

Prescott Post

Jan. 15, 2018

Celebrating our Students and the Prescott Promise!

Our school-wide norm is the Prescott Promise, "I promise to be respectful, responsible and resourceful to make my home, school and community a better place." These students and staff members were recently noted as powerful models of our promise: Luke G, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Freund, Johanna F, Gavin V, Arianna C, and Neveah A. Congratulations to these students and staff members! We are grateful for the important lessons they teach us.

Celebrating the Arts and our Students

The Opening Reception for the show *The Painted Word: An exhibition of Dubuque Elementary Students' Work inspired by Eric Carle* will be held at the Bisignano Art Gallery on Saturday, January 20, between 1 and 2pm. The Gallery is located on the first floor of the Heritage Center at the University of Dubuque. Colorful, evocative, explosive works are displayed by 43 students in 11 Dubuque Elementary schools. All the work is original and done by 1st graders.

Professor Phyllis Garfield, Director of the International Studies Program at the University of Dubuque, and Professor Kathleen Saleh, Assistant Professor of Education at the University of Dubuque, will be awarding participatory certificates at that time.

Prescott 1st graders; Miles, Ranly and Amirah created a collaborative piece which will be in this show.

Celebrating our Students Love for STEAM!

In the spring of 2017, Prescott hosted an Arts Fair during the school day that allowed students to participate in many different forms of art. Both staff members and community members provided these opportunities. Students took a survey following the Arts Fair to identify high interest areas. We found that there is an interest in science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM). We are excited to announce that we are going to have an after-school STEAM club at Prescott. Ms. Weydert, Technology and Information Coach and Mrs. Wiskus, paraprofessional, will be leading a group of up to twenty 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in this club. Letters went home with all 3rd-5th students on Jan. 11. There is a permission slip at the bottom of that not for parents to sign and return.

Prescott Charter Renewal NOT Approved by the DCSD Board of Education: A Plan for Moving Forward

The most frequently addressed questions and concerns are addressed here:

- Our charter remains in effect until the end of the 2017-2018 school year.
- Families who students are currently enrolled at Prescott have the option for their students to remain at Prescott through the end of their 5th grade year.
- The majority of Prescott parents, students and staff have clearly indicated in a recent survey a preference for the continued use of Expeditionary Learning with an infusion of the arts, looping, fieldwork, the all-school musical, Rise and Shine and other beyond-the-school-day academic and arts-based opportunities. This is absolutely possible with or without our charter status.
- Charter transportation will remain in effect through the end of the 2017-2018 school year. Families using charter transportation now (either riding a DCSD bus or being reimbursed for transporting their children) will not have access to this option starting in the 2018-1019 school year.
- Students entitled for special education services that are eligible for specialized transportation services now will continue to have access to busing services as long as the students' IEP teams determine that this is a need.

- Families living in the Prescott's neighborhood school boundary that are currently enrolling their children in other schools will have the option to enroll their children at Prescott beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. This means that our total school enrollment may increase. We may add sections (more classrooms) to address increased enrollment.
- The hard cap on class size will no longer be in effect when our charter expires at the end of this school year. It's important to note that class sizes in the other DCSD Title 1 elementary schools are comparable to our current class sizes. We may see slight increases in class sizes or no increase in class sizes starting with the 2018-2019 school year.

Prescott Community Organization (PCO) Meeting ~ Thur., Jan. 18, 5:30-6:30pm, Prescott Cafeteria

Please consider joining us for our next monthly Prescott Community Organization Meeting (PCO). It will be held on Thursday, Jan. 18, 5:30-6:30pm in the Prescott Cafeteria. The main item to be discussed is the non-renewal of our charter status and what this means for our families and staff. You can come and share your thoughts, ask questions, or simply listen to the conversation. All are welcome. Superintendent Rheingans will be attending our gathering.

Alternatively, I'm happy to talk with you in person, over the phone or via email (vsullivan@dbsqschoos.org, or 563-552-4205) to hear your questions and concerns.

Arrival and Dismissal

Thank you for supporting a safe and smooth arrival and dismissal at Prescott. Mid-year is a good time to review our arrival and dismissal practices.

Arrival Options

- 7:30-8:15am Rise and Shine. Mon-Thu. Open to all K-5 students. Students should arrive no earlier than 7:20am. Students may sit or stand quietly in the White St. entry while waiting for Rise and Shine to start. Students arriving after 7:40am will not be able to participate in Rise and Shine that day and parents will be called to pick up the child.
- 8:15-8:40 Just Read. Mon-Thu. Open to all K-5 students.
- 8:15-8:40 Choir. Mon, Tue, and Wed. Open to all 3rd-5th grade students
- 8:15-8:40 Breakfast Mon-Thu. Breakfast is 9:15-9:40 on Fri. Open to all K-5 students.

