

Welcome to the Start of the 2nd Semester at The Preuss School UC San Diego

Words from the Principal, Dr. Steitz

Dear Preuss School UC San Diego Parents and Community Members,

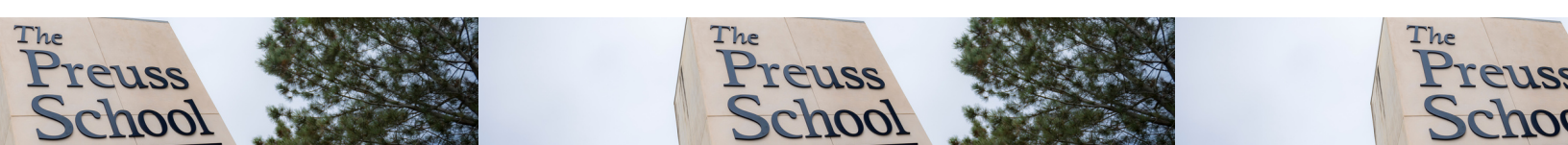
I hope you are doing well and had a restful holiday season. As we begin the 2nd semester, I want to extend a warm welcome back to all our students and their families.

The beginning of a new semester is always an exciting time as we have the opportunity to build on past successes and set new goals for the future. Our dedicated faculty and staff have worked diligently over the break to ensure our students have a positive and enriching learning experience in the coming months.

Critical Updates for the 2nd Semester:

- 1. Academic Excellence:** We remain committed to providing a high-quality education that fosters academic excellence. Our teachers have prepared engaging lesson plans and are ready to inspire and challenge our students to reach their full potential.
- 2. Support Services:** Our support services team is available to assist students with any academic or personal challenges they may face. We encourage parents to reach out if they have concerns or if their child requires additional support.
- 3. Extracurricular Activities:** We believe in the importance of a well-rounded education, and our extracurricular activities will continue to offer opportunities for students to explore their interests, develop new skills, and build lasting friendships.
- 4. Parent-Teacher Collaboration:** We value the partnership between parents and teachers in supporting the success of our students. Parent-teacher conferences and regular communication channels will be maintained to ensure a collaborative approach to education.

As we navigate the second semester, your feedback is invaluable. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. We are here to work together to create a positive and nurturing environment for our students.



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. There is no school during Spring Break and Presidents Weekend. We urge students and families to avoid absences before and after the scheduled breaks.

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

Student Services & Counseling Department

January and February 2024

Dear Preuss Families,

We are about half way through the year! Please encourage your students to continue to work hard on their academics but to also incorporate self-care. Reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

January 8-12, we had our stress down activity for students taking finals. The student services department served hot cocoa, and breakfast bars. The students enjoyed the hot cocoa on the really cold mornings. Over 900 cups of hot cocoa were consumed by our scholars. We will be planning cool infused water options for Spring finals.



Financial Aid Follow Up

The Financial Aid Workshop is happening February 3, 2024. If you are unable to attend or have not submitted your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application reach out to their counselor or Ms. Bandy. March 2, 2024 is the deadline.

1st Semester Grades:

Scholar report cards were mailed home January 19, 2024, please be on the lookout for your scholars report card. If you notice your scholar struggling in their classes, most core subjects offer tutoring, and there is Saturday Enrichment Academy, February 3rd & 24th, March 9th & 23rd, and April 20th on campus from 9am-1pm. Busses are available.

The
Preuss
School
UC San Diego

Counseling Department
2023-2024

**LAST NAME
A-GE**

Ms. Sara Silva
s3silva@ucsd.edu
(858) 822-2002

calendly.com/sarasilva-1

SCAN FOR APPT.



**LAST NAME
GF-NG**

Ms. Allyson Cobbs
acobbs@ucsd.edu
(858) 822-0409

calendly.com/mscobbs

SCAN FOR APPT.



**LAST NAME
NH-Z**

Ms. Erin Patrick
empatrick@ucsd.edu
(858) 822-0996

calendly.com/mspatrick

SCAN FOR APPT.



