

The PRATT PRESS

September 2017



Upcoming Events

Thursday September 7 –Grades 3,4 & 5 Curriculum Night. 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Thursday September 14 –High 5-Grade 2 Curriculum Night. 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday September 19
Site Council, 4:45-6:00 p.m.
PTO Meeting. 6 to 7pm

Wednesday, October 4 –
Walk and Bike to School Day

Friday, October 6
Breakfast and Books. 9:25-10:00 a.m.

From the Desk of Nancy Vague, Principal

Dear Pratt Families.

We are off to a great start to the 2017-18 school year.

The students are focused and teachers have jumped right in to teaching the grade level content. On Thursday, September 7 we will have our first Curriculum Night event for families of students in Grades 3,4, and 5 to hear about what their child will be learning in class and how to help them at home. Families will have time to connect with each other during the meal time that follows. The second evening will be on Thursday, September 14th for High 5, K, and Grades 1 and 2.

Throughout the year families will receive information from the school in many ways. The Pratt Press is our monthly newsletter that includes building wide news. In addition, we will send occasional letters or flyers in the red Tuesday folders. Please look over that information and return the folder each week. We also communicate by making phone calls using School Messenger. If you have not received any calls from us this school year that could mean that we do not have a correct phone number for your family. Please contact the main office any time you have a change in numbers.

At Pratt we pride ourselves in being a small and welcoming community school. We look forward to seeing you at the many family events and encourage you to seek out the volunteer opportunities that occur throughout the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Vague".

Nancy Vague



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Family Pick Up Procedures

Students who are picked up by a parent/guardian or alternate adult should be picked up in the lunchroom between 4:05 and 4:15 PM each day.

Please enter our School at Door 2 (on the parking lot side of the building). Door 2 is opened at 4:00 PM to allow parents to wait in the stairway outside of the lunchroom.

Then, form a line on the right hand side of the staircase, leaving the left hand side free to allow passage.

Families who would like to socialize after-school are invited to go outside on the playground or outside of Door 2. This will allow after-school programs to start as soon as possible.

Please let your child's teacher or the office know by **12:00 p.m.** if there are any changes.

Thank you!

Family Liaison Update

Our family liaison, Lynn McMahon, has decided to leave the position to pursue other opportunities. We hope to see her around as a volunteer at Pratt.

In the transition, Gini Sanchez is helping to coordinate parent volunteers and the September curriculum nights. Thank you to Lynn for her many contributions to Pratt and thank you to Gini for taking on these duties.

We are currently searching for a permanent replacement and hope to have the position filled by early October.

Community Eligibility Provision Program

Pratt Community School has been approved to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program for the 2017-2018 school year. **The CEP program allows ALL students the opportunity to receive breakfasts and lunches at no charge. It is imperative that families continue to complete the Application for Educational Benefits, formerly known as Free/Reduced Application even if they do not believe they qualify for benefits.**

As part of the CEP program, students no longer are required to enter their Pin number at the point of sale.

Application for Educational Benefits forms can be found online or in the Pratt school office.

<http://nutritionservices.mpls.k12.mn.us/application>



Volunteering at Pratt

Are you interested in volunteering at Pratt?
All Pratt volunteers are required to complete a one-time volunteer orientation at school. Orientation takes about 30 minutes to complete. Volunteer placements will start at the beginning of October.

Upcoming orientation dates/time include:

- Tuesday, 9/12 @ 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, 9/13 @ 12 p.m.
- Friday, 9/15 @ 10 a.m.
- Monday, 9/18 @ 4:45 p.m.

We will have more dates available soon. Check our Pratt School website to find more information.

http://pratt.mpls.k12.mn.us/pratt_volunteer

New Faces at Pratt

We will highlight new Pratt staff each month.

Leah Kinnard is Pratt's new Speech-Language Pathologist and is new to Minneapolis Public Schools this school year. She is a graduate of the Master's Program at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, but originally is from Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Leah has experience working with children with a wide range of speech and language abilities and enjoys finding creative ways to target her students' goals. She is excited to be a part of such a welcoming school community and is eager to get to know the students of Pratt!



Site Council

This a group comprised of parents, staff, and an at-large community representative who provide leadership to the Pratt School community and are committed to implementing the school's mission to meet the educational and social needs of our students while increasing partnerships with families and the community.

This group currently meets the third Tuesday of the month at 4:45 p.m. (PTO meeting follows). Site Council By-Laws and meeting minutes are posted on the Pratt website. http://pratt.mpls.k12.mn.us/pratt_site_council

Site Council members are responsible for representing the interests of all Pratt students, parents, and staff and as such, serve as a communication link between these various groups.

2017-18 Site Council members include:

- Nancy Vague, Principal (co-chair)
- Jen Peden, Parent Representative (co-chair)
- Eric Ziegler, School Social Worker
- Angela Kraemer, Grade 2 Teacher
- Linda Hoppe, Physical Education Teacher
- Tim Hurley, Art Teacher
- Nancy Kruse, Grade 4/5 Teacher
- Jan Thurn, Community Education
- Susan Larson-Fleming, Community Member
- Abdirahman Hassan, Parent Representative
- Andy Martin, Parent Representative
- Sara Schultz, Parent Representative

Any parents interested in being a Site Council member should contact Nancy Vague or Jen Peden
jbaldwinpeden@gmail.com