



# The Paw Print

*R.I. Baker Middle School*

December 2022 Newsletter



## Principal's Message

It is December and it came quickly. We have had 3 busy months. We started with setting important academic and behavioral goals and routines. We had our most successful fundraiser in 10 years! Our kids (and parents) worked hard and it paid off.

After completing our first academic term, students and parents now have an idea of where their child is at, and new goals are able to be set. Please take the time to sit down with your child, their grades and feedback, and set these goals for the upcoming term.

We are excited to be hosting our first turkey dinner since the pandemic. This is where we feed all students and staff a full course turkey dinner. It is a time where we gather as a school community and enjoy a holiday meal before we send them off for the December break. We are still looking for a few more volunteers for this day. If you are able to help, please contact the office.

Lastly, I would like to take the time to wish everyone a restful holiday season. Staff and students have worked hard and could use some time to reset and comeback strong in the new year. I hope everyone can be with the ones they love this season, and find some time to recharge mentally and physically.

Happy Holidays,

*Mr Preb.*



<b><u>IMPORTANT DATES:</u></b>
<b>Dec 2 - NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>PD Day</b>
<b>Dec 7 - A1 Pizza Lunch</b>
<b>Dec 14 - KC Pub Lunch</b>
<b>Dec 14 - Band Concert 7pm</b>
<b>Dec 16 - Christmas Craft &amp; Bake Sale</b>
<b>Dec 21 - Subway Lunch</b>
<b>Dec 22 - Turkey Dinner</b>
<b>Dec 26-30 - NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>Jan 2-6- NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>Jan 26 - Castle Mtn Ski Trip</b>
<b>Jan 30 - NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>PD Day</b>



# Back to School Reminders!

## Welcome to Edsby! -

The Palliser School Division has moved to a different Student Information System called Edsembli this year, therefore PowerSchool is no longer being used.

The “New” Parent Portal program is called: Edsby and will be the method used to report GRADES and ATTENDANCE to parents.

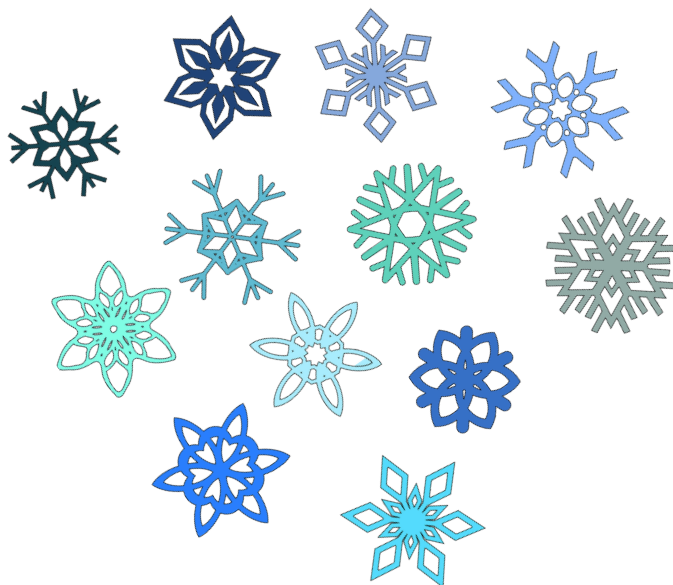


**Invitations for Edsby have been mailed.** Please check your inboxes for a message from Palliser School Division (Junk mail or Spam mailboxes might need to be checked as well) If you don't see the invitation, please contact the office and we can resend it. If prompted when signing up, the School Code is **Pallisersd**

**Edsby is the new/only online option for reporting your students' attendance.** Please call our office at 403-345-3340 or email [megan.curtis@pallisersd.ab.ca](mailto:megan.curtis@pallisersd.ab.ca) if you are having difficulties setting up your account.

**\*\*TIP: : Downloading the Edsby App and allowing notifications from Edsby helps us notify you quickly if your child is absent!**

**Please review the next couple of pages for some tips on navigating the attendance functions of Edsby as well as how to set up your parent account so that you receive Notifications for each of your students.**



We would like to share a few **EDSBY** tid-bits of information that we have learned that may be helpful to parents.

