



AUTUMN 2024

# CARDINAL CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRESCOTT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## A SOLID FOUNDATION TO BUILD PSD'S FUTURE

**Dr. Rick Spicuzza, Superintendent of Schools**

Happy Holidays to our Prescott Community. As an organization, we are grateful to our community for supporting the November 5th operating levy. The peace of mind this brings to our staff, families and students will allow us to raise our eyes toward an even brighter future.

So many individuals worked behind the scenes to achieve this successful outcome, and as an organization, we will not disappoint. To all those who went above and beyond for the betterment of our students, the Prescott School Board and everyone associated with PSD are sincerely grateful.

The school board will immediately address the four priorities identified if the levy passed:

- Invest in staff to ensure they are fairly and competitively compensated
- Ensure each classroom has the instructional resources it requires and explore current and future programming options for all students to thrive
- Present options to reinstate funding cuts to athletics and the arts
- Reserve funds for future capital costs to keep our facilities in excellent condition

Throughout this newsletter, you will witness the amazing accomplishments of our students in many endeavors. These opportunities exist because of the dedicated PSD staff and volunteers who continue to elevate the programs available throughout the organization. Consider our fall athletic team's prowess. All fall teams advanced to postseason competitions and the girls cross country team participated in its first state-level meet. Our theater program is year-round with incredible performances from summer to spring. The PHS One Act Play ensemble captured top state honors and will attend the national competition this summer!

*Continued on back...*

## Highlights of this Edition

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## ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK: *A WEEK IN THE WOODS*

### Intermediate students take a “Day in the Woods” field trip after reading this year’s book selection.



Prescott Intermediate School staff and grades 4-5 students enjoyed this year’s One School, One Book selection *A Week in the Woods*. The story’s main character, Mark, is new to his school and just wants to fit in – except his mode of transportation to and from school is a limousine with his own driver!

The plot follows Mark at Hardy Elementary where conversation is centered on the annual, weeklong fieldtrip with the entire fifth grade. PIS students learned how the fictional students prepared for the camping trip: items to pack and why they were important (bug spray!), things to be cautious of, and which “bunkhouse” they were assigned to.

Along with a daily reading schedule, the entire school engaged in activities related to the book’s plot: a scavenger hunt, designing camper medallions and knot tying. Similar to the story, there was rising anticipation in the PIS hallways for the daylong fieldtrip to Kinnickinnic State Park.



In late September, staff and students spent a glorious day at the state park that included a lengthy outdoor hike, races on the sledding hill that emphasized the scientific concepts of mass and acceleration, an outdoor scavenger hunt, and an art project using objects gathered in nature. The trip culminated by roasting marshmallows to create smores and singing camp songs.



“The adventure genre of *A Week in the Woods* was distinctly different from the fairy tale fantasy of our first year of OSOB selection, *Rump*,” Principal Michael Kosmalski stated. Fifth grade students were polled on which book was their favorite and it was about a 50/50 split. “Reading the book and engaging in the community-building and learning activities together made this year’s program something students will remember as a positive experience for a long time.”

We greatly appreciate Afton Apple who sponsored the program this year. Their donation covered the cost of the books, the activities and the Kinnickinnic field trip!







# FALL'S FINEST MOMENTS: PHS ATHLETICS

## GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY MAKES HISTORY ONE...STRIDE...AT...A...TIME

*When you do all the little things right, the big things take care of themselves* is a mantra this year's PHS Cross Country runners trained by. This simple phrase inspired the girls team to make school history by qualifying for its first state tournament meet held in November.

Tim Philips, who joined the team as assistant coach in 2021 and has been head coach the last three years, stated, "I am beyond proud of this team, and not just because of their accomplishment in getting to state. They are a group of well-rounded, intelligent and interesting girls that deserve all of the accolades we can give them."

Cross Country differs from many high school sports because all team members compete in every regular race. When section and state meets are held, coaches select the fastest, most consistent and dedicated runners. Contests generally take place on school grounds or golf courses. Each team is assigned a six foot "box" along the starting line of the course to run the 5k (3.1 miles) race route.

Coach Philips stated that the highlight of the season was conquering a very hilly course at Black River Falls to finish as section runners-up and earn a trip to the state meet as a team for the first time in PHS history.



"The competition at state was far tougher than we'd ever faced." To prepare, the team focused on staying poised and running at paces they knew they could handle.



## CARDINAL FOOTBALL HAS STANDOUT SEASON ON AND OFF THE GRID IRON

Long before the first kickoff of the season took flight, members of the this year's PHS football team were preparing for the 2024 season.

