

# Prescott Newsletter

September, 2016

Mr. Erin Roche  
Principal

Amanda Malsch  
Assistant Principal

Local School Council  
2014-16

Jennifer Lister  
Parent Representative  
LSC Chair

Lisa St. Marie  
Parent Representative  
LSC Vice Chair

Eric Marcus  
Parent Representative  
LSC Secretary

Elvira Cruz  
Parent Representative

Jeff Marren  
Parent Representative

Martin Del Rios  
Parent Representative

Amanda Kirshner  
Teacher Representative

Jennifer Phares  
Teacher Representative

Lisa Luz  
Staff Representative

MJ Arons  
Community Representative

Gina Doocy  
Community Representative

Erin Roche  
Principal

Prescott Partners  
Alliant Credit Union

DePaul University

Erikson Institute

Prescott Parents

Prescott PTA

*A Literature and Writing Magnet Cluster School  
2009 Golden Apple Award Winner  
2010 Winner of Area 6 DRIVE Teacher Award  
2013 TNTF Fishman Prize Winner  
7 National Board Certified Teachers*

September 6, 2016

Dear Prescott students, families, and friends,

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year! I'm especially honored to announce that Prescott School students, teachers, staff, and parents earned a #14 ranking among 400+ city elementary schools in the September issue of *Chicago Magazine*! You have worked hard and it has paid off! Bravo, Prescott School community!

The ranking is a combination of PARCC attainment, NWEA Math and Reading growth, attendance, and 5 Essentials. Details are at <http://www.chicagomag.com/Chicago-Magazine/September-2016/Best-Public-Schools/Chicago/>.

We know that the ranking is a reflection of many, many facets and faces of Prescott School. It represents the hard work when Wendy M persisted last year in math to figure out complex story problems. It represents the kind-heartedness that Bella C shows her classmates to help them learn and line up in class. The ranking represents Gabe J's persistence on math problems and growing as a reader. The ranking represents the detailed artwork of Alejandro R and the athleticism of Lily M. When we adults push and care in a supportive way, our students learn to independently write moving poems as Jaiden P's or craft persuasive letters as Mia C's proposal to create a cooking club.

The *Chicago Magazine* ranking (its first ranking since 2012 and now with updated criteria) gives us all a moment to celebrate our hard work and collaborative teamwork over the past several years. We did this together!

The ranking is also a moment for us to adjust our eyes to the next horizon of improvement for our students and the Prescott School community. Our strategic plan *Prescott 2021* provides us with a vision and big-picture steps toward that new horizon. I look forward to walking with you to further our successful students.

Sincerely,

Erin Roche  
Principal

# September

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
 6	7	<b>-Word Problem Wednesday</b> —ask your child about today's math word problem	8	9
12 Spirit Week	13 Spirit Week 9am public tour	14 Word Problem Wednesday Spirit Week  5-6pm Curriculum Night grades 5-8—all parents please attend without children	15 Spirit Week  Curriculum Night grades PreK-4—all parents please attend without children	16 Spirit Week  Field Day (23 <sup>rd</sup> ) is Rain Day)
19	20	21 Word Problem Wednesday	22	23 -UFO day
26 	27	28 	29	30 

### Parent reminders:



**Please make sure that your child is healthy and in school.** Children who are not in school are not experiencing Prescott's rigorous curriculum. Prescott's Level 1+ status depends on an attendance rate of 96%. If your child misses more than 1 day per month (10 total days), then Prescott's attendance dips below 95%. Please help to keep Prescott's Level 1 status by getting your child healthy and to school on time each day.

**Parents who drive children to Prescott** are encouraged to drop off children along Marshfield and not Wrightwood. Marshfield is safer due to less traffic. **Please do not park in the cross-walk or in the staff parking lot. Your car may be ticketed or towed.** Thank you for safe school!



