

# Prescott Press

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Volume 10 Issue 2 Winter 2018



## From our PTO Presidents...

It has been so wonderful to see new faces at both the PTO meetings and school events. There are some wonderful programs coming up and planning for even more in the spring so please keep making time to join us - we love to see new volunteers at meetings. The next PTO meeting will be on Wednesday, March 14th at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria.

There will be several spring fundraisers coming in the next few weeks. The first will be Genevieve's coffee cake orders coming home this week. These delicious treats will be delivered in time for the spring holidays, Easter and Passover. Please keep them in mind as you are planning menus and gifts to bring. The second fundraiser that you will be getting information about is the return of the Square 1 art project. This is a wonderful opportunity to put your child's artwork on display and give personalized gifts with delivery happening in time for Mother's Day. Students will begin working on their art projects in coming weeks and then catalogs will go home with the choices of pieces that can be ordered featuring their art. Please make sure that you reinforce with your children how much you love seeing what they create!

And despite the cold weather, we have begun planning for Family Fun Day in June. This is our largest event of the year and always a lot of fun for families. Over the years we have relied on feedback and suggestions from the Prescott families to make this day even more successful so please know that your thoughts and ideas are welcome, as always. Keep on the lookout for planning meeting dates and requests for volunteers to help on the day of. Not only do the students have an amazing time but it is a great day for everyone to enjoy the community of the Prescott school!

Leigh and Amanda

## Upcoming events....

January 29th After School  
Enrichment Clubs start  
2/1/2018 6:30pm - Math and Science  
Night  
February 7th - Historical  
Perspectives Enrichment Program  
for students  
February 7th - Early Dismissal 12:30  
February 19 - 23 February Break  
March 14th PTO Meeting 7:30pm  
March 18th PTO Providence Bruins  
March 21st Pamela Gardner Grades  
3-5  
March 22nd - 5th Grade Pasta  
Supper  
March 28th - School Committee at  
Prescott 7:00pm  
May 1st - Science Museum 2nd  
grade  
May 10th - All School Field Trip to  
Stuart Little Wheelock Family  
Theatre

# Report to PARENTS

## So Many Activities, So Little Time

**S**tudents who are involved in extracurricular activities—from chess club to cheerleading to chorus—tend to have higher self-esteem and stronger connections to school. But an overloaded schedule with too many activities can have the opposite effect, leaving your child—and you!—stressed. Keep these tips in mind for managing your child’s activity load.

### **Aim for 3 activities.**

Though every child is different, psychologists often suggest involving a child in no more than three activities at a time: one social activity (like Boys’ Club or a church group); one physical activity (like gymnastics, swimming, or basketball); and one artistic activity, such as an art class or music lessons.

### **Limit involvement.**

To avoid burnout, keep involvement in any one activity to just a day or two a week, unless your child absolutely begs for more. Check with them periodically to make sure they are still eager to attend; if not, scale back.

**Broaden their horizons.** Although following your child’s interests is important, introduce your child to something new, whether it’s a new sport, a musical instrument, or a group like Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts.

The secret to keeping enthusiasm high is to start slowly and gauge your child’s interest before committing beyond the first few sessions.

### **Be supportive, not critical.**

No matter what your child is interested in, remember that your job as a parent is to be supportive. The point of activities is to expand your child’s interests and abilities, not to transform him or her into a child prodigy or the next sports superstar.

### **Schedule downtime.**

Children need time to ponder, explore, and play—but an overloaded schedule prevents that. Make sure that when the day is over and the homework is done, there’s still time for your child to be a kid.

### **Change it up.**

Specializing in one activity—especially a sport—at a very young age can be harmful. Pediatricians discourage the kind of repetitive movements that come from concentrated effort in one sport. Plus, kids who dedicate themselves to a single sport early can burn out later and may regret not trying other sports.

### **Watch for signs of stress.**

The stress of trying to keep up with too many planned activities can take a physical toll on your child. Watch for signs of stress, including stomachaches and headaches, difficulty paying attention, a drop-off in interest in activities he or she used to enjoy, and increased “clinginess” with a parent or other close adult (e.g., teacher, babysitter). If you notice any of these signs, chances are your child needs to cut back on activities and de-stress.

### **Decompress at home.**

Make sure there’s room in your schedule for family time. Children need to have meals with their parents, hear bedtime stories, share chores, and play games. Extra-curricular activities can help children learn and grow, but remember that what your child needs first and foremost is to feel special and loved.





