

THE PREUSS SCHOOL UC SAN DIEGO

Insight Newsletter

Spring Edition
(Mar-Apr 2025)

Dear Preuss Scholars, Families, and Community!

As we enter the final stretch of the 2024–2025 academic year, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible effort, resilience, and growth our scholars have demonstrated. Spring is a season of reflection and celebration, and I'm excited to share key updates on testing, 8th-grade promotion, graduation, and senior milestones.

Our scholars are deep into testing season, and I commend their focus and determination. Here's a snapshot of key upcoming assessments:

- **CAASPP Testing:** Scheduled for April 29–30, with make-up sessions on May 2, affecting grades 6, 7, 8, and 11.
- **AP Exams:** Running from May 5–16, including subjects like Biology, U.S. Government, English Literature, and U.S. History.
- **Final Exams:** Second-semester finals are set for June 9–13.

Please ensure scholars get ample rest and arrive on time, especially on May 9 and 16, which are Late Start Fridays. Scholars scheduled for AP tests on these days should report at the designated testing time.

To our Class of 2025—your journey is nearing a remarkable milestone. We are thrilled to celebrate your achievements:

- **Graduation Ceremony:** Tuesday, June 17, at the Epstein Family Amphitheater.
- **Senior Exhibition:** As part of the Senior Wheel course, seniors will present their internships, research papers, and service-learning projects.
- **Senior Activities:** Details on additional senior events will be shared soon.

We look forward to honoring each of you as you step into the next chapter of your lives.

Our 8th graders are preparing to transition into high school—a significant step in their academic journey. The 8th Grade Exhibition is scheduled for June 17, coinciding with the last day of scholar attendance.

Mark your calendars for the Spring Learning Showcase on Thursday, May 22, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. This event will showcase the projects and achievements of our 6th-, 7th-, 9th-, 10th-, and 11th-grade scholars. Students will have the opportunity to change into professional dress from 4:00–5:00 PM.

As we approach the end of the school year, let's continue to embody the Preuss values of **Kindness, Respect, and Excellence**. Your hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed, and I am incredibly proud of each of you.

With appreciation and anticipation,
Dr. Matthew Steitz
Principal, The Preuss School UC San Diego

Attendance Notices

Dear Parents and Guardians of our
Esteemed Scholars,

As we are approaching the end of the year, I would like to gently remind everyone to make sure that all vacations are planned outside of the regularly-scheduled academic days.

We have lots of testing, final projects, and events coming up, so we ask that you continue to support us by sending your scholars to school every day and on time.

We are continuing to reward our scholars with perfect monthly attendance with a grocery gift card raffle and with advisory pizza parties! Thank you for your hand in helping our students to maintain good attendance.

Sincerely,
Allie Lee
Attendance and Transportation Coordinator

PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARD RAFFLE WINNERS!



Andre Yeargin, 7th grade
December Winner



Sarah Tang, 9th grade
January Winner



Ashley Morales, 7th grade
February Winner



Mahad Hassan, 11th grade
March Winner

CONTACT US:

(858) 822-0311 (attendance), (858) 822-3000 (main line); attendance@preuss.ucsd.edu

Student Services and Counseling Department

Dear Preuss Families,

The Counseling team has had a busy college season and is excited for the upcoming Graduation! As summer approaches we hope you all have a great end of the 2024-2025 School year and a wonderful Summer break!

Black Student Summit



Preuss middle schoolers attended the 3rd Annual San Diego County of Office Education Black Student Summit. Approximately 300 middle school students from across the county came together to attend workshops on college preparation, leadership, black empowerment, building resilience, bullying prevention, and more. The event theme was: Our Voice, Our Power, Our Future - The Future We Create, The Legacy We Leave. This was an opportunity to promote excellence in education, culture, empowerment, values, and purpose for our middle school students.

Transformative Social and Emotional Learning Symposium

The High School Peer Counselors, along with Ms. Patrick, Mr. Carr and Ms. De La Rosa, attended the SDCOE and CalHope's Annual TSEL Symposium on March 5th to learn how to better help establish and maintain supportive relationships, enhance their empathy skills and learn how to develop responsible decisions at the Preuss School.



