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Prescott School District Newsletter



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Choir Concert

IT'S 10 PM. DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE?

By: Superintendent Rick Spicuzza

Starting in the 1960's, this Public Service Announcement played on televisions across the country just before the ten o'clock news, a gentle reminder to ensure the safety of America's most precious assets—our children.

Today, we remain fiercely invested in the safety of our children. Knowing where they are, however, has been made infinitely more challenging by the advent of technology. Social media platforms—like Facebook, Snapchat, and Instagram—place 24 - 7 - 365 connectivity literally at the fingertips of our children. This is a boon and burden to interpersonal communication. You can get ahold of anyone quickly, but not everyone uses these tools responsibly and respectfully. Such powerful but easy to abuse technology wields a mean double-edge sword of reward and risk.

Think about it:

Our kids can connect with anyone, anywhere, anytime! 😊

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Clearly our children's playing field has changed a lot since the 1960's. In a blink, their network of experiences and influences has ballooned from local to worldwide. With smartphones ever in hand, our children, digital explorers, are blazing trails through uncharted territory so shifting, so unpredictable that even the tech-savviest adults have a hard time keeping up to identify appropriate boundaries and set limits.

By virtue of their youth and corresponding brain immaturity, many of these digital natives are inclined to take risks first and ask questions later. Frustratingly, digitally savvy children can be equal parts naïve—boldly blundering into dangerous waters, and clever—finding new ways to push boundaries and cover their tracks—all under a perceived cloak of anonymity and un-accountability.

What is a community to do? First, every single one of us has an obligation to foster good digital citizenship and online safety. Responsibility for our children's online practices falls at the individual, family, and community levels.

Please review additional resources listed within our newsletter. At all levels within our schools faculty and counselors are engaging with our youth about making smart choices. Finally, refer to each of our school websites and parent newsletters, which provide safety tips on appropriate use of social media.

IT'S 2018. DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE?

#cardinalpride

Congratulations to our winter sports teams: boys & girls basketball, wrestlers, and dance team! From local to State competitions, you all make us proud of your sportsmanship and hard work! Also congratulations to our band students who represented Prescott at Disney World; to Forensics and National History Day participants and to our DI teams. Your work represents Prescott well.

Get ready to support our spring athletes as begin prepping for baseball, golf, softball, and track!

For schedules and scores, access the Middle Border Conference website from the school district home page: www.prescott.k12.wi.us. The current week schedule appears on the right hand side. Click on the "more events" button below the schedule for more options, including music performances, forensics, middle school sports, and more!

You can also access Prescott schedules on the Middle Border Conference website directly at: <http://middleborderconference.org/public/genie/91/school/6/>



Spring Election Tuesday, April 3, 2018

There are two open seats for the Prescott School Board on the April 3 ballot. Four candidates are on the ballot for those two positions. Candidates are (listed in ballot order):

- Tanya Holub (incumbent)
- Pat Block
- Woodson Lynes
- Jim Reichert

The school board terms are three years, April 23, 2018 – April 25, 2021. Information about the School Board, including agendas and minutes, can be located on the district website at www.prescott.k12.wi.us. Click on "About Us" and locate "School Board".

Election information is also located on the district website in the "About Us" section. There you can your polling locations and hours, as well as links to current Wisconsin election information regarding absentee and early voting, identification requirements, and registration.

Be sure to cast your vote on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 for these important positions.

Better Schools Build Better Communities.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Prescott Community Education presents: Community Conversations



Prescott Community Education offers a new monthly series called Community Conversations. This series is intended to promote conversations around topics that impact our immediate community and surrounding areas. These topics include frank discussions and pertinent information about issues such as health and wellness, addiction, gender identity, suicide, mentoring, and more. The series will include local and national experts in the subject areas as well as people impacted by the topic,

The first presentation was a screening of The Gender Revolution Documentary, followed by a speaker panel. In March, Belinda Jensen, Twin Cities Meteorologist, author, and Prescott Alum discussed Mentorship and Believing in Oneself. The presentations have been very informative and well received. Admission is free and all are welcome. Be sure to attend a future spring session and be part of the "Community Conversations". Watch for details soon on upcoming fall events,

April 24 (Tues) 6:30 p.m., Performing Arts Center
Alcoholism (one of the top three health issues in Pierce County)

May 7 (Mon) 6:30 p.m., High School Media Center
"Autism: A Family Lives Beyond the Label ~The Lindsey Moreland Story"

A Thank-You from School Board President, Mark Helmer

Thank You Prescott -it has been my privilege to serve you on the school board for the past 21 years. It was an honor to serve with 3 outstanding superintendents: Carroll Lehman, Roger Hulne and Dr. Rick Spicuzza. Each leader was extremely successful and all were fantastic to work with. Each was hired to solve the districts issues we faced at the time.

