

Prescott Promise

I promise to be
RESPECTFUL
RESPONSIBLE
And
RESOURCEFUL

To make my home, community
and school a better place.

Website

www.prescott.dbqschools.org

Find the school calendar of
events, the school newsletter,
school-approved web-sites, staff
members' contact information
and much more!

Facebook



Search for Prescott Elementary
School on Facebook and like our
page!

Office

563-552-4200 7:30am-4pm

NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL ...

Improving Learning for All Students

Attendance matters! Thank you, parents and guardians, for making it a priority to have your children in school, on time, every day. Students with strong attendance, missing less than 10 days per year, are less likely to struggle with reading and more likely to graduate from high school.

Iowa Tests of Progress (ITP)

Students in grades 3-5 are taking ITP during the month of November. This measure gives us important information about your child and our instruction. We will analyze the results to inform our teaching, and you and your student will receive an individualized report. Typically, students complete the tests in six different sessions that are less than one hour each. How can you help your child be prepared? By doing the same things you do to help your child be ready to learn every day; provide plenty of sleep, a balance of work and play, and good nutrition! Across the state of Iowa, a test called Smarter Balanced is slated to be the new accountability measure starting in the 2017-2018 school year and will replace ITP and MAP. This anticipated change will be determined by legislative action at the state level. I will keep you posted on this topic.

Safety

An email from Mike Cyze, Dubuque Schools Director of Communication and Public Relations, regarding intruder drills was shared with all DCSD families on Oct. 19, and is published again on page three of this newsletter. At Prescott we will complete the intruder drill lesson between Oct. 31-Nov. 4. Please contact me with questions.

Fifth Grade Arts Trek

Thanks to the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, our fifth graders enjoyed fieldwork at the Five Flags Theater yesterday. Each school year the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra partners with the Dubuque Community School District and schools from the surrounding region to present a full symphony concert for 3rd grade and 5th grade students. These concerts are designed to supplement the fifth graders' study of American history (Colonial America and the American Revolution) and National Constitution Day. For many students this will be their second symphony orchestra experience, having also attended the 3rd Grade Arts Trek concert. The goal for this fieldwork experience is that the students will be inspired to make music themselves - choosing to sing in a choir or play an instrument when the opportunity is presented. Judging from these comments by Prescott fifth graders, the fieldwork was a rousing success!

"Wow that guy is playing the cello, just like me!"

"Look at that instrument; it's so small (piccolo)."

"Whoa, these guys are very good!"

"Whoa, that guy is playing 5 instruments (percussion)!"

"Wait, did he say this is the last one? Can we say encore so they will play a lot more? I love this!!!"

Wishing you a peaceful weekend, ~Mrs. Vicki Sullivan, Principal

The members of the Prescott learning community will empower each child to achieve to his/her highest potential and to become strong contributing members of the community



Welcome to New Staff – Ms. Meyer, Kindergarten Paraprofessional

Hello everyone! My name is Ashley Meyer, and I am very excited for the opportunity to join the Prescott team as a paraprofessional! I graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Early Childhood Education and a minor in Early Childhood Special Education and hold an Iowa teaching license. I have a passion for working with children and helping them learn and grow as they explore life. I am engaged to my best friend, Pep, and will be getting married next year. In my free time I have been wedding planning and also love to do Zumba classes! I enjoy spending time with family (pets included) and friends as well. I enjoyed my time working at the childcare level for the last eleven years, most recently as Director of Dubuque Childcare Center, but I am ready and looking forward to my newest endeavor of working with the wonderful staff, children, and families of Prescott Elementary!



Expeditionary Learning Design Principles

The Primary of Self-Discovery

Collaboration and Competition

Diversity and Inclusion

Responsibility for Learning

Success and Failure

Service and Compassion

The Having of Wonderful Ideas

Empathy and Caring

Solitude and Reflection

The Natural World



Calendar Highlights

Fri Oct 28, 2016

- Professional Learning Session/1-Hour Late Arrival for Students
- 2:30pm Prescott Crew/ Collaboration and Competition

Mon Oct 31, 2016

- 5th Graders, bring your instruments! Lessons w/ Mr. Garde
- 7:30am Rise and Shine
- 8:15am Just Read
- 8:15am Prescott Pans Percussion Practice w/ Mrs. Millius
- 3:30pm Band Whole Group Rehearsal w/ Mr. Garde

Iowa Tests of Progress Nov. 1-22 for Gr. 3, 4, and 5

Tue Nov 1, 2016

- 7:30am Rise and Shine
- 8:15am Just Read
- 8:15am Prescott Choir Practice w/ Mrs. Millius

Wed Nov 2, 2016

- 7:30am Rise and Shine
- 8:15am Just Read
- 8:15am Prescott Pans Percussion Practice w/ Mrs. Millius
- 2:30pm First Grade Learning Celebration

Thu Nov 3, 2016

- 7:30am Rise and Shine
- 8:15am Just Read
- 8:15am Prescott Choir Practice w/ Mrs. Millius

Fri Nov 4, 2016

- Professional Learning Session/1-Hour Late Arrival for Students
- 2:30pm Prescott Crew/Collaboration and Competition

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Dear Dubuque Community School District Family,

Student safety has long been a priority for the Dubuque Community School District. As we recognize this week as National School Safety Week, know that we work each day to ensure that our students encounter an environment in our schools that fosters learning while being safe and inclusive.

In recent years, the district has worked to revise its safety protocols to better respond to emergencies – in particular, enhancing our protocol for responding to active intruder situations. Working with area law enforcement, the district has transitioned from a one-size-fits-all model to an options-based approach that empowers individuals to make the best decision possible should they encounter an active intruder situation.

Over the course of the next several weeks, students in all district schools will participate in a safety training exercise. This will consist of a short video presentation (with separate videos for elementary school and secondary school students) that introduces these updated safety protocols in an age-appropriate format. The exercise will also give students the chance to process the video with their teacher, and participate in a lockdown exercise in their classroom.

These training sessions will discuss the options students and staff have should they encounter an intruder. Based on best practice responses across the nation, the training includes the following main components:

- EVACUATE - running to escape the situation is an option
- LOCKDOWN - locking down is still an option, and now may include additional safeguards such as barricading doors to stay safe.
- COUNTER - as a last resort, individuals may need to throw items, kick, scream or shout to escape a dangerous encounter.

While we know these are sensitive topics to discuss with students, they are important to address. Just as we regularly hold fire and tornado drills, we plan to use regular discussions about active intruder situations to help students better understand their options for staying safe both in and out of school.

Overall, we hope this training is a positive, non-threatening way to raise awareness of safety issues and spark conversation. As always, schools will have additional support for students wishing to further process the exercise.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Dubuque Community School District and our efforts to give all students a safe environment in which to learn and grow.

Sincerely,
Mike Cyze
Director of School and Community Relations