



# CARDINAL CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRESCOTT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Highlights  
of this  
Edition

## Celebrating Prescott School District's Silver Linings

Dr. Rick Spicuzza, Superintendent

As a district and school community, we have numerous silver linings to acknowledge at the start of the 2021-22 school year - even in the omnipresent clouds and challenges of a global pandemic.

In November, the DPI released its report card and Prescott School District was identified as performing among the top 15% of all Wisconsin school districts academically (in math and language arts). This directly reflects the dedication of PSD employees to keep 4K-5 enrolled the entire 2020-21 academic year. It is also the result of investing in 1:1 technology and expanding WIFI to ensure academic access to all students, whether learning virtually or on-site. These strong academic findings are satisfying and our dedicated improvement process will continue to examine and identify additional areas to target.

Our district embraces the three A's and shining examples of performance stretch beyond Academics and into the Arts and Athletics. Our community was treated to the return of live theater and musicals in the Performing Arts Center. PHS students performed *Peter/Wendy* this fall and Prescott Middle School students just completed *Frozen Jr.* Our secondary band and choir students also displayed excellent musical showmanship in their winter concerts.

Athletically, our girls golf team continues to dominate with repeat state championships and individual state champion, Ava Salay. Cross-country athletes had a successful season with two competing at state level, and football and volleyball teams had successful postseason play. Girls and boys basketball and dance teams are in full swing and we look forward to the ongoing growth and success of these programs.

Looking to PSD's bright future, the Facility Advisory Committee (FAC) completed its review of the 2019 Facility Study and recommended three options for school board consideration. The Prescott School Board has agreed to ask the community's approval of a bond purchase not to exceed \$15,000,000 on April 5, 2022. Due to the wise fiscal management of the school board and administration to manage bonds, this request will NOT increase the tax impact or mill rate above the current tax year levy. Great schools make great communities. Let's make sure Prescott Schools stay healthy and strong!

This is a special season to celebrate the important gifts of family, friends and the creation of new memories. Stay well,

*Inspiring lifelong learners for future success...*

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HOME OF THE  
CARDINALS!

# MALONE ELEMENTARY ACTIVITIES AND LEARNING

This fall, Malone Elementary School was able to bring back our Halloween Parade to delight families, friends and greater community members. Students and staff showed off their costumes with an outside parade. The rest of the day students participated in various Halloween-themed activities, learning, and fun!



Not much goes better with a Thanksgiving feast than some pie and Turkey Bingo! Staff and students at MES have A LOT to be thankful about this school year! As the top money earners for our playground fundraiser, five staff members got "pied" in the face! Sara Dusek (principal), Megan Williamson (kindergarten), Rachel Anderson (1st Grade), Hunter Black (long-term sub), and Melanie Charette (school nurse) were the recipients!

Students and families raised over \$3000 to help revive the Malone Elementary Playground because of structures that are beginning to show significant wear-and-tear! Thank you to everyone who donated money to support our school and community.



# MALONE INTERMEDIATE - SPELLING, EVENTS AND DRAMA!



Our intermediate staff continues to do an incredible job meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of students. The Wisconsin Department of Instruction recently released their report card for all schools in the state. I am proud to announce that our school, our students, did an incredible job and has been deemed as **Significantly Exceeding Expectations** based on the demographics of our student population. **Compared to all elementary schools in the state, Prescott ranks in the top 15% in Academic Achievement and in the top 4% in Student Growth.** This is an incredible accomplishment and puts our students on the path to success.

I would like to congratulate our Drama Rama teams on their award winning performances this fall. All three teams finished on the podium with two thirds and a first place finish. We have a number of exciting activities happening around the intermediate school including PCR basketball, Destination Imagination, Spelling Bee, and Current Events League. Best of luck to our students and thank you to the staff and parent volunteers

that make these growth and skill opportunities possible.

**Cardinal Congratulations** to two staff members who have been nominated for prestigious teaching awards. Mrs. Helen Raebel for the Kohl Teacher Fellowship award. Her dedication to students and staff has made MIS a great place to learn for 23 years. Also, Mrs. Karey Sizemore for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She has worked tirelessly to build and enhance our K-5 STEM Program from the ground up for the past six years. Congratulations to both!

