

Words from the Principal

by Dr. Steitz

To the Preuss School UC San Diego Learning Community,

As we transition from the chill of winter to the promising warmth of spring, I reflect on the quarter that has passed and the new beginnings that lie ahead.

The close of winter brought some challenging news – the loss of a scholar from our community. This has been a moment of profound sadness, a stark reminder of the fragility of life. Yet, it has also highlighted the strength found in our collective support and compassion. We honor their memory by pursuing excellence in all we do, embodying the values and aspirations they shared with us. This resilience is a testament to the strength and unity of our community. As we welcome the rejuvenating energy of spring, our campus vibrates with the buzz of athletic and academic vigor. Our boys and girls Lacrosse teams and our track and field athletes are in the heat of competition, showcasing the resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship that define Preuss scholars. On March 16th, our Model United Nations exemplified leadership and diplomatic acumen by hosting a conference with our neighbors, La Jolla Country Day, further cementing our status as a community that fosters global awareness and cooperation.

In the realm of science and technology, our Science Olympiad scholars have once again demonstrated their ingenuity and hard work at the University of San Diego. Their achievements, which speak volumes about the passion and dedication that thrive within our community, are a source of pride and inspiration for us all. We also eagerly anticipate the upcoming competitions for our Robotics team later this month, confident that they will represent Preuss with honor and innovation.

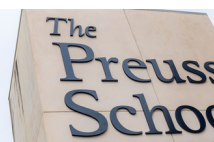
Amid these exhilarating activities, our seniors are on the cusp of a major life transition. College application results are beginning to arrive, marking the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance, and dreams. Each notification is a step toward new horizons, and we are in awe of our scholars' potential.

As the school year advances, we also gear up for the rigor of Advanced Placement Exams and State Testing. These are not merely assessments, but milestones in our scholars' academic journey, opportunities to demonstrate the depth of their knowledge and the breadth of their critical thinking skills.

In these moments of reflection and anticipation, I am reminded of the unique spirit that animates The Preuss School UC San Diego. It is a community bound not just by academic achievement, but by a shared commitment to nurturing compassionate, curious, and resilient individuals. As we move forward, let us embrace both the challenges and triumphs that come our way, knowing that together, we are building a brighter future.

With warmest regards,

Dr. Matthew Steitz
Principal, The Preuss School UC San Diego



NOTES FROM ATTENDANCE

Dear Parents,

The second semester is now upon us, and I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the value of daily attendance for student learning.

As a reminder we ask parents to plan time off from school in accordance with our school calendar. We urge students and families to avoid absences before and after the scheduled breaks. The next long vacation is Summer Break, so please ensure that you plan your travel after the last day of school, June 17th.

Regular attendance is critical to a student's success in school. Students who are frequently absent miss social interaction and direct instruction from teachers, even if written assignments can be made up.

As long as your child is healthy, please support the school by sending your student to attend class. If your child is struggling and needs support, please reach out to our nurse and counselors who can provide you with resources to better support your family. At the Preuss School, we are all committed to help your child learn, thrive, and succeed. Thank you for your support. Please reach out for any questions or concerns regarding attendance.

Sincerely,

Allison Lee, *Interim Attendance and Transportation Coordinator*

Verification of Absences

Parents are required to verify an absence by calling or sending a note to the attendance office in order to validate the reason for the student's absence. You can report your child's absence to Ms. Allie Lee at (858) 822-0311 or e-mail to attendance@preuss.ucsd.edu. If you verify an absence through ParentSquare, please make sure you clear the absence on the day the student missed school.

Parents may call to verify a child's absence up to 72 hours after the child has been absent. Absences that are not verified will be considered unexcused absences. After our attendance month accounting cycle closes, unexcused absences due to no verification cannot be changed.

Attendance Challenge

The School Attendance Challenge Program is a new positive enforcement strategy to encourage students to attend school regularly through a monthly competition between all grade levels. The class with the highest attendance will be recognized and rewarded with an ice cream social sponsored by the PTA. Our objective is to raise awareness of the importance of regular school attendance and to support student's efforts in attending school every day. Regular attendance puts students on a path to success at the Preuss School. The ultimate attendance goal is to achieve an overall attendance rate of 97% or higher and encourage students to attend school regularly. Please help us to achieve this goal. Your child's class may be the winner!