Prescott is extremely fortunate for the strong and ambitious administration and support staff that lead our faculty, buildings, and students. That effort, along with the outstanding teachers that really make a difference in the lives of our young people, is a recipe for a very, very special place to raise a family. Prescott was supposed to be a location my family was going to reside for a short period of time while we looked for "something better". That was until we sent our first child to Malone Elementary School and had our first real interaction with the people of Prescott. Our first experience with Principal Dr. Scott Halverson and his teachers, the parents, the staff, custodians, and bus drivers made Prescott a place we could see raising a family.

Ron Stark, a family friend who was serving on the School Board when a seat opened, called no less than 7 times to encourage me to run. On April Fool's day in 1997 I was elected to the School Board. Many days I think that is ironic; many days I am sure my family does as well. And I know there are many citizens who likely feel it is quite appropriate. I am thankful for all the wonderful people I have met and served with on the board over the years. They have given me far more than I have given them with their wisdom, patience, objectivity, and the willingness to make tough decisions when it would be easier to run away or blame others.

During those 21 years we faced many challenges as a board. With a positive attitude and long-term vision, we handled many of these challenges. Financially we established a responsible fund balance and improved our bond rating, saving the district thousands in interest. We upgraded buildings and curriculum to better fit what is needed for our children to be successful - regardless of what job or school they wish to pursue when they graduate. It has not been without setbacks, but setbacks help us refocus, analyze, and positively move forward.

I have very few regrets but the one that haunts me the most are the negative decisions we had to make when a failed operating levy referendum forced the district to make cuts to some outstanding teachers. Teachers and staff I admire who truly made a difference in our young people's lives. That hurt - no other words can describe it. We were able to hire most back, but the trauma and unrest for these individuals and their families was gut wrenching. It comes with the job and, as a board member, you have to accept it even though you do not like it. There have been far more positive than negative experiences serving the people of Prescott. Thank you for allowing me that opportunity. I am confident I leave the district and board in great hands. Thank you all for making Prescott a great place to raise a family. Positively Prescott Proud—Go Cards.

Mark Helmer

PRESCOTT SCHOOL DISTRICT QUICK REFERENCE CONTACT PAGE

District Office

1220 St. Croix Street
Phone: 715-262-5782
Fax: 715-262-5091

Superintendent.....Dr. Rick Spicuzza
 Dir. Teaching & Learning.....Michael Kosmalski
 Maintenance.....Mike Hoikka
 Technology Information.....Kyle Flaherty
 Pupil Services Administrator.Mark Inouye

Prescott High School

1010 Dexter Street
Phone: 715-262-5389
Fax: 715-262-4888

Principal.....Josh Fiege
 Asst.Principal/Athletic Dir.....Matt Smith
 School Counselor.....Steve Peterson
 School Psychologist.....Janet Born
 Food Services/Nutrition.....Tina Stenroos

Prescott Middle School

125 N. Elm Street
Phone: 715-262-5054
Fax: 715-262-3965

Principal.....Kyle Igou
 School Counselor.....Larissa Dreyer

***Malone Intermediate School**

1220 St. Croix Street
Phone: 715-262-2383
Fax: 715-262-2379

Principal.....Deanne Edlefsen

***Malone Elementary School**

505 N. Campbell Street
Phone: 715-262-5463
Fax: 715-262-0052

Assistant Principal.....Trent Probst
 School Counselor.....Kevin Haglund
 School Psychologist.....Beth Dodge
 Malone Nurse.....Cassie Butler
 *Note: Staff listed serve at both Malone buildings

Community Education 715-262-4676

Community Ed Director.....Penny Peterson

School Health 715-262-2383

District Nurse.....Marie Magnan

Transportation 715-262-3212

Director of Transportation.....Tim Rundquist

SCHOOL HOURS

School	Start	End
Malone Elementary	8:00	2:45
Malone Intermediate	8:00	2:45
Middle School	8:00	3:13
High School	7:55	3:13

(Wed high school start is 8:20)

See full school schedule on the district website at www.prescott.k12.wi.us

Please call the school by 9:00 a.m. if your child is going to be absent. Please send a written note with your student upon returning to school.

