



# Mission Update

**September 9, 2025**



# TriStar Command Message




We are excited to welcome you to the 2025-2026 school year!



Each September brings with it a sense of possibility, and we look forward to the learning, growth, and connections that await our students.

As you can tell, we have really gravitated to the Stars theme - our intention is to reinforce the identity of being a member of Percy Baxter School.



Our commitment is to ensure that every child feels supported, challenged, and inspired throughout the year. Just as stars shine brightest together, our school community thrives when we work in partnership with families. We value the trust you place in us and believe that strong collaboration between home and school is key to student success.



This newsletter will serve as a monthly update—a place where you can stay informed about important dates, upcoming events, and highlights of the amazing things happening in our classrooms and beyond.

We are grateful to begin this journey with you and your children, and we look forward to a year filled with curiosity, growth, and achievement.



*Jennifer Ferguson*  
Principal

*Tammy McKeever*  
Assistant Principal

*Ashlee Jodry*  
Assistant Principal



# Thank You For Your Patience



With a number of new staff members, including a new principal and a new secretary, we know there are areas that may seem slower compared to previous years or other schools (this newsletter being one of them!).

PowerSchool is currently not open as we learn the system, sort class lists, and confirm enrollment, but we hope to have it to you soon!

We just wanted to take a moment to appreciate your grace as we learn to enter class lists and timetables into PowerSchool, as we figure out structures and processes for effectiveness and efficiency, and as we say “I’m not certain but I will find out and get back to you.”


We are grateful for your kindness and understanding!




# The First Two Weeks







Our approach to the start of this school year has been purposeful. We are focusing on building strong classroom communities through collaborative tasks, formative assessments, and routines that support both social-emotional and academic growth. This intentional beginning helps create the foundation students need for success throughout the year.



Core subjects—language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and physical education—are very much part of this work. These subjects are being taught through activities designed to help students understand themselves as learners, while also giving teachers valuable insight into each child's needs to guide future instruction.



If your child mentions that they “didn’t learn anything new,” it may be because the learning is woven into activities in ways that don’t always feel like traditional lessons. That is perfectly normal - it is actually what we are hoping for. The concepts introduced now will be built upon and revisited through scheduled daily activities as the year unfolds.



