

SOAR

THE PRENTICE SCHOOL MAGAZINE

SPRING 2022

What I
Want to be

Professional
Soccer
Player



Well Wishes

Director of Development, Corinne Conklin

As I retire as Director of Development of The Prentice School, I can't help but feel gratitude for our supporters who remain steadfast in their desire to ensure our current and future students receive the specialized education they need. As I exclaimed at our gala event, Prentice has given so much to my entire family and to me, both professionally and personally. There is great peace in knowing that my children, who are now very much adults, received the foundational support they needed at Prentice to move forward in this world on their varied paths of success. I am grateful for the lessons I have learned during my time in this position. It has provided me a personal growth unmatched by any of my previous professional experiences. Working for such an incredible life-changing organization that serves such a unique student population has forever changed my life. To watch our students move from defeat to success and see their faces light up when they realize they can be creative and bright is life-changing to everyone around them. Having come from the corporate world to the nonprofit space, this experience has provided me personal satisfaction, knowing that, together with our supporters, we can make a difference in so many lives.

Thank you for joining me on this journey in support of our school. I have all the confidence in the world that the Prentice team, faculty, and staff will continue to change lives for years to come.

We'd like to introduce you to our new Director of Development, Chiemi Lee, who has an extensive background in serving Orange County nonprofits. Chiemi started her career in fundraising over ten years ago at her alma mater, the University of Southern California. She brings a deep knowledge in many aspects of fundraising and the track record to execute and expand our fundraising strategy. She is a native Californian and spends her free time spoiling her niece and traveling. Chiemi is excited to join the Prentice family and continue building on the 35 year history of our school.



Corinne Conklin at the 2022 Education Elevated Gala



Chiemi Lee joins The Prentice School

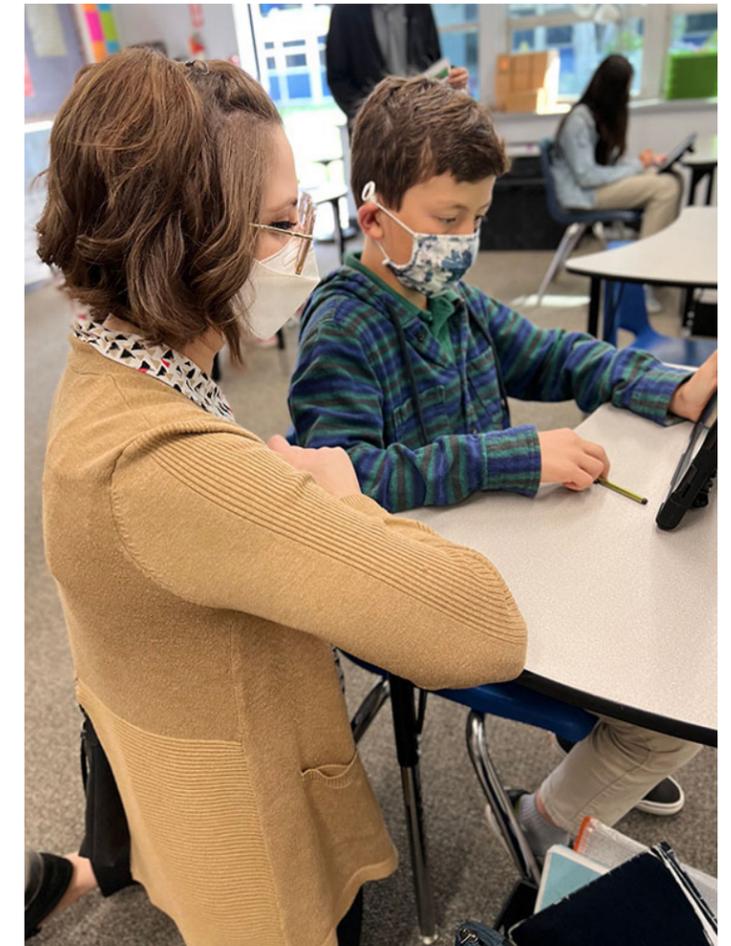
Mind Masters

Working Memory Program Launched

Understanding, baseline and improving working memory function is a critical factor in academic outcomes and school performance, especially for students with learning challenges.

