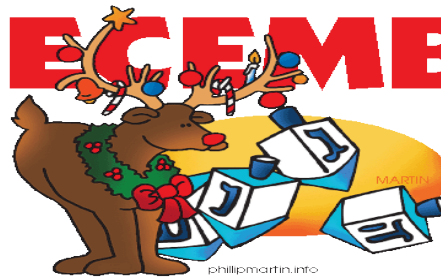




Percy Baxter
Middle School

101 Mink Creek Road
Whitecourt, AB T7S1S2
780-778-3898
www.percybaxter.ca

DECEMBER



ROCK STARS REVIEW

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE Mr. Mrs. Rawluk, Assistant Principal

Wow! It seems like yesterday we opened our doors to our newest group of Percy Baxter students, yet here we are moving into the month of December, with only three weeks until Christmas break. It is amazing how much we have accomplished in just a short amount of time.

We would like to extend a special thank you to those parents who were able to join us for Parent-Teacher Interviews on November 3 and 4. Although it is nice to have those face to face conversations, with the COVID 19 guidelines currently in place, all stakeholders made the best of the situation. Many interviews were via phone conversations and some chose to do them through a zoom meeting. It is our hope you gained an appreciation of the learning taking place in your child's classes, as well as how you can support them throughout the remainder of the school year. Parents are reminded and encouraged to access Parent Portal on a regular basis to monitor student progress and achievement levels attained on classroom assessments.

The Government of Alberta has implemented new "Stop the Spike" health measures, which has impacted our grade 7 and 8 classrooms. Rest assured that teachers and educational assistants will be supporting all Percy Baxter Students and meeting learning needs by moving to online, at home learning through Google Meet and also providing booklets/packages of learning materials for those who do not have access to the internet. We are not working in the same emergency conditions as last spring, therefore, it is imperative students understand the importance of attendance in online learning and completing all assignments and assessments. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's homeroom teacher or contact the administration team in the office. Students will return to online learning from January 4-8th, 2021 and will be back in the classrooms on January 11th.

It is our hope that you all have a relaxing and joyous Christmas Break and a prosperous New Year.



Wanting to stay connected to Percy Baxter school? Look for updates and school news via the PBS Facebook page or percybaxter.ca



Northern Gateway
Public Schools

Scholastic Book Fair



Our Virtual Scholastic Book Fair is Here!!!

December 1 - 10, 2020

Special Family Event:

Wednesday Nights - Free Shipping on any order placed during this time!!

December 2nd and 9th: 6pm - 8pm

<https://bookfairs-canada.myshopify.com/pages/5153074>

All purchases benefit our school!

Books will be shipped directly to your home! \$6 flat shipping fee.

Free shipping on orders over \$35.

Shipping takes 5-7 business days.

Ask your child's teacher about a wish list for their classroom!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT.....

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

MAX DICKSON

AVERY DUCHESNE

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6



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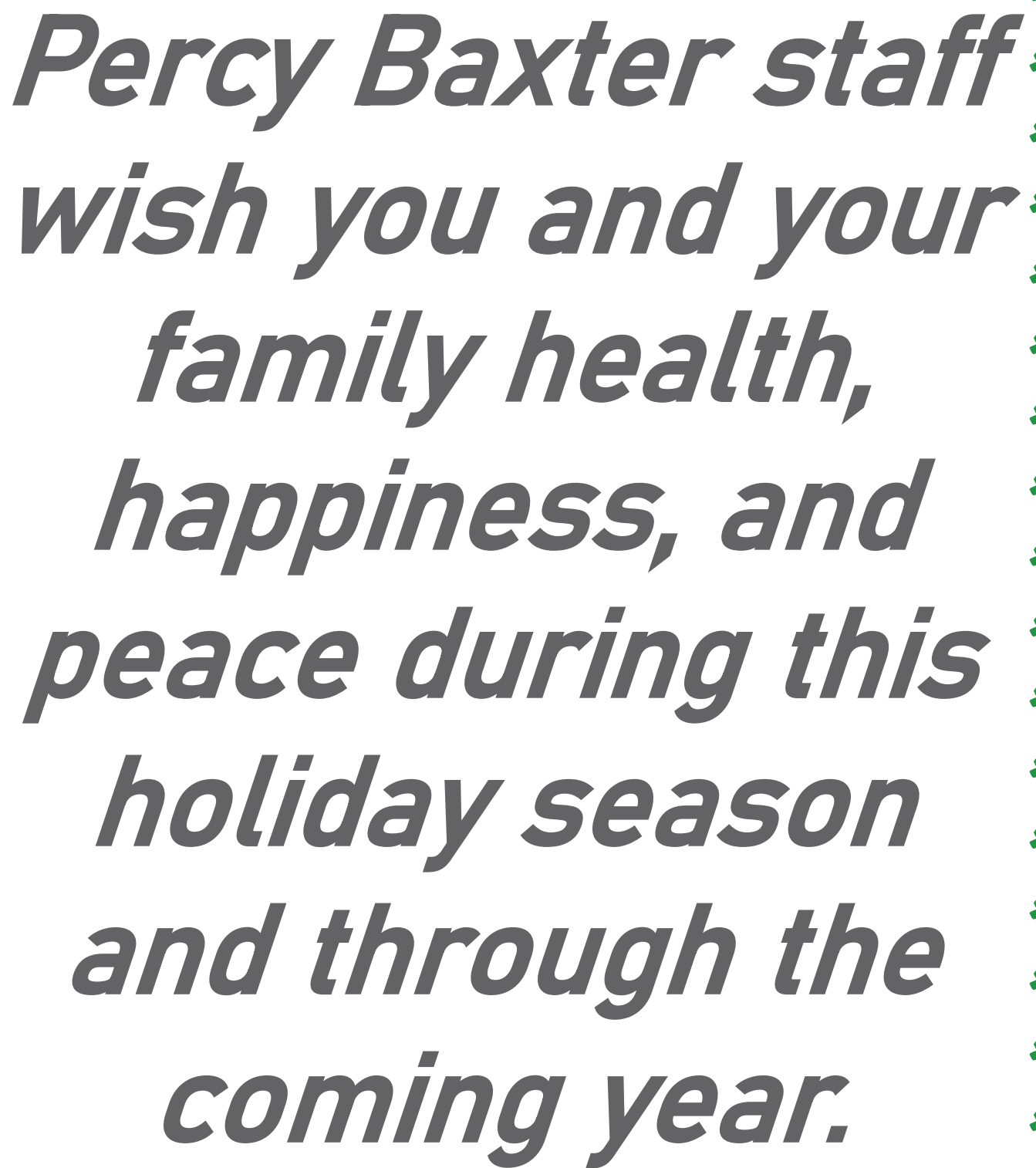


