

Summer Welcome: June 2023



Kindergarten, 1st & 8th Grade Buddies Run!

Welcome New Families!

Welcome to The Presentation School! You're joining our community at just the right time. We've just completed our 25th year and we are excited and confident to begin the next 25 years with you in August!

We've come so far from the daily setting up of classrooms in the community center to our beautiful park-like campus today. We've grown in so many ways building a sense of community and a tradition of academic excellence. We welcome you and invite you to get excited about the year to come.

Summer Mailing

Next week, we'll be sending out to each grade level our **Summer Mailing on Tuesday, June 20**. In the Summer Mailing, you'll find a welcome letter from your teachers, information to be prepared for next year, and some educational ideas/suggestions to keep you and your family learning and curious throughout the summer!

TPS Imagines Our Future, Together

The Presentation School is excited to kick off its strategic planning in the fall of the 2023-2024 school year. This year-long process is one where we come together to envision the future of the school in the midst of emerging trends, whilst holding true our identity steeped in our values: love, learn, lead.

We invite parents and members of the community to join us in supporting our planning efforts as we prioritize need-finding, exploring our strengths and areas of growth, and consider our purpose and place in the independent school landscape. Read on to learn more about what a strategic plan involves and the importance of your involvement.

TPS in the News!

[Class of 2023](#)

[Sonoma gymnast takes third in uneven bars at championship competition](#)

[Student service projects at Presentation School benefit community](#)

[Sonoma under-14 girls soccer team heads to Sacramento for State Cup Championship](#)

[Sonoma students take home medals at taekwondo tournament](#)

[Sonoma Crushers need help getting to Baseball Hall of Fame in New York](#)

What is Strategic Planning?

Purpose

Strategic planning involves cultivating our imagination so that we can create a vision for the future of our school. This includes reflecting on and re-envisioning TPS's mission, vision, and goals. An effective strategic plan serves as a compass to guide us into the future.

Process

The process involves bringing the various stakeholders in our community together to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Students, Parents, Alumni, Faculty and Staff, board members and former trustees will all be asked to contribute to this process to share differing perspectives. It also includes examining and analyzing the internal factors and external trends to better set priorities, and create an action plan that is both agile and rooted in our values.

Communication

Throughout the next year, we will be regularly communicating about our strategic planning process. Expect communications via email that let you know where we are in terms of process, as well as opportunities to contribute your thoughts and opinions.

Strategic Planning Super Saturday, February 10

TPS is planning a **Super Saturday Think Tank on Saturday, February 10, 2024**. Please mark your calendars now for this important date. More details will follow. This event will be your opportunity as parents to make your voices heard and help the TPS community steer itself into the future.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!



Porter Abodeely, Jack Conway, Kaitlyn Conway, Kendall Conway (not pictured), Adelaide Graf, Tyson Guttormsen, Jackson Henn, Mack Mahoney, Lilli Marino, Levi Mehl, Aden Mughannam, Charly Newman, Isabel Pedersen, Olivia Pinkin, Claus Russell, Ivan Snow, Violet Snow, Benjamin Steffens (not pictured), Isla Tudisco, Lucas Vaio, Burleigh Kenneth Weeman and Sophia Ziesemann.

Familiar Faces, New Spaces

We are proud of our versatile and talented faculty and admin teams!
In August, we'll welcome some familiar faces to new spaces!



Laurel Studebaker
5th Grade



Elva Guttormsen
Kinder Associate & Admin

Familiar Faces, Same Spaces

You'll be happy to return to the familiar and welcoming smiles of our fabulous faculty and amazing admin teams!

Curriculum Coordinator

Mrs. Alex Haley

Registrar

Mrs. Meaghan Hengehold

Front Office (PT)

Ms. Elva Guttormsen

Enrollment Director

Mrs. Emma Evanson

Advancement Officer

Mrs. Saasha Orsi

Business Officer

Ms. Shanna Rodgers

Head of School

Ms. Jackie Gallo

Kindergarten

Mrs. Amy Albrecht

2nd Grade

Ms. Haley Nicholson

3rd Grade

Mrs. Melissa Yazzolino

4th Grade

Ms. Teresa Caselli

6th Grade

Mr. Keefe Durgin

7th Grade

Mrs. Jenn Mora

8th Grade

Mrs. Gina Irvine

Spanish

Maestro Fernando De La Cruz

Fine Art

Mrs. Julie Boles

Performing Art

Ms. Debra Chambliss

Middle School Science

Doc Greg Garrison

Learning Specialist

Mrs. Jeanette Cardamone

Teaching Associates

Ms. Erika Costanzo

Ms. Diana Vitorelo

Ms. Brenda Sherwood



Welcome to our New Faculty!