Upcoming Events

- AP Testing (May 5- May 16)
- Graduation and 8th Grade Exhibition (June 17)
- Summer School (June 23-July 11)

Summer School

Dates: June 23-July 11 Hours 9am-3pm

The end of the year is swiftly approaching and so is Summer School. You should have received a notice if your scholar needs to attend summer school. Summer School is for credit recovery only. If your student does not come to summer school and receives a permission slip they risk not being 4 year college eligible or able to graduate at the end of their senior year. Contact your school counselor with any questions.

Bridge for Kids

A Bridge for Kids awarded their 1000th sponsorship to our 9th grade scholar, Cougar Roberts. A Bridge for kids is committed to nurturing the development of teenagers into prosperous adults through a range of programs.



These include tutoring, career discovery, internships, preparedness programs, access to technology, wellness initiatives, financial sponsorships, and other programs aimed at teaching life skills.

Know Your Rights Presentation from UCSD

UCSD Undocumented Student Services presented to the entire Preuss community. If you want to learn more about your rights, ask your scholar for a copy of the slides!



March and April 2025

<https://preuss.ucsd.edu/counseling/index.html>

PTA ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Happy Spring, Preuss Community!

The end of the academic year always has many events in store. We were happy to see so many of our families on campus last Saturday during the Multicultural Festival! The Black Student Union, La Glora Latina, and Dreamers Club put on wonderful performances showcasing their culture. A special thank you to everyone who donated items for this event, especially the delicious food!

The PTA recently had their 2025-2026 Board Elections, and the results have been finalized. Please congratulate the following parents:

- President - Lizbeth Garcia
- Treasurer - Darlynn Nebril-Butcher
- Membership Committee Chair - Selamawit Tessema
- Volunteer Recruitment Committee Chair - Haimanot Zerihun
- Interim Fundraiser Committee Chair - Daniel Perez
- **Secretary - VACANT.**
 - **If you are interested in the position, please reach out to the PTA or Ms. Muños for additional information!**

Keep an eye on ParentSquare for additional information regarding the following volunteer opportunities!

- Dinner Sales for Spring Learning Showcase - May 22, 2025
- Faculty and Staff Appreciation Breakfast - May 30, 2025
- Commencement - June 17, 2025

Thank you for your continued support!

Vanessa Muños

Preussvolunteer@ucsd.edu | 858-822-0020

NEW STAFF ALERT!



Sade Shepherd,
Interim Executive Assistant

Sade Shepherd was born in Chicago, raised in Northwest Indiana and became an official San Diegan in 2024. She is passionate about creative writing, world building and story-telling; and, she recently developed a love for physics thanks to her science-loving boyfriend. Sade's overarching goal in life is to make the world a better place by empowering those in need to Do Great Things and reach their dreams.

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Yearbook
LAST PRE-SALE

6/1/25, 6/2/25
6/29/25, 6/30/25

DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL
LUNCH & HIGH SCHOOL
LUNCH **IN** FRONT OF WALTON
CENTER

Full payment: \$40
Down Payment: \$10

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ARC NEWS



With the end of the year rapidly approaching, Arc has been focusing on events and field trips to liven up the final few months of the school year. In the month of April, we held two kayaking trips to Mission Bay for our students. The students met with our adventure department and spent a few hours splashing around the beach and kayaking on the bay with a partner. Arc also had a small egg hunt around the Preuss campus. The eggs were filled with candy, prize tickets and other small trinkets. The students in Arc are looking forward to a strong finish to the school year, with many more activities on the way.

Whispers From the Library

We will host our Scholastic BOGO book fair the week of May 19th through May 23rd. We will also be open after school for Spring Learning Showcase. All items on the fair are buy one get one free. More information will be sent via Parent Square on how to set up online payment for your students, if you so wish.

Summer Reading is near!!

Opportunities:

1. Sora Sweet Reads May 12th-August 25th We also have eBooks available for all students through Sora Download the Sora app on your phone or go to soraapp.com and use your school ID to login
2. Free access to eBooks through Open eBooks
3. San Diego Public Library Summer Reading Program begins June 1st. We will have librarians here from the North University Community branch during MS and HS lunch in June 5 to sign students up for the program.

It will soon be time for students to return all materials. All computers, chargers and hotspots will also be collected. Each student is responsible for returning all items checked out under their name.