"The process really starts after the final whistle of the last game," stated Head Coach Jordan Hansen. The coaching team looks for athletes who put time and effort into the weight room. Once players start camp in July, coaches start to fit players into certain position groups based on their athletic abilities.





The Cardinals started out strong with 17 seniors leading the way. Their undefeated 7-0 streak ended against conference champs, Baldwin-Woodville, who ended up Division 4 state runners-up.

"Memorable games this season were defeating Ellsworth at home for the first time in almost 10 years and our postseason game against Seymour. It was a long time since we'd won a playoff game at Laney so that was a special moment," stated Hansen.

Off the field, the team strives to build community throughout the district's school buildings by welcoming kids in the mornings, hanging out in the classroom to read a book, or volunteering to coach flag football.

On a greater-community level, the team held its second annual Randy Shaver Tackle Cancer fundraiser this fall to help raise over \$4,300 for the program.



"Getting involved with Tackle Cancer has enabled the players to be a part of something bigger than the game.

They learn the idea of helping others without expecting something in return."

Coaches agree that this group of players has created a change in the team's culture and a shift to the Cardinals being consistently among the top teams in the Middle Border Conference.

"Their hard work and dedication to get bigger, faster, stronger, and be great leaders in the community and at school is something special," Hansen said.

**\*\*In his 5th year as varsity head coach, Jordan Hansen had the honor of being named Packers High School Coach of the Week in early October. Well done Coach!**



## WHY NOT US?

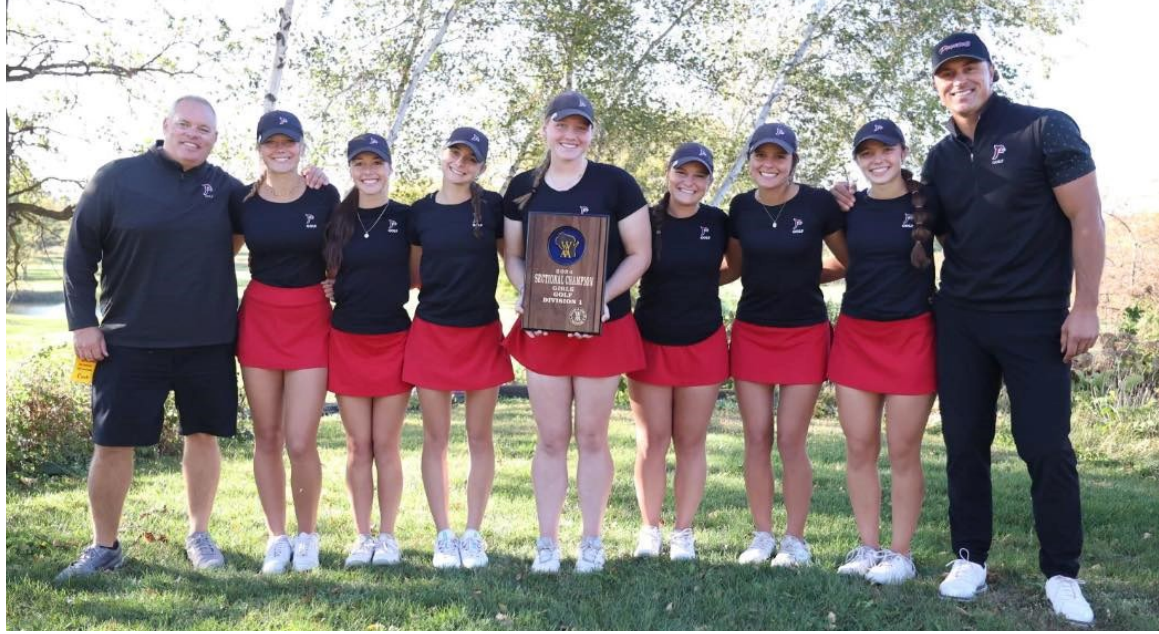
Head VB Coach Geoffrey Snyder and his assistant staff knew they had a special

team evolving by witnessing their improvement with each volleyball match.

"We watched each player's growth and development throughout the season and were playing our best volleyball as a team by the time playoffs started," he stated.







## **RISE**

### **TO A NEW LEVEL OF PLAY**

After losing an WIAA appeal to remain at D2 level this year, the PHS Lady Linksters show that their talent cannot be confined to any level of competition.

After winning four state titles in a row, the WIAA enacted the competitive balance rule to “bump up teams that excel over a three-year period” to determine placement. Once the Lady Cards knew this reality for the season, they did what they do best: went to work physically and mentally.