In March 2022, The Prentice School partnered with California State University, San Bernardino's Institute for Child Development and Family Relations to form "Mind Masters", a Prentice-specific Working Memory research program. This new program, incorporated into our students' weekly instructional minutes through "fun" games, will give our team valuable data and insight regarding our students' cognitive processes and provide the opportunity to strengthen their deficit areas.

While this is an optional program for families, almost 100% of Prentice's students participated and completed 6 hours each of Working Memory and Executive Function focused programs.



Campus Happenings

On-campus events resume

After two years of limited events due to COVID-19, we resumed many of our traditional on-campus functions including In-Person Open House, Lunch on a Blanket, Fit-A-Thon and Educational Workshops.

Our families were very excited to be back on campus!



Class Pictures

2022 Homeroom Portraits

For our yearbook this year, we asked each homeroom class to envision a unique class portrait. It could be a themed group portrait, small groups or individuals. The students worked so hard organizing their "photo shoots", some adding costuming and props. We took over 700 photos and created over 80 different class portraits for the yearbook.

Here are a few examples from our classes:



This year's themes:

- Grades 2-3: Mrs. Huennekens - **Soaring into Space**
- Grade 3: Mrs. Bernstein: **What I Want to Be**
- Grade 4: Ms. Aragon: **California Soaring**
- Grade 4: Ms. Cross: **California History**
- Grade 5: Mr. Godfrey: **Comic Life**
- Grade 5: Mrs. Barnard: **Crossing the Delaware**
- Grade 6: Ms. Waked: **Race to the Finish**
- Grade 6: Mrs. Matuszak: **Growing Up**
- RISE: Mrs. Benne & Ms. Cassie: **Toy Story**
- Junior High 1: Ms. Petersen: **Roller Coaster**
- Junior High 2: Mrs. Shaw: **The Force is Strong**
- Junior High 3: Ms. Zippwald: **Mad Science**
- Junior High 4: Ms. Shoukry: **Wizarding**

Soaring Higher

Jack Preston

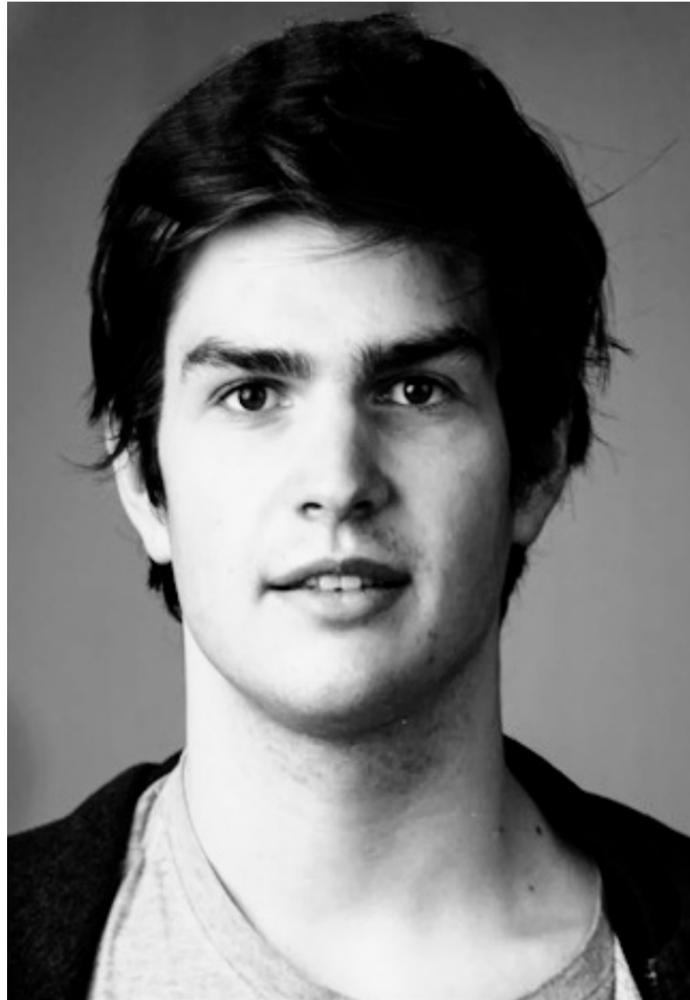
"Not everyone can be a rocket scientist." Prior to attending The Prentice School, these were the words that a Director of Special Education at a public school district said to Dawne Preston about her son Jack during their annual IEP meeting.