8:30am is the earliest arrival time for your child if he or she is not participating in the events listed above. Students wait on the playground and have two options: Stand in their assigned classroom line or walk the perimeter of the basketball court. (Due to the one-hour late arrivals, 9:30am is the earliest arrival time for students on Fridays.)

8:40am is the entry bell. This is the latest time students should be dropped off. All students will move to their classrooms at this time. (Due to the one-hour late arrivals, 9:40am is the latest time students should be dropped off on Fridays.)

8:50am is the tardy bell. All students must be in their seats in the classrooms to be considered on time. (Due to the one-hour late arrivals, 9:50am is the tardy bell on Fridays.)

Dismissal

- 3:30pm PreK-5 dismissal time.
- 3:40pm End of dismissal. Thank you for your support to have children picked up on time!

A Focus on Teaching and Learning

Items such as snack foods, beverages, toys, cards, slime, perfume/cologne and phones are best kept at home. These items tend to be a distraction from teaching and learning. Items creating a distraction will be held by the school until a parent can collect them.

Staff News

Mrs. Val Ethier, a long time paraprofessional at Prescott who has most recently been serving as the health office paraprofessional has accepted a position in the private sector. We are grateful for her years of service and wish her well. Interviews for a new health paraprofessional are currently underway.

Mr. Becker, Ms. Schwendinger, and Mrs. Turza, all multicategorical paraprofessionals, have recently taken paraprofessional positions at Bryant, Kennedy and Irving, respectively. We are grateful for their years of service and wish them well.

We welcome Mrs. Arensdorf/1CK, Mrs. Sullivan/1GH (no relation to me) and Mrs. DuBord/5GuM as multicategorical professionals in our building.

Summer Reading Academy and Extended School Year Services

I am excited to share that Prescott will be the host site for the district's summer reading academy and for its Extended School Year Services programs for summer 2017. More details will be shared on which students will be eligible and how to register.

Preschool Registration for 2018-2019



2018-2019 STATE-WIDE VOLUNTARY PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION
For Dubuque Community School District Preschool Classrooms

- **All 13** Dubuque Community School District elementary schools offer preschool.
- **What are the requirements?**
 1. family has to reside in the state of Iowa
 2. child has to be four years old by **September 15, 2018**
 3. There are **no** financial guidelines to meet. SWVPP is **free for all fours.**
- **When? Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:00 a.m. at all elementary schools**
Slots do fill fast! Mark your calendars! Come early!
- **What do I need to bring?**
Bring proof-of-age (birth certificate, passport, baptismal certificate)
Registration **will not be taken** without proof-of-age
Children **DO NOT** need to be present for registration. This is the paperwork process.

Secondary Open Enrollment for Gr. 6-12 Opens Jan. 15

The **2018-2019 Secondary Open Enrollment** process has gone **electronic!!**

We are piloting an electronic application process. All Secondary Open Enrollment Applications will be submitted on line. This will be a smart phone friendly application, and families without computer access are encouraged to check with their schools for access to a computer. Other sites offering computer access are the Dubuque Public Library, The Multicultural Center, and the Forum lobby.

The secondary open enrollment window runs **January 15, 2018 through March 1, 2018** for the initial consideration round. Applications received **after March 1st** will be held for consideration after registration in August, 2018.

Upcoming Events

Monday, Jan. 15

- MLK Jr. Day - No School

Tuesday, Jan. 16

- Intruder Drills will be held in K-5 Classrooms between Jan. 8-31
- 3rd grade Fieldwork at Swiss Valley Nature Center
- 2nd grade hosts community expert, Ashley Noonan, Rescue Mission Garden Manager. Topic: Soil, Seed germination and plant growth. This is part of the Kick-Off for their learning expedition on plants.

Wednesday, Jan. 17

- Kindergarten hosts the Dubuque Fire Department's, Sparky's Firehouse

Thursday, Jan. 18

- FAST Reading Screening at Prescott for K-5 students (a brief reading assessment given three times per year to help us know how students are doing with their reading so we can better target our instruction). Parents will see results at spring conferences.
- PCO Meeting. All are welcome! 5:30-6:30pm in the Prescott Cafeteria.

Friday, Jan. 19

- FAST Reading Screening at Prescott for K-5 students
- One-hour late arrival for students/professional learning for staff
- Prescott Crew (ask your child about their crew and what we work on during crew time)