

MARCH-APRIL 2023

## A Message From Our School Principal

Hello Preuss School families,

I am so happy to be welcoming spring to our lives! While it has been nice to receive rainfall, we need some sunshine to give us all a chance to grow.

This spring will also bring a visiting committee to our campus for our accreditation process. ACS WASC, or the Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges, will visit our school from April 17, 2023 - April 19, 2023. Accreditation is an ongoing six-year process that schools use to monitor scholar learning and set school improvement goals. In preparation for this, we will review the WASC accreditation process at our next School Site Council meeting on The Preuss Campus, Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 4:15 pm - 5:30 pm. A Google form link has been sent out on Parent Square to RSVP.

Thank you for your continued support,  
Dr. Matthew Steitz  
Principal, The Preuss School UC San Diego



**WASC Accreditation  
Process Review**

**School Site Council Meeting**

**The Preuss Campus**

**Wednesday, April 12, 2023,  
4:15 pm - 5:30 pm**



# A Note From Attendance



## Attendance Works

Attending school regularly helps students feel better about school and themselves. Parents can help building this habit so they learn that going to school on time, every day is important. When students attend regularly, they are much more likely to read proficiently, do well in middle and high school and graduate.



Dear Parent/ Guardian

Are you planning a family trip for the Summer Break? As you think about your arrangements, we want to stress the importance of sending your child to school every day possible. Every year, absences spike in the weeks before and after the school break as families squeeze in a few more vacation days. It's time to break that cycle. We know that just a few missed days here and there, even if they are excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and put your child behind in school. Remember that too many absences can affect a student's chances for academic success and eventually for graduation.

We recognize that school breaks are an important time for reconnecting with families. The costs of plane tickets often influence when you want to travel. But keep in mind the costs to your children's education if they miss too much school and the message you will be sending about the importance of attendance. Even if you've got a homework packet from a teacher, it doesn't make up for the interaction and learning that happens in the classroom. Our teachers will be teaching, and our students will be learning right up until vacation starts and the first day back. You can help us convey that message.

This spring season, help your children develop the habit of attending regularly and on time.

Families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in their school. Avoid scheduling vacations when school is in session. They are considered unexcused absences. When you plan vacations, we suggest to do it in accordance to our school calendar. These absences break the routine of daily attendance that contributes to students feeling connected and engaged in learning.

Let us know how we can help you. If your child is not able to attend school for any reason, please contact the attendance office to discuss options to keep your child on track. Teachers and counselors can assist your child with a re-engagement plan.

I would like to remind you all that the school is using Parent Square for attendance notifications. You should receive an email and/or text message from Parent Square when your child is marked absent or tardy. This is the right time to give us a call to provide a reason for absence. You can report an absence by calling to the attendance office at (858) 822-0311 or the main office (858) 822-3000.

Sincerely,

Patricia Villanueva

## News From College and Workforce Coordinator

Hello everyone!

It is an exciting time at The Preuss School! So far, 94% of our seniors have been accepted into a 4-year college or university! While our seniors have been waiting to hear from their colleges, our juniors visited San Diego State University and the University of San Diego. Our juniors have also been preparing for their summer -- applying to internships, jobs, and summer programs! Our 10<sup>th</sup> grade students visited UC Irvine and the Claremont Colleges. Soon, our 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be visiting CSU San Marcos. Everyone is getting into the college spirit! The seniors have a busy few months! By May 1<sup>st</sup> they will need to decide whether they will accept an offer at a college. In the meantime, they continue to apply for scholarships to try to minimize the number of loans they will have to take out to pay for college. In June, they will be doing their Senior Exhibition in front of community members, Preuss faculty, and the UCSD community.



Looking ahead, for all 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade students and some 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, coming up soon is AP season! During the first two weeks of May, students will be taking the AP tests for the courses that they have been working very hard in all year! Good Luck!

Best,  
Shaoni Bandyopadhyay (Ms. Bandy)

Thank you Ms. Kandy Mahaffey for your 11 years of service to the Preuss School UCSD as the Executive Administrative Assistant.

Your contributions in supporting our administration, the front office, teachers, our families, and students are greatly appreciated.

We wish you a fantastic start to this new exciting chapter! Congratulations on your retirement and your wonderful career at the Preuss School! You will be missed.



# Happy Retirement!

# Whispers from the Copley Media Center (Library)

We held our Annual Bookmark Contest! The theme this year was your favorite book or quote from an individual who address or promotes social justice.