- *All library books are due by Friday, June 6th*
- *All textbooks are due by Monday, June 16th. Textbooks may be turned in early, if no longer needed for class*
- *All 6th and 8th graders must keep their Wordly Wise workbook for the next school year. If they lose it they will have to buy a new one next school year. The cost is \$13.00*
- *All chrome books, laptops, chargers and hotspots will also be collected by Monday, June 16th. All devices must be updated over the summer. If your student is in summer school we will check out a device on the first day of summer school.*

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 to make a note so the student is not held responsible for the damage. **We will be charging students at least \$5.00 if the damage is beyond the normal wear and tear.** Students must 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 May 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.

**Keep Reading,
Ms. Nance and Ms. Gonzalez
librarians@preuss.ucsd.edu**

6th Grade STEM Field Trip!

On March 18, the Class of 2031 visited Ringer's Roller Rink for a STEM field trip! The 6th graders had to think like engineers to brainstorm, design, and build balloon-powered roller skates. They were each tasked with making their skate travel 5 feet on balloon power with only the supplies given. They had chances to test their design, re-design, and complete their mission. After the experiment and competition of whose balloon travelled the farthest, students enjoyed roller skating time! Many of them improved their skating skills so much throughout the hour-skate session and had a lot of fun. All 6th graders also received a free admission pass to Ringer's Roller Rink to return for another day of skating with their family.



San Diego Regional Science Olympiad



Pictured in team photo (left to right): Suvan Shrestha (11th), Andrew Vo (12th), Kevin Giang (12th), Yvonne Yu (UCSD volunteer coach), Christian Juarez (12th), Bens Tran (12th), Vincent Phan (12th), Caleb Pak (UCSD volunteer coach), Natan Fessehaye (12th), Vahid Asgharzadeh-Fozi (Team Advisor / Head Coach), Dipankar Shakya (12th), Andy Diep (12th), Steve Du (UCSD volunteer coach), Hoang Le (12th), Andy Phan (12th), Ivy Khuu (12th), Dr. Matthew Steitz (Principal), Bella Dinh (11th), Travis Pham (12th), Daniella Perez (11th)



Seniors Ivy Khuu and Andy Phan fill a bucket with sand, placing a heavy load on their wooden structure in the Towers event.

On Saturday, March 15 Preuss students competed at the San Diego Regional Science Olympiad. Students worked in teams to complete a series of events that tested their scientific knowledge and engineering skills. In the popular Towers event, students designed and built wooden structures that were tested for their ability to hold weight while staying light. In the Codebusters event, students decoded scrambled messages using a variety of ciphers, while in the Forensics event students solved an imaginary crime using chemistry and physics. Other students competed in events related to air-powered projectile launchers, writing scientific procedures, working with laser optics, building robotic vehicles, and learning about diseases and anatomy.



Dipankar Shakya (12) and Andy Diep (12) with their air-powered ping pong ball launcher.

