

Dear Parents,

You may have heard some rumblings from your students about changes in the lunchroom, this is in fact true. We have heard the comments and concerns from our Wildcat parents about the quality of the food being served in our lunch room. We wanted to share with you that it is a priority of ours to make sure that what is being offered to our children is nutritionally beneficial, cost efficient and, last but certainly not least, delicious. Some of these areas, we understand, have been lacking and we are working to make wonderful changes.

Some of the changes that have already been put into effect are... The lunch program providers, ECI, have been instructed to discontinue any future ordering of unhealthy foods that have slowly, over the years, found rooting in our lunch program. No longer will we be offering high-in-sugar drinks and snacks (i.e. pop-tarts, cookies, rice Krispies, Hawaiian Fruit Punch...) and other items that bring zero nutritional value to our children. Some of these items with their high sugar or fat contents are actually detrimental to our children's abilities to focus in class. Our overall goal is to provide our children with nutritionally rich foods that help not just nourish our children's bodies but their minds as well.

This sort of evaluation of our lunch program is overdue and quite extensive. We ask for your support and grace as parents while we navigate this process. We will have a "soft" roll out of a new menu and a new salad bar after the Easter break. We hope that come next Fall when we return to school that our students will be excited to dine in our greatly improved lunch room and program!

A few of the immediate changes that have been made...

- Sandwiches are available for purchase to ALL age groups! If your child does not like the hot meals being served, they will daily have the option of a turkey and cheese sandwich or a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.
- Spa Water Bar- Fresh healthy fruit infused waters... FREE!
- Baked Potatoes can now be ordered for all students 2nd grade and up.
- Removal of all non-nutritionally beneficial "snack" foods and drinks.
- Removal of sugar laden desserts at every lunch service.

Exciting Changes Coming Soon!

- Salad / Potato Bar
- More homemade soups and chilis
- Overall better and more kid friendly food choices
- Healthy snack choices (nut packs, Cutie oranges, apples, bananas, yogurt, beef jerky, cheese sticks...)
- Ice Cream Fridays
- Sampling for the children to try new and improved menu items
- A much more environmentally friendly lunch program

If you have any suggestions or comments please feel welcome to reach out to our parent coordinators assisting with this endeavor. They would greatly appreciate any ideas, options and/or thoughts you might be willing to share. Again, thank you so much for your patience during this time of development and growth for our children.

Parent Coordinators: Angela Wonderly (angelawonderly@outlook.com) and Jaclyn Booth (jaclynmbooth@gmail.com)

God Bless!