**Edsby invitations** have been issued to all parents that we have an email address in our system for. If you did not receive one, please contact our office so we can resend the invitation and/or investigate why you did not get it.

**Entering Absences in Edsby:**

When entering an absence through Edsby, you have 2 options. If you select **"Absent Today"** your options are to choose the absent reason, and enter a comment (optional). The absent times will be automatically set to **"Beginning of Day"** to **"End of Day."**

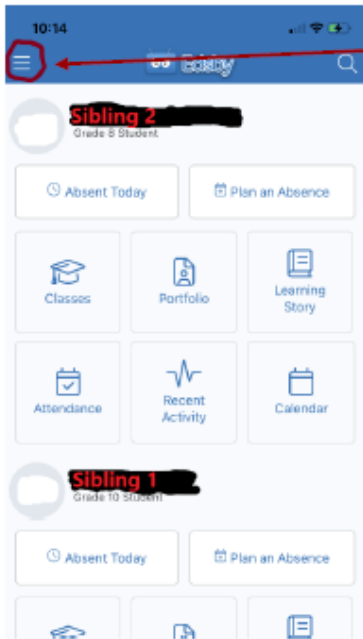
If you select **"Plan an Absence"** you get also get the option to select a date (or range of days) as well as specific times, or periods. You may select the current date – it does not need to be a date in the future. You may select a time from the drop-down list or type in a specific time.

The image illustrates the Edsby mobile app interface for entering absences. It features three main screenshots:

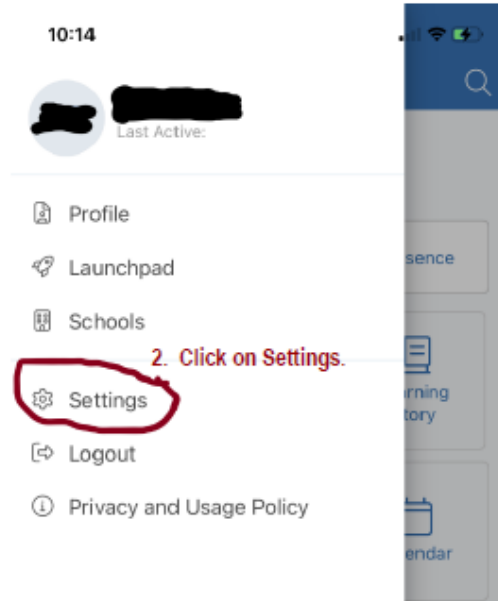
- Main Dashboard:** Shows the 'Absent Today' button circled in red and the 'Plan an Absence' button circled in green. Other dashboard icons include Classes, Portfolio, Learning Story, Attendance, Recent Activity, and Calendar.
- 'Absent Today' Form:** A 'Planned Absence' form where the 'Reason' is set to 'Medical Appointment'. It includes fields for 'Name of Student', 'Comment', and 'Send to School Office'.
- 'Plan an Absence' Form:** A 'Planned Absence' form showing a time selection dropdown menu with options from 12:00 PM to 3:30 PM. It includes fields for 'Name of Student', 'From' (Today, 8:35 AM), 'Until' (Today, 9:35 AM), 'Reason', and 'Comment'.

The Edsby logo is displayed at the bottom right of the image.

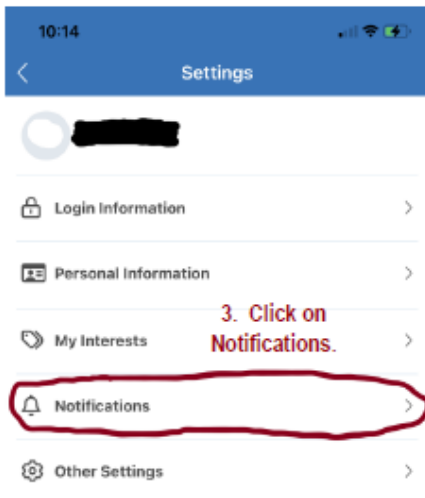
We have come across an issue in Edsby, where notifications are set up differently for students with siblings. If you have more than one student in Palliser schools this may be affecting you. Here is how to change the notification settings in Edsby, if you are not getting notifications (attendance, grades, etc.) for all of your students. In this example, Sibling 1 is the older sibling and they were added to Edsby first:



