



SPRING 2021

CARDINAL CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRESCOTT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Highlights
of this
Edition

LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

Dr. Rick Spicuzza, Superintendent of Schools

Multi-tasking is a requisite skill for educators and educational leaders, a skill universally sharpened since March, 2020. Like cicadas, we are collectively emerging from a 15-month hiatus of limited social interaction to create one shared chorus of gratitude. Each year, the first week of May is a national platform to recognize public school staff. In the midst of the chaos created by COVID, there was an incessant infantry of PSD professionals who remained focused keeping the main thing, the main thing: education, safety and public health and well-being first and foremost in everything we do.

Teacher-Employee Appreciation Week allowed staff to exhale, take a bow and enjoy an opportunity to linger in the pride of its ability to transport, feed, clean, protect, and educate every day, all year long. I, for one, could not be more grateful for their collective efforts. I also wish to thank the numerous staff, parents, community members and local businesses for acknowledging them. Your efforts were timely and greatly appreciated.

Prescott School District will continue to make some noise, positive noise. We are positioned to emerge with a renewed strength and excited to soon unveil:

- Expanded PHS Fab Lab equipment and learning opportunities to more students through a grant and community support
- Refined technology and one-to-one devices at our high school, born of necessity, now integrated and infused into daily learning experiences
- Advanced focus and training in early literacy programming K-3, with added emphasis in grades 4-12
- A continued focus on early numeracy, expanded practical and conceptual math skills throughout grade levels, and financial literacy at the secondary level
- A resurgence of sound from the Performing Arts Center where we are literally "striking up the band," choir and performing a musical
- A full slate of spring sports and upgrades to all playing fields through public and private collaboration with CAB, PFA, First National Bank RF, Coulee River Trails, and the Mike Riley Family.

To build upon the foundation we've laid for an enduring, positive future, the board has selected a project management company to develop options to address our essential infrastructure needs. I encourage you to become engaged in these next steps that ensure our buildings support our district's mission, vision and values. Learn more on page 10.

Have a safe and relaxing summer.

Inspiring lifelong learners for future success...

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PRESCOTT HIGH SCHOOL



Top Ten Graduates



**CO-VALECTORIAN
SOPHIA LEBAKKEN**



**CO-VALECTORIAN
ISABELLA LENZ**

REMAINING TOP STUDENTS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER



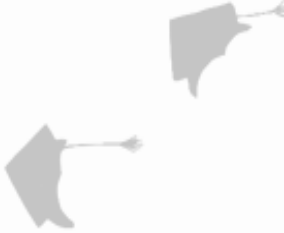
GRACE CARLSON



JESSICA GEERDES



MARISSA JANSEN



WALKER LENZ



CONNOR LUBICH



DELANEY SANFORD



MADELEINE TIBAYAN



SOPHIA TIBAYAN

MALONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

What an amazing school year it has been at Malone Elementary School! The year has surpassed every expectation we had during a global pandemic. Many, many positive lessons were learned, some of the key lessons:

- It truly takes a village to educate a child. School staff and families had to step out of typical roles and routines to support us in keeping our students and staff safe and in school. Increased flexibility, patience, and empathy were at the forefront of lessons learned.
- Relationships are key for both learning and developing. Because of COVID protocols, students and classroom teachers spent more of their time together throughout the day - there was a noticeable impact on staff-to-student and student-to-student relationships.
- Kids are resilient, so are staff and families! There were MANY curve balls thrown our way, yet we persevered. Laughter filled our hallways and classrooms. Academics continued to be at the forefront of our mission and they soared!
- New technology emerged in our classrooms - SeeSaw, video lessons, and key iPad apps helped to enhance learning in all of our classrooms. Technology also allowed us to transfer that learning to the home.
- A kind word or note from an appreciative parent or community member can lift the spirits and morale of all staff. They consistently hear these words of encouragement from administration and colleagues, but it carries a little extra meaning when it comes from outside our walls.

As always, summer does not end the work happening in our schools. Administration and staff will be spending ample hours curriculum writing and working with colleagues to enhance our learning models in anticipation of the 2021-2022 school year.

As we look forward to next year, we are excited about new students, new learning, and adapting to a “new normal” in our school community. Although we are looking forward to some of the aspects of our COVID-year ending, we know so many great things from this school year will remain present in the way we teach and inspire our students!

Sara Dusek, Malone Elementary Principal



PRESCOTT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

What a school year 2020-2021 has been at the nest we call Malone Intermediate School!

