



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

December 22, 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,

I watched 8th graders score themselves for their contributions to the discussion on immigrant detention centers around the world. Students such as Adilene, representing Italy, and Kindred, representing Mexico, had argued passionately their country's perspectives. Often students spoke strongly in favor of detention, because that's what the research on their country had revealed.

Madison reflected on the discussion, "We should listen to others talk and not scream out your answer." Jarren added, "You should not interrupt people." Ava observed, "This was the best conversation we had, because it kept on going. The debate was heating up. It was fun to see countries go have each other." Marshawn summed up, "I think it was cool people were playing their roles like being an ambassador of their countries."

Our 8th graders had just completed a high level of "student self-assessment," which is one of the sub-components of the teacher evaluation system *CPS Framework for Teaching*. Teacher Andrea Edwards, in previous classes, had set up students to have the skills to debate, listen, argue, take on differing perspectives, AND criticize themselves and others in the spirit of improvement. In the *Framework for Teaching*, this level of self-assessment reaches the highest level of teaching, "Distinguished."

What characterizes "Distinguished" from "Proficient" (the second-highest level) across the 19 components of the *Framework for Teaching* is that students do the heavy lifting. Students run the activities, extend learning, ask questions, seek others' insights, and accurately assess themselves and others. When students take charge of their learning at a high level, then we know the teaching is "Distinguished."

Of course, not every lesson lends itself to "Distinguished" teaching. And evidence has to prove it every time-- not just once. We accept that "Distinguished" is not guaranteed in the next lesson even if seen in this one. Learn more about the levels and criteria in the [Professional Practice](#) and the [CPS Framework for Teaching](#) links.

We want our students in Kindergarten through 8th grade to frequently engage in high-level learning. My goal as principal is to support teacher growth and student learning conditions to make every lesson "Distinguished." Then all our students will articulate as Natalie did, "I thought it was great that everyone had a lot of evidence for their arguments."

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.](#)

January

Mon

Tue

Wed



Thu

Fri

Read a book from Alliant Credit Union or at www.Raz-Kids.com everyday!

Practice math at www.ixl.com everyday!

Classes resume Thursday, January 2, 2020

December 30	December 31	January 1 Happy New Year!	2 8:30 School resumes 8:45 Classes resume	3 Classes continue
6	7	8 Word Problem Wednesday	9	10
13 Wow! 2nd grade noted bees and flowers' parts 	14 NWEA grades 1-8	15 NWEA grades 1-8 Science partnership with DePaul U starts	16 NWEA grades 1-8	17 2nd graders observe flowers and bees. 
20 No school in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King	21 9am public tour	22	23	24
27	28	29	30 <i>Battle of the Books</i> battle	31 No classes for students: staff development day
February 3	February 4	February 5 Progress Reports go home for Q2	February 6	February 7 <i>Recognition of Learning</i> 8:55 3-5th grades 3:15 6-8th grades Families welcome!

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.

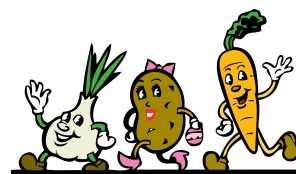
Healthy Eating at Prescott

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 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!**



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.

Check out the wintry student artwork!

7th grader artists Mallory Carey and Armando Lopez-Mondragon



Armando Lopez-Mondragon, Grade 7



Mallory Carey, Grade 7

SQRP 3.0 Stakeholder Survey

As part of our District's redesign of our current Performance Policy, Chicago Public Schools is asking for feedback from staff, students, parents, and the Chicago Community at large. This is part of the district's long term vision of academic progress, financial stability, and integrity.

The District's School Quality Rating Policy (SQRP) is designed to help Chicago families, communities, and other stakeholders understand how our schools are doing. As our school rating policy evolves, we are hoping to receive critical feedback through this survey to both understand your feelings about the current performance policy, as well as to guide us as we reshape it to be more responsive to our many stakeholders.

The Survey is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Please encourage your staff, students, and families to participate. This is just the first step in the process, and we will continue to engage you and the larger community in the process.



Bee-sy scientists in 2nd grade observe flowers and bees for wing structure, stamens, pistils, and pollen.

Thanks for volunteering!

- ★ Elvira Cruz coordinates UFO.
- ★ Wayne Bock donates a super-helpful monitor to the school.
- ★ Amy Malelo-Shirar coordinates the [Prescott Parents website](#).
- ★ Thanks for volunteering at the Book Fair! Risa Appelbaum, Jen Bowers, Edyta Tastepien, Amy Cortis, Melissa Jansma, Ms. Hamm, Erica Mesaros, Ms. Sangove, Dana Resnick, Brianne Heppard, Lizzie Gussis, Trace Holmes, Jane Charney, Alexa Sindelar, Dana Fenceroy, Maria Bisto, Shelley Krepich, Sandra Chancio, Heather Sturtz, Jennifer Goelz, Frank Cho. A special thanks to Linda Cho for setting up and coordinating volunteers.
- ★ A shout out to the following parents for helping sort and distribute Alliant books: Norma Weir, Ana Cartegena, TJ Brennan, Bob Mesaros, Maria Corral, Sarah Portugal and Jill Stein

Volunteers needed!

PE Teachers Sean Scanlon and Brian Padilla need someone to paint three basketball boards on the gym walls behind rims. Please contact Mr. Scanlon at sscanlon@cps.edu to set up a time to plan the design and paint.

Art Club students prepare decorations for the annual *Fantasy Flight*,

sponsored by United Airlines and Prescott partner Alliant Credit Union. Prescott students' artwork line the jetway of two gates at O'Hare International Airport. Children with severe disabilities walk or are wheeled along the jetway that then taxis to another gate, where they are greeted by more Prescott student decorations that look like the North Pole and its famous resident, Santa Claus!





Congratulations to Prescott's Shamar Lumpkin (Prescott Class of 2015) who won a prestigious [Posse Scholarship](#) to [Connecticut College](#)! He's the Class President at Noble St. High School (Class of 2019). He's pictured here with Teacher Kim Gow.



**Thanks to Alliant Credit Union Foundation for the
Winter Books for each student!**



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