1. From the main screen, open the menu on the top left of the screen.



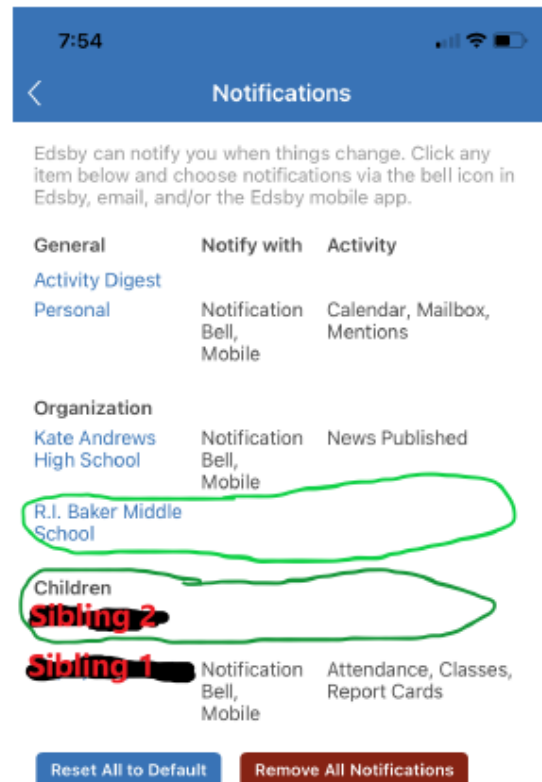
2. Click on Settings.

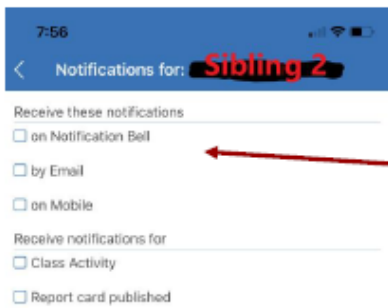


3. Click on Notifications.

4. In the Notifications window, you can see which notifications are set up for each school, as well as each student.

If you click "Reset All to Default" it will turn ALL notifications ON (in each individual student, and each school.)

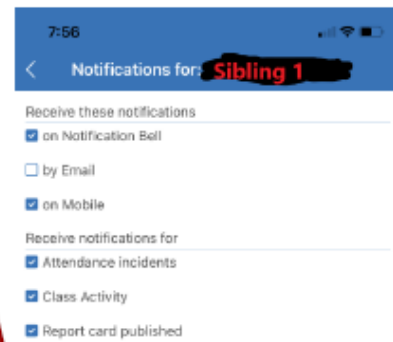




We have found that the second sibling(s) to be added, is defaulting to having no notifications selected, as shown here.

If you click "Apply changes to all my children" and then click **Save**, it will duplicate the settings of that student for each of your children

Alternatively, you can select each specific notification for every student. Make sure to click **Save**.



If you require assistance, please contact our office. We appreciate your patience as we learn these new programs ourselves.



## A Rundown of Bears Athletics

What a great and busy few months we've had! All of our teams had such awesome seasons and showed so much improvement.

Big thanks to all the coaches who helped out with a successful volleyball program this season.



With the end of volleyball season, it means the start of basketball. We are looking forward to a great season again!

We had over 100 people try out for our basketball teams this season! Congratulations to those who will be representing Baker on a basketball team this season!

