



Prescott Magnet Cluster 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

January 30, 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

Adrienne Walsh
Community Representative

Dr. Erin Roche
Principal

Prescott Partners
Alliant Credit Union
DePaul University
Prescott Parents

Dear Prescott families and friends,

In mid-January, I was inspired by 3rd graders' annual compelling proposals for ways to improve Prescott School. The twelve presentations, of which two are summarized in the table on the following pages, captured powerful ideas, detailed next steps, and even rhetorical questions ("Do you want students to have good grades?"). Thanks to the 3rd graders for thoughtful essays about ways to improve Prescott School! I have given a lot of thought to them, because I want to continue to make Prescott better, too!

As I listened to your proposals, I thought about your ideas in several ways.

- What are the pros (positive reasons) and cons (negative reasons)?
- What does the idea cost in money? If something costs \$1,000, how many cupcakes would you have to make to sell them for \$1 each? What if something costs \$50,000?
- Do I (the principal) have the authority to make the change? Or does the school district or someone else make the decision?
- What would we have to give up, if anything, to make the idea work?
- Should other people, such as the Local School Council, parents, teachers, or the school district be involved in the decision?
- Are there other rules from the state of Illinois, the United States government, the city of Chicago, or the Chicago Public Schools, or the contract with the Chicago Teachers Union, that need to be considered?

What would you do if you were Prescott's principal?

In the table on the next page is my thinking. This is one way I make decisions with others. I'm curious to hear your thinking after you've looked at the table. I've laid them out here, so you can also think about them as if you were the principal! **What would you do if YOU were the principal?**

Thank you for your thoughtful essays about ways to improve Prescott School!

Sincerely,




Mr. 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.

February

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p>3</p>  <p>Basketball games @ Waters: : 4:30 5/6th boys 5:30 7/8th boys</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>2nd Quarter Progress Reports go home</p> <p>5:30 7/8th girls basketball game @Hamilton</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p> <p><i>Recognition of Learning</i> 8:55 3-5th grades 3:15 6-8th grades Families welcome!</p> <p>4:30 7/8th girls basketball game @Marine</p>
<p>10</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>9am public tour</p> <p>5:30 7/8th girls basketball game @Bell</p>	<p>12 Word Problem Wednesday Basketball games @ Audubon: 4:30 5/6th boys 5:30 7/8th boys</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30-6:30 Family STEM Night: Science, Tech, Engineering, & Math</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>17</p> <p>School closed in honor of Presidents Washington & Lincoln</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30 7/8th girls basketball game @Waters</p>	<p>19 Word Problem Wednesday Basketball games @ Hamilton 4:30 5/6th boys 5:30 7/8th boys 5:15 5/6th boys at Mayer</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:30 7/8th girls basketball game @Ogden-Jenner</p>	<p>21</p> <p><i>Celebration of Learning</i> 8:50am: K-5th 2:45pm: 6-8th</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Word Problem Wednesday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>March 2</p> <p>2020-21 Kindergarten registration for in-area students</p>	<p>March 3</p> <p>2020-21 Kindergarten registration for in-area students</p>	<p>March 4</p> <p>Word Problem Wednesday</p>	<p>March 5</p> <p>2020-21 Kindergarten registration for in-area students</p>	<p>March 6</p> <p>2020-21 Kindergarten registration for in-area students</p>

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.

VOLUNTEER



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.

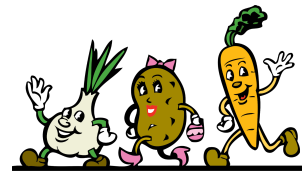
Healthy Eating at Prescott

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 eating a 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

Vaccinization

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.

The Jumping Band Contest

winners between Rooms 205, 206, and 207 (4-6th grade classrooms): Lila M, Annabelle, Cheyenne, Lila E, and Magdalena. Give them a high-five when you see them! Thanks to PE Teacher Sean Scanlon for organizing it.





Congratulations Future Problem Solvers!

Among the hundreds of teams from across the state of Illinois that submitted entries for the December practice problem, two of our Prescott teams placed in the top ten for their age division!

4th place in the middle division: Ava, Dimitri, Chris M., Monty, and Logan

10th place in the junior division: Natalie, Ahmir, Alejandro, and Alissa

3rd graders proposed may creative, thoughtful ideas to improve Prescott School.

Two examples are below. They presented them to me in class in mid-January. I'm sharing the essays of Emiliano and Chase (who presented solutions to a similar problem as Emiliano) with the company responsible for clean bathrooms. Olivia has renewed brainstorming about equipment on the playground. Prescott students showed their leadership, creativity, and strong writing and presentation skills in their drive to improve our school!

