Thank you to all of the students who sold the money calendars and congratulations to all of the winners! This was our most successful fundraiser so far this year. Those funds will benefit all of the Prescott students through enrichment programs and buses for field trips. Special thanks to Whitney O’Brien and Katie Button for all their hard work on this project.

Our last PTO meeting was well attended. Mrs Killion, Mrs. Thornton and Mrs. Hachey gave an overview of the PARCC tests. It was reassuring to hear how knowledgeable the Prescott staff is and how dedicated our teachers are to preparing our students for this test. We know they will be successful!

A committee has been formed to organize Prescott Family Fun Day on June 12th from 1-4. This is the last PTO event of the school year. A Summer themed party featuring food, games, music and much more, this event is a way to celebrate a fantastic year. Mark your calendars now! You don’t want to miss it!

If you would like to be on the committee, please contact Michelle Martino michellecmartino@gmail.com
Dear Parents/Guardians,

This year is flying by! February is here and we have a few events on the horizon. A notice went home and was also posted on the Prescott PTO Facebook page about our annual collection of food items for the Norwood Food Pantry. For the 100th day of school we have each grade try to collect 100 items of food. We hope everyone will participate. Right around Valentine’s Day we also do our annual “dress up” day and “Mix it up at Lunch” day. This year that will be on February 12th.

Our Math and Science Night will be on February 11th. Come and play some math and science games with your teachers. Mr. Haffey will also be here for Stargazing and the Mad Science enrichment group will have a special table for students this year. We begin at 6:30pm!

The enrichment clubs are up and running. Thanks to all our teachers and parent volunteers who are helping to staff these clubs. This year we have about 120 students participating.

This year we began a student council. This is a new program to our school, brought about by our Leadership team of teachers. Students are selected from each homeroom who exhibit the qualities of leadership. They will take on the role of helping with school wide programs such as the food drive, mix it up lunch days and other theme days, special announcements etc. We look forward to working with these students this year. Mrs. Bell and Ms. Connolly will be mentoring the students this year.

This year our students in grades 3-5 will be taking the online PARCC tests. The testing window is from April 25 - June 6th. Each grade will take 3 sessions of ELA and 3 of Math. 5th grade will also take the Science MCAS test. The tests are timed at 90 minutes a session which we feel is ample time. Our prep time for the test should not interfere with classroom instruction as students already work in the Google docs platform and use Envision online math in regular instruction. Please make a special note of the testing window and refrain from traveling during that time.

Our lost and found is full. If you are in school feel free to check the items in the two boxes in the cafeteria. It helps if student lunch bags and articles of clothing are labeled!

Please always be sure that we have updated contact information for you. If you are not receiving emails from me please let me know and I will add your email to our information system!

January 2016
From Mrs. Miller............

Students have been busy in the library these past few months. Our elementary enrichment program for 4th and 5th graders - NYRA - is finished. Voting for the best novel took place early in February. The class that read the most books will receive an extra recess when the weather gets nicer.

Classes are continuing to read *Poppy* by Avi. It is our all school read this year. Students are learning about mice, owls, and were introduced to porcupines. Facts about these animals are being collected and put up on a bulletin board for all to read and share. The PTO is generously bringing in an enrichment program called *WingMasters* to celebrate the end of the program.

Third graders are learning all about Avi and will be displaying their BioCubes in the lobby for all to see. First graders recently finished a penguin research project and will be learning and exploring biographies next. Fourth graders are researching states and creating advertisements using a template in Google docs. Fifth graders are creating slide presentations to teach the younger grades about story elements. Second graders are creating a sequencing video using PhotoStory. I look forward to sharing these when they are done.

The McGuire Makerspace is still going strong - thanks to the NCTA for granting my request, and a donation from the Prescott PTO. Students have made and raced BristleBots. We have also explored copper wire and batteries and tried to create something with these materials. Next up is a software program called *Fab4School* by FableVision. Students will create something on the computer and use the cutter to “print” it. I am looking forward to learning with the students when we start this in February.

Big **THANKS!** to the Prescott PTO for our new books. I hope to get them on the shelves soon. Your support of the library is very much appreciated.

January 2016
On January 7th we were lucky enough to have NYT best selling author Sara Pennypacker come visit and inspire our students for the entire day! Sara talked about her intense private writing process which includes a lot of relaxing on the couch! She also spoke about the people and stories who inspired her characters and ideas for her books. She never dreamt she would ever have become a published author and didn’t start writing until she was 40 years old! She urged the children not to wait so long and if they have an imagination and desire to write, they too can become a successful author.

