



**Percy Baxter**  
Middle School

# APRIL

101 Mink Creek Road  
Whitecourt, AB T7S1S2  
780-778-3898  
[www.percybaxter.ca](http://www.percybaxter.ca)

## ROCK STARS REVIEW

### ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE— Mrs. Rawluk, Assistant Principal

It is our hope everyone had an active but rejuvenating Spring Break. With warmer weather arriving, parents are reminded of the importance of students having indoor shoes as our school yard is very wet. An extra change of clothes is a good idea as well as we have noticed some students coming in after recess with wet clothing.

The basketball season has now come to a close with our Fair Play Tournaments for all grades. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers from grade 7 and 8 who were coaches and referees for the grade 6 teams. We would also like to thank the Hilltop High School students who volunteered as referees as well. Now that basketball is finished, after school badminton will be starting for grade 7/8 and lunch hour practices will begin for our grade 6's. Students are allowed to use school badminton rackets during practice or they can bring their own if they want, but they are reminded to write their name on their equipment.

With only one term left in the school year, students need to consider refining their goals for the remainder of the year and ensure they are rested and ready for the school days to come. Students have begun term three CTF Electives and have been given some flexibility in what they would like to pursue, based on their interests.

With the completion of Term 2, students who will be receiving awards have been identified and will be given out during our grade level assemblies, happening on Thursday, April 14th. Parents and caregivers are welcome to join in on the celebration. A schedule of times will be sent to parents/caregivers by April 8th. This celebration will be loud so remember to bring your ear plugs.

There is another long weekend in April as Easter is coming. Students are off Friday, April 15th and Monday, April 18th. Happy Easter!



**Northern Gateway**  
Public Schools

Wanting to stay connected to Percy Baxter school? Look for updates and school news at [percymbaxter.ca](http://percymbaxter.ca) or via the PBS Facebook page!



## CALMING CHILDREN DURING A GLOBAL CRISIS

Unless you have been residing under a rock or on an island with zero contact with the rest of the planet, it is safe to say that you and your family have been inundated with disturbing news around the world. On social media, in classrooms and the playground, children are hearing about traumatizing circumstances around the globe. How do we answer their inquisitive questions? How much information should we share? Do we say anything at all?

**“Speak to what's actionable to help put your child’s mind at ease,”** says Dr. Beth Oller, a family physician in Stockton, KS. Oller further clarifies, “With younger kids, speak simply and avoid discussing scary topics in detail. With adolescents, honesty is the best policy. Always be transparent.”

"Children should be **encouraged to ask questions** but to continue with their daily routines of schoolwork, play and bedtime," says Dr. Jessica Griffin, a child psychologist and executive director of the Child Trauma Training Center at the UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester, MA. Griffin explains that, **"routines can send signals to the brain that children are safe. Routines are calming for children in anxiety-provoking situations."**

**Set a good example** for your children by managing your stress through **healthy lifestyle choices**, such as eating healthy, exercising regularly, getting plenty of sleep, avoiding drugs/alcohol, and not over consuming social media/news. When you are prepared, rested, and relaxed you can **respond better to disturbing events and can make decisions in the best interest of your family.**

“For children under the age of 7, it might just be acknowledging that something is happening in other parts of the world and asking something like, ‘Have you heard anything?’ Take the child's lead," said Janine Domingues, a clinical psychologist at the nonprofit Child Mind Institute in New York. “Overall, just **provide reassurance**, that this is what we know right now. Let them know you don’t know all the answers but here are some places we can go,” Domingues said.

Children, young and old, have common worries when it comes to war, crisis and trauma even if they do not verbalize it: Am I safe? Are the people taking care of me safe? How will this affect my day-to-day life? Dr. Gene Beresin, executive director for The Clay Center for Young Healthy Minds at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston tells us that “children know things are troubled. They know things are problematic. They may ask you if you’re worried. And frankly, you got to be honest. You can say, 'Yes, I am, but **we can manage this. We can get through this.**' I would indulge them a little bit.”

The recurring message, regardless of a child’s age, is to be honest, unplug from screens altogether for a while and give the young people in your life extra tender loving care. We all need the reassurance that we are brave and will look after each other no matter what.