**If you are interested in taking your PreK child to a playground during school hours, please consider Wrightwood Park or other nearby playgrounds.** Prescott's playground and Little Gym are not available as they are used by Prescott students before, during, and after-school hours and for liability reasons. Thanks for keeping your child safe!

### Healthy Eating at Prescott

The Chicago Public Schools Board of Education approved a policy regarding healthy eating at schools. Below is a summary of the policy.

CPS policy

- Only highly nutritional food for children
- Limit over-eating by letting students and parent know in advance of additional food (e.g., birthday celebration)
- Healthy eating → healthy kids and stronger academic growth

To comply with the policy and to encourage healthy eating, outside food must be approved by the principal at least one week in advance (forms are available in the office). Outside food may only be nutritional. The parent needs to bring the approval to the lunch supervisor. The supervisor collects and returns the form to the principal.



## You can access the Prescott library from home

<https://library.cps.k12.il.us:9058/?config=5500#bookriver>.

Parents can help children find available books in the Prescott library **AND** read thousands of e-books online at home. Type the word "dog" in the blue search box and click "Go." You can type in a book title, subject, author or key word in the blue "search" box.



You will see the results for your search -- the titles of the books will be in blue. Any title with the words "electronic resources" next to the title shows a book that can be read online. The e-books require the this username and password:

username: 5500 password: 5500  
Happy reading!

## Art at Prescott



You can follow our progress through the year or contact me through Art Teacher Ms. Ammons blog: [www.prescottpaint.blogspot.com](http://www.prescottpaint.blogspot.com). We will also have an online art gallery through which you can view or purchase student artwork, such as this 1<sup>st</sup> grader's artwork (as part of a larger study on India) in the first floor hallway. Look for the Prescott Elementary page on [www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com).

## In June, 4<sup>th</sup> graders checked out their new books from Alliant Credit Union Foundation.



## Specials classes for Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and the middle school grades 5-8

Welcome to new programs for Specials classes for Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and the middle school. Swing with Kids by Nicolle Woods and computer technology by Dylan Lienhard. Ms. Woods has taught whole classes of children dance in schools and after school for over fifteen years, most notably at Ebinger, Burley, Bell, and many other schools. Dylan has has taught computer tech classes with many age levels and most recently worked with Right at School at Prescott for the past two years.

## Welcome, new teachers and staff!

Welcome to new teachers and staff!

Meredith Swanson will teach 4th graders with Erin Szarnych. She has taught for about a decade with similar aged students and recently coached new teachers. She earned National Board Certification, her BA at Colorado State University, and her Masters at University of Colorado-- Denver. She has led numerous school curriculum and instruction efforts.

Sara Hainsfurther will teach students with IEPs in the intermediate grades. She earned her BS at the University of Arizona and has had great success teaching Special Education students for six years in Chicago. She has led school curriculum efforts, most recently math development with the Erikson Institute.

Kazzi Saroni will teach students with IEPs in the primary grades. She earned her BA from Western Michigan State University and her Masters from Concordia University and has taught for over a decade in Chicago. She has led school instructional improvements, including a system for Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).

Welcome to Teacher Ariel Howard who is teaching 2nd graders in Room 106 until December (while Ms. Bigby is on maternity leave). Ms. Howard has taught primary-age children for several years in Indiana. She is a graduate at Indiana University.

Special Education Classroom Assistant (SECA) Erin Gillespie will work with 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and students to advance learning there. Ms. Gillespie previously worked at Bell School in the same capacity and completed her student-teaching in Indiana and her BS at Indiana State University.

Please introduce yourselves and welcome Ms. Swanson, Ms. Hainsfurther, Ms. Saroni, Ms. Howard, and Ms. Gillespie to Prescott School. The Prescott Community thanks departing Teachers Kristen Smith, Sarah Roche, Kira Mallick, and Julie McConnell and PreK Teacher Assistant Shayla Herron for their dedication and expertise and wish them well in their new adventures.