### From Donna Twohig

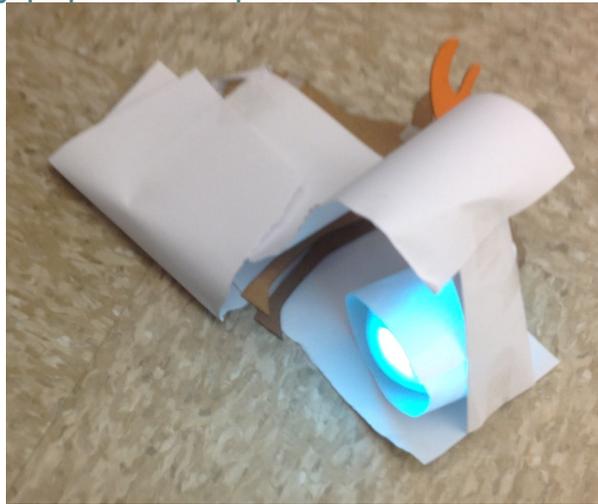
These last few months have been busy ones in the Health Office. All vision and hearing screening has been completed. If I have sent a letter home indicating that your child requires further vision or hearing screening with your physician, please share the results of that follow up so that I may update your child's teacher regarding vision or hearing concerns in the classroom.

We encourage your children to come to school, attendance is important, but it's also important to continue to follow the guidelines for keeping your child home from school when ill. If your child has a fever, they must remain home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines. If your child has vomited they must remain home until 24 hours post vomiting, and they must be able to tolerate food and liquids. If your child has a persistent, hacking cough, they will be more comfortable at home until the cough subsides. If we all follow these guidelines we can limit spread of germs. As you may have heard on the news the flu is particularly virulent this year; the CDC guidelines suggest that the best flu prevention is to be vaccinated with the flu shot, avoid touching the T Zone (eyes, nose and mouth) and to practice vigilant hand washing.

BMI screening for First and Fourth graders will be done the first week in February. Please check your student's backpack for a letter regarding this important screening. Please continue to keep me posted regarding any changes in your child's health status.

### From the McGuire Library - Mrs. Miller.....

The robotics lessons have gone well over the past few months. We are wrapping things up over the next few weeks. Younger grades have enjoyed exploring with the BeeBots. Older students have learned to code and use the Ozobots and the Spheros. 5th graders were given a challenge and did really well getting the spheros to pull, drag, push the mini moose back to the case using only paper and tape.



We have started the All School Read. Students in grades 2-5 are blogging about the

book - *Because of Winn-Dixie*. Second graders are creating a news brief in Google Drive to teach the rest of the school all about Kate DiCamillo.

Next up are stories and projects that have to do with Chinese New Year, biographies, and animals. First grade will be starting research on bats, fifth grade will be doing a movie on story elements, and fourth grade will be learning all about the Dewey Decimal system.

# Enrichment Update

By Maria Brewer and Melinda Spindler

In November, we had an amazing time with Brain Challenge Game Show. You heard correctly! The students got to take part in their own Game Show right in our very own Prescott School! Buzzers, lights, music, learning and fun! The teams went head to head to answer geography questions. It was priceless watching how excited the kids were about getting the questions correct! In between rounds there were energetic psychical challenges to keep the teams working together. It was clear the teachers had taught their students well about geography and not only that but they even got in on the fun tug of war challenge!



## Museum of Science

We had an inspiring visit from the Museum of Science with two interesting topics, **Digging for Dinosaurs** and **Electromagnetism**. First graders got to explore and discover in the Digging for Dinosaurs exhibition. Students were allowed to handle a mix of real fossils from a variety of plants and animals. Students also worked in groups to make simple excavations and simulated dig site using the techniques and tools of a paleontologist.

Students viewed and participated in demonstrations of electromagnetism as a force and way to store energy.

January 2018

They got to explore the magnetic properties of different kinds of materials and to see the relationship between electricity and magnetism. The scientist from the museum was very impressed with our students "science" knowledge. Thanks, Norwood Science Center!



These events were paid for by the PTO with funds raised through the fundraising and events families participate in throughout the year. Thank you!