Sources: [The Associated Press](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/helping-children-cope.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/04/reassure-children-about-russia-ukraine-war-with-resilience-tales-say-experts>

<https://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/wireStory/honesty-reassurance-talk-kids-ukraine-83109979>

*This article was submitted by Tammy Charko BA, BSW, RSW. Tammy is Northern Gateway Public School's Student Support Facilitator. She is a support for schools, students, parents and caregivers to promote success in school. Tammy advocates for students and families and has been a Registered Social Worker for more than 20 years. She is a mother to 3 teenagers and 1 young adult.*

# OFFICE REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

- Please follow the AHS guidelines. It's important to monitor for your child for symptoms of COVID-19 and keep them home from school if they are not feeling well.
- All student absences should be called into the office at 780-778-3898.
- School starts at 8:55 – please be in class when the bell rings. Students arriving late to school or leaving early must check in/out through the front office. Punctuality and daily attendance are important.
- According to our changing temperature and seasons, please make sure that your child comes dressed appropriately according to our dress code.
- Skateboards, scooters, roller-blades, bicycles are **NOT** allowed to be used on school property! It is a safety concern. Please ask your child to lock up their bike on the bike racks. Skateboards and scooters need to be carried into the school for storage.
- Please bring a refillable water bottle to school with them every day. Our water fountains can only be used as water filling stations at this time.
- Please sign in to Parent Portal to see you children's progress. Contact the office if require assistance logging in. Teachers should be contacted via email with any problems or concerns.
- As part of our COVID procedures, we are limiting non student and staff access to the building. If you are a parent or other guest arriving at the school, please phone the office or ring the doorbell.

Your child's education is of the utmost importance.

## STUDENT REGISTRATION 2022/2023

### Did you attend an NGPS school last year?

If you attended an NGPS school last year you are automatically registered for the next school year. Your school will send out a Validation Report that you will complete and return to the school.

### Are you new to our Division? In order to register a student, parents/guardians will be asked to provide the following information:

Completed [2022-23 Student Registration Form](#).

- Proof of the student's age and legal name. Documents accepted are: birth certificate, adoption certificate, student authorization visa, Canadian citizenship papers, passport, or permanent landed immigrant/residence documentation.
- Intake appointment - an intake appointment may be required for new students. School administration will contact parents accordingly.
- Notification of special medical conditions or medications for the student.

### [Proof of Residence](#)

- Home and business telephone numbers.
- Name and address of child's previous school (students coming from another school division).

*Your journey is our greatest inspiration!*



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# APRIL 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
SPRING BREAK						
3	4 BACK TO SCHOOL	5	6	7	8 PERCY T-SHIRT DAY	9
10	11	12	13 SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING	14 TERM 2 ASSMEBLY	15 GOOD FRIDAY NO SCHOOL	16
17	18 EASTER MONDAY NO SCHOOL	19	20	21	22 HATS ON FOR CHARITY \$1	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 SUPER HERO DAY	30

# Every Student Counts

## Make the Attendance Connection

### Partners in Attendance

Parents play an important role in the education of their children. Their involvement and encouragement can help a child excel.

Other family members and friends also play a key role in making sure students understand why they need to attend school to succeed.

A success in school starts with regular attendance from the early years right through high school completion. Did you know that even as early as Kindergarten, chronic absenteeism makes it more difficult to learn?

Parents and schools can work together to find solutions that support children's success in learning.

Alberta Education provides resources to support parent involvement. For more information visit:  
<http://education.alberta.ca/parents/role.aspx>.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as a student who has missed **10 per cent (about 18 days) or more** of the school year ...for any reason.

### Can't, won't or don't attend?

#### Cannot

Sometimes students cannot attend school because of illness, injury, family problems, housing instability or involvement with the justice system.

#### Will not

Sometimes students will not attend school to avoid bullying, unsafe conditions, harassment, embarrassment related to learning difficulties, physical challenges, new environment or even sanctions for being late.

#### Do not

Sometimes students do not attend school because they may not be aware of the importance of going to school.

#### What can you do?

- Make attendance a priority
- Be sure your child gets enough sleep
- Have a regular homework schedule
- Communicate with your child's teachers
- Encourage your child to participate in school clubs and after school activities