**Local Purchasing Numbers Updated**

We frequently are asked what our budget is for purchasing local food. The Nutrition Services department has no set dollar amount allocated for local purchases. However, we do seek out and purchase local options when the price is right.

As you can see, we have managed to increase our local purchasing just by bidding out our items and going local when the opportunity presents itself. In fact, we were asked to be a keynote speaker at the annual "Local Food Connection" for our success in increasing local purchasing last year.

The table above shows what we’ve done the past three calendar years. It’s important to note, however, that the tracking system we use is tabulated by the Willamette Farm and Food Coalition, and ONLY Lane County items are tracked. Other items which we would consider locally produced or sourced such as all of our bakery products (Franz in Springfield) and Darigold milk (which produces a lot of their milk in Lane County) are not counted in these totals. Also, we get many other items which are very close by (maybe considered "regional") but are not in Lane County. So, how well we do with "Local Purchasing" depends on one’s definition of what "local" means. There are some challenges in obtaining enough fresh local produce to supply our needs in the relatively short growing season the Willamette Valley has. We look forward to further of increasing local purchases in the years to come.

### Local LANE COUNTY Purchases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Yr.</th>
<th>pounds</th>
<th>Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>24,403</td>
<td>$26,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>14,252</td>
<td>$13,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,340</td>
<td>$1,825</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**What’s New: Environment**

One of our challenges is to find a way to educate people in the great things we do. Our department shares stories like these in this newsletter as well as many other stories with the communications department. They post these items on their facebook page. Go to www.facebook.com and “like” the Eugene school District 4J page. You will get updates on a weekly or daily basis, depending on what’s going on. In this day of social media access, we wanted to create an outlet where we can have our stories sent out to a wide audience.

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**Do you Facebook?**

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**Did you Know? Nutrition**

In February, our offering bar has 70% FRESH fruits and veggies this month—not bad for winter
Ask the Dietitian  Nutrition

Getting the word out

At the beginning of the school year, 4J asked the Nutrition Services Department to form a new advisory committee consisting of parents, students, administrators, teachers, as well as community health leaders and kitchen personnel to help guide in our menu selections.

At our initial meeting in November, we discussed food and milk offerings. The outcome of the meeting was that more input was needed from a wide cross-section of parents of 4J students. So, we developed a survey that we are rolling out as of February 1st. The survey can be accessed at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NutritionServicesParentFeedback

For those without access to computers or internet, paper copies will be available at each school. Completed surveys will be returned to the school office, and the Nutrition Services department will tabulate the results and have them available on our website as well as our next newsletter. The survey includes a question regarding everyone’s favorite subject, chocolate milk; however, it was clear that the advisory committee didn’t want it to be a survey regarding chocolate milk only. It is intended to be a broad-based survey addressing nutrition in our schools. A lot of thought went into the survey, including input from the advisory committee and the Lane Coalition for Healthy Active Youth (LCHAY). We hope you will participate.

Let’s not forget the kids  Activity

How to get the kids to tell us what they want?  Put it on the back of a coloring contest!

Before the holiday break, we held a coloring contest with a simple survey to the elementary students. This great idea came to us from a neighboring school district (Thanks, Albany!). The contest proved to be VERY popular. We had hundreds of contest entries turned in. In fact, I had a stack of about twelve inches of them on my desk! One grand prize winner was chosen per school. The winner got to pick an entrée for the day to go on the menu. Three second place winners got tickets to the front of the lunch line!

SURVEY RESULTS:

- Favorite Breakfast Item:
  1. Pancakes
  2. Cereal
  3. French Toast

- Favorite Lunch Item:
  1. Pizza (by far).
  2. Chicken burgers, hamburgers
  3. Everything else was spread evenly among the choices.

What do you like best about eating in the cafeteria?

1. Friends/social
2. Food
3. Lunch ladies/offering bar

-Do you eat breakfast at School?
63% who filled out the survey eat at school

-If you do not eat breakfast at school, why not?
1. Eat at home
2. No time
3. Cost

Employee Spotlight  Achievement

Monroe Coordinator Honored in Yearly MLK award

Nutrition Services Coordinator Carolyn Webb was honored by Monroe Middle School in their yearly Martin Luther King day assembly. She has her name on the plaque in the office, and received a nice framed award.

Principal Peter Tromba said that it was very easy to honor her with the award. “She clearly demonstrates that she cares deeply about each and every student, no matter what their circumstance. She will go out of her way to reach out and connect with all students to ensure their needs are being met.” Carolyn also has the opportunity to take a break from her duties in the cafeteria and attend an upcoming two day training at the Ed Center entitled “Taking It Up,” centered around dealing with racism.

Congratulations and thank you for making a difference in your school,
On Friday, January 27th, Adams Elementary hosted a composting workshop in which community members and the media were invited. They learned what could and couldn't be composted, and showed community members how to compost. The article in the
DYK CAFE Environment

Coming To a Middle School Near You

DYK CAFE!

in Process: Middle schools are converting from EDZ zone to Did You Know Café format

If you have been to one of our middle schools during the past few years, you’d notice that the color scheme has a mix of dark green, purple and yellow. The colors were all fine and dandy during the time when they were introduced, but a newer, more modern update of our cafeteria décor was unveiled at Spencer Butte Middle school during the winter break. Three other middle schools will be retrofitted to the new scheme this year, with the remaining four to be done this summer. The new look features highlights from nutrition, achievement, environment community and activity, which are areas from our “student well being” format.

WANTED! Hungry kids Nutrition

We have a lot of kids who are eligible for Free & Reduced Benefits who don’t take advantage of FREE meals.

It could be that they don’t know they have qualified. In any case we are reaching out to those families so they know how to get a FREE, nutritious meal for their students. If you know of someone who needs a free and reduced meal application, fill one out at:

http://www.4j.lane.edu/nutrition/freelunch

Have you visited..? Activity

..our website lately? Scan one of these with your smartphone!

Food For Thought

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Did you Know? Nutrition

Our February menu highlights 44 different made-from-scratch menu items?

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