

Nutrition ink

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What's Behind Your Line?

A team of experts that work to bring students fresh, wholesome foods to enjoy! Here's how we do it.

Visit any Nutrition Group managed cafeteria and you'll find a variety of quality choices that students love. If you've ever observed the cafeteria staff as they prepare each day's meals, you learn very quickly that there's more to serving a healthy, appetizing and delicious meal than meets the eye.

By now we know that the food students love versus the requirements of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA) don't always match up. Bob Martz and Lisa DalleTezze, who head up our Purchasing Team, work closely with vendors, brokers, food manufacturers and distributors to provide the nutritious variety of choices that students enjoy every day. Taking a leadership role in researching products that meet the HHFKA requirements and appeals to students is how we stay ahead of the curve with food trends.

Taste testing is a key component to the success of the purchasing program. Before any new food item or recipe is launched in our schools it must be vetted through corporate committees and several food shows. Surveys, YACs and PACs also play an integral role in sharing information about student trends for the Purchasing team to investigate.

Once a product meets our strict quality standards and passes our rigorous taste testing, we enter into the negotiation phase of the purchasing process. Our team has vast experience in negotiating contracts that keep costs realistic and product quality high.

Our team of chefs and operations specialists collaborate to develop recipes that reflect market trends and what we hear our students say they want. Our dietitians then carefully analyze what we offer to ensure that our menu offerings comply with the dietary requirements of the HHFKA.

Once a new recipe is developed, we give it a trial run in our test kitchen. The real test comes next – we choose several schools to feature our latest creations. Based on the feedback we receive from students, we continue to introduce new recipes into more schools. Innovative programs like Wellness Wednesday and Take Nutrition Global provide the ideal avenue to introduce these new foods.

Using these programs to introduce new choices, we find that students are more receptive because, as we all know, children aren't always open to trying new things. Additionally, special events like cooking demonstrations and taste testings are helpful in replacing hesitation to try something new with an eagerness to expand their taste buds because we've made it fun for them.

Throughout the process, careful consideration is given to ensure that the

...continued on page 2



From the Desk of: **JERRY MOORE**

Though it felt as if it was one of the longest and coldest winters on record, our Food Service Directors were not in short supply of creative events to chase away the chill! As you look through the pages of this edition, you'll find a number of imaginative special events to keep things exciting in the cafeteria. Throughout the years we continue to offer many traditional favorite events like Apple Crunch Day, along with some new and exciting programs like Select & Elect.

The underlying themes behind each event presents an opportunity to educate students about healthy choices, as well as the chance for our Food Service Directors to spend time speaking to students to gather feedback about what students like. Along with that, as we explain in our feature article, we continue to explore and introduce new and fresh food ideas for students to enjoy!

This is all made possible and is successful because of the tremendous team of people that work together to make it happen. Kudos to our Food Service Directors, Purchasing, Marketing, Operations and Management Teams for collaborating their ideas to keep things fresh and exciting for our valued clients!

food is prepared for maximum freshness and taste. Our chefs, operations specialists and manufacturers work with the food service directors and cafeteria staff to fine tune the preparation process. By establishing production, preparation and serving procedures, we are able to ensure consistent quality offerings.

The Nutrition Group's Bob Martz knows from experience the challenges the food service directors face. He knew that as he transitioned to his role as Purchasing Director, an important part of that would be to continually refine the buying process. "I think in terms of what challenges I faced in my years in the field and how I can continually streamline the process from a purchasing standpoint. Our measure of success is tied to how successful we are in supporting our food service directors and their staff."

Assistant Buyer Lisa DalleTezze plays an integral role in coordinating training sessions that include vendors, brokers, food service directors and cafeteria staff.

By investing the time in these types of training sessions, we're able to streamline and perfect the preparation and service to ensure that our students enjoy consistently nutritious and delicious choices every day.

We are committed to building strong relationships with our schools and the communities we serve. By working with cafeteria staff, students, food service directors, vendors and brokers, listening to their ideas and feedback, and applying what we learn, we are better able to deliver an innovative and exciting food service program.

The ultimate determination of how successful we are is student approval and participation. 🌱





Thanksgiving

The tradition of a Thanksgiving feast is not only anticipated in homes across the country, but also in many of the schools we serve! Students know that when mid-November comes around, they will be treated to a delicious turkey dinner, complete with mashed potatoes, corn, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and more! Many times our school administrators will join in the fun by manning the carving stations, much to the delight of students.



Central Valley School District
High school principals Shawn McCreary and Anthony Mendicino were the guest carvers for the annual Thanksgiving meal.



Clairton City School District
Mr. Livingston, Board President and Mr. McCloskey, High School Principal serve tasty slices of turkey to their students.



Jim Thorpe Area School District

Tom the Turkey visited all the lunch periods during the Kindergarten's Parent Thanksgiving Luncheon. Vince

Antignani, Jim Thorpe Area High School senior, dressed up as Tom the Turkey for the day.



Wilkes-Barre Area School District



Pennsbury School District Food Showcase

Food Service Directors Carina Gaillard, Chelsea Dolge, and Paul Spink participated in a Food Showcase event held by The Nutrition Group at East Penn School District. Each account in the surrounding areas was asked to present a topic, tip, or new concept to the group. The Pennsbury Team decided to highlight the rotating Pho Bar that is offered in Pennsbury High School Cafeterias. Pennsbury is the first district to promote this new concept and wanted to share the results with the rest of The Nutrition Group. Out of 83 participants, the Pennsbury Team was chosen as one of the winners at the showcase. Congratulations Team!

Submitted by Chelsea Dolge

Corry Area School District

Staff and students were treated to a tailgate party with football cards, word searches and several lucky tray prizes. The serving lines were decorated and staff dressed in their favorite team attire to celebrate this fun day!



Superbowl Party

What better way to kick off Super Bowl weekend than having a tailgate party with your friends at school! While most of the schools stuck to the traditional tailgate treats, such as chicken wings, nachos, and pizza, each put a unique spin on the day's festivities!



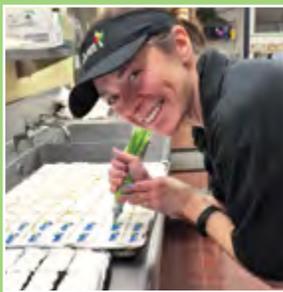
Lisbon Exempted Village School District

During their Superbowl party, students were treated to some of Chef Myra's new ala carte line items. To add



to the fun, photos were taken with a variety of props for the students to choose from. They enjoyed having their picture taken as well as taking each other's!

Lower Moreland Township School District



The cafeteria was fully decorated with balloons and other fun football gear! Special thanks goes to Sheila Gonzales, who decorated the cakes at Murray Avenue with the Superbowl team mascots and names!



Pennsbury School District

A taste testing was held at Edgewood Elementary School with a Superbowl theme. Staff prepared fruit and vegetable pairings that showcased the two NFL team colors playing in the Super Bowl. The Nutrition Group set up a table in the cafeteria and had the samples displayed for the students to taste. The students were allowed to taste all four pairings and then voted as to which "team" would win. The Nutrition Group included some Nutrition Education into the event by displaying a nice poster board that included all of the health benefits from the food samples that the students could read.