## **THANK YOU•THANK YOU•THANK YOU•THANK YOU•THANK YOU•THANK YOU**

Thanks to all the donors who funded via Donors Choose Teacher Sarah Stefan's *Mystery Science* subscription full of helpful science material for students in all grades.

Thanks to Paula Cuadros-Roche for sorting Alliant Credit Union student books in June.

Thanks to Lane Fowlie, Marvin & Isaac Del Rios, Lincoln & Darby Walden, Morad, Zak & Muna Askar and Connor & Lauren Roche for assisting in the middle school cubbie building and organization.

Thanks to Lizzie Gussis/Risa Appelbaum for sorting uniforms and taking out trash in the summer.

Thanks to Janette Gilmartin, Michael Lacey, and friends for moving furniture in the summer.

Thank you to Carrie Bowers, Janette Gilmartin, Michael Lacey, Valentine Chen, Edyta Stepien, Ms. Lisa, Rachel Blundy, and Ms. Malsch for helping maintain the school garden over the summer!

Thank you to Tricia Charbonneau and Amanda Malsch for building a Little Free Library that will be installed in the playground for students.

## **Ode To The Fro By: Sydni Nicholson**

oh lion's mane!  
how hard you are to tame  
the number of combs I have broken because of you is infinite  
the definition of bipolar.  
either you are an enlarged tumble weed on my cranium  
or you hang in damp tendrils  
relaxed curls or tight coils.  
a great basin desert or daintree rainforest  
you get where i'm going with this?  
some women are blessed with nice, bouncy, flowy hair,  
while I'm stuck with your stubbornness  
if for one day you decided to do as I say, it would be a miracle.  
oh lake michigan either your waves are roaring or they are calm  
Oh the many times I have chopped you off and told myself "never again"  
now don't even get me started on special occasions when you  
exercise your right to just be "yourself" for the day  
or when you decide to bring out your inner fro  
but, my friends Shea, Coconut, and Cocoa Butter always seem to do the trick  
while on other days when they aren't around it's straight misery

I used to dream of being on the front of a covergirl magazine but I knew with your strong willed attitude that would be physically impossible but, all thanks to this new age of expression bed hair has turned into a thing of the past and, not combing your hair to express your inner beauty my bad hair days have turned into “love your hair days” so now I sit here rocking my fro like Erykah Badu and people think I did this on purpose

### Middle school dance party in May, 2016



### Reading auction in June

Middle schoolers bid on items. They get one “dollar” per page they’ve read of books for which they created a project. Many students were able to bid with over \$10,000! Thanks to Teacher Ms. Gow for organizing and Prescott Parents for donating items and funding for great items, such as Cub, Sox, and Fire tickets.



Dear Prescott School community,

It is with a heavy heart that I let you know that Prescott School Assistant Principal Amanda Malsch is leaving in October.

Over the past five years, Ms. Malsch's leadership helped to catapult Prescott School to a series of great accomplishments-- doubling the school population, scoring an all-time high on ISAT, NWEA, and other assessments, improving social-emotional skills among students, and caring about students and staff. On every metric, Ms. Malsch helped our little school grow. She did this by cultivating strong student relationships and teacher teams. Every morning, she greeted Kindergartners and middle schoolers. She got to know students by visiting classrooms and helping at recess. She got to know children personally and advocated passionately for them when they needed help and equally pushed them to excel to higher levels.

While I am so sad to see my great thought-partner leave, I'm thrilled for her to adventure into the baking and pastry program at Kendall College. Can you imagine the awesome things she will do as a teacher in the culinary world?! I can't wait to taste the delicacies that come from the kitchens of her successful chefs graduates!

Like Prescott School, I am better because of Ms. Malsch's leadership. I'm a better listener, better questioner, better leader, and better person. Thank you, Ms. Malsch, for making Prescott School and me better.

In the next few weeks, I encourage you to reach out to Ms. Malsch personally to share a story or memory with her. Celebrate the accomplishments students, teachers, staff, and parents have made with Ms. Malsch!

Erin Roche

Principal