“Throughout the season, we reminded ourselves who the real competition was - not the teams in our area, but the big schools in the Madison/Milwaukee area,” stated nine year head coach, Chad Salay. Golfers had the mindset of playing against ‘ghosts’ (essentially themselves and their best performance). “We played in the biggest invitationals in the state, against the best teams during the regular season to prepare,” Salay added.

Day 2 of the state tournament was definitely a highlight of the season. Coaches watched as the girls battled each hole to make a huge comeback from their Day 1 deficit to end up placing second of 12 teams (they secured second by only one stroke from the third place Middleton team).

#### **STATE SCORES/PLACE:**

**Macy Reiter** - 161 (80, 81); tied for 15th of 78 golfers

**Gabbi Matzek** - 164 (82, 82); tied for 18th

**Jeanne Rohl** - 168 (86, 82); tied for 26th

**Layla Salay** - 173 (87, 86); tied for 33rd

**Lydia Feran** - 184 (87, 97); tied for 53rd

“This was statistically our best team ever with the deepest talent. They had great attitudes toward being competitive, and their support for one another was second to none. We will miss our seniors tremendously,” said Coach Salay.

When postseason play commenced, coaches wanted to remind players that they were ready to go into battle with them and came up with the mantra, *Why Not Us?*

“It was a motivator to help the girls realize that we had the potential to compete, no matter what our seed was,” commented Snyder.

To mentally prepare for playoffs, the coaches discussed mindset, what to focus on, and how to respond to challenges and adversity. Another lesson in mentality

**WHY  
NOT  
US?**



was a strategy to remain composed in a potentially hostile, competitive environment on the road.

“This group of athletes bought in and trusted the process since day one. They have been so patient and overcome so much - it all paid off!” Coach Snyder commented.

The 2024 PHS Volleyball Team officially made it farther in postseason play than any other team in PSD volleyball history, and were the second to claim the title of Regional Champs since the 1983 team.



## ONE ACT PLAY SWEEPS STATE AWARDS, PROCEEDS TO NATIONAL COMPETITION

In its second year of participating in the One Act Play State Competition, Prescott High School's performance of *A Murder of Crows* was awarded numerous top honors. In addition, the ensemble was chosen to proceed to **National** One Act Play Competition this summer!

**\*Outstanding Director - Thomas Speltz   \*Outstanding Ensemble   \*Outstanding Technical Theatre   \*Critics Choice Award**

**\*Outstanding Actor - Cooper Langer**

**\*Outstanding Actor - Abby Stubbe**

**\*Outstanding Actor - Zoe Anthony**



## Congratulations to all of our Senior Fall Athletes

### FOOTBALL

WILLY ROHL  
WILL PACKARD  
TEDDY BERNICK  
OWEN BAYER  
LIAM FLANNIGAN  
LEWIS KINNEMAN  
JOAQUIN MAGEE  
JACK GROSKOPF  
HENRY ROHL  
GRAYSON RILEY  
FINN STANTON  
ETHAN WEST  
DEITRICH EICH  
DAVID REGNIER  
COLE PLATSON  
BRANDON KINNEMAN  
BARRETT TEMMERS

### CROSS COUNTRY

KATIE HUPPERT  
IZZY METZ  
CAMRYN RICKERS  
BROOKE ENGELDINGER  
FAITH PARMETER  
JACK KREAGER  
CADEN PETERSON  
AIDAN ANTHONY  
WILL MARKERT  
LUKE PETERSON  
MAX DEARBORN  
HUNTER DEARBORN

### GIRLS GOLF

GABBI MATZEK  
JEANNE ROHL  
LYDIA FERAN  
KENDRA OGILVIE  
CAROLINE FOY

### VOLLEYBALL

AUBRYN ENNENGA  
MARISA COGAN  
KELSEY STERUD  
MACKENZIE STERUD

### ONE ACT PLAY

COOPER LANGER ~ WILL MARKERT ~ KEN RYAN  
SYRENN TAYLOR ~ JESSICA BENJAMIN



## COMBATING STUDENT HUNGER, ONE BACKPACK AT A TIME

Prescott's Backpack Program was first implemented a decade ago by Pete French and Prescott Food Pantry volunteers who sourced, packed and oftentimes delivered the bagged items to schools. A decade later, the program is still made possible through the food pantry, as well as a few donations that have funded extra food while not taking away food or resources from the food pantry.