Wissahickon School District

Students enjoyed some fun and games and also had some surprise visitors from the High School football team. The players helped serve lunch for the kids and took time to sign a few autographs for some lucky children.





Allegheny Clarion Valley School District

Special thanks to Superintendent David McDeavitt and Erin Barlett who assisted Food Service Director Gordon Garich with carving and serving the turkey.

Shaler Area School District

Before the first bite was enjoyed, students and staff were already smiling in anticipation of their traditional holiday meal. Food Service Directors Jenny Pearson and Linda Neely Yurasits were joined by Human Resource Specialist Joel Madison to assist in manning the carving stations throughout the district. Thank you to all who make these wonderful events possible!



Holiday Meals

The Food Service Teams at many of our schools always outdo themselves during the holiday season! Students look forward to a holiday dinner, and are always so appreciative of the extra work and time that goes into preparing it! Juicy roast turkey, succulent baked ham, a variety of potatoes, and all the fixings are served during the weeks leading up to Christmas vacation.



New Brighton Area School District

Santa Claus himself showed up to help Food Service Director Rebecca Jaros with the carving duties! There was praise from students, staff and administration for the hard work that went into preparing this delicious meal.



West Mifflin Area School District

Food Service Director Kathy Davanzo carved roasted turkey and baked ham as students and staff proceeded through the serving line. Everyone enjoyed their meal and many came back for seconds!

Williamsport Area School District Grandparent Lunch

The Nutrition Group celebrated Grandparents' Day at Cochran Primary, Lycoming Valley and Curtin Intermediate in the month of November. Parents and Grandparents were invited to have lunch with their children and grandchildren. We had an overwhelming response to this special event with a grand total of 228 visitors! Everyone that participated in Grandparents' Day had a great time with their child!

Submitted by Patty Webster



Chestnut Ridge School District

Bowling Party

A Grandparent Day was held this spring at Chestnut Ridge, and students and staff pulled out all the stops! Grandparents and parents brought their grandchildren and children to The Elks Country Club in Bedford for bowling and fun with fellow students! Not only was the Easter Bunny there, but Calvin the Calf made a special appearance as well! We wonder who the bigger celebrity was that day!

Submitted by Michelle Marker



Southern Local Schools

The students at Millcreek Elementary celebrated Valentine's Day with decorations and lucky tray prizes. "Cupid Pizza", "Sweetie Sweet Potato Rounds" and "Hug Me Fruit" were several of the choices for the day. Students won Valentine's Day memo pads and Frisbees to coincide with Jump For Your Heart Day.

Submitted by Kathy Fulk

Valentine's Day

Summerfield Schools

Students couldn't wait to visit the cafeteria for a special Valentine's Day lunch. The lunch lines were



decorated with an array of hearts and red garland to match the theme of the classroom parties taking place that day! The menu featured kielbasa and noodles, which may not be exactly what you would expect, but the kids enjoyed the samples so much during our Take Nutrition Global program that the staff felt it was only appropriate to give them something that they loved on Valentine's Day!

Submitted by Alexis Arndt



South Allegheny School District

Senior Dinner

The annual Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner for all senior citizens living in the school district was held in December at the High School cafeteria. The dinner was hosted by the Student Council and over 150 senior citizens enjoyed a delicious traditional turkey dinner prepared by The Nutrition Group's cafeteria employees. The dinner included oven roasted turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and cranberry sauce. What a wonderful way to give back to the community!

Submitted by Marygail Costello



Apple Crunch Day



Elizabeth Forward School District

Apple Crunch Day gave staff the perfect opportunity to promote a variety of apples throughout the district. Special guests Calvin the Calf and his helper Michelle Marker were on hand to talk to the students about nutrition. Michelle and Food Service Director Elaine Podlogar managed a table with fresh baked apple crisp, which was given to all students who wanted a sample. A special thank you to our two honor society volunteers from the high school, Courtney Brogna and Angela Shrine, who dressed up as Calvin for the day!

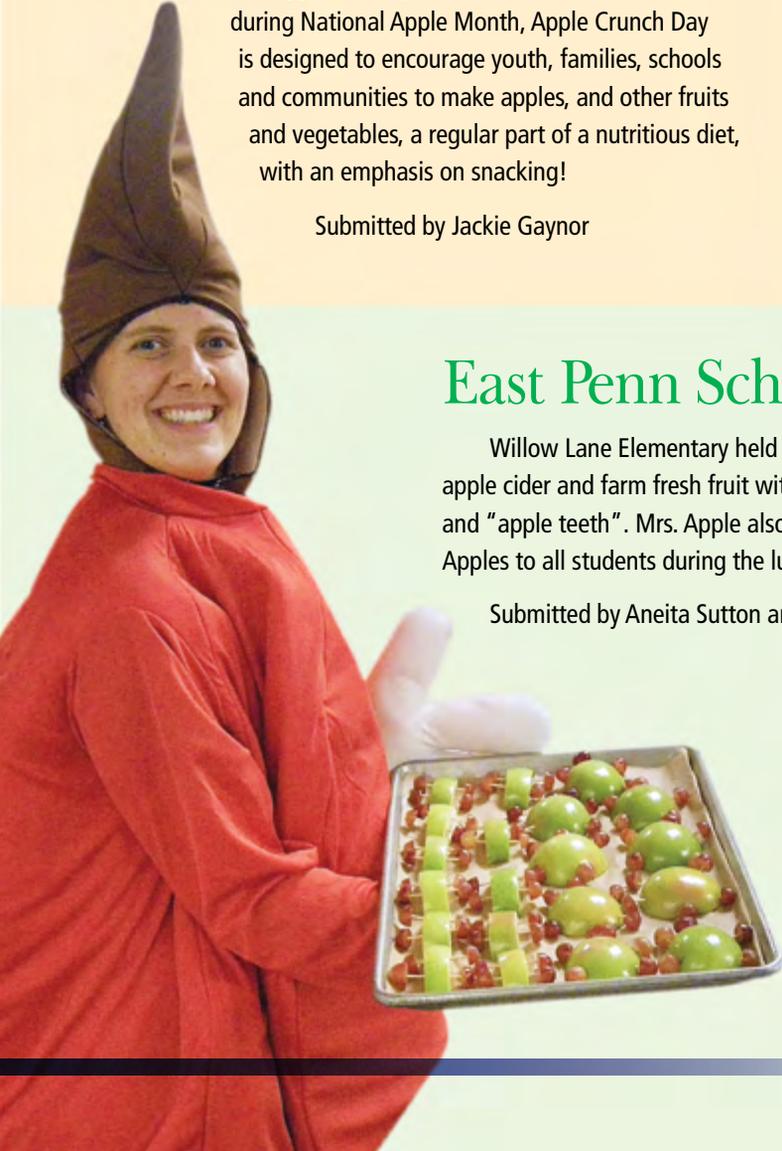
Submitted by Elaine Podlogar



Clairton City School District

Students "got their crunch on" during Apple Crunch Day, where everyone was given the opportunity to sample a variety of fresh apples and apple themed dishes. Celebrated during National Apple Month, Apple Crunch Day is designed to encourage youth, families, schools and communities to make apples, and other fruits and vegetables, a regular part of a nutritious diet, with an emphasis on snacking!

