

The Paw Print



R.I. Baker Middle School January 2023 Newsletter

Happy
New Year

Principal's Message

Happy New Year!

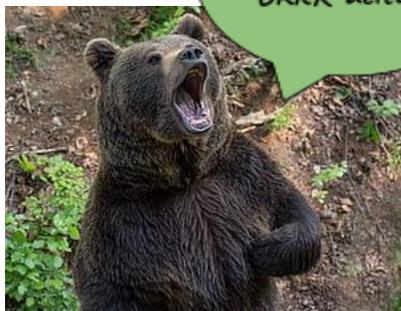
We here at Baker have very high hopes for 2023, and we are very excited to see what it has in store for us. Some use a new year to set goals and make significant changes in one's life. We are again choosing to promote and practice gratitude and respect. We have so much to be thankful for in our lives and the more we show it and respect the people around us, the better we will feel and make others feel.

I challenge all families to engage in a conversation to start the new year about respect and gratitude. Ask each other what gratitude means to you? What things are you truly thankful for? Who deserves your respect? How do you get others to respect you?

Just a few reflections as you make resolutions or set some new year goals.

I wish everyone a healthy and happy year full of thankful moments.

Mr. Preb



Choose
GRRR-atitude!

Important Dates

Jan 9 - Back to School

Jan 11 - KC Pub Lunch

Jan 18 - EDO Lunch

Jan 25 - Joey's Only Lunch

Jan 26 - SKI TRIP

Jan 30 - NO School PD Day

Jan 30 - February Hot
Lunch Orders Due

Thank You to Everyone that helped with Turkey Dinner!

Natasha Richards & Jen Van Rijn for coordinating.

Perry Potato Farm for donating the potatoes, Bonduelle Lethbridge for donating the corn and to all the parent volunteers who helped cook and serve! It was GRRR-EAT!!!

Daily 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.

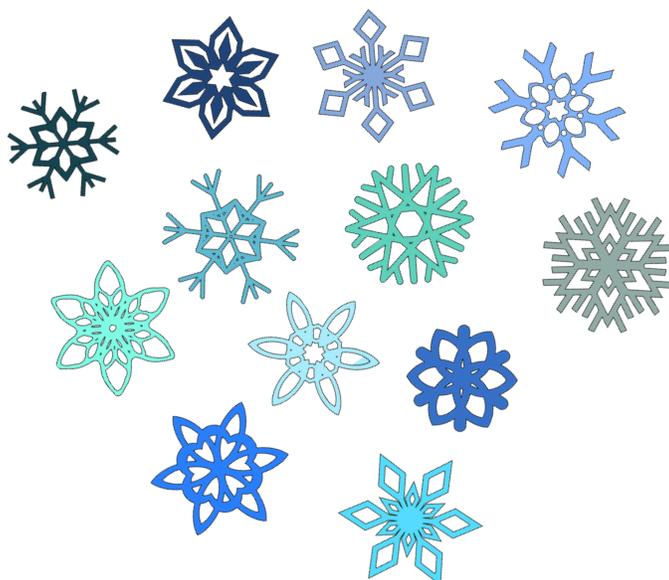


Invitations for Edsby have been mailed. Please check your inboxes for a message from Palliser School Division (Junk mail or Spam mailboxes might need to be checked as well) If you don't see the invitation, please contact the office and we can resend it. If prompted when signing up, the School Code is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

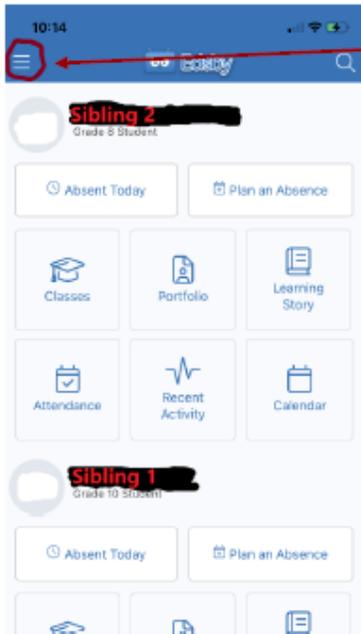
Entering Absences in Edsby:

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."**

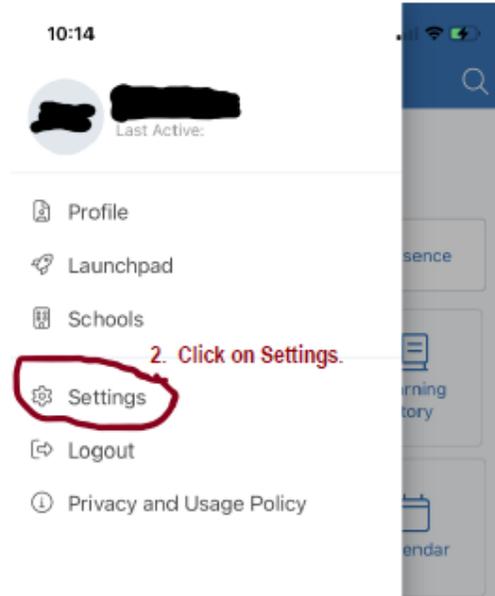
If you select **"Plan an Absence"** you get also get the option to select a date (or range of days) as well as specific times, or periods. You may select the current date – it does not need to be a date in the future. You may select a time from the drop-down list or type in a specific time.

The image displays three screenshots of the Edsby mobile application interface. The first screenshot on the left shows the main dashboard with a grid of icons for 'Classes', 'Portfolio', 'Learning Story', 'Attendance', 'Recent Activity', and 'Calendar'. At the top, there are two buttons: 'Absent Today' (circled in red) and 'Plan an Absence' (circled in green). A red arrow points from the 'Absent Today' button to a 'Planned Absence' form, and a green arrow points from the 'Plan an Absence' button to another 'Planned Absence' form. The second screenshot (top right, red border) shows the 'Planned Absence' form with fields for 'Name of Student', 'Reason' (set to 'Medical Appointment'), and 'Comment'. The third screenshot (bottom center, green border) shows the 'Planned Absence' form with a date and time picker set to 'Today' from '8:35 AM' to '9:35 AM', and a list of reasons with time slots. The Edsby logo, featuring a blue robot head and the text 'Edsby', is located in the bottom right corner.

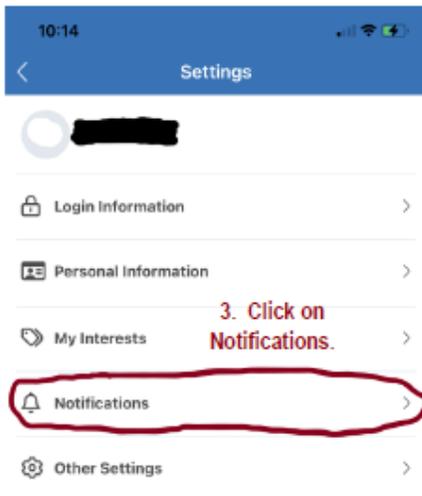
We have come across an issue in Edsby, where notifications are set up differently for students with siblings. If you have more than one student in Palliser schools this may be affecting you. Here is how to change the notification settings in Edsby, if you are not getting notifications (attendance, grades, 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.