**COLLEGE WORKFORCE
COORDINATOR**

Ms. Shaoni Bandy
sbandy@ucsd.edu
calendly.com/preussbandy

SCAN FOR APPT.



D/F letters:

If your student received a D or F grade first semester you will be notified through a letter the counselors will be sending out. Please contact your student's counselor if you have further questions.

CLUBS AND EXTRACURRICULARS

Science Olympiad

by Vy Thai

During the PTA meeting hosted on December 12, 2023, our Science Olympiad club advisor, Vahid Asgharzadeh-Fozi, presented a pitch from our student Towers team and their volunteer coach, Caleb Pak. After Mr. Fozi introduced the teams' narratives and love for architecture and structural engineering, the PTA executive board pledged financial support totaling up to \$800. This money will be used to purchase knives, glue, cutting boards and other materials, not only for the Tower Builders but also for the rest of the Science Olympiad. These materials are needed to help our Tower Builders work on their own towers at home, so that they can prepare as much as possible before the competition.



We greatly appreciate the support of our PTA. Thanks to your generosity, the Preuss Science Olympiad team can continue to build and learn!

Preuss Book Club

by Tiffany Majors

The Preuss School UC San Diego's Book Club held its first annual book drive in December, resulting in the collection of over 300 books! Participants were asked to bring in any books they'd like to donate to local area hospitals, and in return were entered into a raffle to win a Visa gift card for \$25.00. Our winner was 10th grader Yenatfanta Hailemariam. Books were given to patients, families, and visitors at Scripps and Sharp hospitals. Thank you to all who were able to participate, and we look forward to our next book drive!