No one would ever have predicted that our school community could have pulled off such an amazing year of learning. Through the hard work, flexibility, and partnership between staff, families, and students, we made it through a year filled with challenges and success stories. From the adjustment of teachers and families to SeeSaw and Google Classroom as our learning management systems to a virtual DARE graduation and keeping our doors open for at-school learning all year long... Together We Made the Difference. I appreciate the continued support from our families and their increased involvement and flexibility, and tireless hours of work from our teaching staff.

MIS has much to celebrate this year: two Third place National Current Events League teams, a three-peat School Spelling Bee Champ and a First Place Pierce County Environmental Essay Winner demonstrate that our student accomplishments were not overshadowed. In the classroom we soared to new heights as we implemented additional intervention and extension opportunities, took classroom learning outside

whenever possible, and spent time learning about conservation from a few local experts. In addition, we learned how to snowshoe, patiently wait for our turn on the sledding hill, and learned about democracy through a school-wide mock election.

As we wrap up this year and start to make plans for next year, we look most forward to being open once again for a full year of on-site learning. Staff are looking forward to some down time this summer to rejuvenate and start making plans and adjustments as we head into fall. The blended learning of online and at-school activities has led to innovations in the ways we use and leverage technology for student learning and assign at-home learning that is aligned to individual learning needs. The ability for students and teachers to interact both synchronous and asynchronous is something we will continue to use to assist students in their learning journey.

On behalf of myself and the entire staff at MIS, have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Michael Kosmalski,
Malone Intermediate Principal



I started the school year off by telling the middle school teachers and staff that we have the opportunity to rewrite how education will be provided to our students throughout the year. When I made that statement, I did not realize just how different and difficult both teaching and learning were going to be. I also did not realize the amazing things there were going to happen because of it. Key lessons from this year:

- School staff and families had to be extremely flexible and patient as we made four different learning model changes.
- We know that all students learn differently, but many students did not miss a day of instruction because they took their classrooms everywhere they went. Sometimes it was on vacation to a warm place and many times it was someplace different. We now know that students can learn in a variety of different spaces.
- Academics continue to be what we are focused on each and every day. What this year has taught us -

that relationships are key in building a strong academic setting.

As we look towards next year, we are excited for a return closer to normal than we had this year. We are hopeful that we will have one academic model to follow the entire year. We will be looking forward to our new students both to the district and to the building. We look forward to building upon the things we learned this year and making next year even better.

We know learning does not stop and start with the end or beginning of the school year. But the number one thing, I think everyone is looking forward to is a little time to recharge and enter the 2021-2022 school year with a fresh, invigorated out look at what we can do here at school .

Have a great summer,

Kyle Igou,

Prescott Middle School Principal

Prescott Middle School writers
Nora Boles and Makaria Haas
participated in a team writing event
in May with two students from Hudson
Middle School for the Future Problem
Solvers of Wisconsin State Bowl in the
Team Scenario Writing contest for
the Middle Division.

*They were tasked to write a cohesive
piece consisting of four different
viewpoints, and set at least two
decades in the future about the topic
of "Personalized Medicine." Each of the
team members took one perspective to
write about. **Overall, their team
placed 2nd in the State Bowl!***



WE ARE PRESCOTT HIGH SCHOOL



Greetings, Prescott High School Families!

We are heading into the home stretch of the school year, and we're looking to finish strong – balancing hard work with celebrating our Cardinals' successes. The changes this year have been challenging, but students have shown their resilience and have lifted us up throughout the year. Their positivity and excitement for learning brightens our days, and we're grateful we're able to spend the time together.

This year also has required that our teachers and staff adapt to many new ways of educating our students. The past month and a half we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week, School Nurses Day, Paraprofessional Day, and Administrative Assistants Day. Recognition of these days highlights the amazing support our students and families have for our staff members in the school.

Educating during a pandemic has highlighted many challenges. I have found myself telling more than a few people that COVID has exposed both our strengths and the areas we need to grow and improve. I am happy to report that our strengths as a school community far outweigh the areas where we need to get better. By far, the most important thing that I have noted during this past year is the undeniable need for strong relationships and connections for students and staff within the school. These relationships, both in the classroom as well as in the halls, at a game, or during a celebratory afternoon like our Spring Fling, are the aspects of being part of a community that make people feel engaged and excited. I am excited to build more of these opportunities for

relationship building into next year to continue to revitalize our school engagement.

While this year has been dominated in headlines by COVID, it has also been a prodigious year of achievement at PHS. We have seen State Championship teams in both athletics and the arts this year. The Dance Team, Forensics Team, Girls Golf Team, and National History Day Teams have all risen to amazing championship heights. Other teams have also made us proud this year through their fortitude and accomplishments. Similarly, while the ACT results are still embargoed, I am pleased to report that the scores students achieved this year maintained the level of achievement from past years. PHS was recently honored with the Wisconsin Advanced Placement Advisory Council Pacesetter Award, as well as one of U.S. News and World Report's Best High Schools in Wisconsin Awards (moving up 23 spots from last year). All of these achievements are a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our students and teaching staff.

