



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. Turcotte, Principal

In the blink of an eye, we have already reached the month of December, with only 17 days of school remaining in 2022! Having only three weeks left until Christmas break, we know that the students of PBS will continue to push forward with their learning, making the most of every learning opportunity in our school.

We would like to extend a thank you to those parents and caregivers who were able to meet in-person or by telephone with teachers for Parent-Teacher Interviews on November 2 and 3. It was great to see the faces that were able to join us at the school, and we hope that more parents will be able to join us for our second round of interviews in the latter half of the school year. 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 of the importance of accessing Parent Portal on a regular basis to monitor student progress and achievement levels attained on classroom assessments. If you are having difficulties accessing Parent Portal, please contact the school, as we would be happy to assist you!

December is a busy month for all of us at Percy Baxter School. The beginning of the month includes the end of the first trimester (December 2) and the start of the second trimester (December 5). Semester 2 timetables outlining option classes will be distributed to students by their homeroom teachers later on this week! Experiencing a variety of option classes is important for middle school students as it provides an opportunity to discover passions and interests before they begin specializing in option programming at the high school level. A reminder that some options do have fees associated with the high cost of the consumables for the classes, and that these fees make it possible for us to offer these programming options for students at our school. Fees associated with courses are included in Course Outlines, and invoices will be mailed out to parents/caregivers when fees are past due. School fees for each student's selected classes can be paid for using School Cash.

On December 16 families are encouraged to join us for the first Renaissance Term End Grade Level Awards Assemblies of the school year. During this exciting celebration of learning, staff and students will recognize those students who have attained Rock Star, Academic Star or Shooting Star status for the first trimester. We are so proud of the efforts of ALL the students in our school! Assembly times are as follows:

Grade 6: 9:15AM
Grade 7: 10:15AM
Grade 8: 1:30PM

December also marks the beginning of many of our Christmas traditions Percy Baxter School. On December 20, all Grade 6-8 students are welcomed to join us in the morning for our annual Christmas breakfast. On this day, the regular Breakfast program menu is set aside, as PBS staff, Trustees, and members of the NGPS Learning Services team prepare a festive breakfast for all to enjoy. Grade 8 classes will be having their annual Christmas potluck dinner on December 21. On this day, Grade 8 students celebrate their time together over the years by enjoying a festive meal set with holiday spirit. Parents are reminded teachers will be sending home Christmas dinner letters/sign up sheets for this event, and parents are more than welcome to attend. .

As the festive season is just around the corner, we want to take a moment to thank all parents/guardians and teachers for your support and dedication in giving our students the best educational experience possible.

