

# SOAR

THE PRENTICE SCHOOL MAGAZINE

FALL 2020

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Covid-19 Moves Us Into A New Teaching Reality

## SAFE AT PRENTICE

A New Vision For Our Classrooms

## NEW HEIGHTS

Eagle Alumni Success



# A New Perspective

Head of School, Devon Green

When we started the 2019-2020 school year, we could not have imagined how COVID-19 would reshape our entire team and campus!

When we received news of mandatory educational shut-downs due to COVID-19, we immediately started intensive planning for this new version of Prentice. Our students have already experienced struggles in a traditional school environment. We knew that they deserved the very most we could do for them and weren't going to let them down.

Prentice's existing and immersive use of technology was on our side. Our teachers are already well-versed in using technology to support our students and their learning needs. Additionally, all of our students already had their own Chromebooks and used assistive technology, screen readers and video in their daily routines. In fact, every grade level used the entire Google suite extensively. The students would have almost no technological learning curve.

Rather than offering a limited school day, it was decided that Prentice had to be "all in" on our educational platform. We needed to offer a full day of live instruction and that instruction needed to be available concurrently with students at home and in class. Additionally, we needed to be able to switch between the two easily.

Leveraging our existing Google for Education platform, we transitioned all teachers and small groups to use Google Classroom, G Suite and Google Meet. We also added a new home page to the student devices which allows simplified single sign-on login to all of their programs.

With the help of donations from the community and parent support, we were able to retrofit 24 classrooms with new technology to assist with our virtual live program.

Our team is now able to teach a live class to on-campus and home-based students concurrently. Remote students are able to fully interact with their on-campus teachers and fellow students, as well.



Devon Green, Head of School

## Classroom Tech Upgrades

With the help from community and parent donations, we were able to completely upgrade our classrooms over the summer.

### These upgrades included:

**High definition Classroom Projector**

**New PC Computer**

**Wifi Keyboard and Mouse**

**Bluetooth Microphone Headset**

**Pro Streaming Webcam**

**Document Camera**

**43" Television with Rolling Cart**





# Safe At Prentice

A new vision for our classrooms during COVID-19

Who would have thought that we would be taking our classrooms that were completely redesigned for 2019 and redesigning them again 9 months later?

In response to COVID-19 and to follow CDC and CDPH guidelines, we completely re-vamped our classrooms to align with all recommended safety guidelines.

With our large 900 sq ft classroom and a 12 student maximum per class, The Prentice School is able to create student spaces that follow the 6' social distancing per student desk and also a 6' "teacher zone" across the front of the room.

Students must follow our Safe at Prentice rules including standing 6' apart in lines, washing their hands for 20 seconds in their classroom sink each time they enter the room, wearing their masks on campus and helping with sanitizing including wiping down their desks (with their teacher's help) and enforcing the rules at all times.



X Marks the Spot! Visual markers help students with their 6' distances.



In-class and remote students learning together via our Live Classroom model.



# A Fresh Start

The Prentice campus gets freshened up

Last year, we received nearly \$30,000 in Fit-A-Thon contributions to be allocated to our Campus Improvement project. With the campus closed to students due to the pandemic, we were able to complete a large amount of upgrades, updates and repairs. Our campus is looking better than ever!

## These updates include:

- Repainting of the Keck Auditorium interior**
- Repair of the Keck Auditorium roof**
- Removing the lockers from 300 wing**
- Repainting the entire school exterior**
- Repainting the classroom doors (inside and outside)**
- New LED corridor light fixtures**
- Complete remodel of Room 100**
- New blacktop in Room 100 lunch/play area**
- New paint and epoxy floors for all bathrooms**
- Repainted all wrought iron fences Prentice blue**
- New Landscaping around Prentice marquee sign**
- Trimmed all trees on campus**
- Repairs to the rooftop air units**
- Added HEPA filters to all rooftop air units**



Replaced all corridor lighting with modern LED fixtures



New Blacktop for Room 100 (Grades 1/2) Lunch Area



Freshly Painted Halls, Doors and Corridors



All wrought iron fencing repainted Prentice blue

# Board Notes

## Prentice Welcomes Two New Board Members



### Welcome Brandon Tanner

#### CORPORATE REAL ESTATE EXECUTIVE

Brandon Tanner, an alumni student that graduated from The Prentice School 21 years ago, joined our Board of Directors in June of 2020.

