



The Paw Print



R.I. Baker Middle School December 2021 Newsletter



Principal's Message

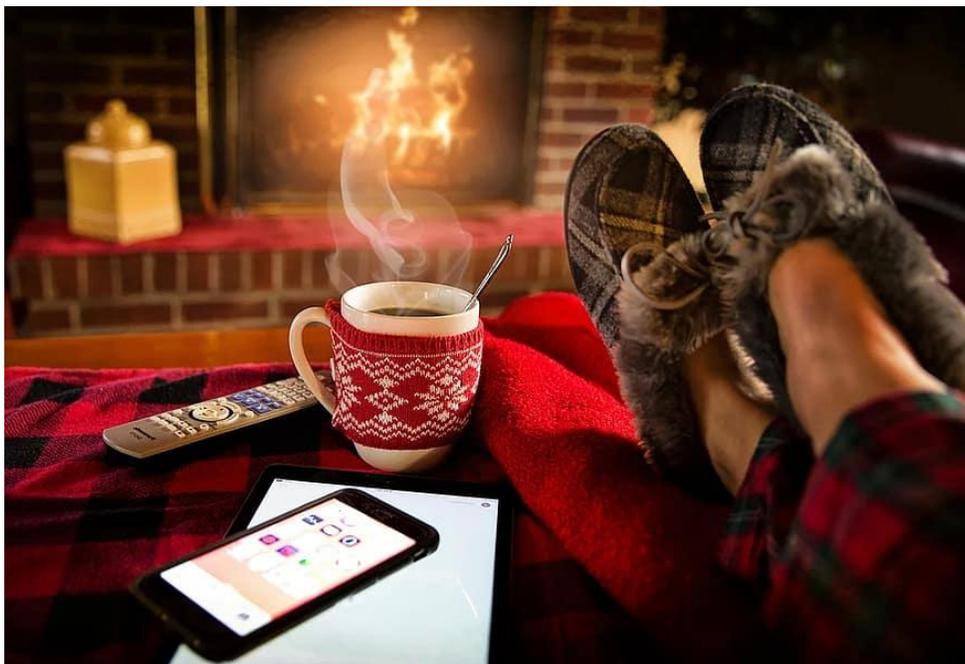
December is here, and it came quickly! Fortunately we have been able to hold somewhat of a “normal” year this year, full of activities we missed last school year. I would like to thank everyone who made our Walk a Thon fundraiser a success this year. We are excited to give kids even more experiences as the year goes on.

As we always search for ways to improve our school and take parent feedback, we will be sending out a survey to both inform parents and take feedback regarding some of our programs and processes here at Baker. We plan on sending this out before the Christmas break and hope to gather the data before we begin again in January. Please take some time to read this information and give your valuable feedback.

Lastly, I would like to take the time to wish everyone a restful holiday season. Staff, students, and parents, have all worked hard to bounce back into new routines and mentally deal with new realities. I hope everyone can be with the ones they love this season, and find some time to recharge mentally and physically.

Happy Holidays,

Mr. Prebs



Important Dates

- Dec 1 - Wally's Lunch**
- Dec 1 - Jersey Day**
- Dec 8 - KC Pub Lunch**
- Dec 15 - A1 Pizza Lunch**
- Dec 15 - RIBMS Christmas Band Concert**
- Dec 16 - Ugly Sweater Day**
- Dec 20-31 NO SCHOOL
Christmas/Holiday Break**
- Jan 3 - Back to School
Happy New Year!**

Daily School Reminders

Students Missing in School Messenger

Many parents have indicated that they are having issues with School Messenger (that one or more of their children are not listed). For many parents/guardians we are finding that “Refreshing the Contacts in the School Messenger App” will add missing students back in.



TO REFRESH CONTACTS IN THE SCHOOL MESSENGER APP PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Click on the 4 little lines in the top left-hand corner.
2. Click on Contacts in the drop-down menu.
3. Click on the circular arrows in the top right-hand corner.

If this still does not work, or you have further questions please contact the school office at 403-345-3340. We still love to hear from parents!

Hot Lunch, School Fees & Extra Curricular Fees -

SchoolCashOnline
KEVGROUP

School Fees are now due, please access your School Cash Online account to see what your students' fees are for the year. Hot Lunch orders are also available through School Cash.

<https://palliserregional.schoolcashionline.com>

PS Parent/Student Portal

Did you know that you can access your child's report card and attendance, anytime you want, from your device?



To successfully access the Parent Portal you will need to follow these steps:

1. Open an internet browser (Google) on your computer (this first step must be done on a computer, not a phone/handheld device)
2. Type **<https://ps.pallisersd.ab.ca/public>** into the address bar
3. If you haven't already done so, you will need to **Create an Account**. Fill in ALL the blanks under the **Parent Account Details** section. **Please choose/create your own unique Username and Password**. Please remember this information and keep it safe – this is what you will use to log in with at any later date.

****Please call the Office if you have not received your ACCESS ID and ACCESS PASSWORD**



A Rundown of Bears Athletics

Wow, it was so nice to get a full volleyball season. All our teams had such great seasons and showed so much improvement.



