

# SOAR

THE PRENTICE SCHOOL MAGAZINE

FALL 2021

## Eagle Pride

Prentice wins again

## Soaring Higher

Alumni Success

## By the Numbers

Multi-Sensory Math

Addie  
Grade 4



# Elevating Prentice

Head of School, Devon Green

Dear Prentice Community,

Despite a year of unprecedented challenges and uncertainty, we successfully navigated a full school year during COVID-19, including our educational Summer Program. Our new school year started in late August and although we're not fully back to "normal" operations, our students are just as eager as ever to learn and interact with their peers.

Even though we are continuing to make adjustments for COVID-19, The Prentice School must move forward and lead the way for students who learn differently. Over the next school year, we will be transitioning to a Science of Reading (SoR) approach to further enhance the way we develop skilled readers. We'll continue to explicitly teach phonemic awareness and phonics using Orton Gillingham while layering on comprehension processes to ensure all aspects of effective reading instruction are emphasized. Through the decoding of text, vocabulary development, and background knowledge, Prentice students will have a greater comprehension of language and text. To help us accomplish this, we've rolled out Amplify to our entire student body. Amplify is a leading ELA system that uses multisensory lessons to reinforce the Science of Reading approach (our teachers and students already LOVE it!).

We're also very excited to announce that our school has partnered with Cal State University San Bernardino's **Institute for Child Development and Family Relations** to form "Mind Masters", a Prentice-specific Working Memory research program. Understanding, baselining and improving working memory function is a critical factor in academic outcomes and school performance. This new program, developed to be incorporated into our students' weekly instructional minutes through "fun" programs, will give our team valuable data and insight regarding the cognitive processes of our students and the opportunity to strengthen more of their deficit areas.

Additionally, CSUSB has partnered with us to administer the Feifer Assessment of Reading (FAR) to all students. Their program director, along with several graduate students (with four Prentice staff members) completed the FAR assessments on EVERY Prentice student in mid September. This assessment will be repeated at the end of



the year. The team will then analyze the data to help guide Prentice instruction and programmatic decisions, as well as monitor individual student progress.

The cost of these programs and associated technological needs has been funded for a minimum of three years through a generous private donation.

This year is Prentice's 35th anniversary and our future couldn't be brighter! We look forward to partnering with you to continue the legacy that Prentice has built. Thank you for your continued support of our school and community!

Sincerely,

**Devon Green**  
Head of School

# Brand New

## A New Look for our Junior High Halls

Our junior high students came back to school this year to entirely new signage in their wing. TPS (which stands for The Prentice School) was designed to give our junior highers a look and feel all their own. The new TPS Eagles badge pays homage to what it means to be a Prentice student. To soar above the rest!

Our junior high students also get to wear they own exclusive TPS spirit shirt. We'll be adding more TPS spirit wear and special items to the Eagle Store throughout the year!



# Eagle Pride

## The Prentice School wins again!

The Prentice School is proud to announce that we have been awarded Best Special Needs School in Orange County in the Parenting OC Readers' Choice Awards for the second year in a row.

We're so thankful that our faculty and administration team are receiving recognition for their hard work and determination.

Thanks again, Parenting OC magazine and readers for helping Prentice gain additional visibility to those families that need us most!