Up next, “Helen Keller” will be visiting with the Prescott students on February 3rd and later this month we will get a special visit from the owls of Wingmaster to coincide with our school-wide read of Poppy! Thank you parents and friends for your continued support of our Prescott PTO fundraisers. Your participation is critical for us to host these wonderful educational programs for our students.

Sara Pennypacker and other programs are supported in part by grants from the Norwood Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.
Happy New Year! In December, for reading we finished our author’s study on Jan Brett. In January, we focused on character development. Students learned about character traits, how to compare and contrast characters, and how to describe a character’s experiences. Now, we are on to our unit on non-fiction/ informational text. Students will learn how to conduct research and find information about a new topic. In phonics, we are moving on to the long vowel patterns. Long vowels say their names!

In math, we finished Topics 3 and 4; addition strategies to 20 and subtraction strategies from 20. Some of the important strategies students learned were to make a 10 to add, use a number line, doubles, near doubles, counting on, writing an equation, and part/part/whole. Students learn all the strategies, but are encouraged to use the strategy that works best for them! We are now in Topic 5: Working with Addition and Subtraction Equations. Students have learned how to add 3 addends, finding unknown numbers, making true or false equations, and using precise language to describe their thinking.

In writing, students worked with how-to writing. Students learned that they need to explain the steps to teach another person to do something. They learned about transition words to signal a new idea. In the month of January, we also read and wrote about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Students learned about his famous “I Have a Dream Speech” and wrote about it.

Upcoming: The 100th day is February 10th, each class will have its’ own celebrations. We are trying to collect 100 boxes of macaroni and cheese to donate to the Norwood Food Pantry. So far, we have collected 48 boxes! Only 52 to go! Each class will have its’ own Valentine’s Party on February 12th.

January 2016
News from Mrs. Cawley's Class...

The PACS Classroom has been working hard this winter on themes such as Martin Luther King Jr., opposites, rhyming words and number sense. We recently had a visit from Firefighter Paul which was a great time. The students learned about stop, drop, and roll and were able to try on Firefighter Paul’s uniform. Next month we will be exploring the themes of prepositions, story sequencing and community helpers.

A Generous Donation

A donation to the PACS room was made by the Khartit and Hammach families to support our sensory and motor room. We will be purchasing a new swing, spinboard as well as other items to support the sensory needs of our students. Thank you so much for your generosity!
In Mrs. Pagliuca’s class we have been reading the all school read, Poppy by Avi. The class has been very excited and they can’t wait to see what happens in the following chapters. All of the children are putting together their own Poppy Book filled with information about the characters, setting etc. Some children have even taken out other books in that series from our Library! Soon, we will get together with Mrs. Condon’s fourth grade class to talk about this very special book.

In Mrs. Bell’s class we have been learning about animal habitats. Our Readers’ Workshop texts that we have been reading together teaches social studies and science content as well. We have covered the desert and Arctic habitats. We just completed the Arctic and how that habitat is in danger due to warmer temperatures. We read about the very popular animal, the polar bear and how the changing of its habitat can have very sad consequences for this species. We’ve now started the Antarctic habitat and the also popular penguin that resides there. Students have learned some interesting information and can explain that even though both habitats are cold, there are many differences as well.

Mrs. Thornton also did several lessons about Helen Keller in both classes. The children learned a lot about what it was like to be unable to see or hear. Students were able to see the Helen Keller movie together, which really made Helen’s life come alive to them. Thank you, Mrs. Thornton!

In Math we continue working very hard with addition and subtraction strategies for multi-digit numbers. Although students have learned strategies for these multi-digit strategies, their basic math facts need to be worked on at home. Without this automaticity, the Envision program will be much more challenging. Basic knowledge of facts gives students more confidence when problem solving. Mrs. Milton, our Math Specialist, came by to see a lesson and was pleased with the children’s thinking and hard work. We will be starting to work on playing computer games on Mangahigh Math Challenge at home and school. Information will be going home.

Thanks for your help in getting the names of schools in the States that your child will be writing to. We will be working on our letters soon. This homework assignment is a result of a letter we received from Oklahoma City inviting us to be part of a movement called “The Great Mail Race”. This activity is in addition to our regular writing curriculum. The students will get a head start on how to write a friendly letter and address an envelope.

We are continuing to grow in becoming good spellers. It is nice to see that the children are remembering the words they have studied and using them in their writing. Thanks for your help at home.

This month we will be celebrating the 100th day of school with projects the children will do at home. Every year the children come up with some very creative ideas, and we can’t wait to see what our projects will be like this year. Also, thank you to the parents that have sent in cans of pasta, we are aiming to reach 100 cans for the food pantry!

Before we leave for vacation we will be having our Valentine’s Party on February 12th.