All bookmarks entered are on display at the UCSD Geisel library till April 9, 2023. UCSD Library offered to display them to celebrate [World Bookmark Day](#) on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

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.



## Congratulations to our winners!

1st place Arely Mendoza 7th

2nd place Leidna Vera Hernandez 7th

3rd place Mina Ali 6th

4th place Vanessa Martinez Nava 6th

Honorable Mention Andrea Isabella Sanchez Vargas 8th

Honorable Mention Amy Bucio 9th

Honorable Mention Philimon Michael 9th

Honorable Mention Kyint Htun 6th

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

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 need to be paid or covered by volunteering. Every half hour in the library earns \$5.00 towards their fines. Students may volunteer in the mornings before school or during their lunch.

**Eighth Graders will not be able to participate in "A Celebration of Learning" and Seniors will not be able to receive their diploma unless their 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 diploma will be sent home with all 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

Online library information is on the [Preuss School website](#). A new 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, the school catalog, the DCP and Sora by Overdrive (our ebook collection site). Students are also able to access eBooks by downloading the SO-RA 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)

# Student Services & Counseling Department

Dear Preuss Families,

The student services department is happy to welcome our new Family Support Specialist, Karina Barrera!



Degree: Master in Social Work with a Pupil Personnel Service Credential.

My name is Karina Barrera and I am the Family Support Specialist (Clinical Social Worker II) at The Preuss School UC San Diego. My role includes Homelessness and Foster Youth Liaison, Mental Health Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Mental Health referrals, resources for students, and families and much more. I received my Master's in Social Work along with the Pupil Personnel Services Credential and a specialization in Children, Youth, and Families from the University of Southern California. I also have worked towards my Social Work licensure (LCSW) and have my Associate in Clinical Social Worker (ASW) number with the Board of Behavioral Sciences. I double majored in Sociology and Education and received my bachelor's from the University of California, Irvine.

I was inspired to become a Social Worker to create positive impacts. I help individuals, families, and communities to promote human growth and development and initiate and support change for social justice. Apart from my passion for Social Work, I am a mother of two beautiful children and enjoy spending quality time with my family. I was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, and have lived in San Diego for three years. I love the outdoors, trying new foods, and traveling.

## Course Selection:

We are starting course selection this month and helping students plan their schedule for next year. Some exciting new courses that will be offered next school year will be Data Science, AP Computer Science, Marine Biology/Anatomy and AP Psychology.

## College Acceptance

Our Seniors are beginning to hear from their CSU and UC schools about acceptance! More than 70% of our Seniors have heard and as we move through March they will continue to hear more. Students have completed their financial aid application and applied to scholarships through the San Diego Foundation. We are so proud of our students and their commitment to success.

Schedule an appointment with your student's school counselor if your student received 3 or more D/F grades last semester. Summer school is fastly approaching and a great time to get ready for next year.

**Mrs. Cobbs will be back from maternity leave on April 3, 2023! We are looking forward to having our team back together again!**

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COLLEGE WORKFORCE  
COORDINATOR

Ms. Shaoni Bandy  
sbandy@ucsd.edu  
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# Swim Program

We are excited to offer a swim program this Spring for scholars in two of Mrs. Williston's EHS (Exercise and Health Science) classes. This year's program is a Pilot Program which will only be done with two classes in order to learn what sorts of things work and what don't. We will compile all that we learn this year in order to offer the program next year to more classes. This year's program is being funded mostly by a grant from the Prevent Drowning Foundation who has helped us to move this great program from just a dream to reality.

The class will begin on April 18th and continue through May 18th. Classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday during their regularly scheduled EHS class. We will walk to and from the Canyonview Aquatic Center on UCSD's campus (about half a mile away). Scholars will be given assessments during the first week of lessons to determine their comfort level in the water and grouped accordingly. There will be instructors for each group of scholars and lifeguards on deck. The program's goal is to get all scholars more water safe. Each group will progress at its own pace.

We hope students and parents are as excited about the program as we are. However, if they do not want to participate (in the pool) actively, they may opt out of that part of the program. Scholars who opt out will still come to the pool with us, but stay on the pool deck and learn from there.

We surveyed each student about bathing suits, goggles, and towels and will purchase items for students in need.

