



Percy Baxter
Middle School

101 Mink Creek Road
Whitecourt, AB T7S1S2
780-778-3898
www.percybaxter.ca



ROCK STARS REVIEW

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE – Mr. Turcotte, Principal

While much of our snow melted during the month of February, the frigid temperatures and snowfall at the end of the month remind us that we are still very much in winter. As we roll into the month of March, we are once again being greeted by some warmer weather, and the hope we will see an early Spring! February was very busy with a number of important highlights throughout the month.

On February 9 and 10, Percy Baxter teachers participated in the annual North Central Teachers' Convention. This two day professional development conference is attended by over 7000 teachers from 18 different locals, and provides an opportunity for teachers to attend sessions hosted by a variety of educational specialists, teachers, and other professionals. Each year we look forward to hearing about our teachers' experiences and the sessions they attended!

Our Valentine's Bash on February 17 was very well attended and it is very clear through the feedback provided by students that the dance was a night to remember! Thank you to the staff, parents, and caregivers that supported this event by assisting with supervision and selling yummy treats in the canteen. We look forward to planning another dance before the end of the school year, and surprising students with a few "enhancement" purchases to make our dances even better!

Thank you to all parents/caregivers who were able to join us for the second round of Parent-Teacher Interviews on February 22 and 23. For those parents who were unable to attend (in-person or by telephone) and would like more information regarding their child's progress, please contact your child's homeroom teacher. For those requiring assistance with accessing or navigating Parent Portal, please contact the school as we would be more than happy to assist you with using the program to keep up to date with your child's assessments.

On February 22, PBS students celebrated PINK SHIRT DAY in support of anti-bullying! It was great to see so many staff and students dressed in pink on that day. A special shout out to New Venture Safety Services, for providing all staff and students with a special pink "chocolate" treat (cake) on this day. Thank you for supporting us in spreading kindness and the important message of taking a stand against bullying!

With only 4 months left this school year, we know there will be many more exciting learning opportunities for students, and while the PBS Admin Team will also begin planning for the 2023-2024 school year, our focus from March to June will remain ensuring the academic and social success of all students.



Northern Gateway
Public Schools



Wanting to stay connected to Percy Baxter school? Look for updates and school news via the PBS Facebook page!

OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS

SCHOOL FEES ARE NOW PAST DUE

- Technology Fee \$32
- Home Economics/Construction fees \$20-\$30
- Art \$10
- Optional Lunchbox Program Donation - \$10.00

Please sign into your school cash account to pay any outstanding fees or contact the school to set up payment options.

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

SchoolCashOnline
©KEVGROUP

- If you know your child is going to be late or absent for any reason you must notify the school. Please call the office at 780-778-3898. (Classes begin and attendance is taken at 8:55AM and 12:55PM) If no notification is given to the office it will be considered an unexcused absence and a call will go out in the morning and afternoon.
- We are a closed campus which means no students can leave the school grounds unless signed out by a parent or guardian for any reason. Students with a lunch pass may go to their home only. They cannot take friends home with them.
- Unless it is an emergency, we will not interrupt classes to deliver messages to students. Please have afterschool plans finalized before school.
- Students are only able to ride their assigned bus and get off at their stop. The office cannot issue notes to have a friend ride the bus or change your bus route.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT.....

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

ANQI MA

BOSTON SWIZTER/JORDYN EVANS

G
R
A
D
E

6



G
R
A
D
E

7



MYLAH HAUG

G
R
A
D
E

8





©JasonMicalisPhotography

Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

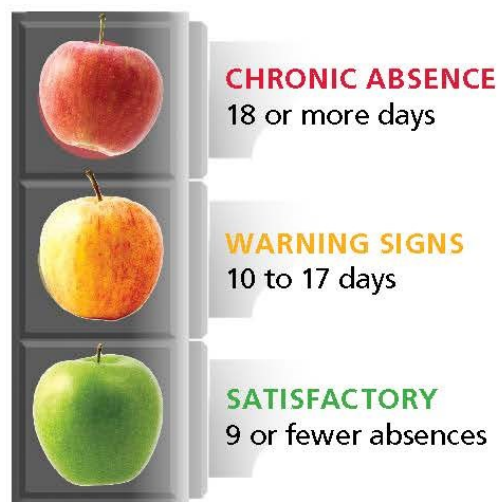
Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-Covid-19 related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If you are concerned that your child may have Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your child must stay home due to illness or quarantine, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

Revised October 2021

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.



Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School: Pay Attention to Attendance

Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students access learning opportunities and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job. Families can also advocate for resources to help students learn if they cannot attend in-person.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your children maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-Covid-19 related medical appointments during the school day.
- Keep your child healthy, and if you are concerned about Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your children must stay home because they are sick or in quarantine, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your children feel engaged by their classes, and feel safe from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your children are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your child's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your child to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- Notice and support your children if they are showing signs of anxiety.

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents or community agencies if you need support.

Revised October 2021



Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!



2022/2023
Percy Baxter School
Bell Schedule

TIME	BLOCK
8:55	Bell
8:55-9:05	TAGS (Attendance calls generated)
9:05-9:55	BLOCK 1
9:55-10:45	BLOCK 2
10:50-11:40	BLOCK 3
11:40-12:10	LUNCH BREAK A
12:10-12:40	LUNCH BREAK B
12:40-1:30	BLOCK 4 (Attendance calls generated)
1:35-2:25	BLOCK 5
2:25-3:15	BLOCK 6 Dismissal

Keeping Children Safe Online

Help for Parents

February 2023

Parents, this article is a difficult but critical one to read. When I say our children's lives depend on it, please know I am not being overly dramatic. Our children are being contacted by predators, literally **ALL. THE. TIME.**

How do I know? Because I am a school division social worker in contact with over 5000 students. I regularly communicate with mental health professionals, law enforcement, child protection workers and Canada's national tip line for reporting online exploitation of children, [Cybertip.ca](https://www.cybertip.ca). Not only that, I am a mother of four, aunt of seven, and pseudo mom of countless more.

Please don't just take my word for it, here are some disturbing Canadian statistics documented by [Cybertip.ca](https://www.cybertip.ca) and the RCMP:

- In 2020 these three statistics when compared to the previous five year average
 - **making or disturbing child exploitation material increased 89%**,
 - **luring a child online increased 37%** and
 - **non-consensual distribution of intimate images increased 80%**
- Cybertip receives **1000 reports across Canada A DAY on sextortion** (when someone threatens to send an intimate picture or video of you, real or photoshopped, to others if you do not comply with their demands of money, cryptocurrency or sexual content)
- Between 2020 and 2021, **law enforcement received a 510% increase in enticement complaints** (adults communicating with a minor with the intent to exploit them). Data from [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](https://www.nccp.ca/en/nccp-reports/nccp-reports-2021)

I have never met a parent who did not have their child's best interest and safety in mind. We tell our children not to talk to strangers, we buckle them up safely in vehicles and we put helmets on their beautiful heads when they take part in nearly every activity. We teach them to look both ways when they cross the street and we have fire extinguishers, smoke alarms and carbon dioxide detectors in our homes. We ensure all the toys we buy are not hazardous. Governments have all sorts of rules and laws to keep children safe in their day to day life - except when they are ONLINE. When our children are online, all the responsibility - and blame - to protect them is put on parents.

It is impossible for parents to oversee all our children's online activity because social media platforms and online video games have unsupervised access to our children 24-7. How can we possibly stay up to date on the [Best Parental Control Software](#) available or to be savvy on every video game and [app that is dangerous](#)? It is daunting to think where to start in protecting the ones who are most precious to us.

What is the #1 way to protect your child?

TALK TO THEM. Not to instill fear, but to teach them to be **WISE, PRUDENT** and **SENSIBLE**. Reassure them that no matter what, they can **ALWAYS** talk to you. What we can do is have open, honest, lighthearted and frequent conversations with our children at whatever age we first hand them a device that can connect to the internet. Two and three years old is not too young to talk about safety everywhere in your little one's life, especially about internet safety.

Please have the passwords to your children's devices and go through them regularly. It is your right and responsibility (after all, you are most likely the one who paid for the device and whose name is on the account). Coach and guide them on their conversations with their online peers, no different than when we teach them to be a good friend in their offline world. Show them how to report and block profiles that appear harmful or inappropriate. An excellent and thorough resource for families is [protectchildren.ca](https://www.protectchildren.ca).