# By The Numbers

## Prentice's Innovative Math Program In Action

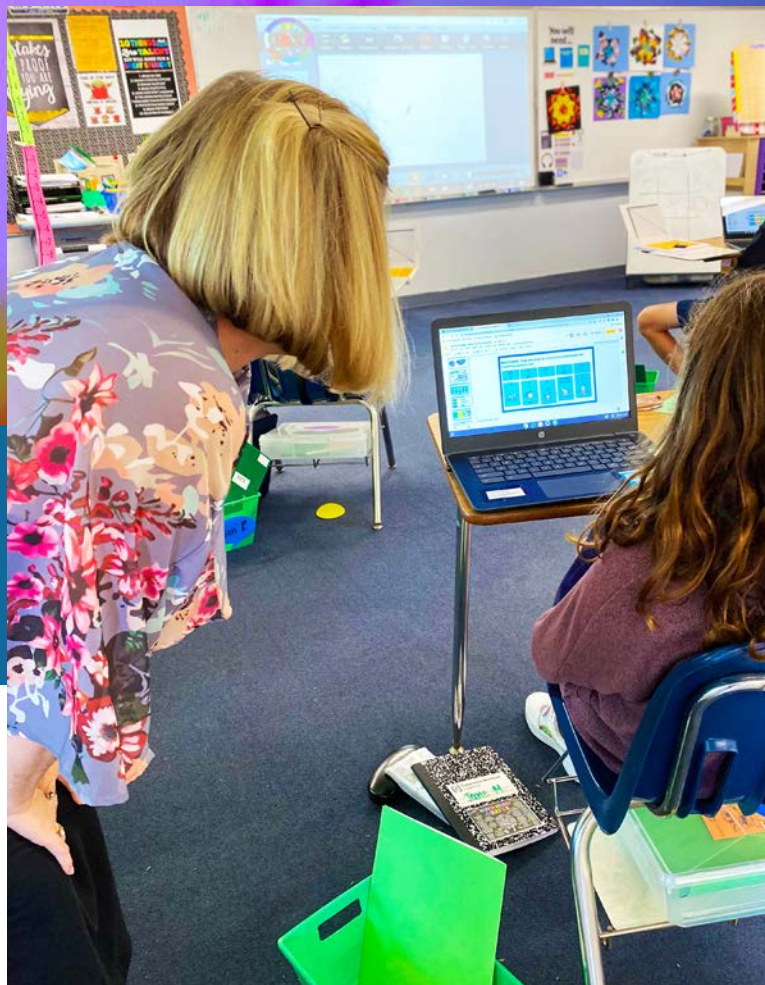
Traditional education is usually a "one size fits all" model. Teachers start on Chapter 1 of the textbook at the start of the year, and continue through the chapters at a predetermined pace that will allow them to finish every lesson in the textbook by the end of the year.

At Prentice, we focus instruction on understanding the specific math concept and how it builds on students' prior knowledge, rather than focusing on memorizing steps to complete a calculation. Having a deep, concrete understanding of concepts gives students a place to anchor their knowledge, increases working memory, overall mastery of concepts, and allows students to be able to recall and apply concepts in real world applications. To achieve this, we use Go Math and Lindamood-Bell's On Cloud Nine® Visualizing and Verbalizing math programs school-wide.

Go Math allows us to teach California Common Core standards, so our students receive instruction on grade level math content.

On Cloud Nine® allows us to introduce number and operation concepts in a way that allows our students to visualize how numbers work together, increasing number sense. On Cloud Nine® works hand-in-hand with Visualizing and Verbalizing strategies used in all content areas at Prentice, utilizing multi-sensory instruction to make abstract concepts more concrete. Number sense is a vital foundation for every other math concept, so specific time is set aside during every math class to develop number sense (through On Cloud Nine® or other strategies based on students' needs).

Additionally, we have math manipulative's for each math standard which helps with multi-sensory instruction.



We also use a variety of technological solutions to foster students' creativity and technology to demonstrate their understanding of standards. Classwork and homework is a mixture of pencil/paper and digital assignments. Apps and online solutions like Boom Cards, Commoncoresheets.com, and Quizziz allow teachers to give digital assignments on specific concepts and track student progress. Sheppard software, mathgames.com, multiplication.com and Splash Math give students an opportunity to practice math skills in a fun way. Digital escape rooms, digital mazes, and interactive slideshows allow students to deepen understanding and strengthen skills in an engaging format.

Ultimately, Prentice's goal is to provide an innovative environment that provides students with multiple paths to learning and understanding math concepts and how they are applied in their daily life.



# Practice Makes Perfect

Easy ways to incorporate math into daily life!

## VISUALIZE & VERBALIZE TOGETHER

Ask your student questions to help them understand the concepts.

**Why did you solve the problem that way?**

**How did you know to multiply?**

**Can you think of a time when you might need to use this skill as an adult?**

Having conversations with your student helps them take ownership of their learning.



## USE REAL WORLD EXPERIENCES

There's nothing better than connecting your student to real knowledge.

### IN THE KITCHEN

Ask them to identify fractions while baking. Can older students double the recipe?

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

Have your child hold the tape measure when your measuring. Have them help you figure out how much paint to buy when repainting a room.

### AT THE STORE

Tell your student the prices of the items at the store. "If you bring \$20, will you be able to buy everything?"