These words spurred the Preston family to find a new path for Jack. Their search led to The Prentice School. "When Jack came to Prentice, our junior high team knew this was a young man who had so much hidden potential. Years of being told he wasn't enough in the traditional education system had created an unbearable weight on his shoulders," states Ms. Zippwald, Prentice's Junior High Science teacher. "Our goal was simply to get him to believe in himself like we 'believed' in him. His intelligence and his amazing ability to grasp Physical Science was astonishing!"

Jack attended Prentice through the 8th grade and continued to high school, taking with him a newfound confidence and an understanding that his learning differences empower him. Throughout high school, he maintained a high GPA while taking advanced courses including AP Physics, Precalculus and Chemistry. He was also the lead guitarist in the high school rock band. "With every stage of Jack's success, my mind continues to think of all the wonderful teachers at Prentice who believed in Jack and gave him that little bit of confidence that he needed to push forward. I know it wasn't an easy task but none of this would be happening without the foundation they created," says Dawne Preston. Jack Preston will be graduating from the Greenwood School this May. After being accepted to six different universities, he has decided to attend George Fox University, majoring in Engineering in their highly acclaimed Electrical Engineering program.

"There are no words that can express the complete gratitude I have for The Prentice School," Mrs. Preston states. "You believed in my son even when I didn't. You gave all of us the confidence to push forward and prove to the world that Jack is a smart kid and can accomplish anything he sets out to do.

I wish that the Director of Special Education was still employed with the school district. I want to tell her that she was right.. Jack is NOT going to be a rocket scientist... He is going to be an Electrical Engineer."



“

Jack is NOT going to be a rocket scientist...

He is going to be an Electrical Engineer.

DAWNE PRESTON

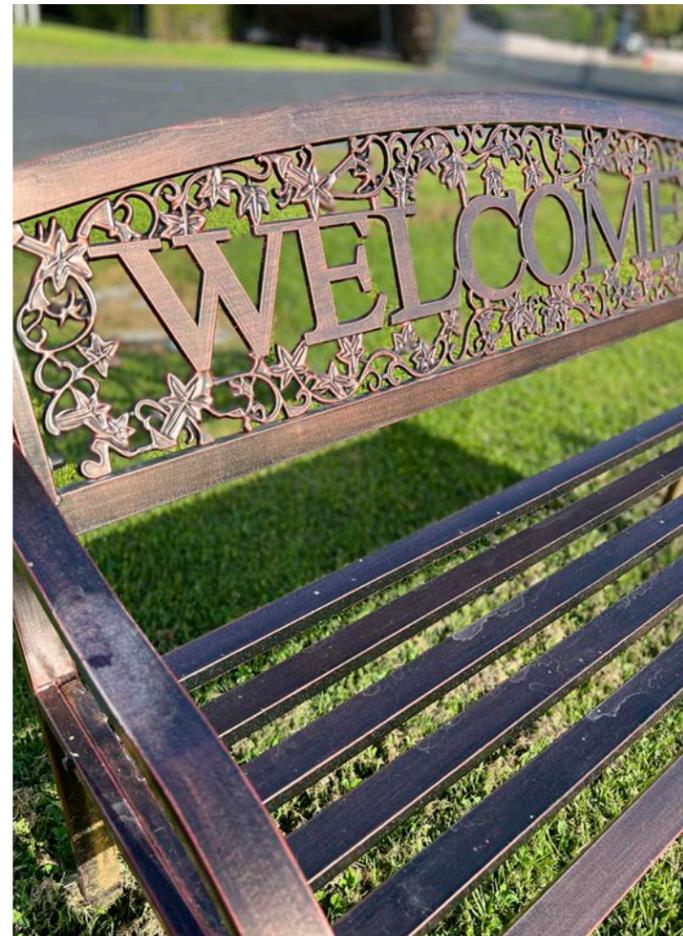
Garden Variety

The Prentice Gardens grow!