Submitted by Jackie Gaynor



East Penn School District

Willow Lane Elementary held an Apple Festival for all students. Not only did students get to sample local apple cider and farm fresh fruit with dipping sauces, but they had fun picking out "apple cars", "apple turtles", and "apple teeth". Mrs. Apple also stopped by to help hand out samples and talk about the importance of Apples to all students during the lunch day.

Submitted by Aneita Sutton and Paul Vlastic



FROZEN

MaST Community Charter School

Mast Community Charter School held their first annual Character Breakfast with some familiar faces! The day featured arts and crafts, pictures with Elsa, Anna, and Olaf from Disney's *Frozen*, and a sing-a-long with the school choir. Guests were treated to a hot buffet in addition to a large assortment of freshly baked pastries.

Submitted by Bob Trommer



Charleroi School District

What better month to feature a Disney's *Frozen* themed lunch than January? Students chose Elsa's white pizza or Sven's chicken nuggets for an entrée and were offered Olaf noses (baby carrots) and Anna's blue dipped apples! Lucky students won *Frozen* themed prizes like books, crayons and music CDs! To quote Olaf in the movie, "Hands down this is best day of my life!" That was a favorite expression of the day!

Submitted by Brenda Wineland



Lehighon School District

In December, Shull-David Elementary was FROZEN over! The menu was focused around the Disney movie *Frozen* and all the kids who ate lunch that day were entered to win a *Frozen* prize. The cafeteria was decorated at the beginning of the week to get the kids excited for Friday's meal. The movie *Frozen* was also played in the cafeteria with the coordination of the Principal at Shull-David Elementary. The kids loved it and had lots of fun at lunch that day! The event was even recognized in the schools' newspaper for January!

Submitted by Lauren Williams



Panther Valley School District

Students at Panther Valley couldn't wait to see Olaf from Disney's *Frozen* when they came to lunch one day! Olaf was present for all the lunches to talk to the kids and get feedback on how they were enjoying their lunches. The students were happy to discuss their favorite things about lunch, but they were even more excited to give Olaf their best "warm hug" to remind him that warmer weather couldn't be too far off!

Submitted by Francine Holley



Select & ELECT!



Toronto City Schools

In keeping with the theme of Election Day, all students at Toronto JR/SR High School had the opportunity to vote for their favorite lunch entrees. Students were given a sticker with their lunches to place on the election board on the wall inside the cafeteria. Students also had the opportunity to write in their favorites. The junior high school students chose the popcorn chicken bowl as their favorite while the high school chose the taco salad as theirs. After a hard campaign led by Paige Dennison for the corn dog, it came in second followed by breakfast for lunch. The top three winners were placed on the menu after the results were tallied!

Submitted by Ruth Stansbury



South Allegheny School District

The Middle School held its inaugural Select & Elect Day in the cafeteria during their lunch period. A voting poster listing the most popular lunch entrees was hung in the cafeteria and each student was given a sticker to elect their favorite entrée. Not surprisingly, pizza was the big winner with taco salad taking second place and the popcorn chicken bowl, known as the "Gladiator Bowl", coming in third. We love feedback from our clients and this is just one way we are able to discover what students love in the cafeteria!

Submitted by Marygail Costello



Apollo-Ridge School District

Students at the Elementary School were asked to make a difference and cast their vote for their favorite entrée in November! Students received a sticker with their lunch purchase and placed their sticker next to their favorite entrée. First place went to Macaroni and Cheese, followed closely by Breakfast for Lunch, Turkey Dinner, Pizza, and Tacos. The Nutrition Group encourages students to express their opinions at events like this, and we are always looking for new ways to keep students excited about lunch!

Submitted by Sarah Backus



Sto-Rox School District MTO Promotion

When it comes to lunch options, the middle school and high school weren't in short supply! The schools held an MTO day where students could pick and choose exactly how they wanted their sandwiches and lunches prepared. Students that ate lunch with us were entered to win a Subway gift card, and principals randomly chose a number in order to select a winner!

Submitted by Sara Mastrine



Safari Day



Salem City Schools

When Food Service Director Michele Fisher found out she had a twin for Safari Day, the hunt was on! She found her at Reilly Elementary during the Safari Lunch Party! Pictured with Michele is third grader Erin Bailey. Erin won a Safari Animal stationary set for best dressed at the party. Prizes were also given out randomly to a total of 14 winners who had the choice of safari animal finger puppets, animal tattoos, or mini note books!

Submitted by Michele Fisher

Danville Area School District

Safari animals came out to play during lunchtimes at the Danville Primary and Liberty Valley schools. All students who purchased lunch received a jungle animal sticker for the 'Safari Day' lunch promotion. The students were fascinated with the animal decorations and enjoyed their prize.

Submitted by Mallory Rosenberg

Yough School District

Elementary students walked into a Safari when they came to lunch one day! From the decorated cafeterias to a themed menu that included Zoo Nuggets, Animal Crackers, Broccoli Trees and Bug Juice, students were going wild! Safari themed prizes were also rewarded to lucky winners, making the event that much more exciting for our youngsters!

Submitted by Jessica Shuber

Dino Day

Wilkes-Barre Area School District

What's better than a Dino Day in the cafeteria? How about a Dino Month! During the month of November dinosaur decorations adorned the cafeteria. Special themed lunches were served such as Caveman's Cheeseburger, Fossil Fajitas, Prehistoric Pancakes with Stegosaurus Sausage, and Brontosaurus Barbecue Ribs. Students who

purchased a meal on special dino dates were eligible to win a prehistoric prize pack, and the fun truly lasted all month!

Submitted by Mallory Rosenberg

Newport School District

Newport Elementary School was buzzing with excitement when students heard about The Nutrition Group's Dinosaur promotion!

Children were treated to dinosaur shaped chicken nuggets served with rice, peas, applesauce and dinosaur finger gelatin as a special treat. The serving lines were covered with dinosaurs and they were even hanging from the ceilings. Students especially laughed when they saw that the staff were wearing dinosaur hats all day. Talk about a prehistoric party!

Submitted by Ashley Sites



Beach Party

Buckeye Local School District

While the snow days were accumulating, West Elementary wasn't giving up on their beach party. The students wore their best beach outfits and enjoyed summer picnic food for lunch. Prizes were handed out for anyone who participated in the lunch program and everyone forgot about the cold and snow for a little while!

Submitted by Denise Smith

Columbiana Exempted Village

With the gray skies, frigid weather and snow this winter, cabin fever was setting in. So Joshua Dixon Elementary School decided to beat the winter blues! An indoor Beach Party was held despite the snow and bitter cold, and students were having fun in the sun. Kids loved wearing their sunglasses and the decorations made the cafeteria feel like a tropical paradise!

Submitted by Tina Minamyer

Whiteford Agricultural Schools

Students got to experience a change of scenery and forget about the chill of winter by being welcomed into a Caribbean world! The lunch line was adorned with festive decorations and the staff had on colorful leis. The children enjoyed the change of decor and can't wait to see what other special events are planned for the year!