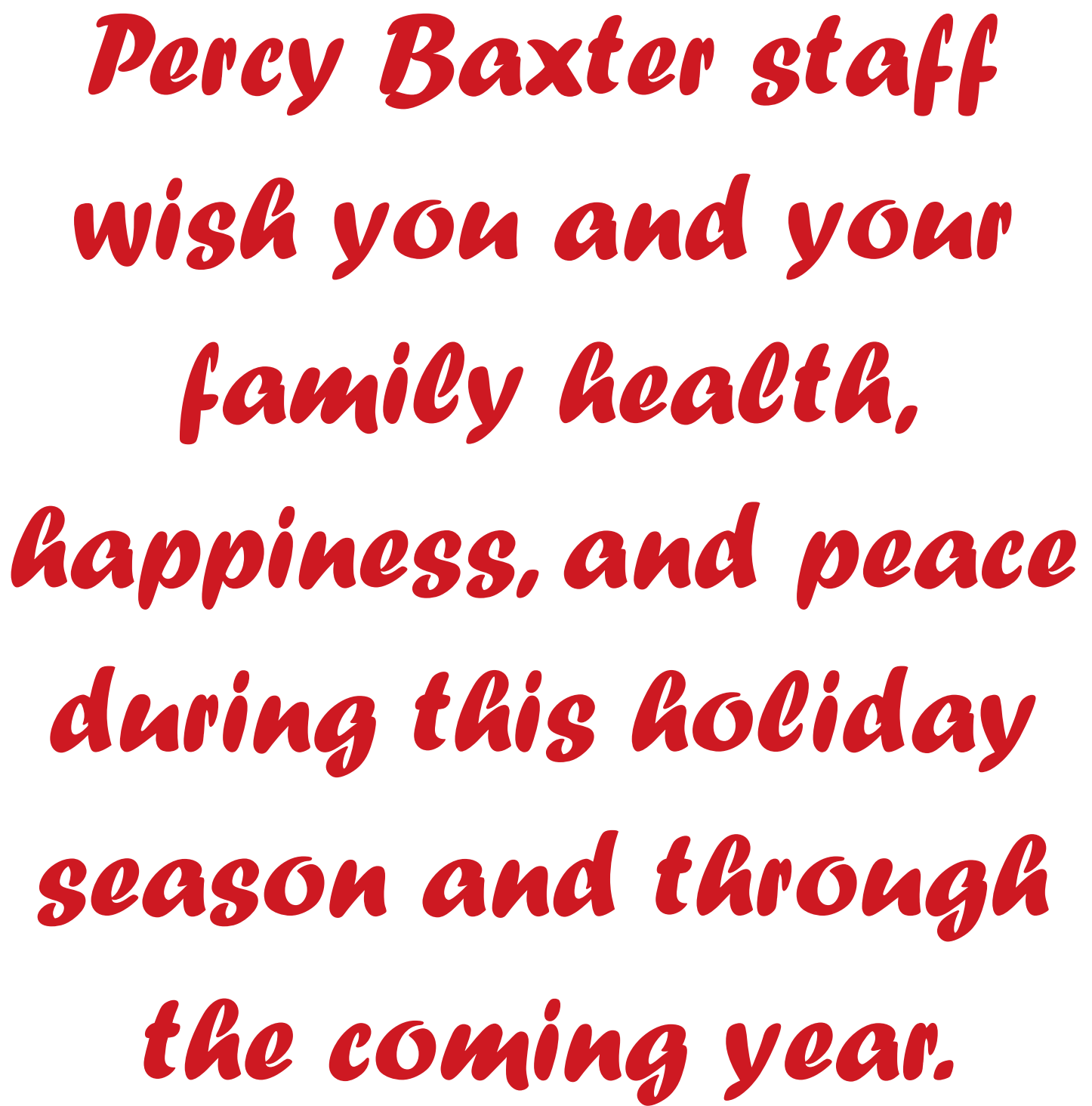
We wish all of you a very happy and restful holiday season!



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



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

IN THE SPOTLIGHT.....

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

LOUELLA SCHATZ

G
R
A
D
E

6



ALEXA PARKER

G
R
A
D
E

7



RYLEIGH DARVILLE

G
R
A
D
E

8



PBS SHOUT-OUTS!!!



PECY BAXTER thanks
FREDDY'S 2 FOR 1 PIZZA
for donating pizza to our
winning classes!!

Fantastic job to Mrs. Armstrong's Grade 8 Leadership classes who have raised over \$1200 towards their Grade 8 Hoodies and Grade 8 Christmas Lunch!!!



Thank you to our wonderful parents who have donated their time and some much needed supplies to our Mink Creek Parent Society.

Job well done to all our Volleyball coaches and players. It was a great season!!





Do you want to:

See up-to-date marks? Login into PowerSchool

See immediate attendance? Login into PowerSchool

POWERSCHOOL offers an easy free APP for both Apple and Android.

Please sign-in at <https://ps.ngps.ca/public>

Contact the school @ 780-778-3898 if you need help logging into PowerSchool.

**TERM 2 OPTION CLASS FEES ARE SOON DUE.
PLEASE SIGN INTO SCHOOL CASH TO PAY**

<https://www.schoolcashonline.com/>



**School Cash
Online**



Advent calendars have a way of producing both excitement and anxiety for me. As a child, I loved the anticipation of the chocolatey countdown but as a busy mom, it makes me panic!

Right after Remembrance Day, comes the familiar pressure of preparing for the "perfect Christmas". Finding the right gifts, coordinating decorations, preparing delicious treats, creating unique crafts, flamboyant lights, exciting activities, entertaining, school concerts, Christmas outfits, family time, travelling to relatives, staying within a budget, and on and on goes the pressure. It causes a frantic tornado of **red** and **green** swirling around my brain. I feel like I want to skip it all and go on a solo trip to Mexico!











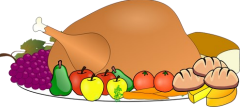

As the Student Support Facilitator, I frequently see evidence of higher levels of stress (good and bad) with many students (and staff!). Christmas can be a difficult time with shared parenting, health concerns, grief, loss, financial difficulties, job loss, family stress, etc.