**BASKETBALL  
REFEREES WANTED!**

If you are interested in refereeing Grade 7/8 Boys and Girls Basketball this season, please let Carrie Goertzen know at [carrie.goertzen@pallisersd.ab.ca](mailto:carrie.goertzen@pallisersd.ab.ca)

We are looking to fill some spots for league games after school, and tournaments November 25-26 and January 20-21

## Phys Ed Information

We will be starting our gymnastics unit shortly, and students will be participating in socks for any floor/mat activities. Please have your students bring a clean pair of socks for phys ed during this unit if possible, as we will have 40+ shoeless students, and clean socks will go a long way in ensuring everyone has an enjoyable gymnastics experience.

On another note, we are always looking for extra pairs of shoes for students who forget appropriate footwear, especially in larger mens sizes. If you find yourself with an extra pair lying around, please bring them to the school to Ms. Goertzen.

---



## News from the Learning Commons

**THANK YOU** to all that supported our Scholastic Book Fair last month. It was a huge success. It was very exciting to see how eager the students were. Many great titles are now in the hands of your children. With the proceeds from the fair, I was able to add 37 new books to our library! I also have some funds remaining to purchase additional books from other vendors in the near future. This is a literary event that greatly enhances our library collection and your support is appreciated. Your support of reading and literacy is vital to the growth of our students.

I will be hosting another Scholastic Book Fair in March. Watch for more details to come.

---

## Family School Liaison Counselling Program

### **Being Mentally Healthy Why It's Important for You and Your Teen**

The terms mental health and mental illness are often used to mean the same thing, but in reality, they are different. Everyone has mental health; not everyone has a mental illness like depression. Having good mental health helps us manage our emotions, care about others and cope with problems. It's important for teens and adults alike. The importance of learning the social and emotional skills that help keep us mentally healthy are sometimes overlooked at school because of the emphasis on academic success. However, research shows a strong link between having social and emotional skills, being resilient and having school success. Teens who have developed social and emotional skills find it easier to manage themselves, relate to others, resolve conflict, do better in school and feel positive about themselves and the world around them. Family life is our first "classroom" for social and emotional learning.

As a parent, you can be a strong positive influence on your teen's social and emotional growth and you can reflect and build on your own skills, helping you and your child in the process. Here are 5 areas you and your teen can learn more about and work to improve. Self awareness: Know your emotions and recognize their impact on your behaviour. Self-management: Know how to control your emotions and behaviours in challenging times and how to set and work towards goals. Social awareness: Understand, respect and have empathy for all people and their perspectives. Relationship skills: Know how to establish healthy relationships with others by communicating clearly, listening, cooperating, managing conflict, resisting peer pressure and seeking and offering help. Responsible decision making: Understand how your choices impact you and others.

Adapted from [www.parenttoolkit.com](http://www.parenttoolkit.com) and [www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org)

## Angel Tree:

This year RIBMS has become a drop off location for Angel Tree Gifts.

**Mission of Angel Tree for Kids Campaign:** collect new, unwrapped toys during November and December each year, and distribute those toys in Christmas gift bundles to children and youth in Lethbridge and area whose families need help at Christmas.

In the office there will be Angel's that students can choose to bring home to purchase a gift for a child in need. They can then bring their unwrapped gift back to Baker and LFS will come and pick it up and get it to its recipient. Thank you for your support this Christmas.



---

## NEVER FEAR - BAKER GEAR IS HERE!

The Baker Gear Store will be open until **Friday, December 23.**

Any items ordered through the store will be delivered to the school early in the New Year. (January 2023)

<https://ribaker.anterastores.com/>



**Have you heard the BUZZ?**

**The Baker Buzz that is?**

Check out our weekly student newscast on the RI Baker Website to be in the know!

<https://www.ribms.ca/about/baker-buzz>

---

## 2022 YEARBOOK

Give the gift of a yearbook this Christmas to your RI Baker Student. Yearbooks can be purchased through School Cash Online. 2022/2023 will be a year WORTH remembering!

An advertisement for yearbooks. It features a QR code in the bottom left corner with the text 'SCAN TO ORDER' below it. To the right of the QR code is a graphic of a pine tree branch with red and gold ornaments. The text 'YEARBOOKS ON *SALE* NOW!' is written in a mix of bold black and red fonts. At the bottom, it says 'PRICE: \$35.00 \* DEADLINE: MAY 12'.

