

NEWSLETTER

October 21-25, 2024



Short weeks always seem to fly by, but we've accomplished a lot over the past few days. I'm happy to report that we held our Principal Advisory Group elections last week. The elected committee will meet with me for their first Principal Advisory Group meeting on October 22 at 2:30 PM. I'm really looking forward to working with these students to make our school an even better place to be.

As the weather gets crisper, we've noticed that some students haven't quite adjusted to the cooler temperatures, which became very clear the other day—just look at the picture on the right side of the newsletter! Also, we are having a whole school assembly on Friday, October 25th. Please come out and show your support!



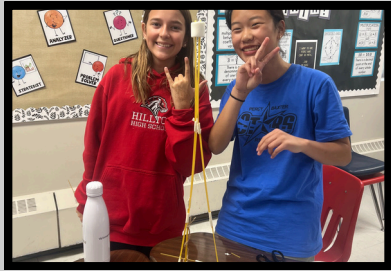
Friday was also a CMT day (Collaborative Team Meeting), and it was paired with a Professional Learning Community (PLC) day for our Grade 6-8 teachers. The process was productive and the information was good.

As we move closer to Parent-Teacher Interviews on November 13 and 14 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, if you haven't received much information from your child's teachers, I encourage you to reach out via phone, email, or even stop by if you can. In the event that the times for PTI's don't work with your schedule or other commitments, please connect with your child's teachers to arrange an alternative time that works for both of you.

Just so you're aware and to keep everyone in the loop: We have reviewed our timetable schedule and found that the 15-minute break in the afternoon wasn't as effective as we initially hoped. In order to maximize learning in the afternoon and really get the best out of our instruction time, we've made some adjustments. We've increased our lunch hour by 8 minutes and extended the morning break by 2 minutes. And left our afternoon break at 5 minutes. Additionally, we've been able to double our supervision at lunch hour. This week was the first with these changes, and we feel it has been a positive move so far.



Last Friday, our girls' volleyball teams competed at the St. Joe's Tournament, and although I didn't get a chance to watch them play, I was thrilled to hear that our Grade 8 team was still undefeated at that point, and our Grade 7 team had only suffered one loss—against none other than our own grade 8 team! It ended up that our grade 8 girls won gold and our 7 team won bronze. There's a special sense of pride in knowing that all the hard work from our students and coaches is paying off in competitive play.



Important Dates to Note:

- Assembly- Friday, October 25 @ 2:30
- Cultural Exchange Meeting October 29 @ 5:30
- Grade 6 Immunizations- October 29 and 30
- Halloween- October 31
- Picture Retakes- November 4
- Parent-Teacher Interviews- November 13 and 14

Important Links :

- [Facebook Page](#)
- [Google Calendar of Events](#)
- [Website](#)

Grade 8 Cultural Exchange Update:

We are excited to share that things are moving forward with our Grade 8 Cultural Exchange! We will be holding another meeting on October 29th at 5:30-6:30pm, where we will discuss the tentative selection of the student groups and outline specific fundraising opportunities. During this time, the school and teachers will have shortlisted some activities for the Ontario cohort, so we'll have a clearer idea of what the itinerary will look like and how much the cost will be for each group. At that point, we will also ask parents to sign up and begin the initial phase of paperwork.

For those of you who missed the first meeting, here's a brief overview:

We are planning trips to Ontario as part of our cultural exchange program. Each trip will involve a group of approximately 30 students, with groups selected by our school team to ensure a great learning experience for all.

Our fundraising efforts will primarily focus on covering:

- Transportation for the activities both our students and their students will participate in while in Whitecourt,
- The costs of activities planned for both groups in Whitecourt,
- Food for both the Ontario and Whitecourt students.
- In addition, there is a \$700 fee for each group that the school has already covered.

Grade 8 Cultural Exchange Update



When our students travel to Ontario, the Ontario group will cover costs for:

- Our food
- Activities and entertainment,
- Transportation while we are there.

The CSFEP organization will cover:

- Transportation to and from YEG airport,
- The cost of airline tickets (both ways),
- Accommodations for both groups in their respective locations.

Student Eligibility will be based on three main components:

- Consistent attendance,
- Excellent attitude both in and out of school,
- Strong academic work ethic.

We anticipate having enough spots to accommodate almost every Grade 8 student, but students must earn their place by being responsible citizens of Percy Baxter School and by volunteering and fundraising for the trip. I refer to these students as part of our AAA Program (Attendance, Attitude, and Academics). I'm confident most students will meet these expectations and participate in this exciting opportunity.

We are also looking for two parent chaperones for each group—one male and one female. If we have students with special needs, we may be able to secure funding for an additional chaperone. It is a great experience and lot of fun was taking a break in the picture below. Who says work can't be like a vacation!

While there is plenty of time to prepare, we do expect parents to lead the fundraising efforts, with teaching staff focusing on preparing students and organizing the activities. Students are also expected to complete any work they might miss while away. Given the amount of time we have to plan, our staff are committed to ensuring students are up-to-date with their academic outcomes before departure.

This trip is an educational opportunity that will help students grow as citizens, build strong relationships with their peers from Ontario, and develop a sense of responsibility by working hard to earn this experience.

I truly hope that as many parents as possible can attend our next meeting. Student participants are always welcome to join, of course. Having had the privilege of working with the CSFEP organization, I am confident that this exchange will be an incredible experience for our students.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!



2024/2025 Bell Schedule



TIME	BLOCK
8:53	Bell
8:55-9:05	TAGS (Attendance calls generated)
9:05-9:55	BLOCK 1
9:55-10:45	BLOCK 2
10:45-10:50	TRANSITION BREAK TO NEXT CLASS
10:50-11:40	BLOCK 3
11:40-12:10	RECESS BREAK
12:10-12:40	LUNCH BREAK
12:40-1:30	BLOCK 4 (Attendance calls generated)
1:30-1:35	TRANSITION BREAK TO NEXT CLASS
1:35-2:25	BLOCK 5
2:25-3:15	BLOCK 6 Dismissal



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