



Percy Baxter
Middle School

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Whitecourt, AB T7S 1S2
780-778-3898
www.percybaxter.ca

JUNE

ROCK STARS REVIEW

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE— Mr. Turcotte, Principal

It is hard to believe that another school year has passed so quickly, especially since it began with the continued ups and downs of the COVID-19 pandemic. While this was the case, the lifting of restrictions in the New Year resulted in the return of excitement and life in the classrooms and hallways of our school. It has truly been a rewarding year – one filled with unprecedented accomplishments. Students are commended for their continued efforts and dedication to learning throughout the school year.

At Percy Baxter School, we are very fortunate to have a dedicated, caring, and hardworking team of professions including our teachers, educational assistants, office staff, custodians, and other school and district based support staff. These individuals work together to ensure that every child has the best educational experience possible. Staff at Percy Baxter School always go above and beyond to ensure that students are exposed to a variety of activities to enhance and enrich their school experience. This year in particular, staff put aside their own worries and anxieties to ensure that our students had a safe, predictable and fun school experience.

With the support of our parent community, staff and students adjusted to rapidly changing Public Health Orders, while maintaining a sense of routine, structure and connectedness with students. Along with the challenges of living through a pandemic, staff and students showed much adaptability and resilience in navigating the challenges of teaching and learning. Students gave teachers a sense of joy, purpose, and positivity through challenging times. Through all of this, the Percy Baxter School community managed to maintain a sense of connectedness and sustained caring and supportive relationships, and for this we are grateful!

On behalf of the staff and students of Percy Baxter School, I would also like to thank our dedicated, committed, and tenacious School Council, who found innovative and creative ways to carry on with many important events including our Pizza Days, Pop-Up Sales, and other school-wide events. PBS Staff wish to extend our sincere gratitude for the thoughtful staff appreciation gifts and lunches!

A big thanks goes out to all parents for trusting us to do everything possible to keep your children safe, along with your support in adapting to our new way of doing things, and for finding ways to keep your children at home when they were sick, despite your own work schedule challenges.

This year showed us we are truly an amazing school community! As we enter the final month of the school year, we wish to remind students of the importance of continuing to push themselves to grow academically and socially, making the most of our final days together this school year. With a number of exciting activities and events planned for the end of June, we are looking forward to creating lasting memories before parting ways to enjoy a well deserved summer vacation!



Northern Gateway
Public Schools

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



2022/2023

***THE SCHOOL OFFICE WILL BE
OPEN ACCEPTING NEW
REGISTRATIONS ON
AUG 24/2022***

***First day back to school:
Grade 6 only - Thur Sept 1
Grade 7/8 only - Fri Sept 2
All students - Tues Sep 6***

*Registration forms are available
online @ <http://percybaxter.ca>*

*Summer contact: Please email:
david.turcotte@ngps.ca*

IN THE SPOTLIGHT.....

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

CLOVER GOOD-RIOCH

G
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A
D
E

6



KRYSTAL PENUELA

G
R
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E

7



KAYLEN RODGER

G
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8

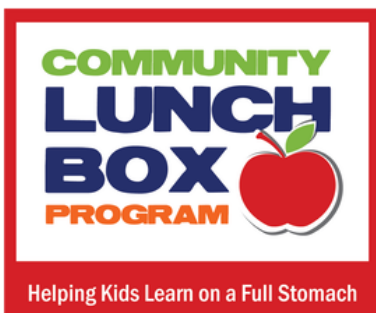


THANK YOU!!!!



Thank you to SNIPER SERVICES for always donating their industrial BBQ to our school for our school wide barbecue lunches. We appreciate your generosity.

Mink Creek Parent Society is created through parent volunteers from Percy Baxter Middle School. They raise funds to help buy necessities, such as Chromebooks, for the students. Parent Council organizes pop-up-sales and pizza lunches. Thanks for all the hours you put in . We truly appreciate you.



Thanks to our wonderful parents who have donated to the Community Lunch Box program and students that have organized Hats on for Charity events. Our students consistently enjoy apples and emergency lunches provided by this wonderful organization. Parents and students have contributed \$781.99 to this local charity. You are able to donate anytime through school cash online or through the main office.

Together We Are Stronger

The horrific tragedy in Uvalde, Texas is incomprehensible. Watching the events unfold creates panic and terror that something like that could happen in our town or in our school. As a parent of four children, I cannot stop my mind from going to the families of students at Robb Elementary, their fear and how they will carry on afterward. Like you, I am holding my children a little closer, a little tighter, a little longer, breathing in their sweetness, wishing I could keep them in a safe bubble. Not only that, I want to hold school staff close too. My heart aches for how they are feeling walking into their schools, what are they thinking about as they look upon the precious faces of their students. How do their families feel about watching them leave for work in the morning?

