



Percy Baxter School Council & Mink Creek Parent Society Newsletter

Meeting Recap – September 17, 2025



Welcome & AGM Elections

The evening began with a warm welcome to families and staff, followed by the **Annual General Meeting elections**.

School Council Executive 2025–2026:

- **Chair:** Rand Richards
- **Vice Chair:** Bridget Moore
- **Secretary:** Kristi Billings
- **Treasurer:** Carla Hanas

We're grateful to these parents for stepping forward to lead and support our school community this year!



School Council Engagement Grant

Parents discussed ideas for potential workshops supported through the **School Council Engagement Grant**. Administration will confirm available funds with the division office, and together we will work on hosting a parent workshop later this year.



Grade 8 Cultural Exchange Feedback

Students loved traveling, experiencing new places, and connecting with peers in Ontario. The exchange was well received and will be encouraged again in the future, depending on available resources.



Ignite the Year Meet & Greet

Families enjoyed the energy and excitement of the **Ignite the Year** event. Feedback included:

- Great atmosphere and community spirit.
 - Suggestions for **more signage and information** on supplies, drop-off, and lockers.
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School Start-Up Feedback

- Students are happy, teachers are energized, and administration is optimistic about the year ahead.
 - Some scheduling challenges are being addressed.
 - Parents asked about daily gym. Administration explained:
 - PE/Health has **shifted**, not reduced.
 - Previously: 30 minutes of PE/Health daily + 20 minutes recess.
 - Now: **48 minutes every other day (3 health/movement blocks + 6 PE blocks)** + 30 minutes recess daily.
 - This still exceeds the **Alberta Education requirements** for both daily physical activity and PE/Health instructional hours.
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Future Meetings

All meeting dates for the school year have now been set and added to the school calendar.



Trustee Report

Trustees were unable to attend this meeting, so no report was given.



Administration Report

Staffing Update

- Fully staffed with qualified, enthusiastic personnel on Day 1.
- All students with needs currently have staffing supports.
- Addition of a **Nexus teacher** to strengthen programming.

First Two Weeks

- Focus on building relationships and getting to know students.

- Emphasis on executive functioning and social-emotional learning to build foundations for a successful school year.
- Some early challenges with class lists, options, and PowerSchool access – administration thanks parents for their patience.

Planning Forward

- **Grade 8 Parent Meeting** – September 25, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.
 - Topics: Grade 8 Council, Hoodies, Potluck, Grad, Cultural Exchange.
- **Assessment Workshop** – October/November (depending on labour action).
 - Topic: *Understanding Outcomes-Based Reporting at the Middle School Level*
- **Service Providers Workshop** – November/December (depending on labour action).
 - Topic: *What services are available and how can supports be accessed?*

Communication

- **Parent Handbook** – Draft available here [Parent Handbook Draft](#)
 - Please share feedback to jennifer.ferguson@ngps.ca
- **Student Handbook** – In progress (waiting for feedback on Parent Handbook to ensure alignment)



Teacher Liaison & Classroom Report

Shanna Gagnon (Grade 8 Math/Science, Grade 7/8 CTF Outdoor Skills)

The first two weeks of school have been filled with energy, creativity, and community spirit. Highlights include:

- **Positive Atmosphere:** Enthusiasm from staff has created a rejuvenated environment. Despite the bustle of class changes and new routines, students have been welcomed into a supportive space where they feel heard and cared for.
- **Student Growth:** Early lessons have focused on executive functioning, social-emotional learning, organization, scheduling, and grounding skills. Teamwork, collaboration, and problem-solving have been central to classroom activities.
- **Creative Challenges:** Students engaged in hands-on learning projects such as index card towers (Grade 6), spaghetti towers, wind-powered cars, and the Great Chain Race, as well as advanced math challenges encouraging critical thinking.
- **Guiding Principles:** Respect for self, respect for others, and respect for property continue to guide student behavior and classroom culture.
- **Complementary Courses:** New options are allowing students to expand their skillsets, share their passions, and showcase learning with peers.

Teachers are excited to dive into curriculum content, confident that students are already building the foundations to succeed. With a shared mission and vision developed by staff, the year ahead looks bright for Percy Baxter School!



Mink Creek Parent Society Update

The **Mink Creek Parents Society AGM and elections** were also held.

Parents Society Executive 2025–2026:

- **Chair:** Rand Richards
- **Co-Chair:** Katelyn Overeem
- **Treasurer:** Carla Hanas
- **Secretary:** Kristi Billings

Key Updates:

- **Cashless Transition:** The board and administration discussed modernizing processes to better support families by moving fully to **School Cash Online**. This system allows parents to order and pay individually for hot lunches and other items, reducing the burden of large bulk orders.
- **Hot Lunch Flexibility:** If teacher strike action occurs, missed hot lunches will be rescheduled or shifted as needed to suit families.
- **Events & Dances:** Planning for upcoming school dances and events is underway.
- **Teen Halloween Dance 🎃 – Friday, October 24, 2025 from 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm** at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre for **students in Grades 6–9**.
 - **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**
 - Concession fundraiser opportunity:
 - Potential for pizzas from a local business or hot dogs on-site.
 - Concession to include chips, candy, chocolate, drinks, and hot food item.
 - 100% of proceeds go to the Parent Society fundraiser.
 - Concession space, tables, and power provided (nut-free, no energy drinks).
 - Attendance: historically **~300 youth**, making this a strong fundraiser and a fun night for students.
- **Casino Fundraiser 🎰 – Confirmed for January 3 & 4, 2026.**
 - **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**
 - **Two shift options each day**

- 10:00 am – 7:00 pm
 - 7:00 pm – 3:00 am
 - Sign up [here](#)!
 - If you prefer a shift and it's already taken, please reach out as shifts can be moved around to accommodate!
 - This event is the **biggest financial driver** for the Society. Please consider volunteering — your support makes a huge impact!
 - **Fundraising:** With hot lunches, dances, events, and the casino, additional fundraising may not be required this year.
 - **Administration Wish List:** School administration presented a list of needs for future support, which the Society will review.
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Closing Notes

Thank you to all parents, teachers, and staff who attended and contributed to a productive evening. Both the School Council and Mink Creek Parents Society look forward to another year of collaboration, growth, and community at Percy Baxter School!

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October