Big thanks to all the coaches who organized volleyball this season.

And with the end of volleyball season, means the start of basketball. We are hopeful we will be able to allow fans in our gym for basketball. We will keep you posted on this!!

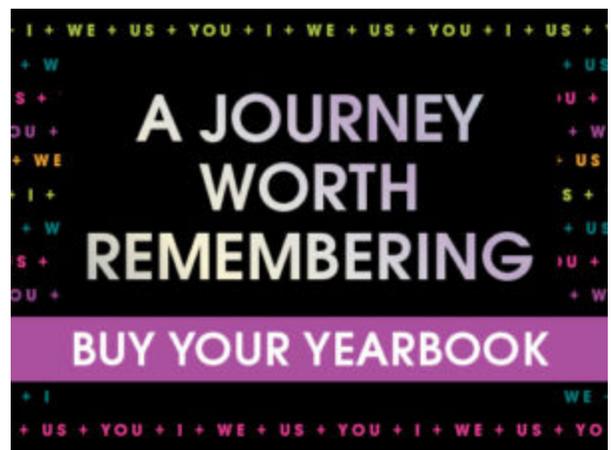


News from the Learning Commons

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 40 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.

2022 YEARBOOK

The creation of the RIBMS 2022 yearbook is underway. Students/parents can purchase their copy through School Cash Online. 2021/2022 will be a year WORTH remembering!



Family School Liaison Counselling Program

“How to Listen Actively to your children and teens”

(article written by: Alberta Health Services for their Parent Information Series)

KIDS NEED TO FEEL HEARD. Sometimes it may be difficult to hear what they have to say. Other times it may be hard to get them to talk about their thoughts at all. They may think you won't understand. They may be afraid to share their feelings because they think someone may make fun of them. If you practice being open and honest with your children and make it easy for them to talk to you, you will build a stronger relationship with them. This process works in two ways: 1. hearing what your children are saying 2. talking about your own thoughts and feelings with them. It can be tough to talk with your kids. Don't give up! Here are some ideas that may help you.

Four ways to improve communication with your kids:

1. Ask open-ended questions, such as “Tell me about your day” or “What did you do today?” These allow your child to tell you about events. These questions also require more than a one-word answer.
2. Listen reflectively. You can do this by simply repeating what your children have said or by saying it back to them in your own words. This will make sure that you truly understand what your children are trying to tell you.
3. Affirm your child's feelings. This makes children feel supported and will make it easier for them to talk to you in the future. An example of this would be: “I understand that it must have been hard for you to come to me about this. I really appreciate your openness.”
4. Summarize what you've heard. This reinforces what your children have said and shows that you have been listening to them. Also, keep in mind that there are non-verbal ways of communicating that can also help with open communication. Making eye contact and nodding your head while they are talking are effective ways of helping someone else feel heard.



Grade 5 POD



Language Arts: We've finished up our class reading of *Mick Harte was Here*, and we've got a few things on before the break. We'll be polishing writing from our daily Journals, reading *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, AND we may even start story writing. These may be lofty goals for December, but we'll start the month with some optimism!



Social: We will be working our way through the Atlantic Region of Canada. We will discuss the landscape, resources, climate, and history. A final project for this region, followed by an exam will happen just before the Christmas break.

Science : We are studying Electricity and Magnetism, sorry for the error in last month's newsletter. It is not Weather we are studying now. 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 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! The app "Sky View" is a tool that can help locate stars and constellations in the sky!

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!

Grade 7 POD



Language Arts: We are using our 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 stories 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 again the past two units and then complete our midterm before the holiday break!

Math: In December, we will continue with our Fraction Operations unit, where students will be adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators. Students are reminded that they should be bringing their scientific calculators to class every day.

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 are completing their understanding of the impact of knowledge and science during the Renaissance. We are quickly approaching the end of our Renaissance unit. Our goal is to be done the Renaissance within the first couple of weeks of January. Our social Midterm will follow the completion of this unit. A study review guide will be provided 2 weeks ahead of time.

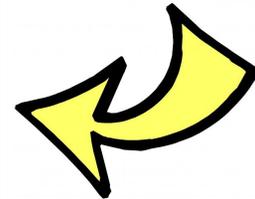
Science: In science students will continue to work on the light and optics unit. A unit highlight will be our dissection of the cow eyeball. As always any class material and assignments that students may be missing can be found on our google classroom page.

Math: We will be spending the majority of December completing Chapter 3: Integer Operations - online. 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!

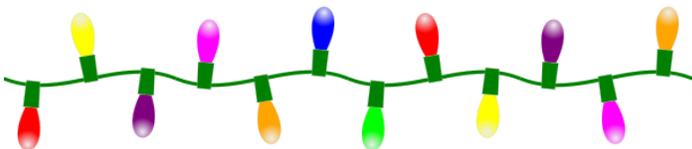
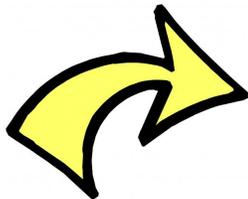
We're doing it again! The Kinette Club of Coaldale will be hosting a Christmas shopping events for kids 12 and under on December 3rd from 2 to 7 at the Coaldale Community Centre. We will be respecting Covid restrictions and ask that children are dropped off to shop with the assistance of a Kinette volunteer. Kids will be able to purchase gifts for parents/caregivers which will be wrapped and sent home with them for a nice Christmas surprise! Please message the Facebook page with any questions.