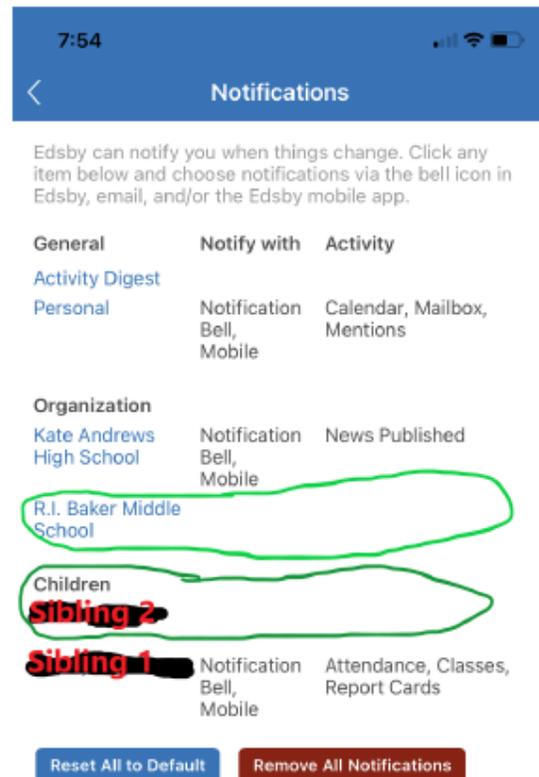
2. Click on Settings.



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.)

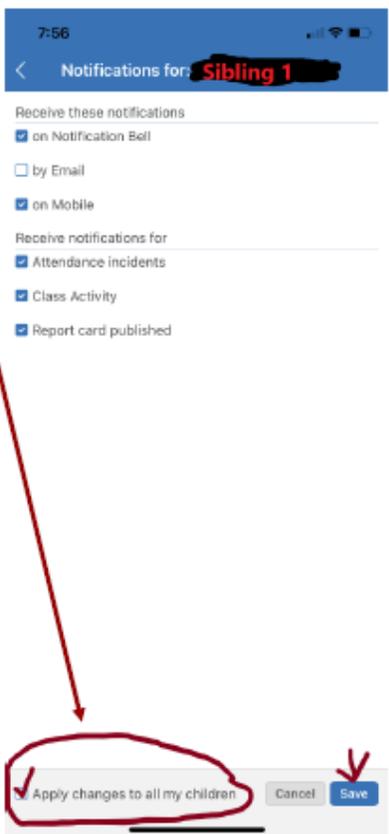




We have found that the second sibling(s) to be added, is defaulting to having no notifications selected, as shown here.

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.

Hot Lunch, School Fees & Extra Curricular Fees -

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.schoolcashonline.com>





Happy New Year from the Learning Commons

Here are a few fun stats to start off the new year.

Since September, 126 new titles have been added to our literature collection. The book that has been checked out the most so far this year is “Dog Man: For Whom the Ball Rolls” by Dav Pilkey.

5A is the homeroom class that has checked out the most books, with an average of 13 books per student.

Karli (grade 5) is the student so far in the school who has checked out the most books with an impressive 39 books. Anjelica (Grade 6) is a close 2nd with 33 books checked out. .

We have had 18 student book recommendations so far. These are books students have read and recommend to their peers to read. This has been a fun addition to our learning commons. The students often look at the wall to get ideas of new books to read. Thank you to all those students who have contributed to this.

2022 will be another exciting year here in the Learning Commons. Many more great titles will be added and the love of reading will continue. Thank you for your continued support.



COALDALE
Community Wellness
ASSOCIATION

Thank you to the
Coaldale Community Wellness Association

for their financial support of our
“Breakfast and Nutrition Program”

Thank you also to Jessica Hoffman, our Palliser School Division Making Connections Worker, for applying for this generous grant to benefit all of our students!

IT'S BACK!! RIBMS Ski Trip—JANUARY 26, 2023



Registration forms can be found on School Cash Online. It is our hope that each child will attend this event and either learn the basics of skiing or practice their ski skills and HAVE FUN!! For students who do not go skiing, it is a regular school day where grade level instruction will be provided. We do need a majority of our students to participate in this event, or it may be cancelled. We strongly encourage and welcome parents to attend the ski day with your child.

****Ski trip fees and forms are due January 13, 2023.****

In accordance with procedures at Castle Mountain, every student must take an ability test and lesson, even if they are a season pass holder. All students must wear a helmet, the cost of which is included if they rent equipment. In order to plan and order adequate transportation, every student needs to ride the bus to and from the ski hill. All students who are attending the ski trip must attend a ski safety presentation at the school.