We are thrilled to invite three new faculty members to our team this coming year and welcome back our returning faculty!

Welcome Mr. Griffin Freitas!

Athletic Director, After School Coordinator, PE

Griffin is excited to join TPS from the Mark Day School in San Rafael. With nine years of K-8 PE teaching experience and six years coaching wrestling at Stuart Hall in SF, Griffin is thrilled to make TPS his home. He has a passion for all things athletics like designing engaging PE curriculum and coaching a variety of sports including basketball, volleyball, track & field, flag football and disc golf. His favorite book is Where the Wild Things Are and enjoys card games and anime. Griffin and his wife, Grazielle, have a daughter named Colette who we hope to see in Kindergarten in the coming years and a dog name Chloe.



In his own words, "I believe everyone should enjoy a sport or hobby that can lead to success in a variety of ways including physical and mental health, character development, and being an outstanding community member. I believe TPS can be my forever home. The values of Love, Learn, Lead co-align with my own beliefs."

Welcome Ms. Maggie Moran!

1st Grade Lead Teacher

Maggie joins The Presentation School with over twenty years of experience in teaching and education. Maggie has had a diverse range of qualifications in her teaching career, including time spent in special education, health, and lead elementary school classroom teacher. She is excited to join our Presentation community and share a desire to instill our values in young people. She's ready to put her passion for academia and love of children to work here with us.

Outside of school, you can find Maggie outside! From rock climbing and hiking, running and gardening, she's a lover of nature and animals. Maggie lives in Napa and has an adult daughter and a large extended family here in California.



Welcome Ms. Brenda Sherwood!

Kindergarten Part-Time Teaching Associate

Brenda is happy to transition from substitute teaching to part-time and consistent Kindergarten Teaching Associate! Brenda is a jack-of-all-trades having raised five wonderful boys, bookkeeping, photography, property management, and customer service. She's enjoyed working with our youngest students as a substitute this past spring and is inspired by our values to Love, Learn, and Lead and support our incoming Kindergarten class!



Parent Association: Gratitude & Greetings

Gratitude

It's impossible to put into words our gratitude for **Melissa Parker** and **Caroline Guthrie** who have co-chaired our Parent Association for the last two years. These two parent phenoms have helped us re-build and re-imagine what the TPS community can be. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to community through fun events like the Family Dance, supporting our fundraising activities like the Wine Raffle, and so much more. Your impact is beyond extraordinary and we thank you!

Greetings

We are fortunate to have two fantastic forces step up and into the leading roles of our Parent Association for the 23-24 school year! I know you'll be as happy as we are to welcome the wonderful **Courtney Sorensen** and **Lisa Shapiro** as our incoming PA Co-Chairs! Lisa and Courtney have already contributed so much to our community and are well-equipped with dedication and great ideas to make next year's PA a big success! Welcome aboard and we thank you for your commitment!

Volunteers Make the World Go Round!

22-23 Parent Association Board Members

Co-Presidents: Melissa Parker & Caroline Guthrie; Treasurer: Caroline Guthrie; Communications Director: Melissa Parker; Admin Liaison: Emma Evanson; Teacher Appreciation Liaison: Courtney Sorensen; Volunteer Coordinator: Sia Patel; Food & Beverage Coordinator: Jackie Blackshear; Used Uniform Coordinators: Cynthia Mellinger & Misti Maidel; Dad's Club Coordinator: Jay Rooke

22-23 Room Parents

Katie McQueary Bartz, Erin Lockhart, Patrice Veyna, Margaret Mo, Lisa Shapiro, Simone York, Jackie Blackshear, Ginger Rohlfs, Gretchen Krebs, Jennifer Henn, Rachel Pedersen, Cynthia Mellinger, Belinda Halloran, Jess Steffens, Jennifer Putnam, Toni Morgan, Sarah Pinkin, Piper Abodeely

Hot Lunch

Piper Abodeely, Doina Andrews, Jackie Blackshear, Adrienne Bragdon, Jen Donohue, Caroline Guthrie, Tanya Jishi Corona, Claire Kivelstadt, Sharon Langord, Misti Maidel, Sophia Metzner, Margaret Mo, Alyssa Morse, Susan Ostapak, Melissa Parker, Mina Patel, Sia Patel, Rachel Pedersen, Sarah Pinkin, Ginger Rolfs, Lisa Shapiro, Ryan Snow, Courtney Sorensen, Melissa Vaio, Erinn Weiswasser, Kathy Whaley, Simone York

Sports Coaches

Volleyball/Basketball: Toni Morgan & Graham Crawford; Basketball/Football: Sean Mahoney; Football: James DeLuca & Joe Diggins; Basketball: James Wilhelm, Jamie Chandler, Sean Norris, Nigel Weekes, Mike Conway; Cross Country: Bridget Flocco, Ari Weiswasser, Gordon Newman, Tiffany Newman; Track & Field: Belinda Halloran

Library

Krista Holden & Katherine Linder



Volunteers Make Memories!

