
Cards Mailed Home to  
Parents.

**February 2**

PTA Executive Board  
Meeting: 5:30pm-6:30pm.

**February 6**

Saturday Enrichment  
Academy: 9:00-11:00am.  
General SEA Link:  
<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/98567143458>

**February 8–9**

Boyd Anderson will  
photograph all seniors from  
8:00am–4:00pm.

**February 12**

Lincoln's Birthday. \*NO  
SCHOOL.

**February 15**

Washington's Birthday.  
\*NO SCHOOL.

**February 20**

General Parent Meeting:  
9:30-11:00am.

**February 22**

School Admissions Lottery:  
5:30pm.

**February 27**

Saturday Enrichment  
Academy: 9:00-11:00am.  
General SEA Link:  
<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/98567143458>

Visit us on our Website:

<http://preuss.ucsd.edu>

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](mailto:pavillanueva@ucsd.edu)

(858) 822-0408

Admissions  
[preussadmission@ucsd.edu](mailto:preussadmission@ucsd.edu)

(858) 822-2525

Registrar  
[preussregistrar@ucsd.edu](mailto:preussregistrar@ucsd.edu)

2021

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YOU DON'T WANT  
TO FORGET AN  
UNFORGETTABLE  
YEAR

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