PRICE: \$35.00 \* DEADLINE: MAY 12



## Grade 5 POD



**Language Arts:** We're finishing up our examination of reading strategies using *The Bad Beginning* and will be moving on to Poetry!

**Social:** We will be working our way through the Atlantic Region of Canada. We will research the landscape, resources, climate, and history of the region and discuss how these geographical features affect the people that live there.

**Science :** We are studying Electricity and Magnetism. In this unit students will look at electrical safety, how to make circuits and the components needed, how electricity and magnetism work and uses for both.

**Math:** We will continue to look at strategies for mental math multiplication, multiplication arrays and 2 digit by 2 digit multiplication. I encourage students to work on memorizing their times table. You can use flashcards or google multiplication flashcards online and practice that way as well. 5 minutes a night will go a long way to help with all math.



## Grade 6 POD



**Language Arts:** This month, we are continuing to work on our reading and comprehension of short stories. We will be starting to dive into paragraph writing closer to the end of the month. Students are reminded to come to class with their independent reading books for every LA class.

**Social:** We have finished learning about what democracy looks like in practice, and have begun to learn about the government at the local level. We will be learning about how decisions are made at this level, and why. Students will be completing a social city project, applying their learning to a fictional city of their making.

**Science:** We have started the Sky Science unit in science class. We will be studying objects that emit and reflect light in space, characteristics of different stars and planets, and what constellations are and how they move in our sky. This is a great time to get outdoors with your child and take a look at the night sky since it is dark early! We had a lunar eclipse in November and will be posting other celestial events on Google Classroom regularly.

**Math:** We are working on our Decimals Unit in the month of December. We are adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals, as well as solving problems related to decimals; such as money math. As well as decimal operations, we'll be integrating decimals into our previously learned place value knowledge. Practice those math facts nightly and check Google Classroom for review or if a student is absent!



## Grade 7 POD



**Language Arts:** We are just finishing up our superhero narrative writing unit. Students are working hard to create their final projects. From here we will be moving into our first novel study using the core text *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry to explore the elements of dystopian fiction and to answer the inquiry questions of how this novel reflects our modern world and if safety is more important than freedom. We will read the novel in class and do various learning activities to explore these questions. At the end of the unit we will watch the film adaptation of *The Giver* (2014) and compare the two texts and analyze the changes made. We will learn and practice argumentative writing throughout the unit and end with a mock trial of one of the story's characters. This unit will flow into January.

**Social:** We are currently finishing up our learning about the early European settlers in North America. We will then be moving into the Fur Trade where we will be looking at the timeline and economic competition that was spurred on by rival fur trade companies. This will lead us into our next unit on war and the British conquest of North America. All materials and assignments will be made available to you on Google Classroom as we cover them in class.

**Science:** We are right on track with our Plants for Food and Fibre unit learning all about the different parts of plants and their functions. This is a short unit, so we will be having our unit test early December. After that we will spend some time reviewing the past two units, and then complete our midterm before the holiday break! Mrs. Smart will be back in January!

**Math:** In December, we will complete our Fraction Operations unit, where students are adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators. If time permits, we may get a start on our Integers unit before Christmas break. In this unit, students will explore adding and subtracting integers. Students are reminded that they should be bringing their scientific calculators and a pencil to class every day.



The Kinette Club of Coaldale (graciously supported by the Coaldale Kinsmen) will be hosting a Christmas shopping event for kids up to Grade 9 on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 2-6 pm at the Coaldale Community Centre.

Children will be able to shop for their parent/caregiver with the help of a Coaldale Kinette or volunteer (no parents allowed!). Kids will be sent home with to their chosen gift to surprise their parents/caregivers with at Christmas.

All gifts are new and priced under \$10 with many gifts in the \$1-2 range.

Please reach out to [coaldale.kinettes@gmail.com](mailto:coaldale.kinettes@gmail.com) or visit the Kinette Club of Coaldale on Facebook with any questions.