This year continues to be challenging due to the ongoing pandemic. I want to thank you for your partnership and please continue to monitor symptoms and keep children home when sick.

As we look to the new calendar year, I am thankful for having such a great staff, student body, and parent support for our kids. Together, WE make the Difference at Malone Intermediate School!



# PRESCOTT MIDDLE SCHOOL - BACK IN ACTION



Students at Prescott Middle School jumped right into the school year getting involved with their peers, classes and all of the extra opportunities we offer to enhance learning, build character and express their many talents. Each month, we recognize six students - two from each grade - who exemplify the character trait we are focusing on. From September to November we covered Respect, Positivity and Determination.

The library and counseling staff collaborated this fall to present a Digital Citizenship curriculum to all students in grades 6-8. Lessons focused on oversharing, dealing with digital drama, social media friendships, and the impact of a digital footprint. Middle school students also challenged the community to do its part in the America Recycle Challenge and learned how to be environmentally conscious.

Early this fall, students participated in Red Ribbon Week with many activities to promote drug-free living. The Drama Rama saw some red ribbons too when the team placed second in the area competition. Our performing arts programs dazzled audiences with winter concerts by the choir and band, and a return to the stage with the production of *Frozen Jr.* that involved 45 students on and behind the stage. Thank you to directors Ms. Leigh and Ms. Schultz, and to everyone who volunteered to make this an enormous success.

Enjoy your holidays and spending time together!



## PRESCOTT MIDDLE SCHOOL READS!

This year, students have read 1,785 books and 83,841,389 words!

We have five teams participating in the Battle of the Books which encourages kids to read and engage in a fun and healthy competition (aka "Battle") with peers.



# WE ARE PRESCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

The first part of this school year has brought so many amazing things to our high school community. Our focus as a faculty this year is two-fold — 1. To continue to help our students reach academic excellence, and 2. To foster relationships and a caring community. We kicked off this year working in tandem with Prescott Community partners to provide a day of service, and donated over 1500 hours of service in an afternoon. The next day we worked with our elementary school to put on the first ever Prescott Olympic Games, and our high school students took on the role of mentors for the students in grades 3-5.

Our student council has been integral in making the start of the school year a success. With a focus on inclusiveness, they have worked with faculty to create mental health awareness days and activities, an Inclusivity Club that seeks to promote acceptance and awareness, and saw the culmination of two years of hard work with the installation of a mural celebrating leadership and diversity in the high school's hallway.

Our high school staff have also been working hard to foster relationships and connections with students. The Enrichment Committee worked to create a model program that allows students to pursue clubs, intramural and enrichment activities during their school day. Students participated in their first Enrichment/Intramural day on December 17 with great success. Examples of activities were learning to make seasonal crafts, a sports-media club, mindfulness, photography/scrap-booking, Trivia Bowl, 3 v. 3 basketball, and many more.

Across the school our faculty is engaging students in amazing experiences. With the addition of new Fab Lab equipment (laser engraver and vinyl cutter), paired with other equipment, the technology and design classes are nearing the goal of marketing their creations for sale. Yearbook has continued their strong program, adding in more ad sales and bouncing to events to capture student voices and pictures. The Microsoft Office class had almost every student earn an industry certification as a Microsoft Specialist, and some earned certification as a Microsoft Office Master!



I have been impressed and excited to when observing various classrooms this fall. Innovative approaches to different subject areas like Spanish (where Ms. Jodarski is utilizing Comprehensible Input methods) and Math (who continued work with an international trainer via Agile Mind) have been a joy to see. PHS's teaching staff continues to support students, help them pursue their goals, and to seek the best ways to instruct.

An addition this year is the **Cardinal Cup**, an award that will be earned by the high school class that embodies the very best of our values (Respect, Responsibility, Relationships, Rigor, and Relevance) So far, classes have competed against one another to earn points in their pursuit of this cup. As we head into the holiday break and upon our return, students will have more challenges to complete in their quest. Many great things are also on the horizon.