Most importantly, foster relationships and activities that are not online to have a healthy balance for everyone in the family. Face to face conversations will always trump screen time.

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 wellness and success in school. Tammy has been a Registered Social Worker for more than 23 years and is a mother to 4 children; 2 in high school and 2 in university.

MARCH 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 JERSEY OR PBS SPIRIT WEAR DAY	4
5 SCHOOL COUNCIL LUNCH ORDERS DUE FOR MARCH AND APRIL	6	7	8	9 HAT DAY	10 PD DAY NO SCHOOL	11 GRADE 7/8 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
12	13	14	15 PANAGO PIZZA DAY SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING 7pm	16	17 GREEN DAY ST PATRICKS PLUNGE DRAW	18
19	20 BOOSTER JUICE DAY	21 GRADE 6 BASKETBALL TOURNAMANET	22 SPRINT INTO SPRING HOT DOG LUNCH	23	24 TERM 2 ENDS	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
SPRING BREAK						
					BACK TO SCHOOL ON APRIL 3 TERM 3 start	



Grades 6-12

Snacks Provided

FREE TRANSIT to and from the program.

f MillarCentre

@ allanjeanmillarcentre

FREE Program

Join us for some **FUN PD DAY** programs!
Pre-registration is required.

Dream Catchers

Join Sasha at the Library to make dream catchers. We will learn about the cultural significance of the dream catcher, take part in a smudge, and make our very own dream catcher to take home.

DATE:
FRIDAY, MARCH 10

LOCATION:
WHITECOURT & DISTRICT
PUBLIC LIBRARY

TIME: 1:30-3:00PM
MIN 4/MAX 15
COURSE ID: 8463



Register by calling 780-778-3637 or go to <https://rec.whitecourt.ca>



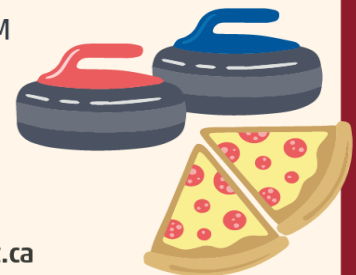
Curling -and- PIZZA PARTY

Have you ever tried curling? Now you will get a chance. Our very own Makayla will be on hand to show you the basics and then we'll organize a fun game. Afterwards, we'll have a pizza party!

DATE:
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

LOCATION:
WHITECOURT CURLING RINK

TIME: 1:30-3:30PM
MIN 4/MAX 12
COURSE ID: 8464



Contact the Allan & Jean Millar Centre at 780-778-3637 for more information.



JUST DIY IT!



Do you love making stuff? Well get ready to spend an afternoon painting, gluing, taping, and crafting! We will be making three fun projects, including a photo holder, duct tape pencil case, and wall hanging art, to keep or give away to someone special.

Min. 8/Max. 10

Sunday March 12
 Time: 1:00-3:00 pm
 Ages: 8-11 years
 Allan & Jean Millar Centre
 Members: \$23.00
 Retail: \$26.50
 Course ID#: 8376

Art of Pysanky



In this 3-hour workshop, learn the art-form of pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs).
 Min. 8/Max. 15

April 1
 Saturday 10:00am-1:00pm
 Instructor: Sharon Burrows
 Ages: 7 and up. (Ages 7 to 12 needs to be accompanied by an adult)
 Allan & Jean Millar Centre Classroom
Members: \$32.95 Retail: \$37.90
Course ID#: 8284



Mix it UP!

MAKER SPACE

Join Teigan for different activities each week. Can you create a boat that floats? How far can you race your balloon car? We will be answering these questions and more during our Mix It Up Maker Space! Whether you sign up for one class or all four, it's sure to be a blast!