Submitted by Alexis Arndt





BLAST OFF! with Breakfast



Ligonier Valley School District

In an effort to generate some excitement around the most important meal of the day, The Nutrition Group held a special event called "Blast off with Breakfast" at R.K. Mellon Elementary School! The cafeteria lines were decorated with spaceship and alien themes and Food Service Directors Amber Flenniken and Tracey Surma were dressed in aluminum foil headbands with antennas. The menu included Flying Saucer Pancakes and Galaxy Green Apples. Students couldn't wait to find out if they would be the lucky winner to receive a book called "Aliens for Breakfast", and The Nutrition Group donated another copy to the school library for all to enjoy!



Submitted by Amber Flenniken

String Theory High School

With the help of The Nutrition Group's directors and chef, staff at String Theory High created a week long promotion to discuss the power of breakfast. A variety of breakfast foods were available to sample such as chocolate chip banana or apple cinnamon bars, breakfast pizza, glazed cinnamon buns and more. Students were asked for their opinion through surveys, discussions during lunch periods, and YAC (Youth Association Committee) meetings. In addition to coordinating sampling and promotion, nutrition education was held during the week. The lesson plan revolved around the importance of breakfast foods, the five food groups, and ways to build a healthy breakfast meal.

Submitted by Shawn Perry



Elizabeth Forward School District

Mt. Vernon celebrated National School Breakfast Week with a Blast Off

With Breakfast Promotion. Students were able to create their own special cereal combinations by mixing a variety of whole grain cereals served in "saucer bowls". Flying Saucer Pancakes were also on the menu. Alien blow up toys, books, and stickers were given out as prizes for students who picked up a lucky tray that morning. It was a great start to the school day!

Submitted by Elaine Podlogar



Williamsburg Community School District

Students attended a Carnival themed Lunch on a cold Friday in January! A carnival selection of corn dog Nuggets, pizza, and tater tots was on the menu.

With the purchase of a lunch, each student received a ticket to visit the Funnel Cake table with a topping bar of strawberries, blueberries, chocolate sauce, whipped cream, and powdered sugar! The cafeteria was adorned with great decorations and we even had a great photo opportunity for the High School and Junior High students. Everyone in town will want to come back to the Williamsburg Community Carnival next year!

Submitted by Angela Focht



Circus

Rochester Area School District

Come one, come all to the Rochester Elementary Circus! Students were treated to a themed lunch that consisted of Corn Dog Nuggets or Mini Beef Sliders, French Fries, Fruit and Milk choices and a Funnel Cake. Rochester employee Marcie Alford made a circus tent, candy apples, cotton candy, peanuts and balloon decorations out of construction paper. Flyers were sent to all of the classrooms announcing the circus lunch and the students were very excited. The Elementary staff servers were dressed as clowns and the cashier was the circus ring leader. It really was the "Greatest Show on Earth"!

Submitted by
Robin Siget



Hazleton Area School District

The Circus came to town and the students at West Hazleton Elementary Middle School had the opportunity to be part of the fun! The cafeteria staff performed and offered Circus themed food and treats. The cafeteria and gym were decorated and the PTA and teachers also got involved and offered the students the chance to play games and win prizes. Kudos to the cafeteria staff for bringing so much fun and excitement to the school!

Submitted by Barb Farley



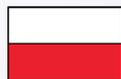


Take Nutrition Global



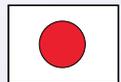
Recipe Contest

As the hugely successful first year of Take Nutrition Global ended, a memo was sent to all Food Service Directors in the company. Our Corporate Chefs were asking for creative recipes from their districts with a specific country of origin in mind. The Take Nutrition Global Recipe Contest was born! Everyone was given a specific set of criteria to consider including ease of production, use of USDA Commodities and first and foremost, delicious flavors! The recipes were produced in several of our school kitchens for students, staff and administrators to judge. This was definitely a case where each and every entry was a winner! The winners for the 2014-15 school year are listed below, but you'll have to wait until next school year to find out what countries and winners were selected for the 2015-16 school year! Join us in congratulating the first six winners of our contest:



POLAND *Kielbasa & Haluski*

Minersville Area School District: Dee Bloch, Lauren Williams, Kim Conville



JAPAN *Tonkatsu & Gingered Cucumbers*

Middletown Area School District: Sarah Biegert, Erin Ryan, Gwen Avers



GREECE *Beef Gyro & Tzatziki Sauce*

Tyrone Area School District: Renee Vanaelstyn



GREECE *Chicken Gyro & Tzatziki Sauce*

Wilkes-Barre Area School District: Mary Jo Grazious, Mallory Rosenberg, Jeff Gray, Molly Rosencrans, Nahida Ahmed



SWEDEN *Swedish Spaghetti & Cucumber Salad*

Salem City School District: Michele Fisher, Beth Huston, Crystal Skidmore, Terry Hoperich, Molly Silver, Maggie Oshnock



VENEZUELA *Arawak Chicken &*

Venezuelan Black Beans Leetonia Exempted Village School District: Yvette Jester, Lisa Blosser

Greenwood School District

Greenwood Middle and High School introduced students to different cultures by featuring a meal from a different country every other month. In December, the students of Greenwood Middle School enjoyed a sample of Japanese Tonkatsu, Vegetable Rice, and Cucumber Sunomono. The samples allow students to test out the new meal before purchasing their lunch. Everyone loved the free samples and because the dish was so delicious, lunch was sold out!



Submitted by Onalee Neff

Pennsbury School District

As part of the Take Nutrition Global program, High School cafeterias traveled to the country of Japan to learn about their unique cuisine. Students were served a traditional Tonkatsu which is a type of breaded pork chop with a Japanese special sauce. Tonkatsu was paired with a traditional cucumber sunomono (cucumber ginger salad).



Submitted by Chelsea Dolge

East Guernsey School District Rubber Ducky Day

Buckeye Trail Elementary students and staff celebrated National Rubber Ducky Day this year! Cafeteria staff and students dressed in yellow to celebrate this national holiday. The students also embraced the vibrant yellow food choices that were offered that day such as macaroni and cheese, steamed corn, and fruit choices of bananas, pineapples, and peaches!



Submitted by Courtney Babcock



Canon-McMillan School District Pancake Breakfast

There's nothing like comfort food during cold winter months! In January, Canon-McMillan Middle School offered Homemade Blueberry Pancakes hot off the griddle for breakfast. What a treat! The students walked away with full bellies from a hearty homestyle meal.

Submitted by
Rose Pennavaria



Washington School District Pancake Day

There were a lot of smiling faces at Washington Park School when whole wheat pancakes were introduced for lunch. The pancakes were topped with strawberries and whipped cream topping for a special touch and were a big hit with the kids.

Submitted by Mark Mason



South Range School District Waffle Bar

The students in this school district love their waffles, to put it mildly, so why not give our valued patrons what they want! Every other Wednesday, Kelly Fullum, Food Service Director, makes homemade waffles for all the students. This day has been dubbed "Waffle Bar Wednesday"! The event has not only become a huge success with students, but now even staff and parents look forward to visiting the schools to have a warm waffle with the students! The added bonus to this event is each student gets to decorate their waffle the way they like it. We offer strawberries, blueberries, chocolate chips, sprinkles, syrup and whipped topping. It doesn't look like this special event will be going away anytime soon!

Submitted by Kelly Fullum



Greene County Career Center Breakfast Waffle Station

Food Service Director Todd Lucas and Regional Manager Lisa Banner rolled up their sleeves and served waffles as fast as they could to waiting students. After receiving their hot waffle right from the iron, the students were able to top with three kinds of fruit, hot syrup and whipped topping. With homemade waffles for breakfast, you're guaranteed to have a good day!