School Closings, Late Start And Early Dismissal:

Parents will be contacted via the Alert Now system by email and/or phone calls regarding school closings. This information will also be announced on the following TV and radio stations:

WEVR AM 1550	River Falls
WEVR FM 106.3	River Falls
WCCO AM 830	Twin Cities
WCCO TV channel 4	Twin Cities
KDWA AM 1460	Hastings
KCUE AM 1250	Red Wing
KWNG FM 105.9	Red Wing
KSTP TV channel 5	St. Paul
FOX TV channel 9	St. Paul/Mpls
KARE TV channel 11	St. Paul/Mpls

Check out the District Website at www.prescott.k12.wi.us for more information:

- District News and Events
- School Board Agenda and Minutes
- Sports Events
- Food Service Information
- Specific School Updates
- Community Information



Stay Informed!!! Like us on Facebook!

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

“INTO THE WOODS jr.” is a Huge Success

Prescott Middle School and High School students presented the second annual musical, “Into the Woods jr.”, in March. Under the direction of Thomas Speltz, with musical direction by Kristen Hofmeister and Brittany Kamrath, and Choreography by Lydia Smith, the cast received great reviews. In his Director’s Letter, Mr. Speltz described the theatre as this: “We are all in the same room and together we decided to go on a journey to another land and another time.” The cast and audience alike experienced a journey to be treasured.



2018 Educator of the Year!

Congratulations to High School teacher, Brian Koening on being named the Prescott Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year. Aptly described by peers as, “a true renaissance man, exceptional educator, and extremely humble,” it is an award well deserved.

To Follow the Wisconsin Middle Border Sports Schedules:

1. Go to www.prescott.k12.wi.us
2. Click on “Activities”
3. Make a selection from the menu

For other school information, select from the “Our Schools” tab drop down menu.

GUEST SPEAKER SUPPLEMENTS CLASSROOM WORK

On March 6, Prescott High School students enjoyed guest speaker, Yusuf Abdi, Director of Refugee Services - Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. Mr. Abdi’s talk focused on refugee resettlement processes in the U.S. The presentation was the culmination of Ms. Sponholz’s English 9 project called “The Refugee Book Club”.



AND THEY’RE OFF!

As we go to press, the Prescott Boys Basketball Team is headed to State. But not before they received a proper send off and a bus load good wishes. Students at Malone Elementary and Intermediate Schools especially loved the chance to show some #cardinalpride!

COMMUNITY NEWS

PRESCOTT COMMUNITY RECREATION SPORTS FIELDS SPRING TO LIFE

Under the blanket of winter snow, the fields along Dexter Street await patiently for spring. Last fall, with generous support of Prescott Foundation and community volunteers, the fields were carefully leveled and groomed with soil preparations and seeding. Fences were installed for the backstops and dugout areas.

As winter set in, other work continued on the fields. Discussions between the School District and First National Bank resulted in generous financial backing for continued improvements and a new name: “First National Bank Park”. This agreement will allow upgraded amenities as the fields become ready for activity.

The First National Bank Park will be used for Prescott Community Recreation activities. The fields allow more options for overlapping programs, better playing times for youth, and the opportunity to expand current programming. Watch for more details as the fields continue to develop into an important part of the PCR programming.



Thank you to the Prescott Foundation, First National Bank, and the many volunteers who continue to make these fields a reality.

SOCIAL MEDIA RESPONSIBILITY IS A COMMUNITY EFFORT

Continuing our cover page theme, social media safety can be very overwhelming. Whether it’s Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, or the many less known platforms, there are many ways each one of us can model healthy responsibility in our use of these programs.

As Individuals:

- Demonstrate personal accountability and responsibility
- Practice good digital citizenship in our time commitment, language, etc.
- Exert positive peer pressure to curb cyber bullying and ‘sexting’
- End toxic posts and threads
- Leave a positive digital footprint

Family

- Emphasize that digital privacy and screen access are privileges not rights
- Check and connect – find out what your children do online
- Discuss your values and expectations with your child; remember to trust but verify
- Model appropriate behavior
- Remember actions speak louder than words

School and Community

- Respect district-wide phone free learning practices
- Follow district’s anti-bullying policies
- Practice good citizenship online and offline
- When you see something, say something
- Take advantage of counseling and other support options
- Community leaders should model and encourage respectful behavior in person and online

Here are a couple of resources to help your family discuss Social Media issues and responsibilities:

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/social-media-smarts.html>

www.aap.org (American Association of Pediatrics – use search tool for a variety of information)

MALONE ELEMENTARY AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Valuable Mentoring and Rave Reviews

PCR runs a unique basketball program for 4th grade boys and girls, called Basketball Buddies. Initiated about 12 years ago by local teacher, Greg Lenn, the program matches the young students with players on the Varsity team. The goal is to provide peer support between the students built around a sport they love. Fourth graders are randomly matched with the Varsity team. Before their first "buddy" game all the players meet up to share pizza and get to know each other. Shirts are ordered with their buddy names on the back that they wear to their specific game. Buddies and their families get free admission to watch the game.