STUDENT SERVICES AND COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Spring 2024

Dear Preuss Families,

We are about half way through the 2nd semester! Please encourage your student to continue to work hard on their academics but to also incorporate self-care. The counselors have a coloring wall for students to take a break and breathe. It has been a great way for them to calm down and focus during a stressful time!



Sophomores and Junior Counselor Academic Meetings:

Counselors have been meeting with sophomores and juniors, to discuss their grades, transcripts, top college choices and personal strengths. A small handful will need to attend summer school to graduate on time, please check in with your students' counselor if you are unsure if they need to attend summer school.

Next year classes!

Counselors are wrapping up course selection, and helping students plan their schedule for next year. Some exciting new courses that will be offered next school year will be Broadcast Journalism AND AP Computer Science A & Principles.

Upcoming Events

- Spring Break: April 1-5
- Saturday Enrichment Academy: April 20th, May 4 & 18, and June 8
- Progress report: May 6, 2024







Social Worker Appreciation Month

March is dedicated to Social Workers. We want to say thank you and express our appreciation to our Family Support Specialists.

M4 Progress Report:

We want to celebrate everyone for completing their 1st semester this school year! If you received a letter in the mail notifying you about your scholar receiving a D or F on their report card. Use the QR codes or links below to schedule an appointment with your student's School Counselor. This will provide an opportunity to discuss additional support and a plan for success to get your student on track.

The Preuss School Counseling Department
UC San Diego
2023-2024

LAST NAME A-GE	LAST NAME GF-NG
Ms. Sara Silva s3silva@ucsd.edu (858) 822-2002 calendly.com/sarasilva-1	Ms. Allyson Cobbs acobbs@ucsd.edu (858) 822-0409 calendly.com/mscobbs
SCAN FOR APPT. 	SCAN FOR APPT. 
LAST NAME NH-Z	COLLEGE WORKFORCE COORDINATOR
Ms. Erin Patrick empatrick@ucsd.edu (858) 822-0996 calendly.com/mspatrick	Ms. Shaoni Bandy sbandy@ucsd.edu calendly.com/preussbandy
SCAN FOR APPT. 	SCAN FOR APPT. 

CLUBS AND EXTRACURRICULARS

Science Olympiad

by Vy Thai

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, the Preuss Science Olympiad Club competed in the San Diego Regional Competition at the University of San Diego. Across the campus of USD, teams competed in the Tower, Anatomy and Physiology, Disease Detectives, Codebusters, Scrambler, Write it Do it, Forensics, and Air Trajectory events. All teams averaged around the mid-range in rankings except for one Scrambler team consisting of Sandra Tran ('24) and Thong Truong ('24) who placed 7th out of around 20 schools, the highest rank out of all of the Preuss Science Olympiad teams this year. We'd like to express our great appreciation towards Sergio, Sarah, Nicole, Caleb, Steve, Annika, and Taylor for coaching our teams; this competition would not have been possible without their support. Overall, all Science Olympiad members had an amazing time collectively competing this year and can not wait to only advance forward the next competition season!



PREUSS STUDIO

STATIC

from the Visual and Performing Arts Department

Festival of the Arts

Our 9th Annual Festival of the Arts held on March 14, 2024 was an exceptional display of student talents in visual and performing arts!



From the portraits to the paintings, studio artists were highlighted for their unique artistic expressions. Art Club's fabulous Disney HOCO standees were also on display for those who could not attend HOCO or who just needed one more look before they are gone!



PREUSS STUDIO

STATIC *(continued)*



Student work from the Memory Project, Torrey Pines Plein Air Painting as well as graphite still lifes, distorted portraits and seascapes were all highlights of the evening.

Fashion Club had a runway and scenery designed by the Art Club giving the models their 4-Elements runway as they walked their themed looks.



Rock Band closed the evening out leaving everyone energized and inspired!

Junior Service Learning Projects in the Garden!

As a part of service learning on campus, many juniors are looking to beautify the campus and meet the needs of the community by adding more opportunities to bathe in nature. From the aromatherapy garden tradition started in 2022 by Ismerai Barragan to the repurposing of old file cabinets into planters, students have been inspired to participate in this initiative! Collaborative groups of juniors work together to find a need, reach out to advising professionals, research and design, budget and divide the work involved. Many students enjoy walking past the flowers and herbs in the garden but wish there was a sheltered place to sit, eat or read. One of the Junior Service Learning teams is building a picnic table and shade structure to provide an idyllic space to soak up the nature vibes. As butterflies glide from flower to flower, the scent of pink jasmine blossoms fill the air, birds chirp and the sun shines down, community members will find themselves rejuvenated and restored, ready to bring their best to the next opportunity and experience. Stay tuned for updated photos of our progress.