Submitted by Todd Lucas



thank you!



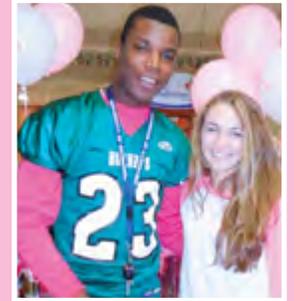
Wellsboro Area School District Cancer Pink Out

The Rock L. Butler and Wellsboro High school students and staff participated in a pink out day on October 24. The Food



Service department at the Rock L. Butler Middle school hosted a two week long penny drive, collecting over \$600.00 towards the American Cancer Society. Way to go, Wellsboro!

Submitted by Katrina Doud



Upper Dauphin Area School District Cafeteria Staff Recognition

This year the Upper Dauphin Class of 2015 dedicated their yearbook to the high school lunch ladies! This dedication truly reflects the effort and enthusiasm that these ladies put into their job every day. *Thank you so much for everything you do and please know how proud we are of all of you!* Pictured are (from the left): Pearl Johnson, Lorie Schwalm, Wendy Henniger, and Hazel Barry.

Submitted by Jamie Shiko

Chinese New Year



Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy

The students celebrated Chinese New Year with a party to rival any celebration around the world! The menu featured sweet 'n sour chicken, fortune cookies and a red envelope filled with a special treat! A big thank you to Principal Mark Grgurish for joining us for our special day!



Submitted by Linda Neely Yurasits



Howland Local Schools

The Nutrition Group helped the students of Howland Middle school ring in the new (Chinese) year with a festive celebration! Paper lanterns, signs and banners decorated the middle school serving lines, and the students were excited to receive their teriyaki chicken and rice in Chinese takeout containers. No Chinese meal is complete without a fortune cookie for dessert, which the students were delighted to receive! The students had a great time reading their fortunes to each other and celebrating this festive holiday.

Submitted by Cathi Cassudakis



Greensburg Salem School District **Fire & Ice**

Food Service Director Denise Grandinetti transformed the cafeteria serving lines into something really special for middle school students: "Fire and Ice"! The red "fire" serving line was decorated with imitation candles and featured spicy chicken sandwiches with their choice of Sriracha sauce or spicy ranch dressing. The blue "ice" serving line featured blue twinkle lights and mason jars filled with dry ice. Students enjoyed chilled sandwiches with fresh toppings in this line. Several students told the staff members how much they enjoyed the fun and unique look of the cafeteria!

Submitted by Denise Grandinetti



Philadelphia Charter School for Arts and Sciences **Chef Competition**

The inaugural USDA "Chef in You" Student Cooking Competition took place for students in grades 5-8. "Chef in You" gives students the opportunity to create their own recipes in a fun cooking competition involving local chefs. They were challenged in the areas of Plate Presentation, Nutritional Balance, Creativity, Cooperation, and Most Spirited. Each team had a Nutrition Group Chef to help answer questions and guide them along the way, but the students were definitely in control.

The entries were:

- The 2015 Chefs (5th grade) with Sweet & Savory Chicken Fajitas.
- The Four Elements (6th grade) with Chicken Parmigiana Francaise.
- Starred Superiors (7th grade) with a Pepperjack Burger.
- Dream Team (8th grade) with Famous Pastelillo's.



The winner of the 2015 Arts & Sciences USDA 'Chef in You' Student Cooking Competition was 2015 Chef's (5th grade) with Sweet & Savory Chicken Fajitas! The entire school had the

opportunity to vote for their favorites and the teachers judged the Plate Presentations. We can't wait to see what the students are cooking up for next year!

Submitted by Mia Bird



Central Greene School District **Recipe Contest**

In an effort to chase away the winter blues a recipe contest was held at Margaret Bell Middle during January. Students submitted their recipes and waited anxiously to hear who would be chosen as the winner. The winning recipe, Taco Stuffed Shells, was submitted by David Hayes! It was featured on the menu a few weeks later. Another student, Sara Calvert, submitted the "Lean & Green Smoothie" recipe, and was invited to assist Corporate Chef Lisa Dalle Tezze as she prepared her second place recipe during lunch the same day!

Submitted by Ada Goroncy





Penn Cambria School District

Hot Cocoa Day

When the weather outside is frightful, have a cup of delightful! To improve everyone's mood during the cold winter, Penn Cambria Middle School celebrated National Hot Cocoa Day!



The Nutrition Group and the cafeteria staff served complimentary hot cocoa with the purchase of a lunch. The faculty and students had their choices of chocolate chips, marshmallows, whip cream, and peppermints to top their hot chocolate!



Submitted by Christen Angellotto



Penn Hills School District

Polar Express

Before the holiday break, students at Penn Hills Elementary enjoyed a pajama day and watched The Polar Express. The members of the PTA helped deliver hot cocoa to all the students during lunch. The hot cocoa was brought around on carts that were made into trains, to the delight of many students! The lucky tray winners for the day received a ticket to "believe" and stopped at our North Pole train station to collect a bell, in keeping with the theme of the movie.



Submitted by Kylene McLean



Benton Area School District

Breakfast with Santa

The Nutrition Group hosted Breakfast with Santa at the Benton Elementary School in December. The students couldn't wait to see Santa and talk to him about their holiday plans! Santa even handed out some holiday gifts to get everyone into the holiday spirit! A special thanks to Emerson Noss and Brianna Samsel (Benton High School Seniors) for playing the parts of Santa and the Tiger, the Benton School District mascot.



Submitted by Angela Doty

PENNCREST School District

Frosty the Snowman

Haven't we all wanted to throw snowballs inside at school? The students at Maplewood High School got their chance! Three students at a time competed against each other to see who could throw the most "snowballs" (mini marshmallows) through a holiday wreath and into a bucket. Winners received a "snowball" powdered sugar donut hole. This event ran in conjunction with the annual holiday dinner menu in the cafeteria. Frosty the Snowman even made a guest appearance to cheer on the players and spread good tidings to all!

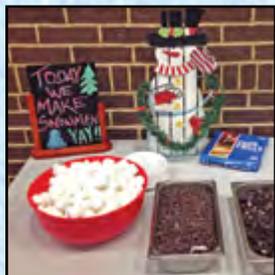
Submitted by Michele Bowman and Marla Perseo



Pace School **Snowman**

Students at Pace participated in "Make a Snowman Day", and proved that you really can make a snowman out of anything! Marshmallows and other fun foods were provided for students to flex their creative muscles and create the best snowman they could imagine. The Nutrition Group would like to thank Business Manager Jim Mele for his support during this event!

Submitted by Dawn Pearson



Crawford Central School District **Giving Back**

Directors Mike Tomko and Rebecca Gregg were able to spread a bit of holiday cheer! In a joint effort with other Food Service Directors in their region, they were given the task of creating a holiday wreath to donate to a local charity. The team agreed that the wreath should be something that would keep giving after the holidays, so they decided to make a money wreath! The wreath was totally covered in money, \$215.00 to be exact! The Nutrition Group is a company that strives to give back to the community, and they gave an initial donation of \$100.00. Additional donations were collected from Food Service Directors, Regional Managers, and cafeteria staff. The Greenhouse of Crawford County, run by Women's Services, was the recipient of this one of a kind donation. Thank you to all who donated!