--Mr. Roche, Principal

3rd grader	3rd graders' proposed idea and pros, research	Cons (reasons against this proposal)	Who has authority to decide	Questions/ comments
Emiliano	Boys bathroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broken sink - Garbage in toilet - Floor is wet 	None. Bathrooms should always be clean and safe	Mr. Chris Devins works for SpaanTech, which works for Sodexo, which works for CPS.	Emiliano, please give me a copy of your letter and I will share it with Mr. Devins.
Olivia	Swing set <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exercise, more energy - Decrease absences; absences cause lower grades - Fundraising: garage sale, mini-carnival, UFO days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Only 2-4 students can swing at one time *Swing sets take up a lot of room-- about 40 feet by 40 feet *In a small playground, students could get hit *About \$50,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost is decided by principal and LSC Safety and location by Principal and facilities (Chris Devins) 	<p>Older students can play on Wrightwood Park's swing sets across the street everyday at recess. Third graders can swing after school.</p> <p>We have tetherball and four-square. What else is small to fit in our small playground and is safe and not expensive?</p>

Thanks for volunteering!

- ★ Elvira Cruz coordinates UFO.
- ★ Amy Malelo-Shirar coordinates the [Prescott Parents website](#).
- ★ Mi'Shell Osaka helps in the main office.

Volunteers needed!

- LSC elections on April 22: 6 parents and 2 community reps-- see Ms. Collum in the main office for nomination forms
- Help Art Teacher Beth Ammons to prepare and frame the fantastic student artwork. She rotates over 50 pieces every quarter, so she needs 2-3 people to help for a few hours each quarter to display our magnificent student artwork. Please email Beth Ammons at eaammons@cps.edu.
- Help middle school teachers (grades 6-8th) to prepare students' photos and quotes to hang in the cafeteria. There are 150 5-6th graders! Please email Kim Gow at kcgow@cps.edu.

Perseverance is the key to building grit. There is no doubt that kids who develop it will lead happier and more productive lives than those who don't. Listed below are few "grit builders" with corresponding "grit stealers."

Grit Builders		Grit Stealers
Allow your kids to make affordable mistakes and live with the consequences.	➡	Micromanage or rescue your kids.
Celebrate effort, hard work, and perseverance.	➡	Constantly tell them that they are bright, gifted, or exceptionally talented.
Let them see you make mistakes.	➡	Model perfectionism.
Show your kids that you maintain a positive attitude when you make mistakes.	➡	Talk badly about yourself when you make mistakes.
Guide your kids toward getting along well with their teachers and coaches.	➡	Talk to their teachers and coaches, ensuring that things go smoothly for your kids.
Expect your kids to do their fair share of chores.	➡	Treat your kids like a guest at a resort for the rich and famous.
Let them hear you discussing how trials build mature character.	➡	Let them hear you complaining about the trials you face.
Let them wait for what they want.	➡	Immediately gratify their desires.
Allow them to experience a natural and full range of emotions. Show that you care by expressing empathy.	➡	Try to keep them happy at all times. Give them the impression that life should never be upsetting or stressful.

From Love and Logic, by Charles Fay

Paid by CPS: 3 judges needed for LSC elections all day on April 22. See Ms. Collum in the main office.

Welcome to Special Education Teacher Melissa Dippel! She teaches students in grades 4-8 in Room 202 and started on Thursday, Jan 2, 2020. Ms. Ferrin has gone on a leave of absence and will not return to Prescott School. We wish her the very best! Ms. Dippel has taught for over 10 years in CPS, most recently at Dett and Mitchell Schools. She graduated with her BA from Columbia College, her MAT from National-Louis, and her MEd from UIC. Please introduce yourself and welcome her to Prescott School!

Mathletes Team competes in Chicago Jr. Math League (CJML)

The Prescott Mathletes both the 8th and 7th grade teams took 2nd Place in the grade levels at the CJML (Chicago Jr. Math League) competition on January 18th. Moran coaches the Mathletes team.

7th grade Team is currently in 6th place in the city with 74 points

8th grade Team is currently place in 4th place the city with 75 points

Congratulations to individual leaders

1. Zachary M (6th grader) with 33 points and 2nd overall in the city in 8th grade division!
2. Natalia M with 22 points and 16th overall in the city in 7th grade division!

Check out the stats at <http://www.cjml.org/stats.php>.