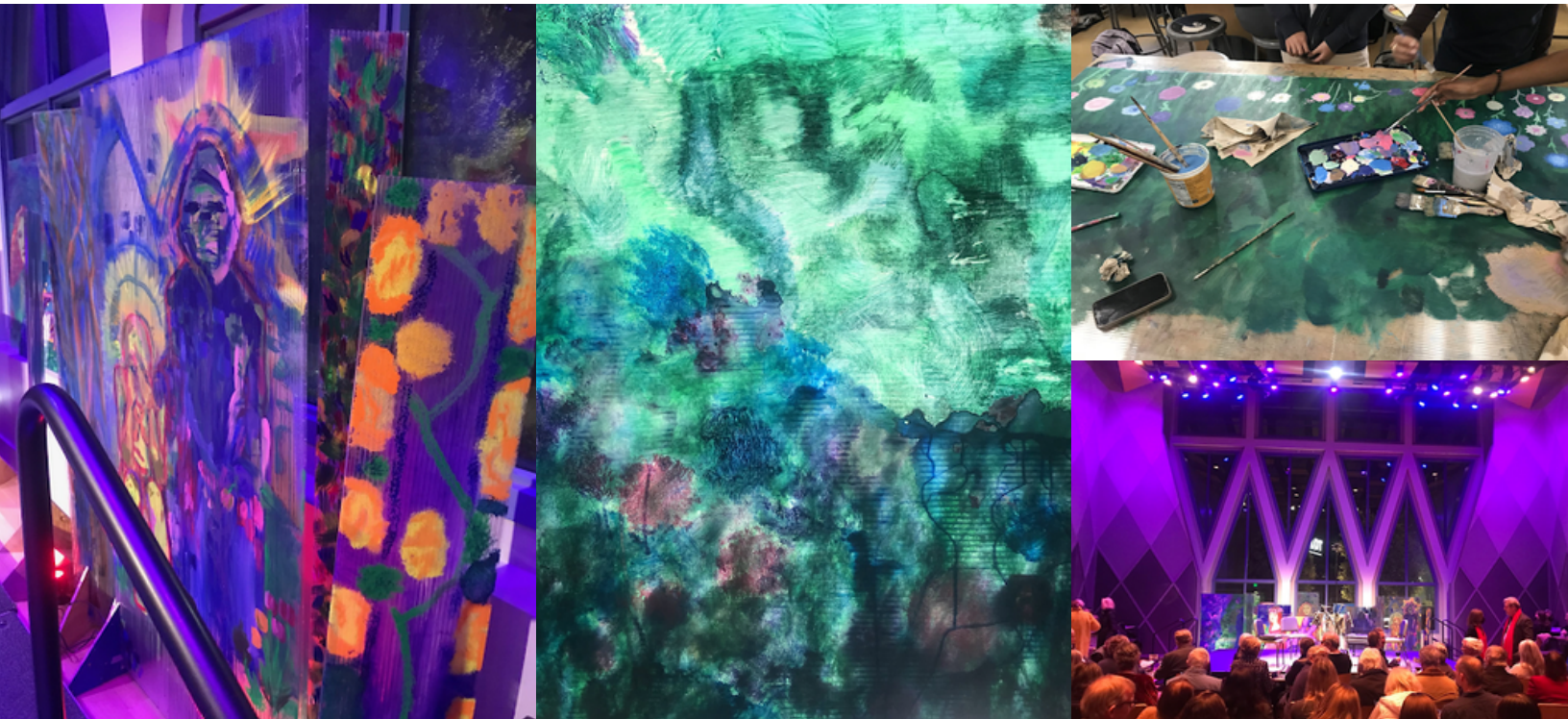


PREUSS STUDIO

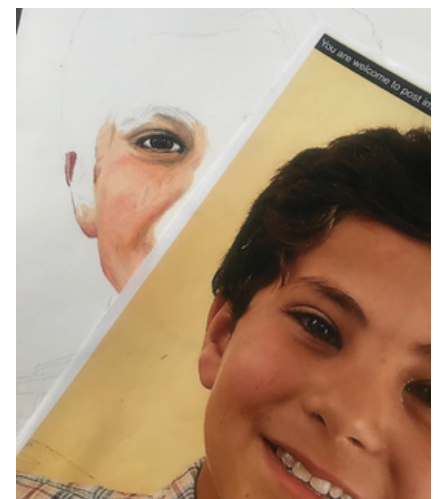
STATIC

from the Visual and Performing Arts Department

The Preuss artists have not skipped a beat transitioning from first to second semester! Studio I artists are focused on recreating works from master artists from around the world to learn the process and decisions that go into creating such a work. Studio II artists were approached by Art of Elan to construct a backdrop for their upcoming concert at the Conrad's Jai. The ensemble performed Schubert's String Quartet #14, Death and the Maiden, a dramatic and atmospheric narrative based on a poem from the 16thC. Students collaborated on a series of panels that emulated a contemporary take on the stained glass motif to provide a visual component to the music.



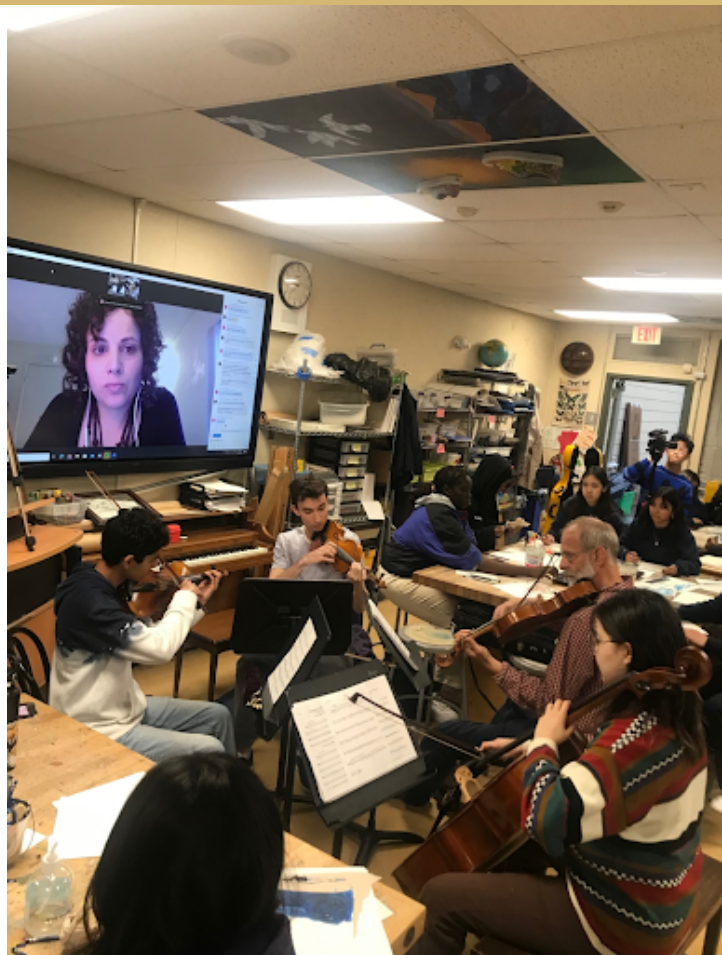
These talented artists are getting ready to send off their portraits for the Memory project in February, which include a personal note to each child. The founder of the Memory Project, Ben Schumaker hopes that art student's participation will have a ripple effect to **create a kinder world in which all youth see themselves in one another regardless of differences in their appearance, culture, religion, or circumstances.**