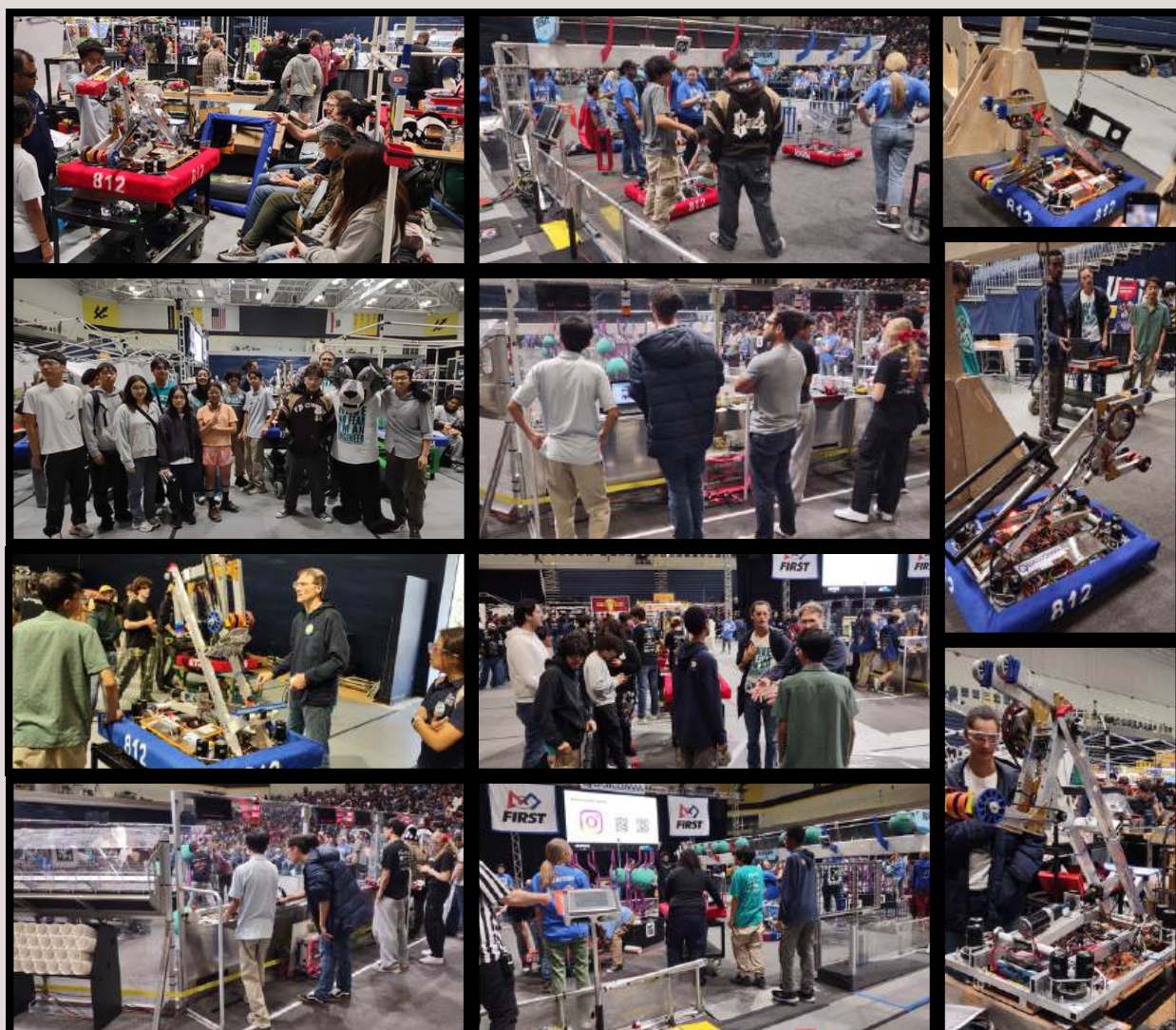


Noah Boulter (10) proudly shows off the robotic vehicle he built and programmed.

MIDNIGHT MECHANICS!



Preuss Robotics (Team 812, The Midnight Mechanics) competed in the FIRST Robotics Regional competition on UC San Diego campus on March 21-23, 2025. High school students, with the support of mentors, spent around six weeks designing and building a robot to compete against other schools at the regional competition in the Liontree Arena in a two day tournament format. The Midnight Mechanics displayed strong driving skills and teamwork over the two days of competition, and placed 21st out of 51 teams. Thank you to all the mentors, school personnel who supported The Midnight Mechanics this season!



Joining a Swift Moving Current

BY JON HOST, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

When I joined our school community earlier this year as incoming Chief Administrative Officer, I felt like I was jumping into a swift-moving current. The work of the school was already underway—students learning, teachers teaching, systems humming along...

Jumping in midstream meant figuring things out quickly, listening carefully, and learning the unique rhythms of a team already in stride. I have ridden the current and tried my best to keep my head above water! To be honest it has been exciting, daunting, and at times overwhelming.

The experience of joining a well-established community has given me a deeper empathy for our scholars—especially those who are new to our school or who are still trying to find where they belong. Whether you're a 6th Grader entering into an advisory classroom for the first time, a high school student transferring midyear, or even a returning student looking for deeper connection, it's not always easy to find your way in a space that's already in motion.

I recently had the chance to speak with Ms. Maria Gonzalez, one of our amazing school librarians. She shared with me about how she saw a need for scholars who were new to the school to have a safe space to go during lunch, so she created a club that gave them responsibilities in the library and an opportunity to connect socially with others. What a wonderfully inclusive way to create a sense of belonging!

Our school is full of movement. And that's a good thing—it means we are alive, growing, striving, attaining. But in all that motion, it's important we remember to look around and make room for each other. Small gestures—an invitation to join a group, a warm greeting, an extra bit of patience—can make all the difference in helping someone feel seen and valued. The current doesn't have to sweep people away; it can carry us together-- if we're intentional.

I'm so grateful for the many people who have made space for me, who have shared their time and insights, and who continue to help me feel like part of this dynamic and caring school. Let's all continue to extend that same welcoming grace to each other.

We **all** belong here—and we all play a part in making sure others know they do, too.