There is much to be thankful for at PHS - Happy Holidays!



# ON THE COURSES, COURTS AND FIELDS

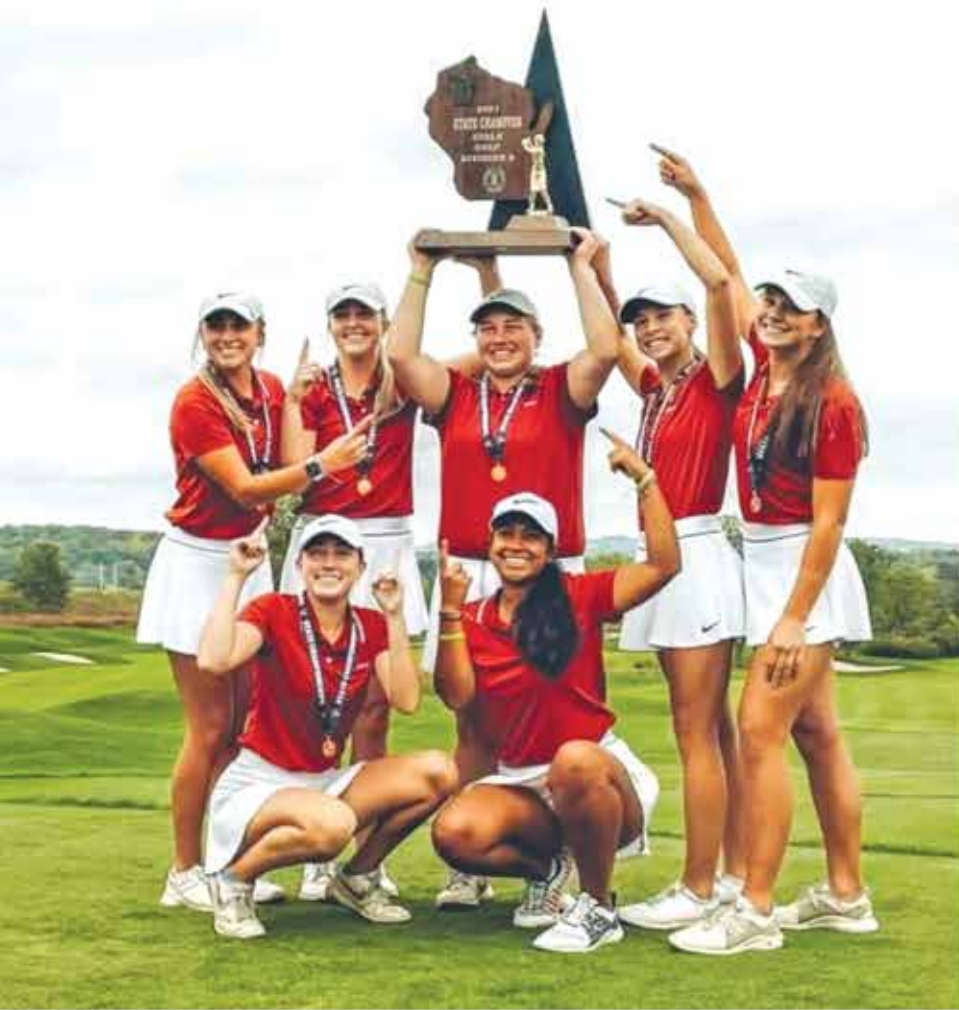
## A WINNING COMBINATION

*Coach Chad Salay*

Very rarely as a coach do you get an entire team that supports and gets along with each other as well as this group of girls did. It's hard to describe exactly, but we had the perfect mix of personalities that created all the different characteristics of a team that a coach would want; fun, caring, laughter, competitiveness, support and empathy. It was a great mix that comprised a team atmosphere that you can't manufacture.

Early in the season an unexpected loss to St. Croix Central was the catalyst to refocus on what made us successful: a purposeful warm-up, practice preparation on event day and leadership. It paid off!