PREUSS STUDIO

STATIC *(continued)*

While constructing and curating artworks for their sustained investigation portfolios, the AP and Honors Studio artists are in the midst of participating in a complex collaboration between Baltimore artist Jay Wolf Schlossberg Cohen, The La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, Nasim Khorassani who is a guest composer and our own composition students Giselle Montufar and Mauricio Salas led by Musician in Residence, Mr. Diego Rodriguez. Our third iteration of this workshop on the rainiest day of the year, an ensemble from the Symphony joined the artists and composers to perform the original student compositions while the artists drew and painted them! The artworks were then collaged into 4 different panels from which Mr Jay will construct larger compositions that will be made into banners painted by Preuss students and hung in Mandeville for the opening of the Symphony's Spring season! Mauricio's innovative composition entitled Pizz. included rhythmic pizzicato measures that emulated the rain fall outside. Giselle's graphic notation (pictured below) allowed the ensemble to interpret her visual notes with their own perspective. Khorassani's avant garde, experimental ideation for her own scores held space for Preuss composer's to work outside the traditional methodologies, Khorassani's feedback guiding their success! We are excited for the next steps in this unusual collaboration, the making of the banner compositions and painting the images! Stay tuned!!!



PREUSS STUDIO

STATIC *(continued)*



FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Art Club, Fashion Club, Rock Band, Multicultural Club and APIA Club are all looking forward to participating in the upcoming Festival of the Arts on March 14, 2024 from 5:30-7:30pm, so save the date! All studio artists will be displaying their work, along with a Fashion Show, Choir and Rock Band performances, MCE and APIA Dancers, student performances and a Shakespeare Festival trailer. Food and drinks will be sold as a PTA fundraiser. We look forward to seeing you there!

Turn your dial to creative expression and you will find Preuss artists, actors, musicians, composers, designers, writers, and editors buzzing with productivity!

Studio I artists exchanged ideas with pen pals using snail mail through an initiative started by Chet Flaum, an Arts and Humanities teacher at High Tech High Point Loma who wanted students to examine the question, "In the age of ever growing technology, is there still value in doing things the old fashioned way?" Our students created a portrait of themselves using symbols and iconography to introduce themselves to the HTH students. We are eagerly awaiting the response postcards!