## PRACTICE ESTIMATING EVERYWHERE!

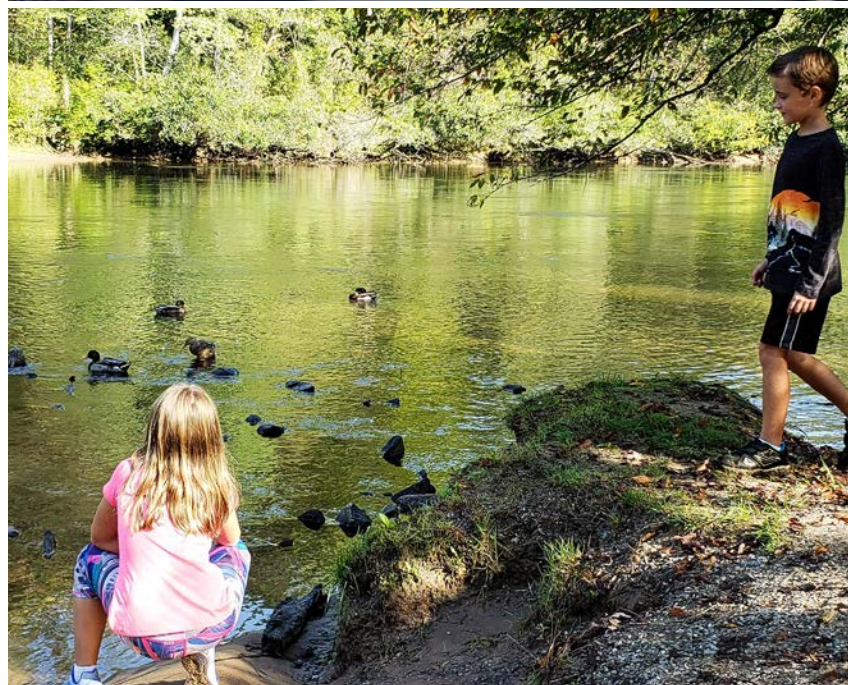
Estimation is difficult for student who struggle with number sense, so use every opportunity to develop the skill.

**How many people do you think are in line ahead of us on Space Mountain?**

**About how many ducks are in the pond?"**

**About how much money do you think this tank of gas will cost?**

As students grow older, they will have access to a device that will complete the exact calculation. The benefit from real life opportunities is learning **when** to apply specific math skills in a variety of settings.





# Soaring Higher

Alex Barber goes from Prentice to the sky!

I went to Prentice what feels like a different lifetime. I've never been drawn to traditional education. With that, Prentice was the most enjoyable and fundamental part of my education. The friendships were memorable. I thrived at Prentice, their style of teaching fit my learning difficulties. They were patient and I was by no measure a behaved student.

I left Prentice and shifted around in high-school and barely attempted college. By my late teens I was focused on mountaineering which quickly escalated into a minor obsession. I began climbing in the local Southern California and Sierra Mountains. A few years later I became a mountain guide on Mt. Rainier in the Pacific Northwest. Think cold, wet and heavily glaciated. This was a perfect step for my interest in climbing 8000m (26,267ft+) peaks. To date I've had 5 expeditions to Himalayan 8000m peaks, climbing in what is considered a pure style of no supplemental oxygen / no Sherpa support. In that time, I've guided hundreds of peaks, over 25 international expeditions, a few for myself and burned a handful of my 9 lives.

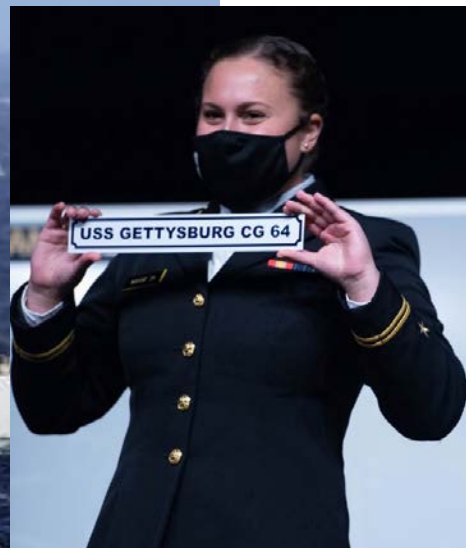
Taken part in numerous rescues, lost friends, broken up knife fights, been nearly blown up but fortunately never lost a client. I made life long memories and friendships. It's been a ride.

Now I live and guide year round from my home in Bishop, CA. Recently, I was hired by the United States Antarctic program to guide scientists from McMurdo Station in Antarctica.