Submitted by Rebecca Gregg

Titusville Area School District **Elf on the Shelf**

Was the Titusville holiday elf naughty or nice during the month of December? This very question was posed to the Pleasantville Elementary 4th and 5th graders. The students were given a paper to keep track of the elf's behavior during lunchtime. They documented how well the Elf acted during lunchtime, and couldn't contain their laughter

when he got himself into a little bit of mischief. Prizes were handed out to 5 delighted winners, and the Christmas spirit was definitely in the air!

Submitted by Brandi Culver



Cardinal Local School District **Christmas**

The staff at Jordak Elementary School put a "Holiday Spin" on Lucky Tray Day in December. Prizes were wrapped in colorful Christmas paper and placed under a Christmas tree in the cafeteria. The winners had so much fun trying to decide which present to pick as their prize!

Submitted by Deb Tyler





Greensburg Salem School District Food Show

The school was buzzing when The Nutrition Group hosted a Food Show for high school students, faculty and staff. Many Nutrition Group employees and corporate administrators were on hand to showcase the many new and exciting products that we hope to introduce into the school breakfast and lunch program over the next several months. Participation was fantastic and



feedback from students and adults was overwhelmingly supportive. Mrs. Jorgensen, Honors Accounting teacher, asked her whole class to write The Nutrition Group thank you cards, which were very much appreciated! She personally wanted to thank the food show team for making the students in her class excited for the rest of the day. Thanks again to Lisa Della Tezze, Corporate Purchasing Director and Chef, the vendors and Greensburg Salem for providing some extra fun at lunch!

Submitted by Denise Grandinetti



Millville Area School District Pretzel Day



In keeping with the theme of the day, Millville Elementary School held a Halloween Soft Pretzel Day on October 31. Students who purchased a meal that day were given a free pumpkin shaped pretzel to enjoy with their lunch. The students enjoyed the special treat and it also gave the kitchen staff a chance to serve something new and fun while in costume!

Submitted by Angela Doty



Apollo-Ridge School District Homecoming

Apollo-Ridge High School held its annual Homecoming Cookout. Students enjoyed some fresh air with friends and teachers,

and were served traditional tailgate food. The Nutrition Group looks forward to hosting another cookout in the spring! Go Vikings!

Submitted by Sarah Backus





Wilkes-Barre Area School District **Fuel Up To Play**



The Heights Murray Elementary students received a special visit from former New York Giants punter, Sean Landeta through the *Fuel Up To Play 60* program. *Fuel Up To Play 60* promotes dairy consumption, physical activity and breakfast in the classroom. Mr. Landeta ate breakfast in the classroom with a 6th grade class and spoke

about his experience with the NFL and the importance for physical activity and practice. After Breakfast, all 6th grade Heights Murray students attended a *Fuel Up To Play 60* assembly. The assembly included presentations by local dairy farmers, a fun activity on how to use the *Fuel Up To Play 60* website to record healthy eating and physical activity, and a raffle for NFL and "Fuel Up" prizes!

Submitted by Mallory Rosenberg

Sharpshville Area School District **Friday Night at the Pines**

Sharpshville Area Elementary School students had a big surprise waiting for them during lunch one day! Members of all fall sports from the high school held an autograph signing in the cafeteria! Each Elementary School student was provided with an "Autograph Sheet" in advance to personalize and bring along to lunch to collect their autographs. Everyone had a great time visiting with their own local sports stars.

Submitted by Tamara Barr



Northwestern School District **Creative Catering**

The Nutrition Group was proud to have the opportunity to cater some special events throughout the district in November. Cafeteria staff catered a breakfast

for students and parents attending the "Cool School" live broadcasting event at Springfield Elementary. The students and parents enjoyed a variety of pastries, fresh fruits, yogurt bar and beverages. Northwestern Elementary enjoyed a great day later in the month when they held the second grade "Grandparents' Breakfast". The students and guests were treated to fresh baked cinnamon rolls, sausage, home fries, fresh fruit and beverages. What a busy month!

Submitted by Heather Brady





Leetonia Exempted Village School District The Lego Movie

In celebration of Taco Tuesday, Lord Business from *The Lego Movie* made a surprise appearance at Leetonia Exempted Village School District. Food Service Director Andy Pettitt had a great time talking to the children and answering their questions as Lord Business. There was even a contest for the students and 5 lucky winners were given a small Lego set as a prize for pulling the right ticket. *The Lego Movie* was also shown during the lunch period and everyone was amazed that a cafeteria full of hungry elementary school students could be that quiet!

Submitted by Yvette Jester



Forest Area School District Appreciation Dinner

FCCLA and Family and Consumer Science students teamed up with The Nutrition Group's Regional Chef Scott Hudak to prepare and serve an appreciation dinner to the school board. Also assisting Chef Scott were Dan Pinchock, Senior Food Service Director and Holly Smith, Food Service Director. The students spent the afternoon prepping food for the dinner. They were excited to get the opportunity to work with Chef Scott and learned a lot from him. The dinner was a huge success and the students and staff received many compliments from the school board members and superintendent! Thank you to all the students who helped prepare the dinner and also to the school board members for your services to the School District!



Submitted by Holly Smith



Monroe Intermediate School District Mardi Gras Celebration

At the Monroe County Intermediate School District the students celebrated Mardi Gras! The line was decorated with purples, golds, and greens and some of the students even dressed for the occasion! The staff

had beads and hats on to celebrate as well. The students were excited to see the festive decorations and the smiling faces of the staff.

Submitted by Alexis Arndt

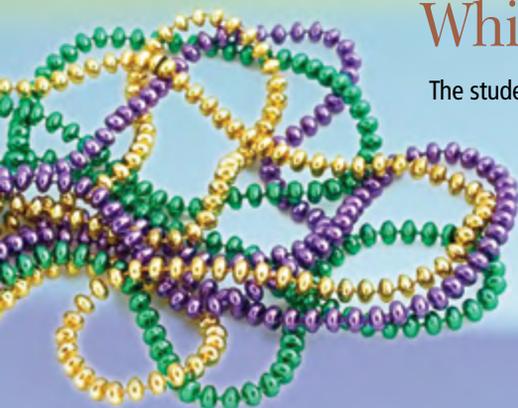


Whiteford Agricultural Schools **Mardi Gras**

The students at Whiteford High School experienced the festive colors of Mardi Gras in February!

Students who participated in lunch were given Mardi Gras beads to wear, and the cafeteria staff took part in the festivities by wearing hats and beads as well! The serving line decorations looked like downtown Bourbon Street, straight out of New Orleans!

Submitted by Alexis Arndt





North Clarion County School District

Mitten Tree

Throughout the month of December the elementary cafeteria collected mittens to be donated locally! The students were asked to bring in a pair of mittens to decorate the cafeteria Christmas tree. At the end of the month the mittens were collected and donated to the nurse's office and local church organizations. Thank you to all the staff and students who participated!