Min. 8/Max. 10

April 4	Boat that Floats	Course ID#: 8309
April 11	Balloon Car	Course ID#: 8311
April 18	Marble Maze	Course ID#: 8312
April 25	Robotic Hand Model	Course ID#: 8313

Tuesdays | 5:00-6:00pm | Ages: 6-11 years
 Allan & Jean Millar Centre

Members: \$10/Class Retail: \$11.50/Class
Members: \$35/All Classes Retail: \$40.25/All Classes
Course ID#: 8307



Animal Explorers

Get ready for an afternoon of animal exploration with Ashlyn! Make your own animal puppet, play animal guessing games and trivia, and do loads of fun animal crafts and Fieldhouse games! **Min. 8/Max. 10**



Sunday April 16
 Time: 1:00-3:00 pm
 Ages: 6-10 years
 Allan & Jean Millar Centre
 Members: \$23.00
 Retail: \$26.50
 Course ID#: 8377

Tim Hortons

COMMUNITY FUN NIGHT

SATURDAYS 5:30-8:30

Everyone is welcome to join in! Check out our fun and FREE Fieldhouse activities at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre. Our inflatable obstacle course "The Tim Hortons Double Double" will be up and ready to go for all Tim Hortons Community Fun Nights!

CHILDREN UNDER 8 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.

MARCH 11
Train to be a Super-hero! Dress up as your favourite superhero and join us for an evening of crafts and superhero challenges!

APRIL 1
Eggstravaganza: Spring is almost here! Join us for an evening of fun crafts and an egg hunt in our Fieldhouse. Also, kick off our A.J.M.C Easter Scavenger Hunt!

MAY 13
Dinosaurs & More: Dig for fossils, make dinosaur crafts and play some dinosaur games during our Dino night!

FREE

EASTER SCAVENGER HUNT EVENT

ALLAN & JEAN MILLAR CENTRE

Come to the Allan & Jean Millar Centre between Saturday, April 1 and Monday, April 10 and take part in our Easter themed scavenger hunt. Solve clues, find the eggs, and claim your delicious prize! Also, don't forget to enter into our **GRAND PRIZE DRAW.**

We will be kicking off the fun at our **TIM HORTONS COMMUNITY FUN NIGHT EGGSTRAVAGANZA ON April 1!**

Stop by Guest Services to get your first clue throughout the week.

FREE

Please note that we are CLOSED for Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

SPRING BREAK

Discovery Camp

Join our awesome leaders for a Spring Break full of discovery. We will explore a different theme every day through games, crafts, activities, and outdoor adventures, so sign up for just one day or all five. It's up to you! Just get ready for loads of adventures!

Min. 15/Max. 20

Monday	Dinosaurs	Course ID#: 8302
Tuesday	Pirates	Course ID#: 8303
Wednesday	Spy Day	Course ID#: 8304
Thursday	Outer Space	Course ID#: 8305
Friday	Superheroes	Course ID#: 8306

Superheroes

Please make sure to pack your own lunch, and don't forget a bathing suit and towel!

Monday, March 27-Friday, March 31
9:00am-4:00pm (supervision available until 5:00pm)

Ages: 6-12
Allan & Jean Millar Centre
Members: \$40.00/day **Retail: \$46.00/day**
Members: \$168.75/week **Retail: \$194.05/week**
Course ID#: 8301



March 2023

DOORS OPEN
YOUTH PROGRAM



FREE TRANSIT to and from the program.



WEEKDAYS
3:30-5:30PM



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			DODGEBALL GAMES	Fieldhouse Fun!	Fieldhouse Fun!	
				Fieldhouse Fun!	Fieldhouse Fun!	
				Snack Creations: French Toast	PD Day - Registered Program DREAM CATCHERS	
				Fieldhouse Fun!	Fieldhouse Fun!	
				Fieldhouse Fun!	Snack Creations: Stovetop Granola Parfaits	
				Fieldhouse Fun!	Fieldhouse Fun!	
				Fieldhouse Fun!	FLUFFY SLIME	
				PD Day - Registered Program CURLING & PIZZA	No Program	
				PD Day - Registered Program CURLING & PIZZA	No Program	

NOTES:

Random gift card prize draws every week.
All activities are optional and drop in!
Register for our PD Day programs!

GRADE 4/5 PROGRAM - MARCH 21

To take transit to this program from Central or Ecole St. Joseph Schools, youth must register in advance. Space is limited.

Course ID: 8553

NEW!

Grade 4/5 Program
Dance Party

Fox Creek

GO GIRLS CONFERENCE 2023

Fox Creek Greenview Multiplex

April 29, 2023

Registration 9:00-10:00

Conference 10:00-4:15

Grades 5-9

Registration open March 27-April 14

Cost: \$20

Lunch & snacks provided

Register at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre.

Busing will be provided to Fox Creek.

Contact 780-778-3637 for more information.

