



AUTUMN 2023

# CARDINAL CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRESCOTT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Highlights  
of this  
Edition

## A SEASON OF ACHIEVEMENT AND ACCOLADES

*Dr. Rick Spicuzza, Superintendent of Schools*

There's a palpable pride throughout the classrooms and hallways at Prescott School District; this sense of accomplishment is directly related to the recently released 2022-23 Academic Report Card where PSD earned 'Exceeds Expectations.' Despite negative headlines declaring a decline in state and national academic achievement, Prescott Schools continues to beat the odds.

When compared to districts in the Middle Border Conference (MBC), River Falls and Hudson, Prescott students consistently outperformed these schools 90% of the time in English-language arts and 85% in mathematics. PSD is ranked #1 in Academic Achievement and Academic Growth in the MBC. In fact, compared to all WI districts, PSD is in the top 10% for Academic Achievement and top 15% in Growth. This success is not accidental. It is the product of the hard work of educators and an intentional focus on continuous improvement (visit "Teaching & Learning" on PSD's website).

Prescott students have also excelled outside of the classroom this fall—namely, on the course, court, field and stage. These successes strengthen the connection with our extended community through mutual experience and we appreciate your support:

- The Lady Cards Golf Team secured their fourth consecutive Division 2 state championship under the leadership of Coach Chad Salay. This truly amazing accomplishment was recognized by a City of Prescott Council proclamation!
- PHS Cross Country sent an individual to state for the third year in a row, and our top-tier course hosted two collegiate competitions, bringing hundreds of visitors to City of Prescott and its businesses.
- The girls volleyball program won its first conference championship since 2015 and its first regional championship since 1983!
- The Cardinal Football Team had a respectable on-the-field season winning both non-conference games and were remarkable representatives during the Randy Shaver Tackle Cancer event, coordinated through PCR's Angela Magee.
- PHS Theatre Dept. participated in WISDAA One Acta this year and brought home numerous top awards from the state competition: Outstanding Actors, Will Markert and Abby Stubbe; Outstanding Technical Theatre; Outstanding Director, Thomas Speltz; Outstanding Ensemble; and, Critic's Choice Award.

(Continued on back page)

### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

1

### CARDINALS TAKE FLIGHT

2

### YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP

3

### ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK

4-5

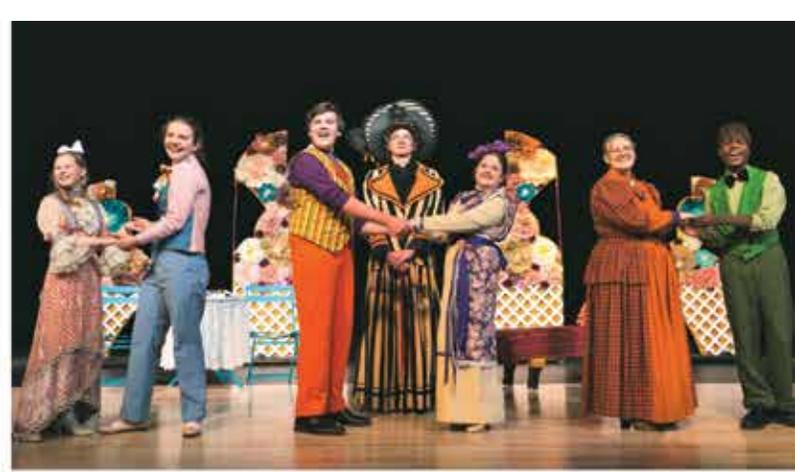
### CHARACTER-BUILDING

6-7

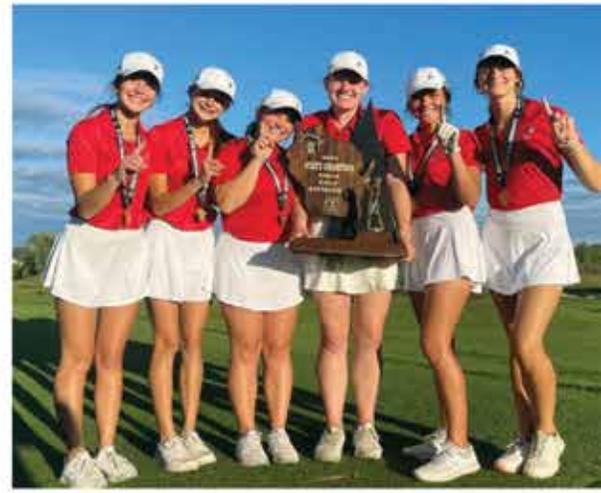
### CONTINUED FROM ONE

8





# Cardinals Take Flight: 2023-24





Youth Apprenticeship is a 1-2 year program that gives juniors and seniors in high school the chance to explore a career area of interest. Students spend part of their school day earning credit and wages while they gain valuable industry experience under the guidance of a local business mentor. PHS's program has seen a resurgence under the leadership of Mr. Jeremy Kerg with currently nine students participating. Pictured back: Gramh Linderholm, Bennett Matzek, Kaylin Rein, Elisa Sterud. Front row: Ally Warp, Gracia Doyle and Rishelle Fabian. Not pictured: Landon Matzek and Wyatt Kranig.



**ALLY** has a position at IDA Manufacturing and works behind the scenes to run a business. She's learned how to operate a variety of machines, including a CNC, as well as many financial features of running a business.

**BENNETT** has learned the importance of paying attention to detail in his position with Foley Company, and has applied skills he learned in tech ed classes to a real world setting. "The experience has exposed me to many aspects of the manufacturing process and will put me ahead when I take more classes."

**ELISA** can be seen preparing and cleaning the workplace at Ptacek's IGA. She's learned time management, customer service and teamwork in her position.

**GRACIA** chose an apprenticeship to widen her experience in the workforce and gain skills before college. At Pier 500, she's learned how to efficiently and quickly get things done, customer service and has been exposed to software used in the restaurant business.

**GRAHM** has been trained to perform a variety of different preventative care and car repair procedures on cars at Hastings Ford Automotive, and has even learned to safely run a car lift.

**KAYLIN** made sure your boat's gas tank was full and did repairs for Miss-Croix Yacht Club this fall and now works at Ace Hardware. She has gained new skills in building and helps make sure customers' tools work properly.

**LANDON** is also employed with Foley Company and operates a press break. He has learned to bend new angles of sheet metal. He commented, "When you finish one project, there is always more to accomplish."

**RISHELLE** has learned patience and gained a hard work ethic at her place of employment - Two Rivers Bar & Grill in downtown Prescott. She enjoys working with a team and has learned skills in multi-tasking and customer service.

**WYATT** can be seen at Kwik Trip doing a variety of tasks. He is interested in the hospitality field and is gaining customer service experience and exposure to the technical skills used in a retail industry.

Apprenticeships differ from general work-based learning because of their tie to other educational programming. There is generally an interview process, a contract between the employer and apprentice, an evaluation process, and it is required that the placement is registered with the Department of Workforce Development. Students sign a contract with their employer that specifically states the expectations of the Apprentice and the Employer. Apprentices also take classes that are within the scope of the apprenticeship. For example, students working at Foley Company (manufacturing /welding) are required to take or have taken a welding or comparable class.



---

**“LIFE WOULD BE AWFULLY GRIM AND  
GLUM IF I COULDN'T LAUGH AT MYSELF.”**

---

This fall, Prescott Intermediate School unveiled a new project when the One School, One Book (OSOB) program was launched. Similar to a school-wide book club, the focus of the project is to create a shared reading experience within a single elementary school that involves the entire staff and engages families in the curriculum’s activities as well.

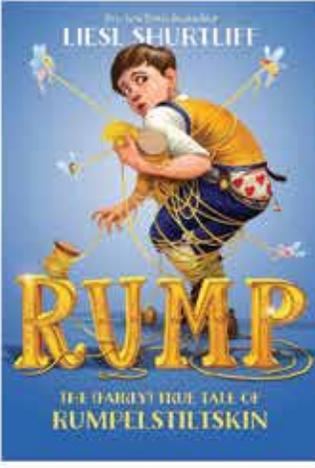
The impetus for OSOB came from 5th grade teacher, Alexis Magnino, whose former school participated. Next, she and Principal Kosmalski set the wheels in motion: PIS student council members voted to cover the cost of books and the Malone Parent Committee graciously covered the expense for the author visit.