We have submitted a grant application to the Norwood Cultural Council to help offset the cost of the Museum of Science programs. The Norwood Cultural Council has been a generous supporter to the Prescott and we hope they will approve us for a grant once again for this program. The Norwood Cultural Council is a local agency funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Up Next for Enrichment: Sheryl Faye as Amelia Earhart and Anne Frank!

## News from First Grade...

Happy New Year! In December, students worked on their Jan Brett author study as part of their literacy unit. Students read and enjoyed many of her books! In Math, we also finished Topic 5: Working with Equations. This is an important concept that can be difficult for many students. Keep up the hard work!

During the month of January, students will be learning about characters and character traits during their literacy unit. Students enjoyed reading some Tacky the Penguin books by Helen Lester. In writing, students will learn about **How To** writing. They will learn about *transition words* like, first, next, then, last. Students will develop their writing into a full paragraph.

Also during January, students are learning about data in Math. This is a fun opportunity

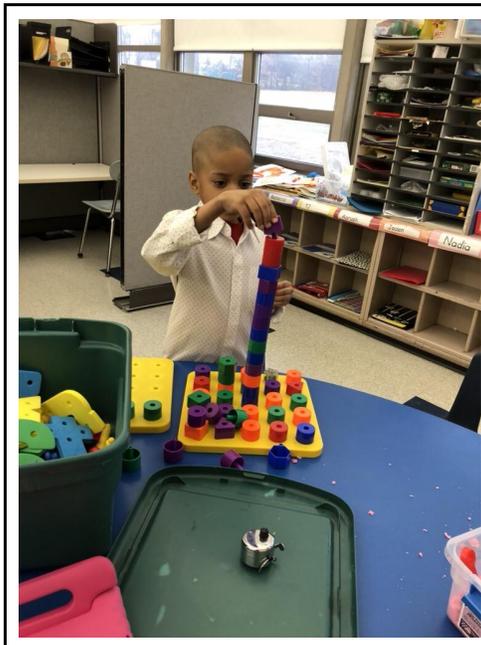
for students to survey their friends and family at home! Also, we will start Topic 7: Extending the Counting Sequence. Students will be working with numbers up to 120.

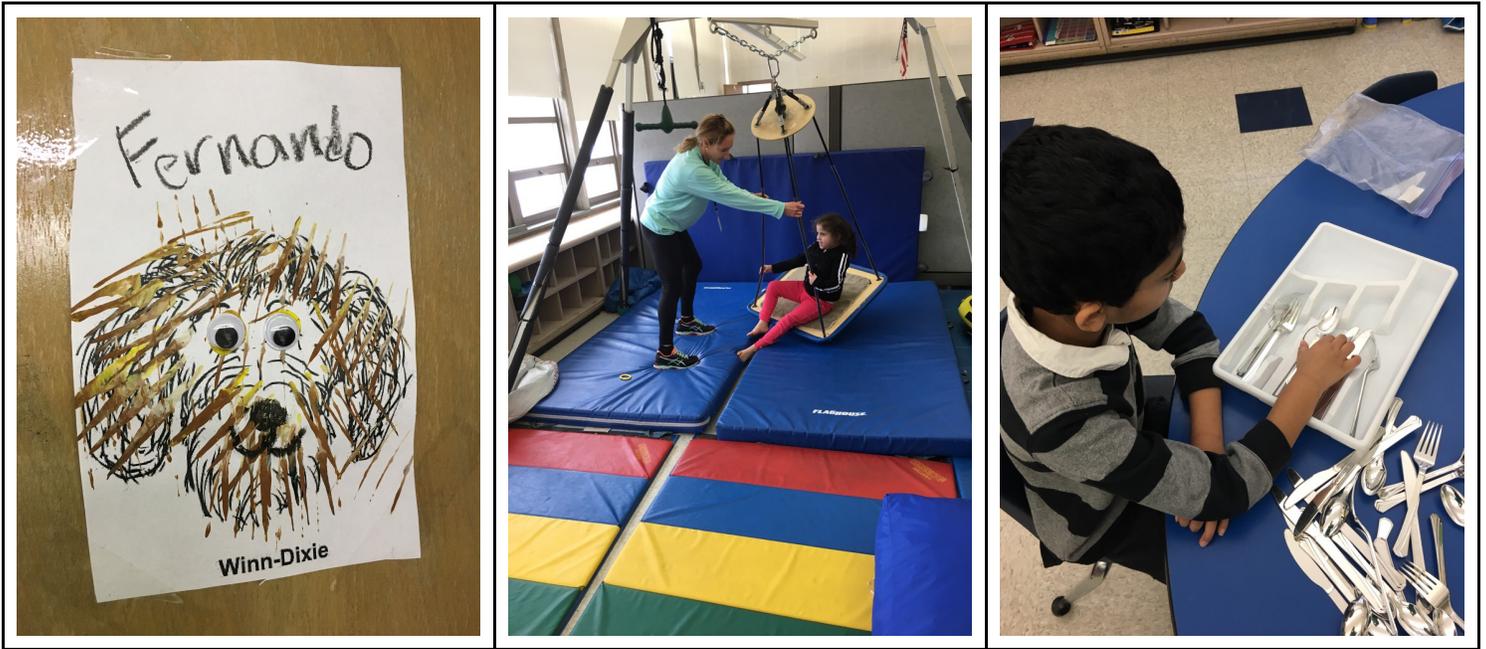
**Other notes:** Please make sure you are sending your child in with gloves, hats, scarves, etc. during these cold winter months. They do go outside for recess as much as possible. Also, we recommend writing your child's name/initials somewhere on the clothing! So much gets lost during this cozy time!