Sometimes the "happiest time of the year" is nothing but dread, fear and anxiety. For many children, the structure and predictability of the school day, as well as not seeing teachers and friends for two weeks can be frightening. This is all more the reason to PAUSE, BREATHE and REFLECT.

Christmas is so much more than presents, decorations and entertainment. Take time this holiday season to focus on the gifts that you have been given that are not under the tree. Let's be intentional on building and celebrating the gift of relationships with those in our lives: big and small, young and old. If we have learned anything from these past 2 years, it is that family and friends are really what is most important.



CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN - PERCY BAXTER STYLE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>5 Corny Christmas Jokes! *See instructions on the back!</p> 	<p>6 Hockey Day at Percy Baxter! *Wear anything hockey related!</p> 	<p>7 Jolly Jeans and cozy sweater day!</p> 	<p>8 Winter Walk Weather permitting, each class will take a short winter walk and enjoy the crisp fresh air!</p> 	<p>9 Video: Winter Celebrations Around the World 12 minute video</p> <p>Winter Celebrations Around the World</p>
<p>12 Candy Cane "O" Grams go on sale! *See instructions on the back</p> 	<p>13 RAK DAY *Random Acts of Kindness Day - Do something nice for someone else!</p> 	<p>14 Red and Green Day! *Show your holiday spirit by wearing red and green!</p> 	<p>15 GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST **collection of Candy Cane "O" Grams**</p> 	<p>16 "Puttin on the Glitz" Otherwise known as Fancy Friday- Come dressed in your New Year's Best!</p> 
<p>19 Holiday Headgear and Socks day!</p> 	<p>20 Pj's and Breakfast *Wear your PJ's and enjoy a tasty breakfast!</p>	<p>21 Grade 8 Christmas Dinner! **handing out Candy Cane "O" Grams**</p> 	<p>22 CHRISTMAS/WINTER SWEATER DAY School Council Staff Lunch</p> 	<p>23 Teachers are encouraged to have a Christmas/Winter Celebration with their class! (movie, popcorn, trivia, etc)</p>

Extra Information

Stars Wars Points Day - The days hi-lited in green are Stars Wars points days. Please send your totals to Harvey!

Corny Christmas Jokes - Throughout the month of December you can submit your corny (but appropriate) christmas jokes to the box outside of the office. Your submission must include the joke, with a punchline and your name! Every morning, Mrs. Sorenson will draw one joke to tell during morning announcements. If your joke is drawn, you will receive a Christmas treat!

Dec 12 - Candy Cane "O" Grams - Each homeroom teacher will receive a big envelope containing paper tags. Students may purchase tags from the homeroom teacher at a cost of \$1 per tag (maximum of 5 tags per student). They will write the name of the person they would like to send it to and the class that they are in (6-1, 7-2, etc) and then return the slips to you. At the end of the week (Dec 15), slips and money will be collected (grade 8 students will pick up around 2:30 pm). Tags will be attached to candy canes and Candy Cane "O" Grams and they will be handed out on December 20th.

Dec 15 - Gingerbread House Contest - This will take place at lunchtime in the West Break Out Room. Each homeroom will select two students to decorate a gingerbread house. The winning class from each grade will receive Stars Wars Points and a class treat!

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 TERM 1 ENDS	3
4	5 TERM 2 BEGINS	6	7 PANAGO PIZZA DAY	8	9	10
11	12 BOOSTER JUICE DAY	13	14 SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING	15	16 TERM 1 ASSEMBLY 6-9:15 7-10:15 8-1:30	17
18	19	20 ANNUAL XMAS BREAKFAST	21 GRADE 8 POTLUCK LUNCH	22	23 LAST DAY SCHOOL	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 BACK TO SCHOOL MONDAY JAN 9

WINTER BREAK



To Run or not to run



Who makes the decision and how?

Rhett Czaban
Director of Transportation

1



Weather

Highway Satellite Cameras



Calls to
bus drivers and
contractors



-40



Temperature readings
Environment Canada
511 Alberta



Scouting the Roads

Are the buses running?

2



The decision is made between

3

06:00 am

06:30 am

How do we let you know?

4



ngps.ca



It's your decision!

5

Send to
School

Keep
Home



It is always your
decision whether or
not to send your child
to school when
weather conditions
are extreme.

Dress warmly!

6



Don't forget to dress warmly.
See you at school!

Stay connected.....



<https://www.percybaxter.ca>



<https://www.facebook.com/ngpspbs>