Brandon Tanner is one of three siblings who attended Prentice during the 1990's. As a former Prentice student, he knows the important role that Prentice played in his early education and attributes much of his current success to the Prentice education he received that not only helped him learn, but boosted his self-confidence as he realized he learned differently.

He received a BS in Facilities Management at Brigham Young University, a MS in Green Building from the San Francisco Institute of Architecture, and a MBA from California State University, East Bay.

Today, Brandon provides strategic and operational leadership to Cushman & Wakefield's west region clients such as Google, Salesforce, and First American Title Company. Brandon has a passion in serving numerous humanitarian causes and underserved youth. Brandon resides in Ladera Ranch with his wife and 5 children.

### Welcome Adam Fingersh

#### SVP, CORPORATE STRATEGIST

Adam Fingersh joined our Board of Directors in late 2019. He has been with Experian for over 15 years, currently serving as Senior Vice President, Chief Strategist and Head of Strategic Transformation. He received his M.B.A. from the Paul Merage School of Business at University of California at Irvine.

Adam has a unique connection with our students as he too struggled during his early education due to dyslexia. He attributes much of his success to the multi-sensory tutoring he received and his parents' fierce advocacy skills.

Adam comes to us with a wealth of strategic and business experience and is passionate about serving at-risk youth with language-based learning differences. He lives in Orange County with his wife and three children.





# Prentice Eagles New Heights

Showcasing Prentice Alumni Successes



## CASSANDRA QUEZADA

ADVOCATE / SCHOLAR ATHLETE

When Cassandra came to Prentice at the start of her 7th grade year, testing revealed she was reading at an early 4th grade level and at a 3rd grade level in Math. She had become emotionally defeated. She did not believe she was smart and, most importantly, did not believe in herself.

After just one semester at Prentice, Cassandra's parents and her teachers began seeing significant changes academically, emotionally, and socially. She was a different child. She was smiling and laughing, and began to believe in herself. Her reading, writing, and math levels were beginning to increase. Cassandra was beginning to advocate not just for herself but, as time progressed, for others.

When she graduated from Prentice two years later she was at grade level in Reading and Math. As her mother writes in a recent note to Prentice, "you are all the reason . . . for the success, hard work, and determination we have seen Cassandra exhibit at her new school this past year." At the end of her first semester she received five A's (including Honors Literature) and one B! Cassandra also received a scholar athlete patch for maintaining above a 3.5 GPA while participating in Girls Varsity Tennis.

Cassandra's teachers recently noted that they have never seen a student with an IEP advocate so confidently with teachers and administration in order to get what she needs to be successful.

## Jase Broderick

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

After graduating from Prentice, Jase attended Sage Hill High School, where he was able to excel at school thanks to the multi-sensory approach to instruction that was provided at Prentice.

Afterwards, he attended Case Western Reserve University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Physics, also receiving a Master of Science degree in Computer Science. Currently Jase is a Software Engineer at Microsoft and in this capacity has worked on two different teams; the first was development of better machine transaction quality for Microsoft's products. He is currently working on creating a quality purchasing plan for Microsoft's cloud offerings.

Jase writes, "Thanks to Prentice, I have been able to look at my dyslexia as a difference allowing me to give a unique perspective to the world."







## KAYLA SAGE

### SINGER / MUSICIAN

A native of Southern California, Kayla Sage grew up in a musical family including her mother and grandmother who were professional singers themselves so, Kayla's love of music and performing came naturally for her. She struggled throughout her education, however, and looked to music to be her source of inspiration and reward.

During her time at The Prentice School, Kayla felt a warmth and acceptance with her teachers who nurtured her and helped her realize what a special girl she was.

Kayla's driving force has always been to be an advocate for anyone who has ever felt "less than" or "put down" because they aren't "good enough". She understands these struggles and wants to be a source of support and inspiration for anyone who needs it and through her music she does just that!

You can find Kayla's music video "Scream and Shout" on YouTube.



## Matt Rahn

### REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT

After Prentice, Matt attended Foothill High School where he excelled in academics, was active in his church youth group and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He earned his associate degree in business from Santiago Canyon College and transferred to Chico State to major in Construction Management.