Are Students and Staff Safe in Our School Division?

[Northern Gateway School Division](#) has a process in place to ensure that every incident of child and/or youth violence in our communities is addressed. Four years ago, [North American Center for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response](#) (NACTATR) trained NGPS staff and community partners in Levels 1 and 2 VTRA - Violent Threat Risk Assessment. We learned how to prevent, respond and intervene to threats of violence, and/or trauma in schools and communities.

VTRA is effective because it involves schools and community agencies working together. RCMP, Children's Services, Mental Health and Addiction, Alberta Justice, Family Support Programs, Youth workers, Victim Service Units, and psychologists in each NGPS community are VTRA trained.

These trained, multi-disciplinary teams of professionals are able to identify the early signs of risk in persons of concern and work together through high end threat assessment starting with thorough data collection to comprehensive interventions.

What does VTRA teach?

VTRA teaches that serious violence is an evolutionary process, no one ever just snaps. People are influenced by a large number of factors, and their motivation to act out violently fluctuates, along with their emotional state. There are always signs that indicate a person is moving along a pathway to violence and VTRA teaches how to recognize and respond to those signs.

There is Still More Work To Do

Like all good things, the learning never stops. We need to ensure that professionals are continually staying up to date with VTRA training and research. We know that healthy relationships are key. Students need to have their tanks full and know they are cared for. People who are struggling with their mental health need to know where and how to get help. We all need to continue to work together for the health and safety of our children, schools and communities.

Need Help Now?

Crisis Hotline 1-877-303-2642 Kid's Helpline 1-800-668-6868 Emergencies 911
Health Link 811 Distress Hotline 1-800-232-7288

This article was written 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. Tammy has been a Registered Social Worker for more than 20 years and is a mother to 3 teenagers and 1 young adult.

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 TRACK AND FIELD DAY BBQ LUNCH\$	2 PIZZA DAY	3	4
5	6	7	8 GRADE 8 PARENT MEETING HILLTOP 7pm	9	10	11
12	13 GR6 PAT LA PART B	14 GR6 PAT MATH A&B	15 GR6 PAT SCIENCE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING 7pm	16 GR6 PAT SOCIAL STUDIES PIZZA DAY	17	18
19	20	21 HTH GRADE 8 ORIENTATION DAY10-1 NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY	22	23	24	25
26	27 GRADE 6 ASSEMBLY AM GRADE 7 ASSEMBLY PM	28 SCHOOL-WIDE BREAKFAST	29 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL GRADE 8 ASSEMBLY & FAREWELL BBQ	30		

AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER							NOVEMBER						
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30	31												
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FEBRUARY							MARCH						
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JUNE							JULY						
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2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

August 30 & 31	Staff Planning & Development Days
September 1	First Day for Students
September 5	Labour Day
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 7	Staff Planning & Development Day
October 10	Thanksgiving Day
November 10	Day in Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 14	Staff Planning & Development Day
Dec 26 - Jan 6	Christmas Break
January 9	First Day Back for Students
January 30	Staff Planning & Development Day
February 9 & 10	Onway to Fox Creek only - Teachers' Convention
February 17	Valleyview only - Staff Planning & Development Day
February 20	Family Day
March 9 & 10	Valleyview only - Teachers' Convention
March 10	Onway to Fox Creek only - Staff Planning & Development Day
Mar 27 - 31	Spring Break
April 3	First Day Back for Students
April 7	Good Friday
April 10	Easter Monday
May 19	Day in Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews
May 22	Victoria Day
May 29	Staff Planning & Development Day
June 29	Last Day for Students
June 30	Staff Planning & Development Day

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEE	AREA	PHONE
Barb Maddigan - Board Chair	Whitecourt	780.262.1013
Christine Peck - Board Vice-Chair	Onoway	780.691.0772
Diane Hagman	Mayerthorpe	780.396.9694
Jim Hailes	Fox Creek	780.622.3385
Deb Koloski	Sangudo	780.674.1994
Judy Muir	Alberta Beach	780.991.7413
Sally Petryshen	Valleyview Rural	780.300.0427
Gerry Steinke	Valleyview	780.524.9889
Linda Wigton	Whitecourt	780.706.4345

Regular School Board meetings are held at the Division Office in Whitecourt. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Please visit our website at ngps.ca or contact the Division Office for a complete board schedule.