For some visuals on the program and more details, click on the link to the presentation Mrs. Williston gave to the students: [Swim Program Presentation](#)

If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to email me at: [jwilliston@ucsd.edu](mailto:jwilliston@ucsd.edu)

BJ Williston  
Exercise and Health Science Teacher and Department Chair



## Scholars will learn the following:

### Basic water safety skills

- Stepping or jumping into the water overhead
- Floating, treading, for a minute
- Finding an exit to a pool
- Swimming 25 yards
- Exiting a pool without a ladder

### Basic water smarts to include

- Learning their limitation
- Swimming with others where lifeguards are on duty
- Wearing a life vest
- How to call for help
- Understanding things such as ocean currents, dangers in shallow water, hazards in the ocean, etc.

## Message From Student Volunteer Coordinator

Hello Preuss Family,

My name is Vanessa Muños and I'm the Interim Alumni and External Relations Specialist. I actually graduated from Preuss in 2015 and am a 2019 UCSD alumna! I'm excited to be working in this community again and I look forward to getting to know more of you.

At the end of February, the PTA held the 2023-2024 Executive Board elections.

Please congratulate the following parents for their new positions for the next academic year!

President:	Ana Gonzalez
Vice President:	Blanca Angel
Secretary:	Isabel Yañez
Treasurer:	Lizbeth Garcia
Auditor:	Naeema Hagar
Historian:	position still available

### JOIN THE PTA!

If you are interested in the position of Historian, please reach out to me or any of the current PTA Executive Board members!

The Historian's responsibilities include preserving all activity records, achievements and volunteer hours of the association, and assisting the preparation of the association's annual report.

Thank you parents for attending the monthly PTA general meetings.

We strive to provide you with the most up to date information about our school. We continue to invite key note speakers to present information you are interested in learning about. If you have any suggestions for future topics please feel free to talk to any PTA officer or contact the volunteer coordinator.

Date Time	Meeting
April 4 5:30PM – 6:30PM	PTA Executive Board Virtual Zoom Meeting
April 22 9:30AM-11:00AM	General Parent Meeting Zoom Webinar



Thank you for your support!

Warm regards,

Vanessa Muños  
[preussvolunteer@ucsd.edu](mailto:preussvolunteer@ucsd.edu)

## External Events

Preuss did it! After a year of planning, The Preuss School UC San Diego successfully hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> annual T&T MUN Conference. T&T is Torrey & Triton, a Model United Nations Conference sponsored by La Jolla Country Day School and The Preuss School. On Saturday, March 18th, Preuss had the honor (and stress!) of hosting the conference on our campus.

Some highlights and shout-outs:

- Our keynote speaker, District Attorney Summer Stephan, delivered an inspirational opening address about the power of conflict mediation.
- Over **140** students from **7** schools in San Diego registered for the conference!
- Between our conference staff, volunteers, and performers, **50 Preuss students** helped to carry out the conference - shout outs to *Ecology, Interact, Multi-cultural Empowerment Club, and SNHS* Our student leaders truly stepped up.
- Special shout out to **Alex Tep, Agnes Agoh, and Nicole Nguyen** for their leadership during the conference.
- Thank you to Ms. Bandy, Ms. Esparza, Ms. Noorzay, and Ms. Wiedemeier for their support leading up to and during the conference, and to Ms. Van de Vanter, Ms. Zamora, Ms. Greco, Ms. Tiojanco, and Ms. Mak for letting us use your classrooms.
- Preuss looked awesome because of Mr. Manny, Mr. Antonio, and Mr. Jose!
- Finally, special thanks to our alumni who financially supported the conference.



Chellyn Boquiren  
History Teacher

The San Diego Countywide Spelling Bee was this month, and while our Preuss middle school winner Esther Agoh (my 7<sup>th</sup> grade advisee) did not win, she's maintained her growth mindset and will come back stronger next year! Esther also had the amazing opportunity to be interviewed by a reporter from the La Jolla Light and discuss her experience in this school tradition. Shout out to Essie for being a wonderful representative of Preuss and a role model for Ms. Hannah's Heroes!



Link to the article: <https://www.lajollalight.com/news/story/2023-03-14/spell-check-la-jolla-students-get-a-good-experience-in-countywide-spelling-bee>

Sincerely,  
Ms. Hannah Griffith  
English 8 | University Prep | Literacy Enrichment



# April Poetry Month

It is April already, and April is poetry month, a time to enjoy and share poetry of all kinds. This year, instead of putting a different poem in the bulletin every day, here is the entire month of poetry at once in the "Poems for April" Poetry Month Calendar linked below. Every day there is a poem, ranging in complexity from Shel Silverstein's "Where the Sidewalk Ends" to Shakespeare's Sonnet 18. For a handful of these poems, you may need to create a free account with CommonLit to access, but most poems can be accessed without. All poems come with activities, including guiding questions and discussion topics.