Happy Valentine’s Day!!

~Mrs. Pagliuca and Mrs. Bell

January 2016
The third graders have had a busy first month of 2016! In Social Studies, we have begun learning all about life in Colonial times including the various acts imposed by Parliament that eventually led to the American Revolution. We are finishing up another exciting science unit in which the students have investigated both static and current electricity. The students have really enjoyed forming complete circuits to light a bulb or make a motor run using a few simple materials right at their own desk! In mathematics, the students have learned to apply their understanding of multiplication to solve problems involving area. Students started off developing a basic understanding of what area is by using square units to create a pixel character and then finding its area. They then moved on to finding the area of rectangles and more complex figures using multiplication. We are now focusing our math learning on estimating sums and differences and using a variety of strategies to find exact sums and differences.

In writing, third graders have been practicing writing opinion essays that are designed to convince their readers to agree with their own opinions. In reading, third graders have been exploring informational texts and biographies. Students have become familiar with various text structures and text features and how they can help a reader to better understand a complex text. They have also been learning about the elements and structure of a biography. Everyone is hard at work preparing for our upcoming Wax Museum on Wednesday, February 10, at 2:00, where they will have a chance to showcase all that they have learned about their biographical subjects. We hope the families of our third graders can join us!
Fourth grade has been studying Poetry. The students have been busy reading, writing and analyzing different kinds of poems. Here are a few Diamante, Haiku and Limerick Poems written by our Fourth Grade Poets!

Day
bright, sunny
running, walking, playing
school, learning/ dinner, talking
sleeping, dreaming, star gazing
dark, pitch black

Night

By: Frankie Hernon

Puppies
furry, energetic
playing, loving, barking
Golden Retriever, Beagle / Tabby, Calico
meowing, sleeping, purring
funny, silly

Kittens

by Kayla Cahill

January 2016
Monkeys
*Climbing very high*
*Up high into the treetops*
*Searching for a treat*
*by Madi Bennett*

There once was a weird girl named Reese
who loved to play with the geese
She went skiing one day
And really had to pray
Because she was her aunt's favorite niece
*Limerick By Reese*

Summer
sun, hot
playing, swimming, tanning
beach, pool / cold, white
freezing, sledding, warming up
icicles, snowballs

Winter
Diamante by Lauren Reen
rain
wet, drenched
pouring, dripping, splashing
water, flow / hot, brite
burning, sweating, hurting
sunny, hot
sun
Diamante by Ryan Savilia

Ice
Ice is in the cold,
Do not always skate on ice,
Ice is slippery.

You can skate on ice,
Ice could be astonishing,
Ice is very sharp.

by Matthew Clark

SNOW
Snow can look like clouds,
It's a white blanket on earth,
Snow is cold and thin.

Snow can be fuzzy,
It can cover your chimney,
Snow is white and soft.

by Amir Lindsey

**Winter**

Twirling white flurry,
Glistening white windowpanes,
Winter has arrived.

Giant snowball fight,
Snowballs round as baby fists,
Snowballs so chilly.

Snow angels are fun,
Doing jumping jacks in snow,
Looks just like angels.

First a small white ball,
Second snowball medium,
Last is the big one.

Buttons down body,
Button eyes, carrot nose, scarf,
Stick arms and the hat.

Not just one snowman,
Another snow family,
Repeat directions.

Family at home,
Welcoming warmth of my house,
I love hot cocoa!

by Ananya Ramamoorthy
The 5th Grade is gearing up for their upcoming field trip to Gillette Stadium @ Patriot Place on Friday, March 4, 2016! This is the eighth year that we have planned this trip and it is one of the favorites by students and teachers as well! We watch the exciting movie about how the New England Patriots started and who we know them to be today. We visit The Hall to view all the amazing memorabilia that has been collected over the years representing the past and present. We come together as a group and break up into smaller teams to brainstorm and create a solution to a given situation that incorporates and combines Math and Science/Technology. We break for lunch and dine @ CBS Scene and wrap up the day with a short tour. We are all looking forward to this exciting trip! Go Patriots!!!!!

On Wednesday, January 3, 2016, both 5th grade classes were fortunate to have Mrs. Wynne and her “team” do a Science lesson on Plate Tectonics. Mrs. Wynne works for Siemens and shows through visuals and examples how this process on our Earth works. The lesson includes the study of volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, Continental Drift, and Layers of the Earth and how and why these movements occur and the relationship they have to plate tectonics. Mrs. Wynne helped the classes construct a “fortune teller” to assist the students in understanding how these phenomenon are caused. Thank You to Mrs. Wynne for spending her time with us and allowing the students, our future “scientists”, the opportunity to see the lesson come to life!