



Northern Gateway
Public Schools

News Release

Friday, September 14, 2018

A Recap of 2018-19 Leadership Appointments, Whitecourt schools

Each new school year brings change to a school division and with members of our NGPS family retiring, opportunities for new leadership in Whitecourt schools have been accepted.

Hilltop Jr/Sr High School (Grades 9-12)

Principal: Mr. Brent Northcott

NEW Assistant Principal: Ms. Sarah Van de Kerckhove

Ms. Van de Kerckhove is an engaging leader and passionate educator who has coordinated the outreach program in Whitecourt since 2011. Through her time with Gateway Academy - Whitecourt, she has developed strong relationships within the community and earned the trust and respect of students, staff and parents.

Ms. Van de Kerckhove holds both Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education conjoint with Technology Degrees from Memorial University and is currently working on her Master of Education in Leadership from City University of Seattle. She is also a graduate of the NGPS BUILDING Leadership Program.



Percy Baxter School (Grades 6-8)

Principal: Mr. David Turcotte

Assistant Principal: Ms. Brenda Rawluk

NEW Assistant Principal: Ms. Bobbie Sorensen

Ms. Sorensen joins us from Grande Yellowhead School Division where she has worked for the past 10 years as a member of the Learning Services Team. Ms. Sorensen brings a range of leadership experience to the position from both her time in the classroom and her experiences as a Lead Teacher, Various Abilities Coordinator and Early Learning, Literacy and PUF Coordinator. Born and raised in Whitecourt, she is excited to re-join her home community, and the team at Percy Baxter. Ms. Sorensen holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from St. Cloud State University and a Master of Education in Educational Counselling from the Werklund School of Education.





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Pat Hardy Primary School (Grades Pre-K-2)
NEW Principal Ms. Anne Martens



Ms. Martens is a seasoned leader and natural mentor who began her teaching career at Percy Baxter School in 2011. Innovative and growth-minded, Ms. Martens has pursued opportunities for professional growth as a Learning Services Coordinator for NGPS where she was responsible for coordinating Indigenous student supports for NGPS students. Ms. Martens holds a Bachelor of Education Degree with Distinction from the University of Alberta, is a graduate of the NGPS BUILDING Leadership Program and is currently pursuing her Master of Education in Leadership from City University of Seattle.

NEW Assistant Principal Ms. Sherry Pfanmuller



Ms. Pfanmuller comes to Pat Hardy from Elmer Elson Elementary School where she has been an enthusiastic and valued member of her school community since 1996. Over the course of her career Ms. Pfanmuller has taught numerous subjects and grades but may be most famous for her role as the Music teacher and choir director. Creative and steward-minded, Ms. Pfanmuller has been a longstanding supporter and volunteer in her home community of Mayerthorpe, including a current term as a Town Councillor. Ms. Pfanmuller holds a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alberta and is working towards her Master of Education in Leadership from City University of Seattle.

Wishing all of our new administrators a fantastic year of learning from and with your staff, students, parents and community members. Thank you for choosing NGPS with which to share your leadership skills and educational expertise.