Phil Ensberg, Ed.D.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE POETRY MONTH CALENDAR](#)

**COMMONLIT Poems for April National Poetry Month**

**Holidays**

- April 4 - Maya Angelou's Birthday
- April 5 - Passover begins
- April 9 - Easter
- April 13 - Songkran (Thailand)
- April 21 - Eid begins
- April 23 - Earth Day
- April 27 - Poem in Your Pocket Day
- \*All Month - Arab American Heritage Month

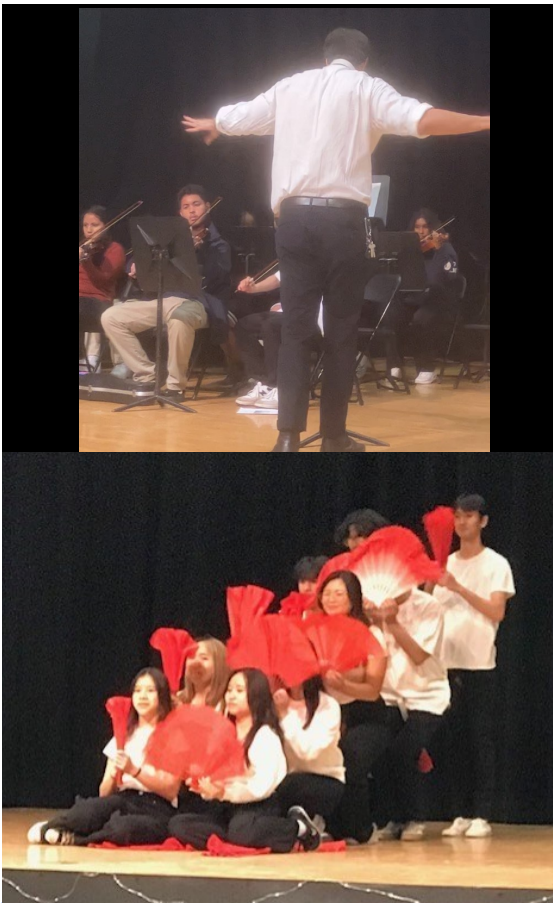
**Earth Day Poems**

**Nonfiction Texts**

<p>3</p> <p>POETRY MEANS THE WORLD TO ME</p> <p>Tony Medina</p>	<p>4</p> <p>STILL I RISE</p> <p>Maya Angelou</p>	<p>5</p> <p>THE NEW COLOSSUS</p> <p>Emma Lazarus</p>	<p>6</p> <p>ON TURNING TEN</p> <p>Billy Collins</p>	<p>7</p> <p>ART ON AN EGG</p> <p>Mariam C. Orme</p>
<p>10</p> <p>GATE A-4</p> <p>Naomi Shihab Nye</p>	<p>11</p> <p>ROCK THE BOAT</p> <p>Elizabeth Acevedo</p>	<p>12</p> <p>THE RAINCOAT</p> <p>Ada Limón</p>	<p>13</p> <p>GREAT SPLASHES</p> <p>Joan Baez</p>	<p>14</p> <p>SONNET 18</p> <p>William Shakespeare</p>
<p>17</p> <p>THIS WORLD</p> <p>Mary Oliver</p>	<p>18</p> <p>AFTER THE WINTER</p> <p>Claude McKay</p>	<p>19</p> <p>FROM BLOSSOMS</p> <p>Li-Young Lee</p>	<p>20</p> <p>BUTTERFLY</p> <p>Chinua Achebe</p>	<p>21</p> <p>CELEBRATING EID WITH MY GRANDFATHER</p> <p>Sarp Sahin</p>
<p>24</p> <p>REMEMBER</p> <p>Joy Harjo</p>	<p>25</p> <p>A LITANY FOR SURVIVAL</p> <p>Audre Lorde</p>	<p>26</p> <p>DO NOT GO GENTLE INTO THAT GOOD NIGHT</p> <p>Dylan Thomas</p>	<p>27</p> <p>WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS</p> <p>Shel Silverstein</p>	<p>28</p> <p>I AM OFFERING THIS POEM</p> <p>Jimmy Santiago Baca</p>

## Studio Static

The Fine Art Department has been a flurry of creativity since the start of the New Year! The workshops with Mr. Jay and the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus gave Preuss artists an opportunity to interpret the symphony musicians. The Preuss student compositions in large scale banners were hung in the Mandeville foyer for attendees to enjoy before the Symphony Concert, "Spheres"! In addition, Mauricio Salas and Liam Rodriguez played their original compositions with a quartet from the symphony before the show and were well received! Professor Emeritus of music and former Thurgood Marshall College Provost, Cecil Lytle, who is also one of the founding professors of the Preuss School, appreciated the depth of our collaboration and has helped to facilitate a stronger union between UC San Diego Arts and Humanities and the Preuss School.