Submitted by Holly Smith

Philadelphia Charter School for Arts and Science **Molly the Cow**



Molly, our beloved Nutrition Group mascot, had no idea that when she came to The Philadelphia Charter for the Arts & Sciences she was actually going to "Mollywood". There were lights, cameras and a lot of interaction with Molly and the students. Everyone was "moo-ved" by the picture booth that was set up for them! There was information about the benefits of milk and examples of milk products that are offered every day in the cafeteria. The event was topped off with non-fat strawberry and chocolate milk pops for students to enjoy!

Submitted by Mia Bird



New Kensington-Arnold School District **Honors Band**

The Valley Junior-Senior High School hosted the Allegheny-Kiski Honors band this year! Students from Valley, Deer Lakes, Freeport, Highlands, Kiski, Leechburg, Penn Hills and Plum School Districts were chosen to participate in this two day honors band event and then performed in a concert on Friday evening. The Nutrition Group catered a breakfast omelet station for the directors both days. The students also enjoyed catered lunches both days, culminating in a ham carving station and banquet station. The students and Mr. Smith, the band director at Valley High, received many compliments and thanks for hosting the event!

Submitted by Kelly Valmassoni



Nutrition Education



Freeport Area School District

Calvin the Calf

South Buffalo Elementary School received a visit from Calvin the Calf this winter! The students learned the importance of eating fruits and vegetables each day, how to build a healthy tray, played a trivia game that tested their food knowledge and

enjoyed a healthy snack of fresh fruits and vegetables. Students spent the day guessing who dressed as Calvin. While we're not telling, we would like to send a sincere thank you to a special principal...

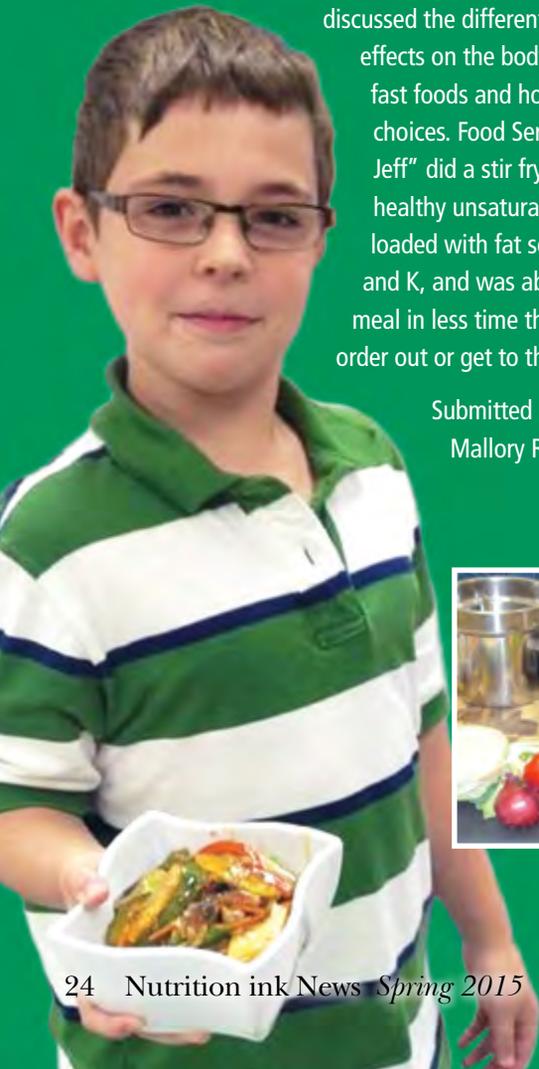
Submitted by Kelly Patterson

Wilkes-Barre Area School District

The Nutrition Group presented a special lesson plan for the Home Economics Classes at Solomon Jr. High. For this lesson, Food Service

Director and Nutritionist Mallory Rosenberg discussed the different types of fats and their effects on the body, as well as fats in fast foods and how to make better food choices. Food Service Director "Chef Jeff" did a stir fry demonstration using healthy unsaturated fats, vegetables loaded with fat soluble vitamins A,D,E and K, and was able to make a delicious meal in less time than it would take to order out or get to the nearest drive-thru!

Submitted by
Mallory Rosenberg



Iroquois School District

Portion Distortion

Students at Iroquois High School were given the opportunity to participate in "Portion Distortion" during lunch time service! The Nutrition Group set up a table with different portion sizes of Honeynut Cheerios, Grape Juice, and Ranch Dressing. Each item had a card with an amount of calories, fat, and sugar. The students had to guess which portion size equaled the nutritional analysis. Students were shocked at how little the serving size was for the items, especially ranch dressing! Several students participated with about one fourth of them guessing the correct answers. Thanks for playing Portion Distortion with us, everyone!



Submitted by Denise Pyle

Carbondale Area School District

New Choices

The cafeteria in the Junior/Senior High School kicked off the second half of the school year with new options on the serving line! The ala carte line now includes celery or apple cups with peanut butter, whole-grain trail mix cups, and yogurt parfaits. Several new lunch options include a make-your-own peanut butter and jelly sandwich kit, a bagel and yogurt pairing, honey lemon chicken, and much more! Students not only have the chance to try the nutritious options, but also learn about why the healthy options are offered. During February's American Heart Month, high school students were taught to identify the seven simple ways to a healthy lifestyle by their Food Service Director and Registered Dietitian, Emily Richters. Students played a family-feud heart health trivia game for a chance to win a prize.



Submitted by Emily Richters

Meyersdale Area School District

Scarecrow Contest

A beautiful fall display was set up in the cafeteria when The Nutrition Group sponsored the first annual Scarecrow Contest for middle school students. Students created "Red Raider" themed scarecrows, as well as a military scarecrow. The cafeteria staff judged the scarecrows and chose a winner. Mrs. Rebecca Hetz's 8th grade homeroom won the contest with their entry of a life-size scarecrow depicting the Red Raider mascot! They used various natural items, including a pumpkin for the head and hands made from rubber gloves filled with popcorn. The winning students in Mrs. Hetz's homeroom will receive an ice cream treat to celebrate their victory! The festive fall display, created by both the cafeteria staff and students, remained in the cafeteria through Thanksgiving for all to enjoy.

Submitted by Rachel Hanning



Canon-McMillan School District

Pittsburgh Marathon

The students at Hills Hendersonville Elementary School trained to run "The Pittsburgh Kids of Steel Marathon". On their "Training Days" Principal Shelly Brose arranged for the students to try something new and healthy! The Food Service Director made allergen free hummus using sun butter and educated the students on the benefits of garbanzo beans. The students got to taste this yummy treat before their workout. The importance of choosing healthy snacks and the benefits of making healthy choices for meals was also discussed with the students.

Submitted by Rose Pennavaria

Clarion-Limestone Area School District

Pizza Toss

There's only one way to get students even MORE excited about pizza and that's with a Pizza Toss! The Nutrition Group was pleased to team up with KB Pizza Company, who visited a school in the district to demonstrate the proper way to toss a pizza shell! Students were amazed as Chef Pete tossed the pizza dough higher and higher, and were delighted at the opportunity to try it themselves.

Submitted by Vicki Quinter





Montour School District Zoo Program

Students at Burkett Elementary School attended a wonderful presentation focused on the living habitats and healthy eating habits of four residents of the Pittsburgh Zoo! The presentation teaches students that they need to eat healthy in order to remain strong like the animals. That day the lunch menu and cafeteria was jungle themed and zoo prizes were given away. Talk about a wild day!