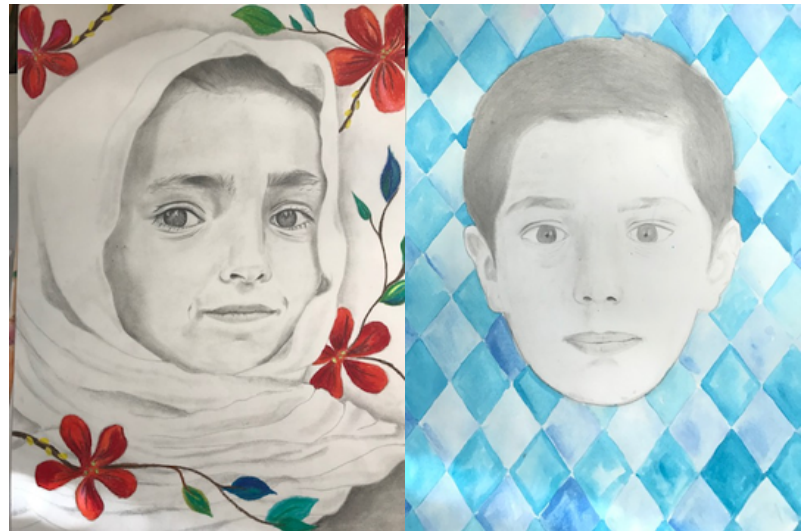


PREUSS STUDIO

STATIC *(continued)*

Studio II students are participating in the Memory Project, a nonprofit organization we have partnered with before. The Memory Project was started by Ben Schumaker in 2004 when he was a university student in an effort to create connections among youth, "... to provide handmade, heartfelt portraits as special memories to children in orphanages.

Now our intention has expanded to touching the lives of youth around the world facing many types of challenges, while opening our hearts and minds so they can touch ours in return." This year we are creating portraits for Syrian children living in a Jordanian refugee camp. Many were born there and have not been outside the confines of the camp itself, never seen a tree or a lush landscape as they live in the desert. Our student's portraits will give them a sense of recognition and hopefully they will know that they are being thought of by the larger community. Please watch some of the videos linked here to see the joy created in this profound exchange from the heart: <https://www.memoryproject.org/about> (Scroll down to see "Our History in Videos")



Studio II artists are also collaborating with Art of Elan to create a background set for their January concert at the Conrad's Jai venue in La Jolla. Our artists have been challenged to create a set design that partner's with Schubert's String Quartet #14 in D minor, written in 1824, also known as Death and the Maiden. Art of Elan will be performing parts of the work live in T101 on 11/29/23 during block 4 to give students a sense of the work and inspire their vision for their set design.

PREUSS STUDIO

STATIC *(continued)*

AP Studio and Honor's Studio II artists attended the annual Torrey Pines State Reserve plein air painting trip on October 26th. There were fabulous ocean views and breezes, as well as time well spent contemplating the lands of the Kumeyaay and the splendor of nature which came through in their paintings.



AP Art History students recently visited the San Diego Museum of Art to make connections with the artworks we are studying in class. The special engagement galleries featuring the Korea in Color exhibit is helping to build context for our unit on South, East and Southeast Asian artworks. The docents gave us a curated tour of Renaissance, Baroque, Modern and Contemporary works as well, providing an overview for the remainder of the school year. A Balboa Park Architectural "I Spy" added to a little competition to the day and we are looking forward to finding out which team or teams were the most observant in their quest to find the myriad of iconic architectural features from balustrades to barrel vaults!

THE PREUSS SCHOOL UCSD IN MODEL CONGRESS

by Kamila Ramirez

From January 11th to 14th, 12 dedicated scholars from the Model United Nations Club at the Preuss School UCSD, came together to debate a range of topics, in the uncharted territory of Harvard Model Congress, San Francisco. Our students assimilated into this new form of congressional debate and created creative ways to tackle their topics, such as contemplating to save British Prime Minister Winston Churchill when kidnapped by Germany, embodying the values of representatives of the US House and Senate, or bankrupting the World Bank for a series of yacht parties.



House Oversight & Government Reform: Nova Solan & Yenatfanta Hailemariam

Nova, a current senior, and Yenatfanta, a current sophomore, became Representative Eric Burlinson and Representative Ro Khanna. The rising Dangers of Cyber Security and Management of FDA Approval Programs, were their primary issues to solve over the course of the weekend.

Senate Judiciary: Mahlet Mekasha & Milki Neme

Mahlet and Milki, both current juniors, became Senator Dick Durbin and Senator John Cornyn. Their committee topics were Mass Incarceration and the Ratification of the 14th Amendment. Both Milki and Mahlet were authors to bills that were passed in their committees.