At the game the kids are an extension of the bench, they sit right with the team. Prior to announcing of the starting line-ups the buddies are announced along with their favorite player and partake in the pre-game announcing. The buddies are introduced and paired with a ref working the game and during all time outs they run them out a water and towel throughout the game.

Here is what one ref had to say about the Buddy game he officiated: "Just a note of thanks to you and your school community for your roles in what was an incredible officiating experience last night. Everything was superb...When I reflect back, your hospitality, your cool new gym, the attentiveness and fun personalities of the scorers' table and the awesome Basketball Buddies, left a lasting impression in this officiating career that is in its 28th season."

Great job to all involved!



Looking Ahead:

Malone Carnival
Friday, April 20 6-8:30 p.m.

Summer School Registration
Online Registration is April 9-23.
Summer School is June 11-29

Visit the district website for full details: www.prescott.k12.wi.us, select from the "Our Schools" dropdown list.

If you have family changes, such as emergency contact updates, e-mail changes, phone number changes, etc., please be sure to contact your child's school as soon as possible. This helps us keep your child safe while providing the best possible communication between the school and your family.

MALONE'S GOT TALENT... and More



Students display their interests during March conferences

If you think school conferences are just about parents and teachers, think again. At March 8 conferences, students shined with a project fair and talent show. Using a display board, students prepared a self-explanatory exhibit about their skill or project. During the evening, the Destination Imagination Presentations, and other performing arts acts provided a talent show.

2018 State Literary Competition at Malone Intermediate School

Several students submitted original narratives or fictional stories under 600 words for the Mary Jo Nettesheim State Literary Competition sponsored by Psi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society. Submissions from 4th grade student, Makaria Haas and 5th grade student, Will Markert were selected to represent Prescott at the state level.



Fourth Grade participants



Fifth Grade participants

MIDDLE SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Kindness Matters

During the week of February 12-16 Prescott Middle School celebrated Random Acts of Kindness week to showcase the power of choosing kindness. Each grade participated in discussions, worked on projects and played RAK (Random Acts of Kindness) BINGO. Themes covered during the week were Caring, Compassion, Gratitude, Integrity, Perseverance, and Respect.

Teachers, along with the school counselor, also chose some students as Kindness Ambassadors for the week. The students were chosen as those who go above and beyond to be kind to others and who model kindness through their everyday interactions. The Ambassadors spread kindness by hanging posters in the school, placing hearts with kind sayings on student lockers and expressing gratitude to the school staff via handmade cards. It was a great week and a building block for acts of kindness to continue throughout the year.



Random Acts of Kindness Ambassadors:

6th Grade: Ava Franco, Cullen Huppert, Bayla Lander, Elijah Poulin; 7th Grade: Georgia Nespbor, Tyler Loucks, Caleb Lovelin, Madison Schmitz; 8th Grade: Flynn Anderson, Amanda Auleciems, Andrew Lee, Anna Thomley



MISSION POSSIBLE

During March conferences, sixth grade students and families participated in a fun activity called "Mission Possible". A great way to make conferences enjoyable and bring families together.

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2018 Speaking Contest



Prescott Middle School Students, Chloe Heldman, Jamie Fortney, and Makenzie Hegland represented Prescott in the Peirce County Conservation and Environmental Awareness Speaking Contest this winter. All three participants received trophies. Jamie earned third place for her speech about contaminated water, Makenzie's presentation on Japanese Beetles earned second place. Chloe received first place and advanced to represent Pierce County at the Regional Tournament with her presentation titled, "Should we Free the Kinni?"

Middle School Creative Writers

Prescott 7th and 8th grade writers prepared futuristic scenario stories for the Wisconsin Future Problem Solvers Scenario Writing Competition this winter. The top submissions from each grade were advanced to the competition. Congratulations to all participants