Ava went into the final round tied to one player and others close behind. Her streak of four birdies in row on the last five holes of the tournament is something I will never forget. You could hear the cheers from holes away! We have a very strong varsity core returning and a lot of talented junior varsity players for the 2022 season. We will be ready to golf!



**Congratulations to fall athletics! The entire cross-country team had a great season with state competitors Ella Johnson and Tyler Loucks (Tyler set a new PHS record). Our volleyball had post-season success and the football team made playoffs for the first time since 2013. Well done Cardinal athletes!**



## PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASES STUDENT TALENTS

The PHS choir has been busy sharing its sounds. They performed at St. Joseph's earlier this month and our a cappella choir, St. Croix Sound, sang for the 5th grade classes at MIS. We hope to sing at the local nursing home but are waiting on news that Covid numbers are down and it is safe for us to visit. Otherwise, we will likely go and sing outside their windows!

January 7-8 is our local honors choir hosted by St. Croix Valley Music Educators Association. Each of the seven schools in our association bring four balanced quartets (soprano, alto, tenor bass) and all schools practice and sing together. The rehearsals culminate in a Saturday concert.

On January 9-11, a select group of junior and senior choir students will travel to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, to attend the Dorian Vocal Festival. We participate in this every year and are super excited to attend it again. Choir members get to experience a college campus, interact with students from other schools, and perform in a choir of about 1,000 members!

Students will start working on music for the solo/ensemble festival soon. The festival takes place in April and we are really excited for another in-person festival after two years of virtual performances.



The PHS Band has been busy preparing for performances this year. The Garage Band and Symphonic Band performed at the Holiday Concert on December 15th to a full house in the Performing Arts Center. Both performed at high levels and received many compliments.

The PHS Band has performed at several athletic events this year and is preparing for a Disney World in March where they will perform on the Disney Springs Stage for an international audience. We will also attend a recording session with Disney clinicians to pair their musical recording with a Disney movie clip! This is a very special event as Disney will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary. All groups that perform during this time are considered "the Best of the Best" and we are proud to be selected for this special celebration.

Students are also working on creative endeavors with their ability to create and record their own music using recording technology. They have been involved in solo and small group recordings utilizing their instruments, midi instruments and other sounds within the program. Creative endeavors coupled with traditional learning and performance, creates a wide spectrum of learning and experiences. We are excited for all we can achieve!



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## PRESCOTT COMMUNITY NEWS

### PRESCOTT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Watch your January mailboxes for the newest class offerings by Prescott Community Education. We have something to offer to keep you occupied over the long Wisconsin winter! An upcoming event:

#### **GET TO KNOW YOUR MUSLIM NEIGHBOR - II Part Series**

Wed, Jan 12 - 6:30-7:45pm - Old Ptacek's Center

Learn basic beliefs and practices, followed by Q & A.

Wed, Jan 19 - 6:30-7:45pm - Performing Arts Center

Learn about commandments and the two misunderstood aspects of Islam--Sharia and Jihad, followed by Q&A.

### PRESCOTT COMMUNITY RECREATION

PCR spring sports registration is right around the corner. Registration windows are short and opening January 3rd so make sure you get signed up. Registration takes place on the district website, <https://psd.cr3.rschooltoday.com/public/home>,

#### **OPENING JANUARY 3rd:**

5th - 8th grade traveling softball and baseball

Softball and baseball 3rd/4th grade tournament teams

7th & 8th grade traveling volleyball

4th grade traveling volleyball

#### **OPENING MARCH 1ST**

K-6th grade soccer

1st - 4th grade in house softball and baseball

Questions? Email [pcrdirector@prescott.k12.wi.us](mailto:pcrdirector@prescott.k12.wi.us)



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECENT INDUCTEES TO THE 2021 PRESCOTT HALL OF FAME:**

**CHAR MAGEE**

**NICK SCHOMMER**

**ROY FINLEY**

We sincerely appreciate your contributions to others and to the Prescott community.

*...by engaging students, staff, families and our community.*