Something unique to the Model Congress formatting is that all the House and Senate committees were able to interact with each other and vote on bills.

Historical Committee: Yeshua Montano & Daisy Castillo

Yeshua and Daisy, both sophomores, represented Lord Chancellor Viscount Simon and Minister of Economic Warfare Hugh Dalton in the Historical World War I committee. Being in a crisis style committee, they were quick on their feet to keep up with the demanding needs of the committee.

Supreme Court: Yared Fente & Ruth Kibrom

SCOTUS representatives at Harvard Model Congress were Yared, a current junior, and Ruth, a current sophomore. They teamed up to debate on the cases of *Mansfield v. Waters*, and *U.S. v. Socialite*. In this committee, they took turns from being counsel for the plaintiffs and defendants to serving as judges to debate these cases against the other teams. To decipher emojis or sue the World Bank, Yared and Ruth were on top of their committee, leading to earning an Honorable Mention in their committee!

World Bank: Anali Centeno, Fernanda Salazar, & Julio De Jesus Zavala Barragan

Our lovely delegates in the World Bank committee were Anali, Fernanda, and Julio, two seniors and one sophomore. This committee was similar to Model United Nations conferences because our delegates represented countries within the World Bank instead of people. They were able to change the course of the World Bank, leading to its bankruptcy before the end of the second day of the conference.

Media: Kamila Ramirez

Kamila, a current junior, was in the Media committee at this congressional conference. The media committee centered around the critical thinking of all the committees combined. Writing articles and OP-EDs under time crunches throughout the day, she was able to inform the conference with the ins and outs of each committee. Kamila was able to produce her news in other outlets such as through news breaking tweets, and informative Tiktoks. At the end of the conference, Kamila was able to receive an Honorable Mention award for her work in this committee.

Yearbook Dedications 2024

Dedication pages for sale! Buy your student, friend, or mentee a page, or part of a page, in the yearbook to show how proud you are of the achievements of your student during their years at Preuss. Dedication pages can include words of encouragement, pictures of the student, and messages from family members. See prices and examples below. You are able to design your own dedication page or have the yearbook staff design it for you. For more information, feel free to contact the yearbook staff at pensberg@ucsd.edu.

¡Páginas dedicadas a la venta! Cómprele a su estudiante una página, o parte de una página, en el anuario para mostrar cuán orgulloso está de los logros de su estudiante durante sus años en Preuss. Las páginas de dedicación pueden incluir palabras de aliento, fotos del estudiante y mensajes de miembros de la familia. Puede diseñar su propia página de dedicación o hacer que el personal del anuario la diseñe para usted. Para obtener más información, no dude en comunicarse con el personal del anuario en pensberg@ucsd.edu.

Prices:

Full Page \$250

Half Page \$175

Quarter Page \$100

Eighth Page \$60



Cash ONLY: No bills greater than \$20.

These are some examples of dedication pages from the 2016 school year, you can buy a whole page, or a part of the page and write something meaningful! The yearbook staff can design it, or you can contact the staff to get the perfect dedication for your student.

Estos son algunos ejemplos de dedicatorias del año escolar 2016, puedes comprar una página completa o una parte de la página y escribir algo significativo. El personal del anuario puede diseñarlo, o puede comunicarse con el personal para obtener la dedicatoria perfecta para su estudiante.



We are also now providing name tags that you can use to customize your yearbook and really show off your personality. We have a few different icons that you can buy to help you make your yearbook really yours!! Deadline for this is January 27.

También estamos proporcionando chapas de nombres que pueden usar para decorar sus yearbooks y resaltar sus personalidades. Tenemos diferentes iconos que pueden comprar para hacer sus yearbooks más personalizados!! La fecha límite es el 27 de Enero.

NOTES FROM THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Happy New Year, Preuss families!

Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered for the Starlight Carnival this month! This was a fundraiser held by the 11th grade class last Friday, January 12 after school. Even if you were unable to serve as a volunteer yourself, we appreciate all of the families who attended in support of the class of 2025. They had a successful event thanks to the Preuss community!