Stay warm :) ~The First Grade Teachers

## News from PACS.....

The Prescott PACS has been working diligently on themes such as Winter, Dr. King, and Shapes. We are also reading the book Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo as part of the all school read. We usually read a chapter every day before the bus comes. We are also watching the movie in small bursts to help us visualize the story. We made fork paintings of Winn Dixie. We have also started working on independent work stations. Students are to work independently on activities for five, ten or fifteen minutes.





## News from ESL

All our English Language Learners at Prescott (and in Massachusetts!) have started taking the ACCESS for ELLs test this week. We are hoping to have all students tested in all language domains (listening, reading, writing, and speaking) within three weeks! Please make sure your students are in school (unless sick) and that they are well-rested.

**Please note:** Students will not be receiving their regular ESL lessons during this time. We ask that they continue to build on their skills by practicing on the Lexia Core 5 program at home for 10-15 minutes each night. Student login information was sent home with each student earlier in January. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Platt [cplatt@norwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:cplatt@norwood.k12.ma.us) with any questions.

## News from Second Grade

The 2nd grade is off to a great start in the new year! Since vacation we have kicked off our animal habitat unit in literacy. This unit has started with the desert habitat. Students have learned about both animals and plants they would find in the desert and how these plants and animals have adapted to their environment. Next we will be exploring the Arctic. Other habitats that follow in this unit include Antarctica, the ocean, and the rainforest.

In math we have completed Topic 7, which further modeled different types of addition and subtraction number stories. We are currently working on Topic 8, using Time and Money. This Topic is especially important to review January 2018

and practice. Learning about time and money provides a meaningful real world opportunity for families to be able to engage or participate in their child's learning.

Some exciting news in Science is that the students have started some introduction activities to prepare them for our new project based learning unit on Maglev Trains. Ask your child what a Maglev Train is! This unit focuses on the Engineering Design Process outlined in the new Next Generation Science Standards.

Be on the lookout for your child's special speaking part in our end of year Patriotic Performance. Parents will be invited in May to this special event. The exact date will be announced in the upcoming month.

## News from Third Grade...

Our third graders have really enjoyed reading biographies and learning all about this genre. Many students chose biographies from the "Who Was" series, which is an excellent biography series for the elementary level, that we hope the students will continue to enjoy after this project is over. They will spend the upcoming weeks writing five paragraph essays about their biographical subjects in school. We are really looking forward to seeing the timelines that the students create and seeing these famous historical figures come to life at our upcoming Wax Museum on Wednesday, February 14, from 9:15 to 10:15 AM. We hope families will be able to join us for this fun and educational event.

In science, the students are excited to begin their energy unit. They loved seeing the effects of static charge when Mr. Goulart brought in a Van de Graaff generator to kick off this unit. This week the students built circuits that would make a light bulb light. They are really enjoying this hands-on unit! In Social Studies we are moving forward in history to begin studying life in Colonial Times. Once the students gain an understanding of what life was like in Colonial times, we will begin studying the major events that led up to the American Revolution. This is a major focus of our third grade Social Studies curriculum.