As this activity is partially subsidized by the school, please note that school fees and any other outstanding fees are to be paid in full prior to the ski date. Please call the office, 345-3340, if you would like details on outstanding fees or to speak to an administrator regarding payment plans to pay fees.

Parents accompanying our students on the ski trip will be expected to adhere to Palliser Regional School policy in regard to tobacco and alcohol.

Please Note: Students and parents who choose not to participate on the school ski trip but choose to ski that day (at Castle Mountain) will not in any way be affiliated with the school, its insurance, discounted rates or transportation. Also, if a student drives with a parent or another parent they become the responsibility of that parent. If a student who is not on the ski trip is a discipline issue or is injured they are the sole responsibility of the overseeing guardian.

BUSES WILL BE LEAVING THE SCHOOL PROMPTLY AT 6:45 AM AND RETURNING AT 5:30 PM. STUDENTS MUST BE AT THE SCHOOL BY 6:30am FOR PROMPT DEPARTURE. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL WHEN WE RETURN FROM THE HILL SO PLEASE HAVE PICKUPS ARRANGED.

Grade 5 POD Reminders :

As partners in your child's education, it is important that we work together to ensure that the students are attending school on a regular basis, and completing assignments. The grade 5 teachers felt that this was a good time to remind parents of a few items:

- Some students are running out of a few of the basic supplies and need **pencils**, gluesticks and/or erasers. Please check with your child to see if they are short of supplies.
- There are a few children who have been wearing their boots all day long. Please ensure that your child has indoor shoes to wear at school during the winter months.

Language Arts: In December we examined the poetry of Shel Silverstein and discussed figures of speech and figurative language. In the new year, we will be starting story writing! Students are encouraged to be reading at home, with a goal of 2 hours per week.

Math: We will be starting our division unit in Math and it will continue into February. I encourage students to practice their multiplication facts to make dividing easier.

Science: We will be finishing up our Electricity where students will look at building circuits and mechanisms using electricity, how to work with electricity safely, and how electricity affects our daily lives. This should take us to February.

Social Studies: We are continuing our study of the Regions of Canada, focusing on the Canadian Shield region this month. Students will explore the landscape, resources, climate and history of this region. They will also have the opportunity to see a recreation of the route the voyageurs took during the fur trade in this region!

Grade 6 POD

Language Arts: We will be finishing up our short story unit by reading a few more short stories and then working on completing our own short stories. This is a component for the PAT, so we will be spending some time on ensuring students understand the format and feel comfortable with this genre of writing. I encourage all students to be reading a few hours/week over the holiday season!

Math: In January students will start looking at their third unit - Fractions, Decimals & Percent. They will convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers, look at ratio, and show understanding of percent (limited to whole numbers). All information is posted in google classroom to stay caught up while students are away, or if they need extra practice.

Science: We wrapped up our Sky Science unit before the break and are now starting Air & Aerodynamics! Keep checking Google Classroom as we'll be doing lots of experiments around the properties of air, including creating all types of flying and floating machines! Students may need to bring items from home, but plenty of notice will be given ahead of time.

Social Studies: Students are getting close to wrapping up their SocialCity projects that we started at the end of November. We need roughly 1 more week to get all the major parts of the project finished. Afterwards, we will take some time to review the content from Chapter 5 on Local Government, before completing our Chapter 5 Quiz. Next up is an in-depth look at the Provincial Government.

Grade 7 POD

Language Arts: Welcome back! Our unit on *The Giver* will really be taking off this month. We will explore dystopian fiction, opinion writing and argumentative writing skills. We will wrap up the unit with a Mock Trial where the students will debate the fate of one of the characters from the book. Students will also write a mid-term exam by the middle of February, covering our units on short story analysis and dystopian fiction.