The PTA is continuously looking for parent volunteers to help with the weekly Friday snack sales and during at-home sports games. Friday sales take place after school from 4 pm to 5 pm. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Ms. Isabel Yañez via email (isabelyaney1398@gmail.com) or call me directly at 858-822-0020. For all other parent volunteer opportunities, please keep an eye on ParentSquare for recruitment posts.

The next PTA General Meeting is on Saturday, February 3 at 9:30 am, followed by our 12th grade Financial Aid Workshop. We will be having a presentation from UPAC about how parents can support their children's mental and emotional health. After the meeting, our Family Support Specialists will distribute groceries provided by the San Diego Food Bank. All presentations are posted online the week following the PTA General Meeting.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting your child's education! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Warm regards,
Vanessa Muños Campos
preussvolunter@ucsd.edu



WHISPERS FROM THE LIBRARY

Welcome to 2024!

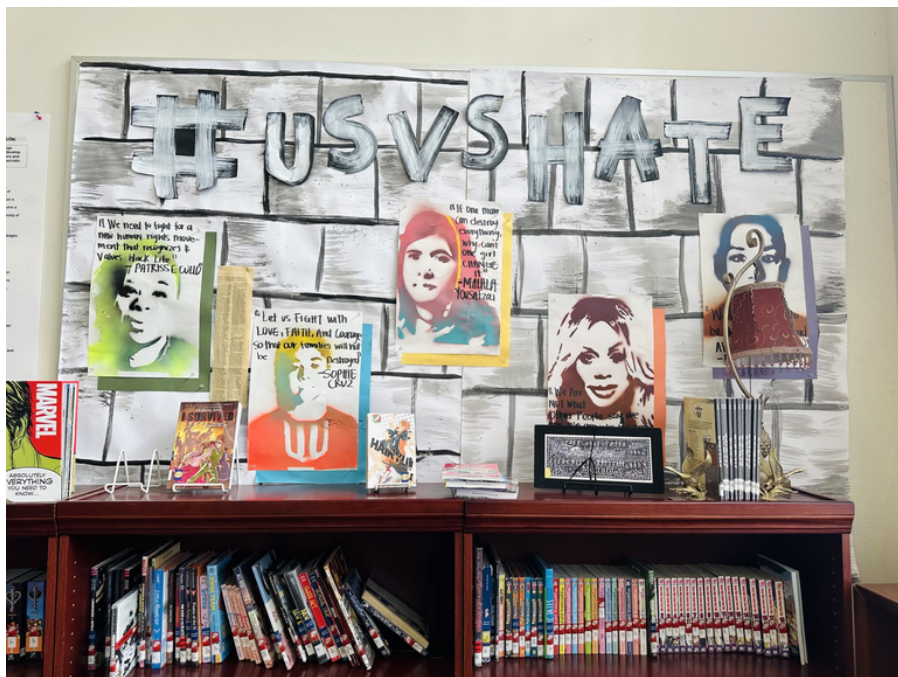
Our Annual Bookmark Contest has begun!!! All Preuss students are welcome to participate. The theme this year is 'Favorite Mythical Creature.' Bookmarks can be picked up in the library starting Friday, January 12th . The completed bookmark was due Friday, January, 26th. Students will vote on their favorite design from Monday, January 29th through Friday, February 2nd. Winners will be announced Monday, February 5th in the Daily Bulletin. The top two bookmarks from middle school and high school will have their bookmark published for the whole school to enjoy and will receive a new book of their choice. All entries will be displayed at UC San Diego's Geisel Library to honor World Bookmark Day (WOBODA 2024) February through the end of March.

Paper copies of library notices are sent at the beginning of each semester. Any student with fines over \$5.00 or one late textbook are placed on the 'Do Not Participate' list. Students will not be able to participate in clubs, sports, dances or socials until the late textbooks are returned, or some amount of the fine is paid or the student volunteers to reduce the fine.

Online library information is on the Preuss School website. Check us out. We have links to our databases, the school catalog, 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



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.