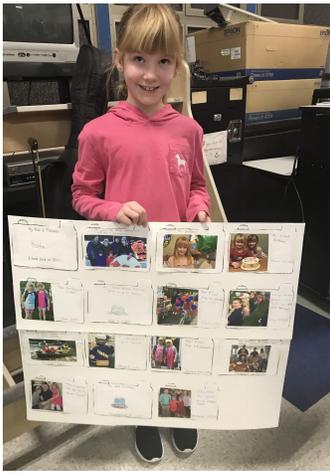
After spending the first half of the school year developing a strong conceptual understanding of multiplication and division, we will now return to strengthening understanding of addition and subtraction with regrouping. The students spent much of second grade developing a strong understanding of regrouping with two-digit addition and subtraction. We will extend this to three-digit numbers and



continue to apply these skills with word problems.

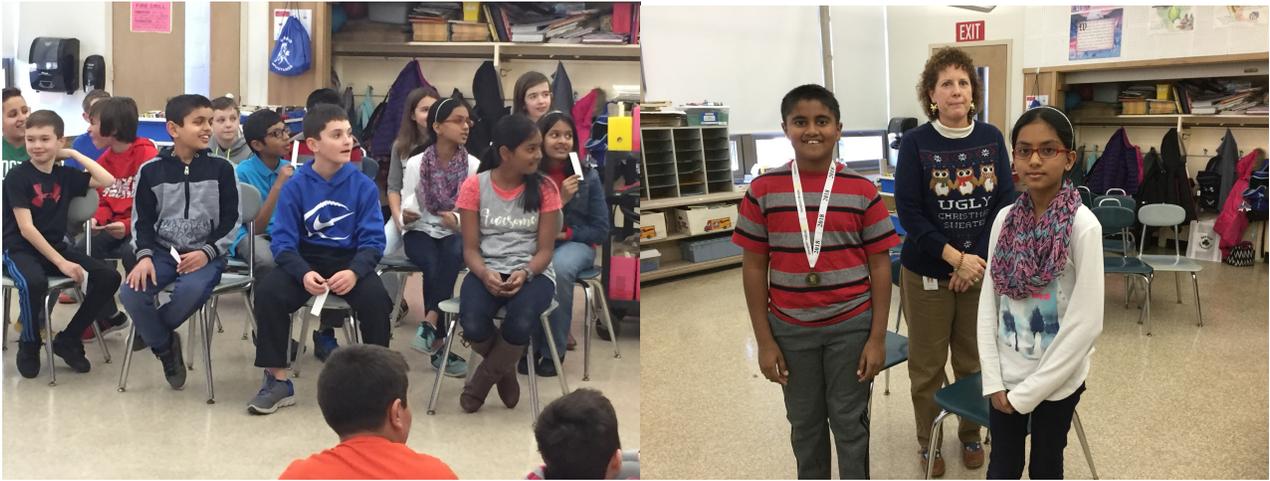
# News from 4th Grade...

In January the fourth graders created personal timelines, *A Year in Pictures*. The students created their timeline of 2017, using printed photos and/or drawings to highlight important events from 2017. Each important event included a caption. We then shared our times. Looking forward to creating fun memories in 2018!



# News from 5th Grade...

This winter has been really busy in the 5th grade classrooms! We had our Annual 5th Grade Geography Bee on Thursday, December 21st. All participants did a great job and the whole 5th grade really had fun with it! Thank you to Mrs. Miller for organizing this for us again. Congratulations to our 2017-2018 Geography Bee winner, Partha Jammalamadaka and our runner-up, Harini Selvaraj.



This past month, the 5th grade students finished up their “European Explorer” slide show presentations and presented them to their classmates. All groups did a great job researching their explorer, and presenting their information to the class. You can find the explorer slideshows in your child’s google drive if you want to take a peek at their hard work.

In ELA we are moving into working with Informational Text, and students are beginning on “Persuasive Essays” in Writer’s Workshop. We have just begun our Fraction unit in Envision Math and the students are off to a great start.

Lastly, we have recently begun our Science Unit on Weather/Water Cycle. Students in both classes will be engaging in the Engineering Design Process to build their own water filtration systems. Photos to come in the next issue so make sure to check it out!

# Photo Gallery

This year peer learning is taking a new form at Prescott. We always had a book buddy program where students in higher grades read and do activities with students in the lower grades. Now we have “tech buddies”. Students in 4th and 5th grades are mentoring our younger students using technology in the classroom. Tech buddies were working on a google form, book buddies are reading “Because of Winn Dixie” together.





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