The Festival of the Arts 2023, celebrated its 8th year anniversary with our best displays and talent yet! Studio I artists showcased their still life works along with water colors and master artist recreations! Studio II focused on their Old Town landscapes, moses inspired hats from their trip to the Mengei and Biza Butler inspired portraits of people and animals. Honors Studio II and AP Studio artists displayed their sustained investigation works examining a question or a problem over the course of multiple works of art. Soloists, dancers, poets and musicians performed, along with the Preuss Honors Orchestra, Choir, and Rock Band! The Rock Band, TSAR, released its self produced two-song EP on Spotify on the 16th as well, making Preuss history! The Fashion show provided a sneak peak at the Film Noir aesthetics of the Shakespeare Festival and featured a decades inspired collection with fabulous Preuss models. The grand finale brought the Honors Orchestra, Choir and Rock Band together on stage to present "Something in The Way" by Nirvana.

Artists are also looking forward to supporting the upcoming MADD Throwback ( Pop Culture Festival) performance, Airbands, and Shakespeare Festival, as well as Jazz June!

# Drama Class Updates

## From the Theater...

Honors and Drama II students are in the thick of production on *Shakespeare Festival!* In maintaining our annual tradition of adapting the characters and plots of Shakespeare's plays into a classic cinematic genre, this year the students will be transforming *Macbeth* into a film noir! Noir was a subgenre of film which reached the height of its popularity in the 1940s-1950s. These are stories set within environments of corruption, characterized by cynical hard-boiled detectives, terrifying criminals, and sinister femme fatales. To Mr. Rocca, all of this fits the notoriously "cursed" play of The Bard's like a glove. Come join us at the "cinema" (AKA the Walton Center) to witness our masterpiece unspool on the big screen block 4 April 26th!

Mr. Rocca is also launching a career pathway Film Internship program for our senior wheel. Scholars interested in pursuing an education and possible career in film will be given the unique opportunity to learn the tools, technologies, and vast array of vocations within the entertainment industry. It is Mr. Rocca's hope that this will pave the way for a paid internship for students to work on his set during production of his feature film this summer!

More exciting updates to come as the Film Internship is launched and *Shakespeare Festival* has its epic debut. And be on the lookout for news about two live stage performances to come as well, *Pop Culture Festival* in April and our annual epilogue, *Jazz June!*

Tamima Noorzay  
Fine Arts Chair



# Important Dates

**April 3**  
School Resume Classes  
8:55AM – 4:00PM

**April 4**  
PTA Executive Board  
Meeting  
5:30PM – 6:30PM

**April 8 & April 29**  
Saturday Enrichment  
Academy In-person  
class  
9:00AM – 11:00AM

**April 5 & April 13**  
Exploring Conservation  
Science at the San  
Diego Safari Park  
8:00AM-3:00PM

**April 13 & April 27**  
Distribution of free and  
nutritious food for the  
Preuss School families

**April 18 – May 18**  
Swim Program  
UC San Diego  
Canyonview Aquatic  
Center

**April 22**  
General Parent  
Meeting Zoom  
Webinar  
9:30AM-11:00AM

**April 29**  
Trip to the Yallwest  
Festival in Santa  
Monica  
7:00AM-10:30PM

**Visit us on our Website:**  
<http://preuss.ucsd.edu>

## ***New Address?***

## ***New Phone Number?***

If you have moved or  
changed your phone number,  
please email

Ms. Paty Macedo at  
[PreussRegistrar@ucsd.edu](mailto:PreussRegistrar@ucsd.edu)  
with the updated information

## **CONTACT US**

To contact the Preuss School Office  
Staff, see contact information below.

**Front Office Line for general questions**  
(858) 822-3000  
[all039@ucsd.edu](mailto:all039@ucsd.edu)

**Attendance and Transportation**  
(858) 822-0311  
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**Admissions**  
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**Registrar**  
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