**"I've been asked what it feels like for everything to culminate, to be on top. That feeling of accomplishment or exhilaration – what was it like? But I think what draws me isn't that singular moment on the summit or any feeling of exhilaration from being there. Instead it's a quieter and constant sense of contentment that comes from the simplicity of mountaineering, the journey along the way and being surrounded by extraordinary beauty that challenges you to conquer – not the mountain – but yourself."**

**– Alexander Barber**



# Expanding Horizons

Sami Nassif graduates from the United States Naval Academy

Sami Nassif attended Prentice in the third through fifth grade where she was taught the skills to help her manage her dyslexia and how to be an advocate for herself. After Prentice she returned to the Saddleback School District where she graduated from Laguna Hills High School in 2016. While at Laguna Hills, she was recruited by many Division I colleges to swim and study.

After graduation, she attended Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania under the USNA Foundation Program for a post graduate high school year graduating in 2017 and accepted an Appointment to the United States Naval Academy graduating in 2021 earning a Bachelor of Science in General Science and a Commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy.

Sami is currently a Naval Surface Warfare Officer stationed on the USS Gettysburg (CG-64) in Norfolk, Va. Sami credits much of her success to what she learned at Prentice and wants all the current Prentice students to know that you can reach any goal you put your mind too if you put in the work required to achieve it.

## A Mother's Perspective of Prentice

**"Her self-confidence returned, she learned to self-advocate, and learned skills to improve her reading, writing and memory. To this day I thank the team at The Prentice School."**

**- Julie Nassif (Sami's mom)**



# Speech Success

## Social Communication in the classroom

The Prentice School offers Social Communication push-in services by our speech/language team in grades 2 - 5 and our RISE class each week. Collaborating with homeroom teachers to develop lessons that are meaningful for the students and relate to what they are learning in class, the goal is to increase students' knowledge and understanding of the concepts that underlie social success and ultimately generalize this awareness to real-life social situations. These concepts include, but are not limited to: perspective-taking, flexibility, Whole Body Listening, social wondering, emotional regulation, expected/unexpected behaviors, size of the problem, and conversation. The team utilizes materials and methodologies from Social Thinking® and Zones of Regulation®.

In addition to Social Communication, the Prentice School offers push-in lessons to our RISE students each week in the area of Written Organization to improve students' abilities with brainstorming, organization, clarity, and cohesion while writing. They teach the students to use multi-sensory tools and graphic organizers, including the Expanding Expression Tool® and Story Grammar Marker®. These same tools are also used to address verbal expression and oral language.

This benefits all of the students in the classroom as they are provided with specialized and enriching instruction by speech language pathologists who are experts in the areas of social pragmatics, written organization, and language.



# Meet the Team



## JULIANA CLARK, SLP

Juliana joined The Prentice family in April 1999 as a part-time employee, splitting her time between Prentice and working with adults in the hospital and rehabilitative settings.

Juliana is a California State licensed speech-language pathologist (SLP) and holds a clear credential in speech-language pathology services. She also maintains a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

## DEBRA L BRUNNER, B.A., M.A., CCC-SLP

Debra has served as one of two speech and language pathologists for 11 years providing diagnostic and treatment services for students with communication disorders. Debra is a California State licensed Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) and holds a clear credential in speech-language pathology services. She also maintains a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), from which she received the Award for Continuing Education (ACE) in 2013 and again in 2017.

Debra received her M.A. in Communicative Disorders from California State University, Fullerton.

## PATRICIA CARLTON, SLPA

Tricia Carlton is a Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) at Prentice. She received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at California State University, Long Beach. She continued her studies there to attain her teaching credential, and worked as an elementary teacher for Downey Unified School District for eleven years.

Before coming to Prentice last year, she worked at a private speech and language therapy clinic.



# Board Notes

## Prentice Welcomes Two New Board Members

### Welcome Anne Webber BOARD MEMBER

Anne began her career teaching 2nd through 5th grades in both Long Beach Unified as well as Huntington Beach City School District. She credits her husband, who is dyslexic, as helping her to understand the gifts and challenges of dyslexia which fostered her desire to support and uplift her students who struggled in her classroom. While her children were young, she transitioned out of the classroom setting and opened a consulting business facilitating inclusion and IEP compliance in the traditional education model. This involved supporting teachers working with students with learning differences in the classroom, leading teacher trainings, staff meetings and devising curriculum accommodations.

Anne's son, Matt, has dyslexia and was a Prentice student from 2015 – 2021 (4th - 8th grade). He is now entering his sophomore year at Huntington Beach High School and "thriving" according to Anne.

