



Prescott Elementary School

1632 West Wrightwood Street Chicago, Illinois 60614

Telephone (773) 534-5505 · Fax (773) 534-5542

2009 Golden Apple Award Winner

2010 Winner of Area 6 DRIVE Teacher Award

7 National Board Certified Teachers

2018-20 US Department of Education School Ambassador Fellow

Dr. Erin Roche
Principal

November 1, 2019

Amanda Malsch
Assistant Principal

Local School Council
2018-20

Jennifer Lister
Parent Representative
LSC Chair

Jeff Marren
Parent Representative
LSC Vice Chair

Eric Marcus
Parent Representative
LSC Secretary

Elvira Cruz
Parent Representative

Linda Cho
Parent Representative

Amy Cortis
Parent Representative

Amanda Kirshner
Teacher Representative

Jennifer Phares
Teacher Representative

MJ Ross
Staff Representative

Gina Doocy
Community Representative

TBD
Community Representative

Dr. Erin Roche
Principal

Prescott Partners
Alliant Credit Union
DePaul University
Prescott Parents

Dear Prescott families and friends,

These past few weeks have been a fresh reminder to me that we-- teachers and parents, staff and students, administrators and community members-- form a team to benefit our students and community. We work together and agree on 99% of collective decisions. When we disagree, we both listen and self-advocate; we empathize and we assert our perspective; and we concede to evidence and we wrestle with ideas.

We as adults must model these exchanges for our children and each other. We also must think reflectively about what we say and how we say it, because our talk and our actions reflect the values we want our children to emulate.

On Friday, we came together again to bustle Prescott School's classrooms and hallways with children's learning. As we re-establish teaching and learning, we will collaborate to plan the *Literary Character Parade* and this year's first *Celebration of Learning*. Parents, teachers, and SECAs will join with students at *Parent-Teacher Conferences* to discuss student learning growth. You will have much to celebrate together and much to plan together for future growth. We can relish together the joy of teaching and learning.

As school restarts, let's continue our commitment to holistic student growth. Our common foe is low student growth, not each other. Together, we can overcome low growth. Indeed, we have! The United States Department of Education just recognized Prescott School community for doing that over the past ten years: we won the National Blue Ribbon School award!

Let's do it again! Please join me in re-committing to Prescott's mission to *nurture creative minds and caring hearts that contribute significantly to their communities, through: rich and rigorous academic experiences that are tailored to individual needs, divergent thinking and artistic expression, work in collaborative teams, and supportive partnerships.*

I am rekindled to continue our collaborative work!

Sincerely,

Erin Roche
Principal






www.prescott.cps.k12.il.us

<https://twitter.com/PrescottCPS>

[In 2018 & 2019, Prescott was one of few schools among 700+ to be named a fully Healthy School.](#)

November*

*Updated district calendar is forthcoming; Prescott's calendar is subject to change.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
October 28 	Oct 29	Oct 30 Word Problem Wednesday —ask your child about today's math word problem	Oct 31 	Nov 1
4	5	6 Word Problem Wednesday	7	8
11 School closed in observance of Veterans Day	12 9am public tour	13 Word Problem Wednesday 11:15-6:16 Parent-Teacher Conferences*	14	15 <i>Recognition of Learning</i> 8:50 grades 3-5 12:40 grades 6-8
18	19	20 Word Problem Wednesday 5-6:30pm High School Night for 6-8th graders	21	22 <i>Celebration of Learning</i> 8:50am: K-5th 2:45pm: 6-8th
25	26 Picture Day	27 School closed in observance of Thanksgiving		29 School closed in observance of Thanksgiving
Dec 2 Book Fair	Dec 3 Book Fair	Dec 4 Word Problem Wednesday Book Fair	Dec 5 Book Fair	Dec 6 Book Fair

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 accountability 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 have high expectations by getting your child healthy and to school on time each day.

All visitors and employees must report to and sign in the office. Visitors may then be escorted to their appointment. Parents may not go directly to classrooms.

Students can be dropped off in the morning between 8:30 and 8:40am. Please do not drop off students before 8:30 as there is no student supervision. If you need to drop off a student before 8:30am, please arrange for child-care with Right at Schools at <https://rightatschool.com/>.



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, alley, or in the staff parking lot. Your car may be ticketed. Also, please do not drive through the alleys as they are not meant to be through-ways.** Thank you for making Prescott a safe school and for respecting our neighbors!

Uniforms orders to directly to homes. The cost will be \$4-10 depending on the size of the order according to Barrel Maker.