With a generous grant from SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, Ms. Zippwald has taken an empty lot behind our science buildings and created The Prentice Gardens. Meant to become a space of collaboration and respite, the gardens include:

- An archway arbor with Jasmine plants
- A granite pathway leading from the science building
- A rose garden
- Three new fruit trees
- Raised garden boxes for elementary science
- Benches for students to relax on
- Prentice Garden banners

Designed for years of enjoyment, we look forward to sharing the fruits and vegetables with our families and community for years to come!



Gala Recap

We want to thank all of you for joining us on April 23 for our Education Elevated Gala, The Next 35 Years! There is much to CELEBRATE and even more to be grateful for. It is inspiring that so many people who care so deeply about The Prentice School joined us for this event, whether you joined us at the Newport Beach Country Club or through our Virtual Event Center.

We are excited to announce that, thanks to the GENEROSITY of our entire Prentice community, we raised over \$580,000!

We watched in amazement as our generous donors kept giving throughout the evening. Our Keynote Speaker, David Rosenfield, lit up the room by sharing his story of failure, resilience and success. Our scholarship paddle raise In Memory of Bill Harris, Jr. brought in over \$200,000! As a result of funds raised through our silent online auction, we will be able to designate over \$25,000 to The Schwartz Teacher Educator Fund. To cap off the night, a generous donor pledged \$100,000 to use as needed. Needless to say, the energy in the room was infectious!

Our students, our Board of Directors, and the entire Prentice Team THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts for supporting The Next 35 Years! You make all things possible for our students.



Laurel & Dan Clark, Harriet Harris and Jane Brooks getting their bidding paddles ready.



Board President Mark Gaines presenting the Pillars of Prentice award to Jim Davies.

THE NEXT 35 YEARS

2022 EDUCATION ELEVATED GALA

Our Gala generates over \$580,000!



Joe Cover and Royana Ramirez-Cournelli with Keynote Speaker David Rosenfield and his wife Kristina.



Former Board Member Jim Schwartz visiting with Toni Tartamilla and John Castelli.



Janet Buck of First Republic Bank and Janet Steiner, Board Member.



CSUSB team Adrian Stevens, Dr. Mark Agars, Jennifer Bacon and Dr. Eugene Wong.



Warren & Jennifer Taylor and Kathy & Chris Taylor



Danielle Laird & Greg Schlinger

In Honor of Bill Harris

Scholarship Paddle Raise

In March, we lost Emeritus Board Member Bill Harris, Jr., who, with his wife Harriet, played an instrumental role in the growth and sustainability of Prentice. Harriet became a board member in 1987, and Bill joined in 1995. Bill and Harriet had seven grandchildren attend Prentice. As Harriet has shared, "knowing that our grandchildren had a place to really learn gives us a feeling of well-being. Prentice has not only enriched their lives with a new ability to learn, but it also improved their emotional well-being." The Harris's commitment to Prentice is deeply rooted. Harriet worked tirelessly on two capital campaigns for Prentice - one to buy the present campus and the other to build the Academic Support Center. Bill served on the board for more than 20 years. He was a fierce proponent of literacy and education and prioritized the accessibility of appropriate education for ALL students, no matter the students' background or economic status. He was passionate about making Prentice a school that reflected the diverse population of our greater society. As founder of The Brethren Community Foundation, Bill was able to support Prentice and countless other nonprofit organizations that aim to improve the lives of those individuals in our community. Bill and Harriet's vision to support literacy has continued throughout the years, supporting academic transformation of at-risk youth living in some of our country's most economically distressed communities.

In memory of Bill's commitment to literacy and in support of The Prentice School's mission, we honored his legacy through this year's scholarship paddle raise. With the support of The Ward Family Foundation and other anonymous donors, we received a matching donation of \$50,000 for the paddle raise. We are excited to announce, we not only raised enough for the match, but met our goal three-fold! As Bill certainly lived his life to the fullest in support of those in need, we know he would want to extend great thanks to all of our donors for continuing his "Living Large" legacy!