Matt earned the Student Leadership Award at Chico, graduated Magna Cum Laude, and was the only student speaker at his commencement ceremony for the college of engineering. McCarthy Construction hired Matt after leading his team at Chico to a first place in an Associated Schools of Construction competition.

Along with managing many construction projects in Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties, the project he is most proud of is 20 & 40 Pacifica--two high-rise office buildings located in Irvine. Matt earned his real estate brokers license and now is in charge of the families real estate investment company.

Matt is married and has two daughters and a son and lives in Tustin. Matt's middle daughter recently joined Prentice as a second grader.

# Now, More Than Ever

## Support Our Annual Giving Campaign

At The Prentice School, we recognize that each student who learns differently is full of possibilities. This is why The Prentice School is so important! As is true for all independent schools, tuition alone does not cover the costs of running the school. Our Annual Giving 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 Prentice School's Annual Giving Fund goes directly to this year's operating budget to support:

- **Academics**
- **The Arts**
- **Science**
- **Technology**
- **Scholarships**
- **Professional Development**
- **Campus Improvements & Security**

## In-Kind Donations

### Support Prentice with Goods or Services

These gifts are donations of goods and services such as computers, science supplies, art supplies, sports equipment, etc. Contact us to learn more about how you might help!

(The school retains the right to not accept gifts that cannot be made use of or that would be costly to maintain or store.)



Support The Prentice School at **[Prentice.org/Donate](https://Prentice.org/Donate)**



# The Show Must Go On

A Thank You From Our Director of Development  
Corinne Conklin

Faced with unprecedented challenges, our community rallied in ROBUST support of our school--YOU are our school's 'frontline' HEROES.

As news continued to break about job losses and increased unemployment rates, we knew that in light of the cancellation of our gala event it was going to be as important as ever to raise funds for our school and our scholarship fund.

In one week's time following the roll-out of our virtual auction, we received over \$100,000 in contributions. This online event, combined with the generous support of our event sponsors and an anonymous donor's scholarship matching donation, we raised \$280,000!

Our success is truly because you cared. Your generosity fits into the broader success we are having in serving our students through this unprecedented challenge, proving that tough times really show the true HEART of our community and demonstrates the heart of Prentice is clearly STRONG.

Our students thank you, our Board of Directors thank you, and the entire Prentice Team thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for being our true heroes!

## Thank You!

Thank you for your contributions to Prentice to upgrade our classrooms and systems.

**Bill & Harriet Harris**

**The Javage Family**

**The Narasimhan Family & Google**

**Orange County Community Foundation**  
Excellence in Education Grant

**Zumasys**

# Matching Donations

Double the power of your gift!

A matching gift from your company is a great way to maximize your donation. Many companies will double, or even triple, charitable gifts to our school. Contact your employer to see if they participate in a matching gift program.

Your company's name will be listed in our recognition materials.

**Thank you for your matching gifts!**

**Apple**  
**Experian**  
**Google**  
**Intel**  
**Microsoft**

# SavetheDate

Join our Virtual Gala and support Prentice!

**2021**

*Education Reimagined*  
**VIRTUAL GALA**

**Saturday, April 17, 2021**

**LIVE VIRTUAL EVENT**

**AMAZING AUCTION ITEMS**

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Support The Prentice School at **Prentice.org/Donate**

# Teaching Lessons

The Schwartz Family Educator Fund

In memory of Nannette Schwartz, a former Prentice parent and special education teacher for more than 17 years, we have created The Schwartz Family Educator Fund thanks to the generosity of the Schwartz Family.

At Prentice, we are very fortunate to have amazing teachers who are highly trained to guide and educate our at-risk population.

Because The Prentice School is a private, non-profit school, we receive no funding from the state for our students. As we try to keep tuition at a reasonable rate for parents, our need for charitable contributions from the community is significant, and support in this area will allow us to raise funds in support of our teachers above and beyond our budgetary limits.

**“A school is only as good as its teachers.”**

Nannette was very passionate about supporting our teachers and instructional assistants and as a result of her time as an educator, she recognized that few jobs are more important than those involved with educating our children. While her son attended Prentice, she often could be found in the classroom serving teachers and their students.