MATHEW HILL

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8





*Percy Baxter staff
wish you and your
family health,
happiness, and
peace during this
holiday season
and through the
coming year.*

DECEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 TERM 2 BEGINS	4	5
		VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR DEC 1-10				
6	7	8 GRADE 6 IMMUNIZATIONS	9 SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING 7PM	10	11	12
		VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR DEC 1-10				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 WINTER BREAK BEGINS
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					BACK TO SCHOOL MONDAY JAN 4 ONLINE





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 6	 7	1 8	2 9	3 10	4 11	5 12
CLOSED						CLOSED
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
CLOSED						CLOSED
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Christmas Craft Night (6 - 7 pm) (ONLINE)	Christmas Craft Night (6 - 7 pm) (ONLINE)	
CLOSED				CHRISTMAS EVE CLOSED	CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED	BOXING DAY CLOSED
27	28	29	30	31		
CLOSED				NEW YEAR'S EVE CLOSED		

NOTE: Changes may occur during the month. For our most up-to-date information, checkout our Facebook page, or call (780) 778-2900

To run or not to run?

School bus transportation and inclement weather

Winter weather and driving conditions bring questions about school bus transportation. Are the buses running today? Should the buses be running today? Why aren't the buses running today? Why are the buses running in Onoway when they are canceled in Valleyview?

The decision to run or cancel school bus transportation due to weather concerns or road conditions is made by the Director of Transportation, Mr. Rhett Czaban. It is not a decision that is made lightly. There are a number of factors considered, and a number of people who are consulted, prior to making the call. In addition to travelling and scouting the roads himself, Mr. Czaban has a number of local contacts in all NGPS communities with whom he is in contact with in the early hours, between 4:00 am and 6:00 am. He is also in contact with NGPS school bus drivers who may already be on the road.

Environment Canada, 511 and satellite cameras located up and down Highway 43 are also consulted throughout the day. The initial determination to run or not run buses is made between 6:00 am and 6:30 am and is communicated directly to our parents in the following ways:

- via the Bus Status tab on our website at www.ngps.ca
- on our Facebook page @northerngatewaypublicschools
- on school websites – look for the Bus Status section
- on Twitter @ngpschools
- via local radio station announcements
- via phone calls to parents by bus drivers (circumstances permitting)

Every effort is made to communicate with parents directly regarding changes to bus transportation; however, phone calls home are not always possible given the situation the bus driver is dealing with at the time.

If you do not see a cancellation message on the NGPS website, Facebook page or Twitter feed, buses are running.

What Guides Us? Administrative Procedure 131 (<http://bit.ly/AP131>) refers to -40 degrees Celsius, including wind chill, as one determination factor in canceling buses. This point is based on area data, not specific site information. For example, while individual homes may have thermometers indicating a temperature below the specified -40 degrees Celsius, the data that is collected for each area is the evidence that is used to support the decision to cancel bus transportation.

The Director of Transportation utilizes his best judgment, based on the combination of temperature, visibility, road conditions and consultation within our communities when making the decision to run or not to run buses. The primary consideration in the event of severe weather conditions is whether it is SAFE to be transporting children. The expanse of the Division (375 km along Highway 43) means that running buses is not an all or nothing response as the conditions can vary greatly from school area to school area. NGPS is committed to be reasonable, responsible, and attentive to the information that is available throughout the day in all areas.

It's Always Your Call! Parents are reminded that the final decision to send a child to the bus stop or to school always rests with the parents, even though buses and schools may be operational. Don't forget to dress warmly!