Kids Christmas

Shoppe: All
Gifts will be
Under \$10!



Go see the lights!



In Search of the Gem of the West

W I N T E R
W A L K - I N - T H E
P A R K

Wednesdays & Saturdays

Nov 20 - Dec 29

*Except Dec 25

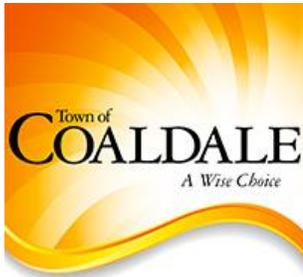
5:30-8:30pm

Coaldale Kin Picnic Shelter

For more information visit www.coaldale.ca/LightFestival

Mark your calendars, Coaldale! Coaldale Peace Officers in partnership with the Coaldale RCMP and MADD

Lethbridge Area will be hosting a **Candy Cane Check Stop** at the **intersection of 20 Street and 21 Avenue, Coaldale on December 3rd from 5:00PM-8:00PM.**



This event will offer families the opportunity to meet the faces of law enforcement in Coaldale and receive candy canes donated by the Coaldale Food Market and goodie bags prepared by MADD Lethbridge Area. This event will also showcase the Red Ribbon Campaign hosted by MADD Lethbridge Area which runs from November 1st-January 3rd.



Remember: Follow the flashing red and blue lights, and come support public safety in Coaldale!



DECEMBER 4, 2021

GLOW IN THE DARK CHRISTMAS SKATE

COALDALE ARENA
12:00PM - 3:00PM

SKATE ON ICE WITH DIMMED LIGHTING AND SPECIAL EFFECTS.

ADMISSION IS FREE THANKS TO THE GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP OF THE KINETTE CLUB OF COALDALE.

GLOW NECKLACES AND BRACELETS WILL BE COMPLIMENTARY.

PROVINCIAL COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT AT THIS EVENT
MASKING REQUIRED EXCEPT WHEN SKATING
PROOF OF DOUBLE VACCINATION, NEGATIVE TEST TAKEN WITH 72 HOURS OR
MEDICAL EXEMPTION REQUIRED FOR ENTRANCE

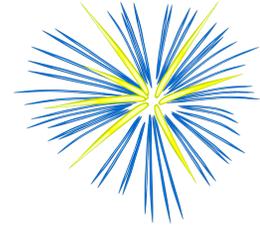


December 2021



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | 1 Wally's Lunch Jersey Day  | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 KC Pub Lunch | 9 | 10 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 A1 Lunch Christmas Band Concert | 16 Ugly Sweater Day  | 17 |
| 20 No School Christmas Holidays | 21 No School Christmas Holidays | 22 No School Christmas Holidays | 23 No School Christmas Holidays | 24 No School Christmas Holidays |
| 27 No School Christmas Holidays | 28 No School Christmas Holidays | 29 No School Christmas Holidays | 30 No School Christmas Holidays | 31 ***** Back to School January 3, 2022 ***** |

January 2022 *Happy New Year*



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|----------|--|
| 3 Welcome Back to School! | 4 | 5 Wally's Lunch | 6 | 7 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 A1 Lunch | 13 | 14 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 Coaldale Bakery Lunch | 20 | 21 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 KC Pub Lunch | 27 | 28 NO SCHOOL RIBMS PD Day |
| 31 |  | Looking ahead to February: Feb 11, 2022 - NO SCHOOL PD Day Feb 21-25, 2022 - NO SCHOOL Reading Week  | | |

JANUARY HOT LUNCH - Due December 15, 2021 - 2021/2022

Student Name (R.I. Baker Middle School)

Hot Lunch is DUE December 15, 2021 @ 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!

Wally's Lunch -January 5

Taco in a Bag - January 12

Coaldale Bakery-January 19

KC Pub - January 26

January 5- Wally's Pizza

- Lasagna & Garlic Toast [add \$8.00]
- Chicken Fingers & Fries [add \$8.00]
- 2 - Lasagna & Garlic Toast [add \$15.75]
- 2 - Chicken Fingers & Fries [add \$15.75]

January 12 - Taco in a Bag

- Taco in a Bag [add \$5.00]
- 2- Taco in a Bag [add \$10.00]

January 19 - Coaldale Bakery

- Potato Soup & Small Cheese Bun [add \$8.25]
- Chili & Small Cheese Bun [add \$9.00]
- Pizza Bun [add \$3.00]

January 26 - KC Pub

- Perogies & Sausage [add \$9.00]
- 2 Hamburger Sliders & Fries [add \$9.00]