Any parent who would like to volunteer at Prescott including chaperones for field trips will need to complete a volunteer application for a level II volunteer at <https://chicagopublicschools.civicore.com> and come to main office with a picture ID for a copy to be made and kept on file at Prescott. If you plan on volunteering as a coach you will need to complete the process to be a level II volunteer which includes a TB test and fingerprinting. *Prescott always needs more volunteers for Project Boost to help struggling readers in Kindergarten and 1st and 2nd grade. Please contact PB Coordinator Ms. Gurda at wgurda@cps.edu to help our 5-7 year olds!*

The Prescott newsletter has become digital. Only the first page-- the letter and calendar-- will go home monthly in hard copy. The digital copies will be housed at the [Prescott Parents website](#) for future reference.

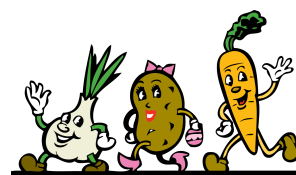
Healthy Eating at Prescott

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

- 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 eatingà 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. Please discourage unhealthy food and food fundraisers that compete with healthy breakfasts and lunches.

Students who **bring lunch from home** can help their families save time and money every day by taking fruit, vegetables, and a cold milk to complement their lunch **for free!**



to

Vaccination

Thanks for your hard work and persistence to ensure CPS students are protected from all required vaccine-preventable diseases including measles — which is making a notable resurgence outside of Chicago where measles immunization coverage is low. While over 95% of our students comply with district vaccine requirements, a small proportion is still missing one or more of school-required vaccines. Vaccine-unprotected students bear significant risks and pose risks to others as well.

Families, please schedule school physical and vaccination appointments before the start-of-school rush and well ahead of the October 15th deadline. Families can find a health center at <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>.

As a reminder, all new students must provide proof of required immunization and health exams at the time of enrollment (including those who enter after October 15th). Currently enrolled students must also provide proof of immunization and exam at specific grade levels (Pre-K, K, 6 and 9) no later than October 15th each year.

Effects of nationwide sub shortage: If there is no sub for a teacher or a staff member, students may continue their learning in another classroom with 4-8 of their classmates. For example, if there is no sub for a 3rd grade teacher, then groups of 4-8 3rd graders for that classroom may be dispersed to the other 3rd grade, 2nd grade, or 4th grade classrooms. This is now common practice across schools.

Thanks for volunteering!

- ★ Michelle Osaka volunteered to care for students this past week. Thank you for the help!
- ★ Elvira Cruz coordinates UFO.
- ★ Amy Malelo-Shirar coordinates the [Prescott Parents website](#).



Welcome new staff!

Vanessa Acuña is Prescott's new Counselor. She has over 10 years of experience and expertise in working with students and staff to build positive, strong relationships in schools. Ms. Acuña has collaborated with teachers and staff to create nurturing learning classrooms, lunchrooms, and playgrounds. She has co-taught with teachers, counseled students one-on-one, and coached restorative practices across school staff. With a focus on restoring relationships, Ms. Acuña will support struggling students to build positive peer relationships by planning and implementing those plans with them, their teachers, and their families. She will co-lead with teacher-leaders Prescott's version 3.0 of SEL embedded in instruction and led professional development. Ms. Acuña earned her MA in School Counseling at Roosevelt University, her MEd in Curriculum & Instruction at Lesley University, and her BA in Film Production at Columbia College. We wish temporary Counselor Liz Koet all the best in her new position!

Dolores Hernandez will work with students as a Special Education Classroom Assistant (SECA). Ms. Hernandez has worked as a teacher and AVID tutor with students in 6-12 for over seven years. She is a certified teacher. Ms. Hernandez earned her BA from Northeastern Illinois University and is fluent in Spanish.

Tiffany Guy-Neely will work with Kindergartners in Room 103 as a Teacher Assistant. Ms. Guy-Neely has worked with young children in preschools for over ten years. She builds strong relationships with students, parents, and colleagues. She earned her BA from Trinity Christian College and her Masters in Early Childhood from North Central University.

Nicole Tokarsky will teach 6-8th graders English Language Arts with Ms. Gow and Ms. Showalter. Ms. Tokarski has taught students with IEPs in Nevada and Illinois for the past six years. She gets to know students individually, holds them to high expectations, and has a strong track record of student success. She earned her BA from Illinois State University and her Masters in Special Education from the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Nick Giacobbe will teach students in grades 2-5 math and English Language Arts while Special Education Teacher Kazzi Saroni is on a leave of absence from Fri, November 8, 2019 until September, 2020. Mr. Giacobbe taught for over ten years at nearby Burley School. There he collaborated extensively with Prescott Teacher Nussy Moos while he developed innovated instructional practices that incorporated technology that enhanced student learning. Mr. Giacobbe is the recipient of the 2015 Harvard University Intellectual Contribution/Faculty Tribute Award and the Chicago Public Schools 2016 Technology Innovator of the Year. He earned his BA from Wheeling Jesuit University, his Masters in Special Education from Northeastern Illinois University, and his MA from Harvard University.

Celebrating Prescott's *National Blue Ribbon School* award with Mayor Lori Lightfoot, students, and staff:

<https://www.pscp.tv/w/1yoKMzYVnwpGQ>