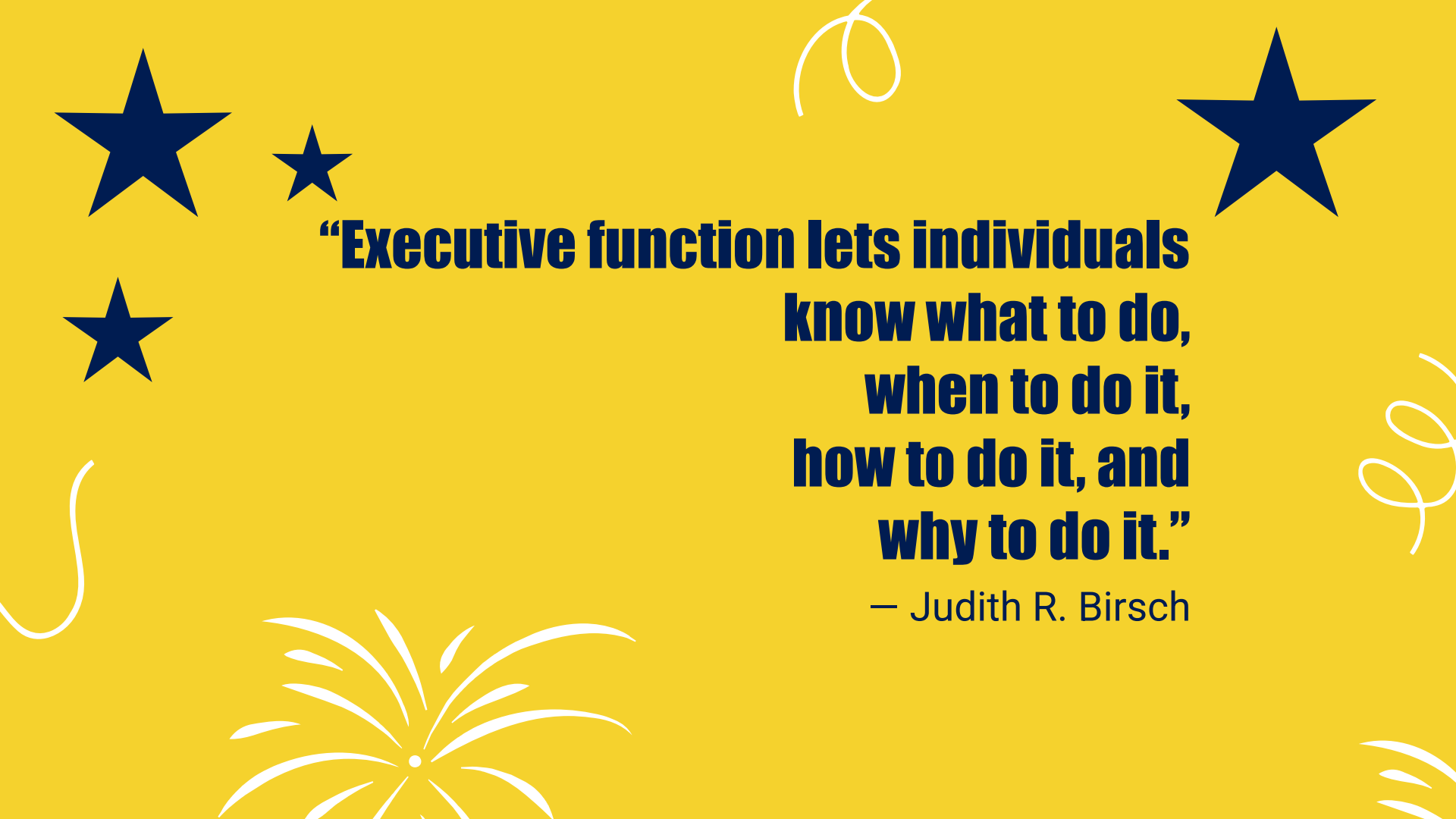
# What is Executive Functioning?

Executive functioning is often described as the brain's manager—it helps you stay organized, focused, and in control so you can complete tasks effectively.

- These skills include planning, organizing, and time management, all of which support staying on track with schoolwork and daily responsibilities.
- Executive functioning also involves task initiation, or the ability to start tasks even when they are challenging or uninteresting.
- Perseverance plays a key role as well, helping you push through difficulties and stay motivated over time.
- Self-control allows you to manage your emotions and behaviors, while flexible thinking helps you adapt to changes and solve problems in different ways.
- Attention is essential for staying focused and avoiding distractions.
- Working memory enables you to hold and use information in your mind, such as remembering directions while completing an assignment.
- Self-reflection helps you think about your progress and identify ways to improve.



Together, these skills support independence, responsibility, and confidence both in and out of school. With consistent practice and support, executive functioning skills can continue to grow and strengthen.



**“Executive function lets individuals  
know what to do,  
when to do it,  
how to do it, and  
why to do it.”**

— Judith R. Birsch

# What is Social Emotional Learning?

Social-emotional learning is often described as the heart of education—it helps you understand yourself, connect with others, and make thoughtful decisions so you can thrive in school and in life. These skills include self-awareness, which supports confidence and a healthy sense of identity.

- Self-management involves regulating emotions, managing stress, and practicing self-discipline, all of which help you stay balanced and focused.
- Social awareness allows you to show empathy, appreciate diverse perspectives, and build respect for others.
- Relationship skills help you communicate clearly, cooperate, and resolve conflicts in positive ways.
- Responsible decision-making enables you to consider the consequences of your actions, solve problems thoughtfully, and make choices that support your goals and values.
- Perseverance and resilience are woven throughout SEL, helping you recover from setbacks and keep moving forward with optimism.

Together, these skills support kindness, collaboration, and confidence both in and out of school. With consistent practice and support, social-emotional learning can continue to grow and strengthen.



**“In a world filled with chaos,  
teaching Social Emotional Learning (SEL)  
is like giving children an anchor  
to navigate the storms of life.”**

— Brené Brown



# After School Plans for Students

We kindly ask that families please have students make their after school plans for the next day the evening before.