Math: As we start 2022, students will begin our third unit, which consists of the addition and subtraction of integers. In this unit, students will add and subtract integers using manipulatives, then diagrams, and then students will finish off by adding and subtracting integers symbolically. Students should have red and blue markers/pencil crayons for this unit.

Science: Students will start the month by beginning the third unit - Planet Earth. This scientific study of Earth will be based on direct observation of landforms and materials that make up Earth's surface and on the sample evidence and models we have of Earth's interior. Reminder to use Google Classroom to catch up on any missed classes.

Social Studies: We will be starting Chapter 5 which focuses on the war between the French and English and how it ultimately led to Canadian Confederation. All material will be made available on Google Classroom as we cover it in class.

Grade 8 POD

Language Arts (Mr. Willems): Happy New Year! In the remainder of January, we will be finishing up our ‘Picture Books Say Something’ unit. We will be focusing on story editing and enhancing, learning new tools to take our writing from good to great. Since it’s the new year, it’s also time for a bit of reflection and goal setting. We will then be jumping in to our new mini-unit on Word Gathering (Etymology).

Math (Mrs. Berry-Furtado): During the month of January, we will be working through Chapter 4: Patterns & Relations. It begins with students analyzing linear relations through equations, graphs and tables of values. Next, we will explore solving equations. This is an extension of Math 7 and again, we will utilize algebra-tiles to help us understand all of the steps required to solve different equations. At the conclusion of Chapter 4, we will spend some time preparing for the Midterm. This is a cumulative exam assessing Chapters 1 - 4. The Midterm is scheduled for February!

Science (Mr. Ginther): In the New Year students will start our Mix & Flow of Matter unit. The materials we use- including natural and manufactured ones- often take the form of fluids. Students learn that such diverse substances as air, natural gas, water and oil are fluids. In further investigations, they discover that many common household materials are aqueous solutions or suspensions in which the main component is water. Students learn that the properties of individual fluids are important to their use, including such properties as density, buoyancy, viscosity and the fluid’s response to changes in temperature and pressure. The particle model of matter is used to make a conceptual link between the nature of matter and the specific behavior of fluids.

Social Studies: (Mr. Smith): I am very excited to be back in front of the kids now that Ms. Maguire’s time with us is over and she’s back at the university. We will be starting our study of the Aztec Empire in January. The main concept of this unit is to understand what happens if a society chooses to fight back against their conquerors.

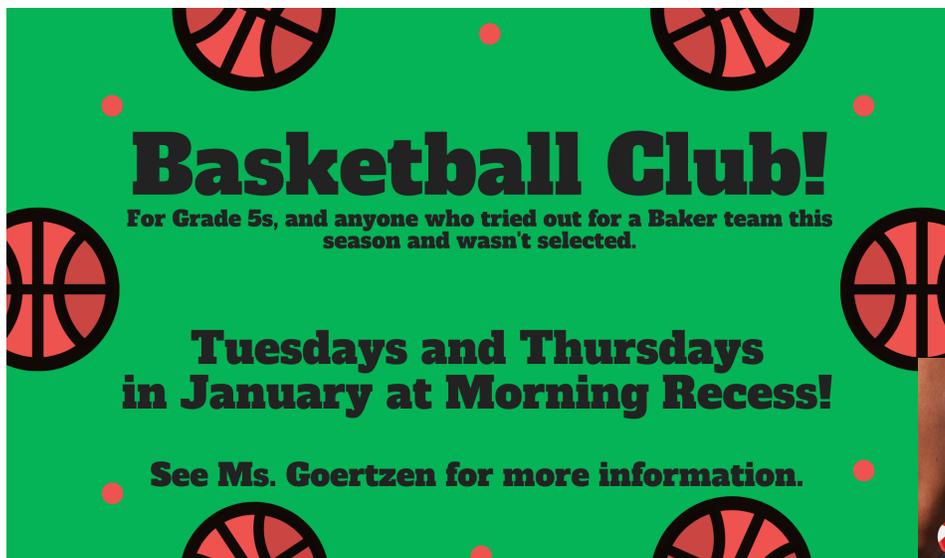


Basketball Bears

Wow!! What a turnout for our basketball tryouts! We had over 100 students tryout for our basketball teams. The sportsmanship was elite and the competition was intense. Everyone who tried out and did not make it should be proud of themselves. And if you did make it, congratulations.