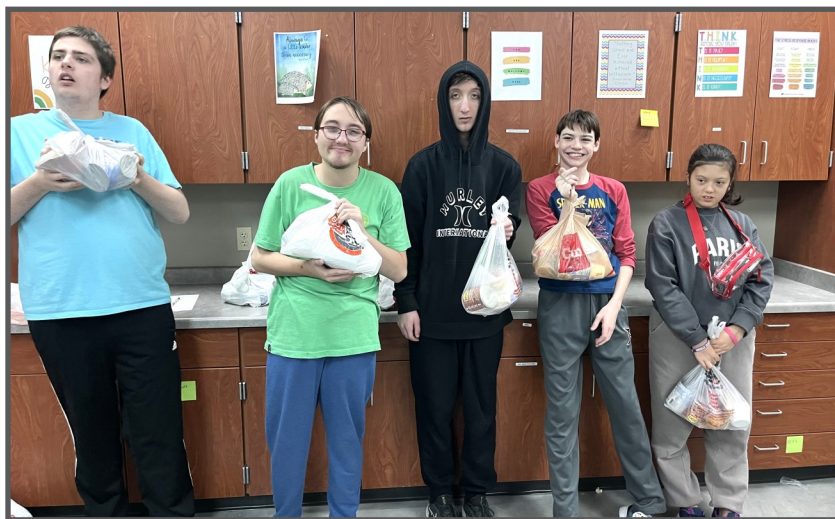
"At the start of the school year, information is sent to parents about participating in the program that helps supply extra food resources for over the weekend," stated program volunteer, Marie Magnan.

Each week, a team of student in Ms. Yanish's class count and package the required number of bags for each school site that are then delivered. Contents include foods that are easy to prepare with proteins, vegetables and whole grains as much as possible.

Prior to the weekend, a designated staff member confidentially places food in the appropriate backpacks while students are in class. An informational food pantry flyer is also enclosed to familiarize families with their

hours and encourage them to feel comfortable utilizing their supplemental resources.

"The beauty of this program is connecting families from our school district to the services provided at the pantry where they can supplement their food expenses," commented Magnan who volunteers to locate and purchase the items for the backpacks on a weekly basis.



## PRESCOTT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

### YOUTH ENRICHMENT

#### Prescott Chess Club

Open to Students Age 7+

Have you ever wanted to learn to play chess? Are you seeking others to play? Regardless of how long or how well you've played, all are welcome! Weekly sessions are divided into an instructional period and over-the-board play. Lessons focus on a particular idea, theme or principle to help players improve. There is also time for play with various formats to test your new skills.

Thursdays, Feb 6-March 13 ~ 6-8pm

Class Fee: \$30

Instructor: Jason Linder

### ADULT & YOUTH

#### Introduction to Sewing

Learn to feel comfortable with your sewing machine, basic stitches, threading, tension, troubleshooting, and how to read a pattern. Students provide a sewing machine, pins, scissors, thread and fabric. The instructor provides patterns and some material (covered in the supply fee). Each week, students complete a simple project such as a pillowcase, bookmark, pot holder, bowl cozy, etc. Open to youth and adults.

Thursdays, Jan 30-Feb 27 ~ 6:30-7:30pm

Class Fee: \$75 + \$10 supply fee

Instructor: Kimberly Broecker

### ADULT ENRICHMENT

#### CPR Certification

Adult, child, infant CPR, AED, First Aid Certification through the American Heart Association. This course meets requirements for the BLS Healthcare Provider and related positions as well as childcare providers. Valid for two years. Ecards delivered by email.

Monday, Jan 13 ~ 6:30-8:30pm

Class Fee: \$90

Instructor: Amanda Niebur

SCAN HERE TO  
REGISTER FOR  
ALL CE CLASSES



**Watch for the new Community Ed Booklet arriving in your mailboxes in January**

# PSD HITS THE MARK IN ACADEMICS!

## 2024 ACADEMIC REPORT CARD in the State of Wisconsin, Prescott is....

TOP 10% - Academic Achievement

TOP 10% - Growth

TOP 10% - Target Group Outcomes

## in the Middle Border Conference, Prescott is....

#1 District - Academic Achievement

#1 District - Growth

#1 District - Target Group Outcomes



*\*Visit the Teaching & Learning tab on our website for a complete presentation on this year's report card results.*

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### ...A SOLID FOUNDATION TO BUILD PSD'S FUTURE

As we recognize the well-rounded development of our students, let's not forget how staff and students continue to excel academically. On statewide assessments and the DPI Annual Report Card, Prescott School District has achieved its highest academic achievement, growth, and target group performance in its history. We are among the top 10% of all WI Public Schools in every category - an outstanding trifecta of performance (see above). Kudos to our staff, families, and students who continue to partner to achieve this level of excellence.

The Prescott community has invested in PSD's community of educators who are performing at exceptional levels. We've accomplished so much together, and look forward to PSD's future planning and the development of Vision 2035. Stay engaged as we begin to bring stakeholders together to build on the strong foundation that is Prescott Schools.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to All!

Prescott Superintendent