While we do understand there are unexpected circumstances arise and occasional changes must be made by communicating through the office, we are concerned about student safety when it comes to making after school plans - after school, at school. We do not want a child's whereabouts to be unknown because they changed plans without confirmation. We do not want a child to miss a bus because they were waiting to make a phone call because they were wanting to walk home with a friend or catch a ride with another friend's parents.

We thank you for your support in this endeavour.


The background is a solid yellow color. It features several dark blue stars of different sizes: a large one in the top left, a medium one in the top right, and a smaller one in the middle left. There are also white decorative swirls and a stylized white firework or starburst at the bottom left.

# **Please Send Change**


**As both the vending machines and the canteen  
are run by parties external to Percy Baxter,  
we do not have access to their cash boxes  
and as such we cannot guarantee our ability  
to make change for bills so  
students may access these services.**

**We appreciate your understanding.**

# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Labour Day No School	First Day of School for ALL Students!	Welcome Assembly			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Picture Day		Terry Fox Walk - 2pm	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Breakfast Program Begins this week	-Complementary Courses Start		School Council Meeting 6:30pm			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				Grade 8 Informational Meeting 6pm		
28	29	30				
	All Star Assembly 2:15pm Focus on TRC Wear Orange Shirts	No School National Day for Truth and Reconciliation				

# October

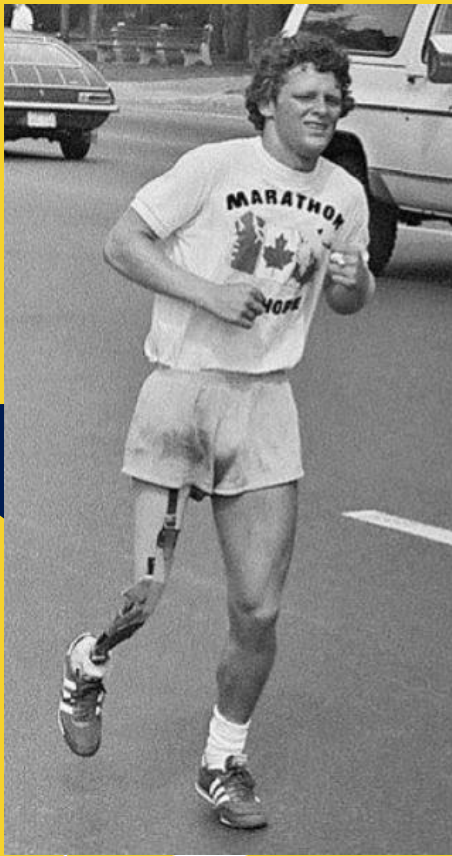
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
						Sisters in Spirit Day Honouring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
World Teachers' Day "Empowering the Architects of Future"				Turkey Trot	Professional Development Day	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Thanksgiving  No School		Parent Assessment Workshop 6:00 pm  School Council Meeting 6:30pm			Persons Day Celebrating Women's Right to Vote
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				Student Showcase 2:15-3:15pm 5:30-6:30pm	Complementary Courses End (Round 1 Complete)	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
					All Star Assembly  Halloween	

# SCHOOL PICTURES



**SEPTEMBER**  
**10**





# TERRY FOX WALK SEPTEMBER 12

**Please ensure walking permission forms  
have been returned to your child's homeroom teacher!**



# **TOONIES for TERRY**

**SEPTEMBER 16-23**





# **Sports and Extracurricular Activities**

**We are loving the enthusiasm of our students:  
when they hear “possibly next week”,  
they want to start right on Monday!**



**Dates for informational meetings and practices for  
volleyball, golf, and other activities  
are coming soon!**



# **School Council**

# **AGM & Elections**

**Wednesday**

**September 17**

**6:30 p.m.**



# NATIONAL COACHES WEEK

**September 15-21, 2025**

National Coaches Week is a week to celebrate the tremendous positive impact that coaches have on athletes and our community. Join #thankscoach in September and join our community and communities across the country recognizing amazing coaches!