**You only live once,
if you do it right,
once is enough.**

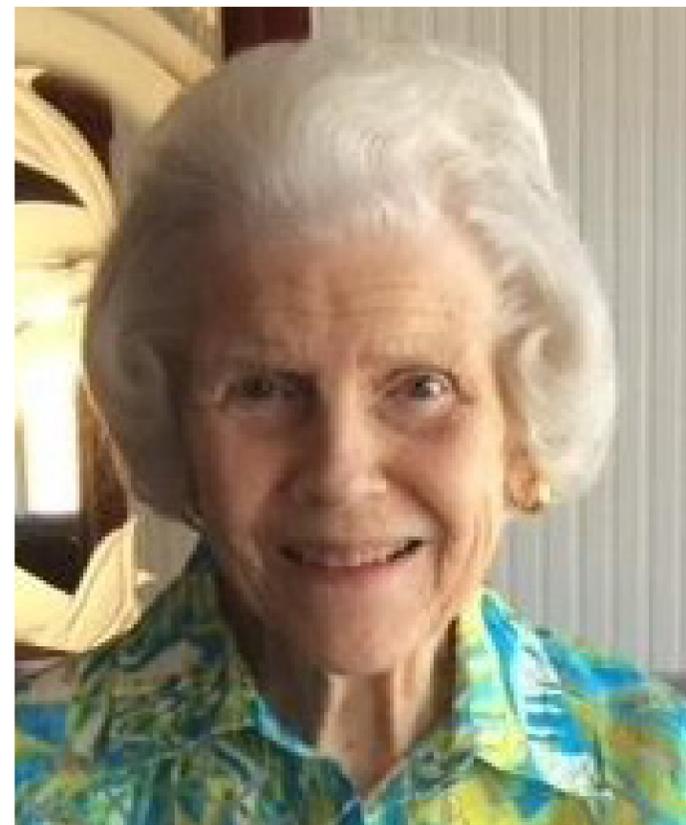
A quote Bill Harris lived by.

In Honor of Virginia Davies

Pillars of Prentice Award Recipient

The Prentice School Executive Board was honored to present this year's Pillars of Prentice Award to Virginia Davies. The Davies family, in memory of their mother and grandmother, accepted the award on her behalf. Without Virginia, Prentice may not have become a reality. It was Virginia who planted the early seeds which led to The Prentice School's existence. Back in 1985, she organized a meeting of individuals she knew were interested in developing a school for students that struggled with learning to read, write and spell in a traditional classroom. Following that initial meeting, Virginia's son, Jim, remembers his mother's sense of urgency and excitement about finding a two room property in Costa Mesa to start the school.

The Newport Community School, now The Prentice School, opened its doors in September of 1986. And that is how the Prentice story began, more than 35 years ago! Our current Administration and Executive Board works tirelessly to continue her legacy for The Next 35 Years, and beyond!



The Eagle's Fund

SUPPORTING THE PRENTICE SCHOOL

Our mission at The Prentice School is to teach students with language-based learning differences and co-occurring conditions (like ADHD) that they are creative, intelligent and capable of becoming our future leaders.

As a nonprofit private school, we rely on the generosity of the Prentice Family to support our mission. The Eagle's Fund, has a direct impact on every Prentice student and is key to our state of the art classrooms, 6.6 acre campus, amazing teachers, and evidence based programs and services that are unique to Prentice, like Orton-Gillingham Structured Literacy, Social Emotional Learning, Mind Masters, and our RISE Program.

Your tax-deductible charitable gift to the Eagle's Fund allows us to continue to expand and grow the exceptional programs and services we provide and will have a lasting effect on every Prentice student. For more information or to make a gift to the Eagle's Fund, please contact our Director of Development, Chiemi Lee, at 714.538.4511 or clee@prentice.org.

Igniting Potential

Our first fundraising event for 2022-23!

Mark your calendars for September 21, 2022 when The Prentice School will join 16 other Orange County non-profits for the Igniting Potential Giving Day. This one day fundraiser gives us an opportunity to join marketing and social media forces to spread the word about Prentice.

Thanks to the support of the Prentice Family, and a generous \$15,000 matching donation, last year's event generated over \$50,000 - double our goal! It was our first year participating in the Igniting Potential Giving Day with the Orange County Community Foundation, and we look forward to joining again in September.

Campus Updates

Maintaining our facility

SPRING UPGRADES!

- New Upper Elementary Lunch Pad
- Re-carpeting in Rooms 101 - 204
- New Soccer Nets