A surprise to students, Mr. Kosmalski gave daily clues during morning announcements in early October as a book teaser. On October 19, *Rump* was revealed at a kickoff assembly which included an outline of reading expectations as well as a sampling of the activities: researching their name, a personality quiz to discover which character they are most like, drawing their favorite scene and decoding names using a cipher (a message written in a secret code).

“I love how all levels of student readers are able to be successful and have rich discussions about the book,” commented Emily Hoven, 4th grade teacher.

Along with a reading schedule, students answered trivia questions to assess comprehension and earn raffle tickets. Twelve raffle tickets will be drawn and winners will enjoy lunch with the author of *Rump*, Liesl Shurtliff. During her visit, she will work with student on the writing process. Student council members are currently creating posters to welcome Shurtliff.

*In a magic kingdom where your name is your destiny, 12-year-old Rump is the butt of everyone's jokes. But when he finds an old spinning wheel, his luck seems to change. Rump discovers he has a gift for spinning straw into gold. His best friend, Red Riding Hood, warns him that magic is dangerous, and she is absolutely right about that!*





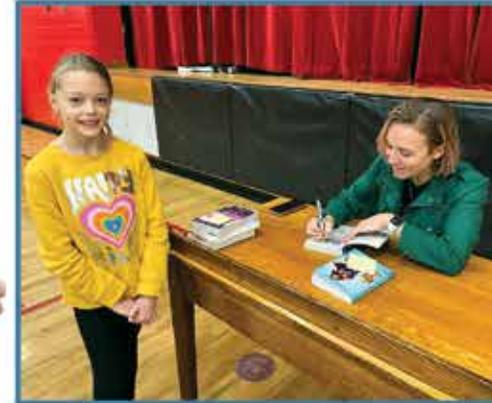
There was rock star anticipation in the gymnasium at Prescott Intermediate School as students awaited the arrival of *Rump* author, Liesl Shurtliff, on Wednesday, November 29. The week began with final activities that aligned to the book's plot (an egg drop) and the creation of welcoming posters.

Shurtliff arrived at the assembly and shared her inspirations for the novel. She then held a book signing and writing workshops with each class throughout the day. In the sessions, students were prompted to write about a *grumpy* character, but could not use *grumpy* in their written description.

Students shared their work while Liesl gave constructive feedback and writing tips.

The highlight for 12 lucky winners of a random drawing was a fancy, royal luncheon with the author herself (sub sandwiches, chips, fruit and a cake in the image of the book cover).

"The One School, One Book program was truly an incredible experience for students, staff and families who were involved," stated Mr. Kosmalski.





---

**CHARACTER (noun): the combination of traits, qualities and values that distinguish the individual nature of a person from others.**

---

Prescott Middle School has a unique character development program in place that aligns to the Wisconsin DPI's character education standards. Each month, one of the selected character traits is introduced to students via a slide show presentation during the TA period and include: Responsibility, Respect, Compassion (Empathy), Cooperation, Kindness (Random Acts of Kindness month), Courage, Perseverance and Integrity. The slide show gives a definition, exemplars and engaging videos. During the month, the trait is reinforced through various activities: a mock game shows, an attitude inventory, and a "walk a mile in their shoes" task for the trait compassion, and more.

At the end of the month, each grade level team selects two students (for a total of six) who they think has most embodied the character trait through their

actions and behavior, and those students are deemed "Cardinals of the Month."

"The Prescott Middle School team is working hard to assist our students at being the best they can be. After doing these lessons for the past couple of years, we hear from places we visit that Prescott is one of the best middle school groups they host. Students work hard on these character traits and they've become qualities they exhibit in their daily lives," shared Mr. Igou, Prescott Middle School Principal.

Prescott Middle School Counselor, Abigail Mattimiro, developed the lessons for each trait and coordinates their distribution to TA's. Library Media Assistant, Donalee Meyer, oversees the Cardinals of the Month awards. Nominated students are photographed with their awards and shared on bulletin boards, social media and the district website.

"When the Cardinals of the Month are recognized for their positive character traits and values, it is evident they feel appreciated, respected, and empowered. You can just see their self esteem and confidence take-off, grow, and flourish!" stated Donalee Meyer.



September Students of the Month for Positivity, l to r, b to f: Savannah and Neil (8th), Ethan and Leah (7th), Kyleigh and Landon (6th).