The Schwartz Family, through the establishment of this fund, would like to encourage others in the community to invest in our teachers by providing Prentice with the ability to award them with incentive or signing bonuses. Being able to offer this annual bonus will provide us with the ability to retain highly qualified educators.

**Support our Teachers! Donate to the Teachers Fund at [Prentice.org/TeacherFund](https://Prentice.org/TeacherFund)**







# Building A Legacy

Give the gift of Prentice for future generations

The Prentice Legacy Society recognizes and honors those who have included The Prentice School in their estate plans with a future gift through a bequest, life insurance, trust arrangement, or have made an out-right gift to Prentice. Additional benefits include recognition in our newsletter publication, annual events, and the knowledge that your giving may inspire generosity in others.

A planned gift involves the transfer of assets affecting the distribution of one's estate. Gifts of this type enable a donor to make significant gifts beyond their current income and can provide significant tax benefits.

For more information, contact Corinne Conklin, Director of Development, at 714-786-3599 or [cconklin@prentice.org](mailto:cconklin@prentice.org).

The school strongly suggests that you consult your individual financial planner, tax advisor, and attorney before finalizing any gift.

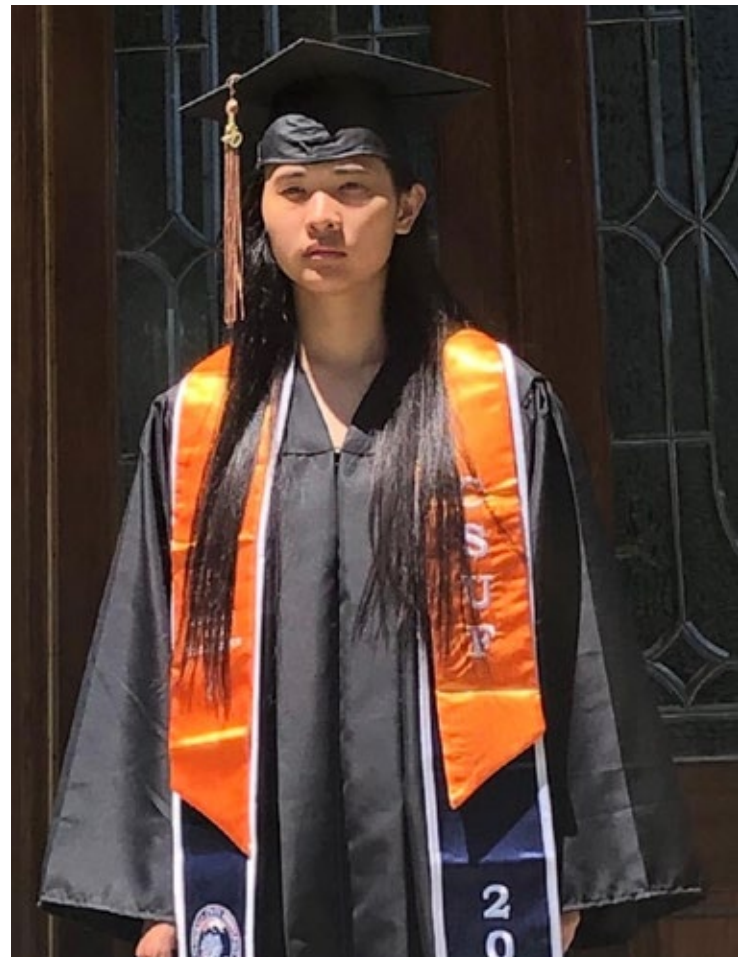
# Paying it Forward

An Alumni Family Gives Back

Anne-Marie Nguyen and her mother, Rosemary, were so grateful for the education Anne-Marie received while at Prentice, they decided to make sure that students in need of financial support through our scholarship fund had access to the same educational opportunities Anne-Marie received during her years at Prentice. Through their family's foundation, the Tam An Foundation, they have pledged \$30,000 in support of our Restricted Scholarship Fund.

Now, more than ever during this pandemic, families find themselves in need of financial aid support for their child to receive instructional strategies provided through a Prentice education.

We are proud of Anne-Marie for not only receiving her degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting from California State University, Fullerton, but we are pleased to know that Prentice touched her heart enough to give for future generations. The Nguyen's family's generosity will change lives!





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Prentice.org

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

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