If this year was the year of change, next year will be the year of working extra hard to re-engage students into the PHS community. As a staff, we will be excited to craft opportunities for students to make connections, forge relationships, and get involved with new courses and activities. In the near future we say farewell to our senior Cardinals and hello to summer as we begin planning for the 2021-22 school year.

Have a Great Summer!

Josh Fiege, Prescott High School Principal

PHS DANCE TEAM SECURES TWO MORE STATE TITLES!

It's no coincidence that the 28-time state champion PHS Dance Team has had continued success by securing two state titles this year - State Champions in D3 Jazz and a 2nd Place in D4 Pom. Their rigorous season began in July with thrice weekly practices and adapting to the new challenges COVID guidelines presented for their routines:

- Masks required during all practices and performances
- If a dancer's mask fell below the mouth, the team faced a 50 point deduction!
- No contact between teammates, meaning no lifts during routines

"These additional rules were another challenge to keep in mind, but the girls kept their heads up and attitudes high," stated Head Coach Samantha Marks who is assisted by Coach

Brianna Shirley. "There were constantly-changing plans and feelings of frustration."

During the winter season, they progressed by adding a fourth practice and competed virtually at the Redbird Rumple in DePere, and in-person at the Menomonie Holiday Classic, the Western WI Conference Competition and the WI Association of Dance and Cheer Regionals where the team qualified for the 2021 Virtual State Championship.

The team missed out on a normal state competition experience this year. Videos were submitted in March, and instead of an awards ceremony, routines were played in reverse order of placement starting with the last place team and ending with the champion of each category.

One element that didn't change this year was the growth of the young women in this program who completed some of the hardest practices the team has seen to date. "Coach Shirley and I continue to be amazed with how consistent and driven these athletes are. They pay the utmost attention to detail and are always out to better themselves for the sake and prosperity of the team," Coach Marks stated. "We are grateful for every opportunity we've had to dance."

At the end of each day, the girls rose to the occasion and then some. Our hearts are so full from a season we will certainly never forget.

Coach Marks

CELEBRATING SENIOR DANCE TEAM MEMBERS

MADDIE TIBAYAN is a four year veteran on the varsity team and one of our 2020-2021 Captains. Maddie's consistent, positive attitude coupled with her work ethic and empathetic personality make her an admirable example for our underclassmen of what a team player truly is. Her presence and contagious smile will be so missed next year.

SOPHIA TIBAYAN is also a four year veteran on the varsity team and a Team Captain this year. Dance isn't Sophie's only extra-curricular activity, but you would never guess it isn't. She is always focused, pays the utmost attention to detail and is always out to better herself and the team. Her positive presence and encouraging spirit will certainly be missed next year.

BRENNA ROWE is a four year member of our dance program. She takes each critique addressed to the team upon herself and is always out to exceed her previous practice or performance. She is a prime example of someone who never gives up and will do what it takes to get the job done. Her bright smile and pleasant presence will be missed next year.

GRACE CARLSON - Including those manager years, Grace is a six year veteran on our varsity team and is serving as Team Captain this year. Grace's work ethic, pride for her school and love for her sport are evident each and every day at practice. Her drive and passion are always at the forefront of her presence, qualities of hers that will be greatly missed next year. Grace will be dancing Division 1 at the University of St. Thomas.



*Life is better when
you dance*



INVESTING IN FACILITIES AND A LONG-TERM VISION FOR PSD

The PSD School Board recently approved a resolution for a February 2022 referendum. This community investment will address essential facility needs identified over a three-year deep dive into structural, mechanical, and roofs in need of repair, replacement or upgrades.

- August 2019 - SDS Architects presented a comprehensive facilities review identifying major areas that need to be addressed to protect the physical assets and to ensure safe and productive work and learning environments (See chart).
- August 2020 - School Perceptions disseminated a community survey to educate the public on needs and presents two pathways options that would address facilities infrastructure needs, as well as safety and security and updating learning spaces to modern standards
- November 2020 - Survey results concluded that the public is not ready for the scope and expense of either pathway (\$19M - \$22M), **but the majority of respondents would support a referendum of \$16M or less.**
- May 2021 - Market and Johnson selected to serve as our Project Management company. Their team will plan and develop options for project phases and present recommendations on the project scope, while educating and engaging the community.

“It’s vital that we take care of our facility issues instead of continuing to invest taxpayer dollars in costly repairs for infrastructure that should be replaced,” said Mike Hoikka, Director of Facility and Grounds.