## Grade 8 POD



**Language Arts:** We have just finished our Mystery, Mayhem, and Suspense unit where we focused on foreshadow, character development, and paraphrasing. We then began our Picture Book unit where the students are learning the skills of developing rich ideas in limited space and through multiple mediums. We have continued to work on grammatical writing skills, as well as adding specific detail to our writing. Feel free to check in with your child as to what they are currently reading-- if they aren't reading a book they enjoy, let me know and we can work on finding a good fit together.

**Social:** Students have explored the ideas of and used their historical perspective to imagine life in the European Renaissance. They are going into the last section of the Renaissance unit this month. They will explore sources, perspectives, and motivations during the Age of Exploration. This will also be Ms. Maguire's last month at R. I. Baker. Mr. Smith will take back over teaching Social Studies in January.

**Science:** In science students will continue to work through our Fresh and Salt Water Systems unit. We are working through the unit and students and parents can find all notes and videos on google classroom to stay up to date with the class.

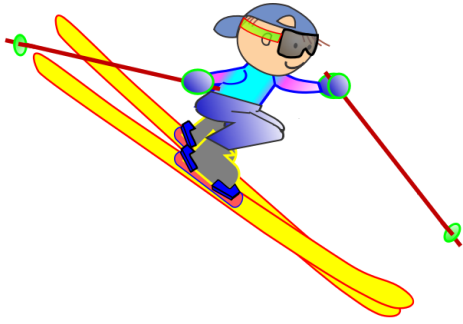
**Math:** We will be spending the majority of December completing Chapter 3: Integer Operations. This includes a review of addition and subtraction of integers (completed in Math 7). Then, we will introduce multiplication of integers, followed by division of integers. Then, we will look to solve order of operation problems involving integers. Lastly, as with every chapter, there will be a problem solving component too!



## Winter Walk in the Park 2022

The Town of Coaldale Winter Walk in the Park returns for its 4th year at the Kin Picnic Shelter Park. Take your family on a leisurely stroll through the park and enjoy all the activities and crafts. The park will be open to the community every Saturday and Wednesday between 5:30pm and 8:30pm, excluding Dec 24 & Dec 31.

## DID YOU SAY SKI TRIP????!!!



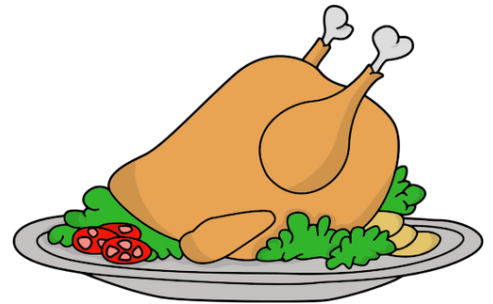
Stay tuned for more information on the return of the RI Baker Annual Ski Trip January 26, 2023 to Castle Mountain Ski Resort!  
A great Christmas gift idea for sure!

---

## RIBMS Turkey Dinner Dec 22, 2022

We are super excited to be able to host our annual turkey dinner again this year!

Please stay tuned for more information as we will need Parent Volunteers to make this event a success. Please call the office 403-345-3340 if you would like to help out! Thank You 😊



---

## R.I. Baker Christmas Band / Handbell Concert

Friends and families of the R.I. Baker Band and Handbell groups are invited to our annual Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 7:00pm in the gym at R.I. Baker Middle School.

All of the groups have been working hard to prepare for this event and we are excited to share some music with you. Seating is first come first served. Feel free to use the staff parking lot. Doors will open at 6:30pm.