We send a special thank you to Committee Volunteers who helped bring community events to life and leave us with memories to last a lifetime!

Fall Festival: Simone York, Bernardino Alejo; **25th Anniversary Gala:** Tanya Corona, Allyson Weekes, Sonya De Luca, Toni Morgan, Courtney Sorensen, Erin Lockhart-Scott, Melissa Parker, Caroline Guthrie, Rachel Pedersen, Colin Blackshear, Jeanne Louise Boynton, Gretchen Krebs and the countless volunteers that helped with set-up and clean-up; **Color Run:** Courtney Sorensen, Toni Morgan, Melissa Parker and Scott Murray as well as the many volunteers who helped with set-up and clean-up.

CAIS / WASC Dual Accreditation is Coming!

During the 23-24 school year, Alex Haley will lead our school through our first dual CAIS/WASC accreditation cycle!

Accreditation is a seal of approval that we meet the high standards of excellence in our school as an organization and a learning community by both the locally focused and prestigious California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) and global standard setter of excellence Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Our accreditation process will promote a deeper analysis of who we are as we place teaching and learning at the center of this reflective activity. We intend to place an increased emphasis on the identification and appreciation of a school's existing strengths, as well as a sharpened focus on the key challenges and opportunities that will become the targets of future institutional energy.

This year-long process helps our school, through a dialogic and collaborative process understand who and where we are today identifying our strengths and points of growth to set a positive path forward. Your participation in school surveys such as the End of Year Parent Evaluation and parent curriculum surveys help us understand your perspectives. **We will be visited by an accreditation team of CAIS Heads of School in Spring 2024** as a part of the process and we will keep you informed as to how you can support us in our accreditation review!

Learn more about CAIS & WASC accreditation by clicking on the logos below!



Interested in volunteering your expertise & interest with our TPS Board of Trustees?



Would you be interested in joining any committees? The Board is looking for individuals interested in the following committees: **DEI, Marketing, Finance, Development, Facilities & Safety, and Strategic Planning.** If interested, please send an email to Dana Vivier, Governance Committee at dana@vivierwines.com to request additional information.

Facilities & Safety Updates

As we celebrated our 25th year, our focus has been on upgrading and maintaining our beautiful facility for the next 25 years! Completed and ongoing projects this year include:

Safety

- Gates to be fully functional for the start of the 2023 school year, security film on all interior windows, black-out blinds for all classrooms and building windows, upgraded exterior lighting to LEDs

Beautification & Efficiency of our Environment

- Drip irrigation completed to conserve water, plant upgrades, improving the back lawn surface by filling in holes, new bark under play structures, Redwood manicuring along rear of gym for future lunch area and fire safety, major water line repair (provided bottled water for students until well testing was completed), water well upgrades such as sounding tube installation and mini-pulse timer replacement.

Building Maintenance

- New LED light fixtures in student restrooms, new urinals in boys restrooms, installed new filters on all drinking fountains, repaired multiple A/C and heat units, ongoing work on pigeon proofing the solar panels

Community

- New sound board for Activity Center community events, repaired activity center refrigerator



Planning for the Future

- New shade cloth on gazebo lunch area
- Phase 1 of our Facility Facelift: Painting of the exteriors of Administration building, Library and trellis at the school entrance.

Summer Office Hours

Summer Hours:

Monday - Thursday from 9:00am - 1:00pm.

Our TPS campus and administration offices will be closed from July 17-28.



Check back in with the admin team on July 31 when we are back in the office!

Planning for a Fun & Successful 23-24 School Year!

Welcome Back Picnic!!!

Tuesday, August 15

12:00 - 12:30: Classroom Sneak Peeks

12:30 - 2:00: Picnics, Games, & Fun on the Back Lawn

Take a peek into your classroom, reconnect with friends and community members, and buy some uniforms! Bring a picnic basket and enjoy the afternoon celebrating the start of a fresh new year school year!



Thank you for a wonderful 25th year full of meaningful memories!

We will be excited to begin the next 25 years with you in August!



The Presentation School 2022-2023 Board of Trustees

Jessica Cuneo, PhD, Board Chairperson

Brad Corona, Finance, Strategic Planning

Bahaneh Hobel, Governance

Matt Mo, DEI

Ashish Patel, Facilities & Safety, Strategic Planning

Dana Sexton Vivier, Governance, Finance

Matt Parker, Treasurer, Finance

Sonya De Luca, Advancement

Dot Kowal, DEI, Strategic Planning

Cherise Norris, DDS, Facilities & Safety

Scott Shapiro, Finance



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