Anne has a Bachelor of Liberal Arts Degree, CA Multiple Subject Credential from the University of San Diego and Master of Science Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from CSU Fullerton.



She is passionate about teaching the public about the strengths and challenges dyslexics face and actively works to find ways to help dyslexic students in the classroom as well as adult dyslexics to find career success.

### Welcome Matthew Michalovsky BOARD MEMBER

Matthew Michalovsky is an executive vice president in the portfolio management group in the Newport Beach office, focusing on commercial real estate investments. Prior to joining PIMCO in 2012, he was a vice president in Deutsche Bank's real estate special situations group. He holds an undergraduate degree in quantitative economics from Tufts University.

Matthew's son is a student at Prentice. He hopes to help raise awareness and support for Prentice. He enjoys travel and the outdoors.



# Save the Date For our Gala

Support The Prentice School at our most important event of the year!

## THE NEXT 35 YEARS

2022 EDUCATION ELEVATED GALA

Save the Date to join us at our 2022 Education Elevated Gala on celebrating **The Next 35 Years**.

When

**Saturday, April 23, 2022**

Where

**Newport Beach Country Club**

This spectacular gala includes :

**Cocktail Hour and Appetizers**

**Huge Silent Auction**

**Amazing Live Auction**

**Inspirational Guest Speakers**

**Exciting Paddle Raises**

Event sponsorships are available at all levels and include print, signage, social media and event recognition.

Contact Corinne Conklin, Director of Development at [cconklin@prentice.org](mailto:cconklin@prentice.org) for more information.





# The Eagle's Fund

SUPPORTING THE PRENTICE SCHOOL

At The Prentice School, we strive to give our students the program that they deserve. Unfortunately, tuition alone does not cover the costs of running the school. The Eagle's Fund makes up a critical portion of the operating budget, ensuring that each student has everything needed to achieve their full potential.

Please join our cause and experience the many rewards that come with being part of the Prentice community and invest in our school by participating in our Annual Giving Campaign.

Your tax-deductible charitable gift to The Eagle's Fund goes directly to this year's operating budget to support Academics, The Arts, Science & Technology, Scholarships, Professional Development and Campus Improvements & Security.

## Matching Donations

Double the power of your gift

Did you know that you can use the Prentice website to see if your employer will match donations to our school?

Go to [Prentice.org/donate](http://Prentice.org/donate) and search your company in our **Double The Donation** search engine. Double The Donation will even assist you with guidelines and completing your matching gift form. A matching gift from your company is a great way to maximize your donation.



## Igniting Potential

Our first fundraising event of the year!

On September 22, 2021, The Prentice School joined 16 other Orange County non-profits for Igniting Potential Giving Day. This one day only fundraiser gave us an opportunity to join marketing and social media forces to spread the word about Prentice.

Our event generated over \$50,000 (double our goal!) due to the support of our parents, alumni and our community. Better yet, our executive board and one of our families generously donated \$15,000 total to match donations dollar-for-dollar.

This was our first year participating in the Igniting Potential Giving Day fundraiser and we look forward to joining again next year.





EDUCATION ELEVATED

The Prentice School  
18341 Lassen Drive  
North Tustin, CA 92705

Main: (714) 538-4511  
Web: Prentice.org

## Support The Prentice School at [Prentice.org/Donate](https://www.prentice.org/Donate)

### Board of Directors

Mark Gaines, President  
Brian Sullivan, Vice President  
Brian Linzmeier, Secretary  
Kathy Daigle, Treasurer  
Dr. Christine Bixby, Member  
Dan Clark, Member  
Diane Donaldson, Member  
Adam Fingersh, Member  
Matthew Michalovsky, Member  
Kelly Olson, Member  
Judy Pirtle, Member  
Jan Steiner, Member  
Brandon Tanner, Member  
Ann Wagner, Member  
Anne Webber, Member  
Jeff Wallace, Member

### Emeritus Members

Harriet Harris  
Willard "Bill" Harris  
Sharon W. McLaughlin  
Dr. Nancy Royal-Rovai

### Honorary Emeritus Member

Virginia Davies

### Advisory Council

Jan Casteel, LEP  
Catherine Close  
Greg Endelman, Ph.D.  
Michael Hass, Ph.D.  
Nanette Fritschmann, Ph.D.  
Judy Montgomery, Ph.D.