We will also be honouring local coaches throughout the week, but we need your nominations! Take time to acknowledge the positive influence that a coach has made in your life or your child's life by nominating them for our Coach Appreciation Draw. To honour your coach simply submit an entry at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre and our pop up locations around town or tell us why your coach is great with the #thankscoachWCT.

All entries will be submitted into a draw to win a prize pack and surprise visit for your coach.

**Deadline for submissions is Wednesday, September 10**  
at the ballot boxes or through #thankscoachWCT.





# Whitecourt CONNECT

Join us for an exciting evening of connection. Whitecourt Connect is designed to bring individuals, families and local organizations together providing opportunity to see what's out there and connect to others in our community.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to come together, celebrate, and build a stronger, more connected community.

**Wednesday, September 10, 6:00-8:00pm**

Allan & Jean Millar Centre Fieldhouse

All ages welcome

Light Snacks, Refreshments and Prizes!



**Calling all community groups! Show Off Your Recreation, Arts, Culture & Events**

*Connect, share, and shine-don't miss out. Book now & be part of the fun!*

Secure your table today! Call the Allan & Jean Millar Centre to book your table. 780-778-3637 ext. 0 | Course ID#: 9958



# Enchanted Forest Walk

September 13 **to** October 15

Gnomes, fairies, and other magical creatures are hiding along the 1km trail at the Forest Interpretive Centre. Can you find them all?



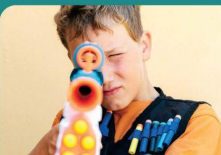
Grab your Magical Hunt Checklist and head out on an adventure the whole family will love! Pick up a checklist at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre or download it online at [rec.whitecourt.ca](http://rec.whitecourt.ca) under Special Events.

Return your completed checklist to the Allan & Jean Millar Centre to receive a small treat and a chance to **WIN our Grand Prize Draw!**



## Registered Recreation Programs

Child/Youth



### Kids' Night Out Surf, Nerf and Turf

It's the ultimate night out! Dive into the pool, dodge and blast your way through an epic Nerf battle, and run wild with games in the fieldhouse. We'll keep the energy up with pizza, snacks, and non-stop fun—while parents enjoy a well-earned night off! Min.8/Max.24. Includes dinner and snacks. Bring swimsuit, towel, indoor runners and a labeled water bottle.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

5:30-8:30pm

Ages: 8-12

Members: \$27.00    Retail: \$31.05

Course ID#: 10107



### PD Day Half Day Camps

#### Totally Tie-Dye

Dive into a world of swirling colours and creativity! Enjoy tie-dye crafts, vibrant games, and fun activities that celebrate all things bright and bold. Let your imagination run wild and make every moment a splash of colour!

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10**

1:00-4:00pm (drop off 12:45-1:00pm, pickup 3:45-4:15pm)

Ages: 6-12

Members: \$20.00    Retail: \$23.00

Course ID#: 10104

#### Carnival Craze

Join us for a half-day of carnival-themed fun and games! This camp is full of exciting activities, creativity, and laughter. Get ready for a fantastic time!

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

1:00-4:00pm (drop off 12:45-1:00pm, pickup 3:45-4:15pm)

Ages: 6-12

Course ID#: 10105

Members: \$20.00    Retail: \$23.00

#### Beach Bash Splash

Splash, create, and play with beach-inspired crafts, games, and plenty of swimming fun!

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

1:00-4:00pm (drop off 12:45-1:00pm, pickup 3:45-4:15pm)

Ages: 6-12

Course ID#: 10106

Members: \$20.00    Retail: \$23.00



### Sports

#### Little Movers

A fun, interactive program aimed at building physical literacy for kids aged 5-7. Through play-based learning, the program focuses on developing fundamental movement skills such as running, jumping, throwing, and balancing, while fostering confidence and a love for physical activity. Min.6/Max.12

**TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 14-NOVEMBER 4**

4:00-4:30pm

Members: \$28.00    Retail: \$32.20

Ages: 5-7

Course ID#: 10108

#### Homeschool Multisport

Each day we focus on a new sport—track & field, volleyball, gymnastics, kickball, basketball, pickleball, and floor hockey. Kids will learn the basics, build their skills, and jump into fun, friendly game play. Led by our Allan & Jean Millar Centre Program Leaders. Min.6/Max.12

**WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 1-NOVEMBER 5**

Ages: 6-9

1:15-2:00pm

Members: \$42.00    Retail: \$48.30

Course ID#: 10110

**WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 1-NOVEMBER 5**

Ages: 10-14

2:15pm-3:00pm

Members: \$42.00    Retail: \$48.30

Course ID#: 10111



### Arts & Crafts

#### DIY Class- Slime and Sculpt

Get ready to squish, stretch, and sculpt! In this messy and magical workshop, kids will mix up their own custom slime and create a one-of-a-kind clay critter to go with it. Whether it's a glittery galaxy blob or a swampy monster lair, every creation is unique! It's the perfect blend of science, art, and hands-on fun. Min.8/Max.14

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19**

1:00-3:00pm

Ages: 8-12

Members: \$23.00    Retail: \$26.50

Course ID#: 10117



Join us for a **free family event** at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre, packed with fall-themed fun for all ages. Take on our inflatable obstacle course, test your skills in the pie-eating contest, get creative with autumn crafts, snap a photo at our festive booth, and enjoy even more seasonal activities. There's something for everyone—don't miss this cozy, fun-filled afternoon of celebration!

**FREE**  
for the whole  
family!

**CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT FALL FEST!**

**Sunday, September 28**

Allan & Jean Millar Centre | 1:30-4:00pm



REGISTER FOR  
**Pie Eating  
Contest**

**Lil Pie  
Monsters**

Ages 4-7

Course ID #: 10112

**Junior Pie  
Crushers**

Ages 8-12

Course ID #: 10113

**Teen & Adult  
Pie Crushers**

Ages 13+

Course ID #: 10114



**\*\* Allergy Notice \*\*** All pies will contain gluten, dairy, and eggs.

# Dancers Closet: Swap & Shop

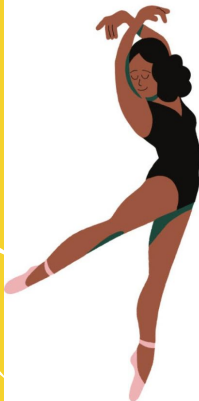
*Illusion Dance Co.*



**Friday September 26 | 4-7PM**

It's time to clean out those dance bags and closets!

Parents and dancers can bring gently used dance wear, tights, shoes, bodysuits, old costumes, dance bags, hair pieces and accessories to sell or swap. This is the perfect chance to find what you need for the season — and give new life to items your dancer has outgrown. Let's make this a fun and affordable way to keep our dancers equipped and ready for the stage! ✨



## How will it work?

If you're interested in selling items, you must pre price all your items. We will then collect all items from you, label with a code that lets us know it's your item with the price you've decided and we will take payment and track all sales. After the sale is done - we will email you with your list of sales, pricing and give you the money from your sales along with any remaining items you may not have sold. We can always donate items to a local thrift store if you don't want to keep any items that do not sell.

Please reach out via text to Desiré at 7807200694 or Jessica at 3062289405 by Monday September 22<sup>nd</sup> if you are wanting to sell items.

Please bring **cash** or be prepared to **e-transfer**



Whitecourt



# Keeping Kids Safe Online

Whitecourt FCSS is partnering with ALERT's Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) unit to offer a session on keeping children safe online. Topics include online luring, sextortion, emerging platforms, the impact of AI, and practical safety strategies.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 6:00 TO 8:00PM**

Forest Interpretive Centre, 3002 33 Street

Course ID #: 10172

Register for this free information session by calling the Allan & Jean Millar Centre at 780-778-3637 ext.0

# Lines of Communication



**Phone:** 780-778-3898

**Website:** [percybaxter.ca](http://percybaxter.ca)



**Calendar:** [percybaxter.ca/about/calendar](http://percybaxter.ca/about/calendar)

**Email:** [pbs@ngps.ca](mailto:pbs@ngps.ca)

**Facebook:** [Percy Baxter Middle School](#)

(NOTE: The previous Percy Baxter School Facebook page is not accessible by current staff)