Poetic Nasturtiums



Indian Blanket



Lorax and Pink Jasmine



Lavenders



5 years of Methuselah Generations of Monarchs have been supported by these milkweeds!



Future site of shade structure and bench with file cabinet planter in the background:



3rd generation, self-seeded Cosmos and Nasturtium

NOTES FROM THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Welcome to the spring season- one of the busiest and most exciting times of the year!

If you have been keeping up with the monthly Saturday meetings, you'll know that our annual Multicultural Festival is coming up soon on April 20. At this event, all of our families are encouraged to share a cultural dish with the Preuss community in a potluck-like style. Along with savoring the different cuisines, you are also able to enjoy the multicultural performances from our very own students!

If you are interested in signing up to share a dish from your culture, please reach out to me, Ms. Vanessa, through email or phone:
preussvolunteer@ucsd.edu | 858-822-0020

We are excited to celebrate our scholars' heritage and cultures!



WHISPERS FROM THE LIBRARY

We held our Annual Bookmark Contest! The theme this year was your favorite Mythical Creature. We had an amazing turnout.

Congratulations to our winners:

High School:

- 1st place – Tommy Luong 9th grade
- 2nd place – Kaelyn Wang 10th grade
- 3rd place – Vy Ho 12th grade
- 4th place – Amy Cruz Zapata 11th grade
- Honorable Mention – An Dang 9th grade

Middle School:

- 1st place – Reem Faqi 8th grade
- 2nd place – Kyint Htun 6th
- 3rd place – Aliyah Mora 7th grade
- 4th place – Aiden Ho 6th place
- Honorable Mention – WinKa Yah 8th grade

All bookmarks entered were on display at the UCSD Geisel library from Feb 5 – March 17th. UCSD Library offered to display them to celebrate [World Bookmark Day](#) on February 23rd. The winning bookmarks are printed and ready for distribution to the student body. The winners received a certificate and a new book of their choice. Stop by the library to pick up a bookmark.

To celebrate Read Across America we hosted our 2nd Annual March Madness Battle of the Books! Click [here](#) to view the bracket and see who is winning.

Eighth Graders will not be able to participate in “A Celebration of Learning” and Seniors will not be able to receive their cap and gown unless their library account is completely cleared. Notices regarding ‘How to clear accounts’ to participate in the end of the year ceremony and to make sure Seniors receive their cap and gown will be sent home with all 8th and 12th grade students after spring break. Parents/guardians will be required to sign the notice.

No need to wait. Now is the time to take care of any outstanding fines or lost books. Ask your student to see if they received an email from librarians@preuss.ucsd.edu or call the library to check on your student’s library account. If you need to replace lost textbooks, please call to discuss. Our phone number is 858-822-2150.

Library notices are sent via students’ @preuss.ucsd.edu email at the beginning of each month. Notices inform the students what library materials and textbooks are late, and what fines to be paid or waived by volunteering. Every half hour in the library waives \$5.00 off their fines. Students may volunteer in the mornings before school or during their lunch. Online library information is on the [Preuss School website](#). A great feature is [Brainfuse](#), 24/7 access to live tutoring in most core subjects and many electives. Tutors have degrees in their subjects and all conversations are monitored. We have links to our databases, Sora by Overdrive (our ebook collection site) and many other resources. Sora is also accessible by downloading the SORA APP on their phone, finding the Preuss School and using their student ID number to login.

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

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Do you need help finding food, housing, health care, or other basic needs?

Call 2-1-1 to speak with a live person, 24/7. All calls are free and confidential. Dial 7-1-1 if you are hearing-impaired and ask to be connected to 2-1-1 at (858) 300-1211.

As a local nonprofit organization, 211 San Diego is the region's trusted source for information and connections to community, health, and disaster resources. Help is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and in more than 200 languages. We maintain a database of more than 6,000 services and resources that are updated on a real-time basis and our Community Connectors help connect San Diegans to the accurate information they need.

We believe access to health and social services provides a foundation for individuals and families to build and sustain healthy lives, so we're collaborating with service providers in the San Diego region to build a more efficient, equitable, and accessible system that addresses the whole health of a person through integrated, person-centered care.