REFERENDUM OVERVIEW: REPAIRS, REPLACEMENTS, UPGRADES PER SITE			
PROJECT/SITE	ELEMENTARY	INTERMEDIATE	MIDDLE
Repair, replace or upgrade electrical and plumbing	X	X	X
Replacement/upgrade of HVAC	X		X
Replacement of roofs	X	X	X
Site related tuck pointing			X
Replacement of windows	X		

The February referendum is another step forward in the board’s ongoing process to develop a long-term master plan for the district that would encompass: facilities and grounds, development of an academic model, and learning spaces/grade configuration that aligns with the principles of that model.

“Having a long-term master plan that incorporates all of PSD facilities and grounds is essential. Once we complete the infrastructure essential needs above, our next chapter of work must include a full grounds and building master plan inclusive of our stakeholders input, that supports our mission, vision and goals,” stated Pat Block, board member.

The PSD Board is committed to providing an inclusive, participatory process of defining Prescott Public Schools for the next decade and will seek public engagement after we successfully address the essential infrastructure needs. To achieve our near-term needs and a long-term master plan will require both district as well as community-wide funds to invest in the future learners of Prescott Public Schools.

2021-22 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	2021-22 Academic Calendar
AUGUST-2021							August
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	23-26 Teacher Inservice
29	30	31					30-31 Return to Learn
SEPTEMBER							September
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1 Official First Day of School
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	6 Labor Day: No School for Students & Staff
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30			27 Professional Development: No School for Students
OCTOBER							October
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22 No School for Students & Staff
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							
NOVEMBER							November
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	5 Professional Development: No School for Students
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	24-26 Thanksgiving Break: No School Students & Staff
28	29	30					
DECEMBER							December
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Winter Break Dec 23- Dec 31: No School Students & Staff
26	27	28	29	30	31		
JANUARY-2022							January
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	3 School Back in Session
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	17 Professional Development: No School for Students
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
FEBRUARY							February
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	25 Professional Development: No School for Students
27	28						
MARCH							March
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	20	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Spring Break Mar 21- 25: No School Students & Staff
27	28	29	30	31			
APRIL							April
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15 No School for Students & Staff
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
MAY							May
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	27 Last Day of School for Students
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	27 HS Graduation Ceremony
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	30 Memorial Day: No School for Students & Staff
29	30	31					31 Professional Development: No School for Students
JUNE							June
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1 Professional Development: No School for Students
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	1			
STUDENT DAYS:							
42	First Quarter (11/2)		57	Trimester 1 (11/29)			
42	Second Quarter (1/14)		57	Trimester 2 (3/1)			
43	Third Quarter (3/18)		57	Trimester 3 (5/27)			
44	Fourth Quarter (5/27)		171	Total			
171	Total						

SUMMERTIME IN THE PRESCOTT COMMUNITY

PRESCOTT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Welcome Summer! Community Education has a number of opportunities available this summer, especially for youth. Check out the fun youth summer classes, trips and the other course offerings on the district website at <https://www.prescott.k12.wi.us/community/education.cfm>. We have two August trips open to all ages - *The Emperor's New Clothes* (theatre/musical) and the *Summer of Love* (60's music concert). You can register for any of the offerings on the website - just click "Register." Have ideas for classes, trips and/or other programming? We'd love to hear from you! Share your ideas with Penny at ppeters2@prescott.k12.wi.us or by calling 715-262-4676. We also have an opening on our Advisory Board. Interested residents should contact Penny at the above.

PARK PROGRAMS FOR AGES 10-14

Join other 10-14 year olds at Public Square Park every Thursday from 3-4pm in June & July (across from the middle school). Each week, a different local organization will host the fun park program. Check the Facebook page "Prescott Summer Park Program" throughout the summer to see who is sponsoring and what the activity is! Pre-registration is not necessary and there is no cost to participate, although a suggested donation of \$5/time or \$35/summer is welcomed. Half will be given to the hosting organizations to help offset any costs incurred and to help them in their missions. The other half will stay with Community Ed to help fund future community programming. You can make your donation on the school district website (above). Click Register, then Prescott Community Ed, lastly Summer Park Program .



24th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING Wednesday, August 11 Clifton Highlands Golf Course

Tee times of two foursomes starting at 1:00 PM every 10 minutes after until all teams have teed off.

Teams can request a tee time and a group that they would like to play with that we will try to accommodate.

The Annual Golf Outing will be held regardless of weather, no exchanges or refunds. Space is limited so register soon: prescottfoundation.com.

Golfing donation includes:
18 holes, cart, meal, and prizes.

HELP US BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY!

The Prescott School District wishes to thank the Prescott Foundation for their recent \$4,000 donation to help support Special Education Programs within our schools.