November Students of the Month for Responsibility, l to r, b to f: Kyle and Ayla (8th), Maddox and Claire (7th), Brinkley and Rainer (6th).

## PRESCOTT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

### ADULT ENRICHMENT

#### WISCONSIN'S FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE: Then and Now

Four different topics will be analyzed and discussed during this four-part course: Introduction to Tribal Nations; The Boarding School Era; Treaty Rights and Indian Gaming; and, Logos/Mascots/Nicknames in Athletics.

Wed: Feb 7, 14, 21 & 28 7-8:30 pm  
 Prescott High School - Room 102  
 Class Fee: \$15 Instructor: Jeff Ryan

#### FUSED GLASS HEART PLATE

Design a small plate with a heart pattern for Valentine's Day and learn the basic techniques of cutting glass. Create the plate in class and arrange to pick up/ship after the piece is kiln fired. You may purchase extra plates for an additional cost during the class.

Tues: Jan 16 6-7:30 pm  
 Prescott High School - Room 117  
 Class Fee: \$35  
 Instructor: Elaine Schultz

### YOUTH ENRICHMENT

#### PRESCOTT CHESS CLUB:

This class is for youth ages 7+ and adults that may be new to the game, want to improve their skills and/or play with others. Sessions are divided into instruction and board play, with a short break between. Lessons focus on a particular idea, theme, or principle to help players improve and with time to practice! All materials are provided.

Thurs: Jan 18 - Mar 7 6-8:00 pm  
 Lower Level, Prescott Middle School  
 Room G9 Class Fee: \$25  
 Instructor: Jason Linder

#### YOUNG KIDS OPEN GYM: Ages 2-6 years and Families

The elementary gym will be open for family, free play. Bring your own toys (appropriate for a gym floor) or have fun with some of ours: balls, hula hoops, scooters and more. Parents are responsible for their own child/ren during play. Registration is not required, pay cash (only) at the door!

Sat: Dec 16, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 23  
 9-10 am Malone Elementary Gym  
 (Enter at Back Gym Doors)  
 Cost: \$1/date/child

Watch for the winter programming booklet coming soon - including our second puzzle tournament, February 3, from 9-11 am in the MS cafeteria!

For current classes, visit:  
[prescott.k12.wi.us/  
 community/](http://prescott.k12.wi.us/community/)



ECRWSS  
POSTAL - CUSTOMER - LOCAL



ACADEMICS  
& GROWTH



ACADEMICS  
STATE OF WI



STUDENT GROWTH  
STATE OF WI

### New Year, New Learning Spaces

Students and staff were welcomed to the new school year with revitalized spaces to teach and to learn. This summer, there was major implementation of projects from the '22 maintenance referendum dollars: exterior repairs, blacktopping, classroom improvements, system upgrades and more (view the QR code below for visuals).

Next summer's major projects include roof replacement on the middle school and Malone, along with window replacement and HVAC work at Malone. We are grateful for this investment into Prescott's education facilities.

### Looking to PSD's Future: Vision 2035

In August, PSD kicked-off Phase I of a guided process that engages staff, students to think critically about the current and future needs of our learning spaces. Session activities allow participants to anticipate the direction that academic programming will evolve in the next decade. Phase I's objective is to develop intentional plans that ensure our facilities continue to align with PSD's academic model and programming standards.

Vision 2035 Phase II will include an assessment of all outdoor facilities and greenspaces to meet the current and future aspirations of PSD's extracurricular athletics, activities and academic programming.

### School Finance and State Funding

Prescott Schools play an integral role in the vitality of the Prescott Community and surrounding townships. The engagement and sacrifices of the Prescott employees continue to create exceptional outcomes for our youth and future leaders.

In the coming months, the School Board will examine the need for the community to once again financially support an operating referendum in April 2024. The Wisconsin legislative funding model has failed public schools. It provided zero per-pupil funding in years 2022-23 at a time when inflation soared, and response to COVID mandated were in place. At this time, over 80% of all public schools in WI require local levies to sustain their operating costs. Your approval will allow PSD to retain our high-quality staff and to maintain the exceptional performance we have achieved.

Please stay tuned and visit the QR codes below for complete information:



FACILITIES  
PLANNING



FISCAL  
PLANNING