# December 2022



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Site Based PD
5 Term 2 Starts	6	7 A1 Pizza Lunch	8	9
12	13	14 KC Pub Lunch  <b>Band Concert</b> <b>7pm</b>	15	16 Christmas Craft & Bake Sale
19	20	21 Subway Lunch	22 <b>Turkey Dinner</b>	23
26 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	27 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	28 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	29 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	30 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>  **** Back to School January 9, 2023

# January 2023



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 NO SCHOOL	3 NO SCHOOL	4 NO SCHOOL	5 NO SCHOOL	6 NO SCHOOL
9 Back to School	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26 <b>Ski Trip Castle Mountain</b>	27
30 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> PD Day	31			

**January HOT LUNCH - DEADLINE December 21, 2023 - 2022/2023**

*Student Name (R.I. Baker Middle School)*

Hot Lunch is DUE December 21 @ 12:00 noon. NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED

If your child is absent the lunch will be left in the fridge until the next day!

KC PUB - January 11

EDO JAPAN - January 18

Joey's Only - January 25

**KC PUB - January 11**

Cheeseburger Meal [add \$8.00]

Perogies & Sausage [add \$8.00]

**EDO Japan - January 18**

Kids Meal with Juice Box & Teriyaki Sauce on the side

Beef with Rice, & Veggies [add \$8.25]

Beef with Yakisoba Noodles & Veggies [add \$8.25]

Chicken with Rice & Veggies [add \$8.25]

Chicken with Yakisoba Noodles & Veggies [add \$8.25]

Lg. Beef with Rice, & Veggies [add \$11.75]

Lg. Beef with Yakisoba Noodles & Veggies [add \$11.75]

Lg. Chicken with Rice & Veggies [add \$11.75]

Lg. Chicken with Yakisoba Noodles & Veggies [add \$11.75]

**Joey's Only - January 25**

1 Piece Fish , Fries, Chocolate Chip Cookie & Juice Box [add \$8.50]

2 Chicken Fingers, Fries, Chocolate Chip Cookie & Juice Box [add \$8.50]

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOMEROOM: \_\_\_\_\_

## PICKLEBALL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Pickleball Lessons and Game Play  
for students aged 12 to 17 years

Fridays after school  
from 1:00 to 2:00 PM  
Jan 6 to March 31, 2023

Coaldale Mennonite Church Gymnasium  
2316 - 17 Street, Coaldale AB  
(south east entrance)

No fee charged but must join Pickleball Canada/  
Pickleball Alberta/ Coaldale Pickleball Club online  
[pickleballcanada.org](http://pickleballcanada.org) \$25

\*\*\*\*\*

PICKLEBALL is the fastest growing sport in North America. Coaldale Pickleball Club (CPC) has certified and background-checked (Vulnerable Sector Check) instructors and assistants who are willing to teach pickleball to students in the Coaldale area.

CPC's mission is to promote the sport of pickleball to people of all ages. To promote and encourage youth to take up the sport, CPC will be running a youth program for students ages 12 to 17 on Friday afternoons from 1:00 to 2:00 pm and a second session from 2:00 to 3:00 pm if required. Registration is limited to 12 students per session. The Program will start on January 6, 2023 and continue through to March 31, 2023 at the Coaldale Mennonite Church Gymnasium .

The program will include instruction and game play. There is no charge for this program; however, for insurance purposes, CPC requires that all participants become members of Pickleball Canada/Alberta/Coaldale Pickleball Club. This is an online registration process [pickleballcanada.org](http://pickleballcanada.org) with online payment of \$25. The membership is good until December 31, 2023 and allows access to the organized group play at the outdoor courts at Eastview Park.

Paddles and balls will be provided. Please have court shoes or running shoes with non-marking soles.

To register or for more information, contact Richard Boras [rboras1956@outlook.com](mailto:rboras1956@outlook.com)



## Glow in the Dark Christmas Skate



**Location:** Coaldale Arena - 1213 20th Ave

**Date:** December 10, 2022 12:00pm to 3:00 pm

The Glow in the Dark Christmas skate is an all-ages public skate on Saturday, December 10 from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM with dimmed lighting and special effects.

Come out with your brightest fluorescent clothing, pick up your glow sticks from our Coaldale Minor Hockey Association at the door, skate with members of the Coaldale Copperheads Junior B alumni and warm up with a cup of hot chocolate served by our Coaldale Figure Skating Club!