So far this season the Senior Girls have taken home a Bronze plaque at our very own Baker Basketball Jamboree, as well as winning the Hot Shot Challenge at the Wilson Tip-Off Classic. Congratulations Girls! The Senior Boys will host their tournament on January 20-21, stop by to help support Baker Athletics!

For athletes who tried out but did not make a Basketball team, we will be having a Basketball club on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Morning recess with Ms. Goertzen starting on January 10th. Please see Ms. Goertzen for more information!



Basketball Club!
For Grade 5s, and anyone who tried out for a Baker team this season and wasn't selected.

**Tuesdays and Thursdays
in January at Morning Recess!**

See Ms. Goertzen for more information.



Wow! Check out these run stats!
This is why you should never run from a Bear!



TOP TIMES
12 MINUTE RUN
DECEMBER

	BOYS	GIRLS
GRADE 5	NOLAN B. 37 LAPS	JORDYN B., MYLA M., YOLANDE D. 37 LAPS
GRADE 6	ADAM K. 39 LAPS	QUINN S., MALIYA W. 35 LAPS
GRADE 7	SAM K. 39 LAPS	WYTEN C. 36 LAPS
GRADE 8	RYKER O. 46 LAPS	CORA M. 39 LAPS



With a **one-time application fee** of **\$29.99** kids can ski & snowboard for free across **Canada!**

The SnowPass benefits include:

- Access to multiple ski areas across Canada. Return to your favorite hills and try new ones.
 - You can ski not once, but TWICE at every participating ski area
 - Fresh air and exercise.
 - Fun with Family and Friends.
 - Memories that last a lifetime.

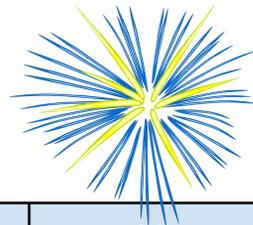
Use your SnowPass at



Today!

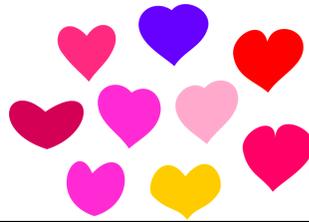
<https://snowpass.ca/>

January 2023 *Happy New Year*



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 KC Pub Lunch	12	13
16	17	18 EDO Lunch	19	20
23	24	25 Joey's Only Lunch	26 Ski Trip 	27
30 NO SCHOOL Site Based PD	31			

February 2023



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14 Valentines Day 	15	16	17
20 Family Day NO SCHOOL	21 NO SCHOOL	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL
27	28	Looking ahead to March: March 15 & 16 - Parent Teacher Interviews March 17, 2022 - NO SCHOOL DivisionPD Day		

FEBRUARY HOT LUNCH - DEADLINE January 30, 2023 - 2022/2023

Student Name (R.I. Baker Middle School)

Hot Lunch is DUE January 30 @ 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!

Taco in a Bag -February 1

KC PUB - February 8

Subway - February 15

Taco in a Bag -February 1

6" Sub, Apple Juice & Cookie

- Taco in a Bag [add \$5.50]
- 2 Taco in a Bags [add \$11.00]

KC PUB -February 8

- Cheeseburger Meal [add \$8.00]
- Perogies & Sausage [add \$8.00]

Subway Lunch

6" Sub, Apple Juice, Cookie

- Pizza Sub [add \$6.00]
- Ham & Cheese Sub [add \$6.00]
- Turkey Sub [add \$6.00]
- Cold Cuts Sub [add \$6.00]