Submitted by Kevin Leninsky



National School Lunch Week

Get in the Game

Centerburg Local School District

Centerburg Elementary celebrated National School Lunch week in October by having students participate in a coloring contest, Wear Your Favorite Sport Shirt Day, ticket drawings, and prizes! Ohio Wesleyan University Soccer team was invited to serve and eat lunch with students. The ladies even stopped by classrooms to talk about a healthy diet and the importance of exercise. What a great way to celebrate National School Lunch Week!

Submitted by Autumn Pauley



Minersville Area School District

To celebrate National School Lunch Week's theme of "Get in the Game", high school football players from the Junior and Senior High visited the Elementary Center. Dressed in uniform, the players served lunch and walked around the cafeteria, helping to open milk cartons and giving out high-fives. The elementary students loved seeing their hometown high school football heroes!

Submitted by Bimini Turner





Panther Valley School District Weatherly School District Slush Puppie

The big news at Panther Valley and Weatherly cafeterias this year has been the arrival of the Slush Puppie machines! Students have been enjoying Slush Puppies made from 100% fruit juice and as you can see, the staff is pretty excited about the new machines as well!

Submitted by Francine Holley



Indian Creek School District Training with Chef Lisa

Lisa DalleTezze,
from The Nutrition

Group's Purchasing Department, visited Indian Creek School District for a training session with the head cooks. The training session was based on how to use the new self-rising dough from KB Pizza to make pin wheels and pizza. After baking the new items, the teachers were treated to the tasty creations. This created a buzz around Wintersville Elementary, especially in the office! Lisa also gave a tour of the kitchen to the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) while she was visiting. The members of the YAC were delighted to taste the samples and gave two thumbs-up to everything they tried. A big thanks to Lisa and the cooks for their help on this very busy day!

Submitted by Doug Gosney



Brockway School District Teddy Bear Picnic

Elementary school students were treated to a Teddy Bear Picnic this year! The children enjoyed a picnic lunch consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, corn on the cob and fruit. Everyone that received a lunch that day was entered into a drawing to win a beanie bear and tickets to see *Paddington*, a kid's movie about a lovable bear.

Submitted by
Dan Pinchcock





Philadelphia Charter School for Arts and Sciences **Owl Program**

In collaboration with The Nutrition Group, The John James Audubon Center and Temple University, PCSAS hosted their first Owl Program! Carrie from the Audubon Center educated the students on owl life and conservation and the students were amazed and eager to participate.

Hooter (the Temple Owl Mascot) brought extra excitement and energy with giveaways of t-shirts and posters from Temple. Hooter visited the administrative offices, cafeteria and classrooms, high-fiving, having fun and taking selfies all the way. Who knew owls were so cool!? Thank you to our principal and Temple alumni Mr. Rocco for welcoming events like this to the school!

Submitted by Mia Bird

Laurel School District **Kiss a Cow Fundraiser**

The Laurel High School cafeteria staff joined other staff members of the Laurel School District to raise funds for Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh by volunteering to “Kiss a Cow”. The Nutrition Group’s team gathered donations from students and staff members in order for their team to win the honor of kissing “Ericka the Cow” supplied by high school student Wyatt Dean. Food Service Director Carrie Bonyak graciously kissed the cow since the cafeteria met their personal fund raising goal. Way to go team!

Submitted by Carrie Bonyak



Apollo-Ridge School District **Halloween**

Apollo-Ridge Elementary School students got a big surprise when they came through the serving lines on Halloween! Elementary Staff served spider webs to the students in keeping with the spirit of the holiday. There’s no cause for concern however, as these “spider webs” were actually funnel cakes served with a spider ring! Students loved having a small token to take home with them. Staff also dressed in costume to serve, much to the delight of everyone in the cafeteria!

Submitted by Sarah Backus



Central Valley School District **Halloween Treats**

Central Valley students received more treats than tricks this Halloween! Food Service staff decorated pudding cups with funny faces, and “PRESTO!” the Franken-Pudding was ready to serve. Students loved picking their favorite Franken-Pudding face, and were in awe of the amazing pumpkin that was carved by one of our very talented food service employees!

Submitted by Debbie Fontana





New Kensington-Arnold School District **Hungry Caterpillar**

In the month of February, Martin Elementary School held an extra special event celebrating the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Michelle Marker, Director of Programs for The Nutrition Group, came to Martin to present a nutrition lesson with Mrs. Beebe's class

about making healthy choices when eating lunch. The students were all given cream cheese, pretzel sticks, olives and celery to make their own caterpillar. The students then had a themed lunch with lots of decorations and Lucky Tray giveaways. The Very Hungry Caterpillar even "visited" the students and left them all some of his favorite foods to try...but he made sure to sample them first!

Submitted by Kelly Valmassoni



Warren School District **New School**

At the end of January, the district opened their newly combined Sheffield Elementary and Sheffield Middle High schools. The students of the former Allegheny Valley Elementary school are now a part of the K-12 Sheffield

location. In an effort to make everyone feel as welcome as possible, The Nutrition Group came prepared each morning with Welcome signs, hugs and handshakes. Free breakfast was also provided for everyone in grades K-5. It was truly a grand re-opening for the start of the second semester!

Submitted by Cheryl Brown



Apollo-Ridge School District **Boy Scout Day**

Boy Scout Day celebrates the birthday of Scouting in America. Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts offer a tremendously valuable program of life skills and values for millions of boys. The Nutrition Group encourages recognition of our students who are involved in Scouting on these special days! In acknowledgment of National Boy Scout Day, Apollo-Ridge Elementary School honored their Boy Scouts with a free cookie! Way to go, boys!

Submitted by Sarah Backus

East Palestine School District

December's YAC meeting at East Palestine High School proved to be a very informative meeting! The students, who are always willing to give their opinions, were full of insight at the meeting before Christmas break. They expressed their love of "all things panini" and their desire to see them on the menu as often as possible. They also enjoyed seeing some of their old favorites come back as part of the Retro Ala carte movement happening this year. You never know what the kids are really enjoying until you take the time to ask!

Submitted by Cherie Fleischman



To: Lunch Staff
February 11, 2015

I just want to say thank you for everything you do for our school. Everyday the lunch staff prepares to serve to us and be so kind and respectable while doing it. Thanks again for working so hard to make our food taste good and for working over a hot oven or stove. Really appreciate it.

Khadyah Robinson

Charter High School for Architecture and Design **Thank You Letter**

The Nutrition Group makes every effort to get as much feedback from students as possible, and CHAD Charter School is one great example! The cafeteria staff sought out some students who didn't mind putting their comments in writing.

Students that participated were surprised with a snack and beverage of their choice as a thank you. We were happy to get the feedback and even more elated when one of the students wrote a letter to the kitchen staff!

Submitted by Ann Lindsey



Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School **Wings and Things**

With the approach of Superbowl Sunday, The Nutrition Group worked with school principals and faculty to coordinate the annual "Wings & Things" event! Students were able to dress down and wear general sports jerseys, and/or jerseys to show off their favorite Super Bowl team. The Nutrition Group created a Super Bowl lunch menu utilizing student body input and feedback from staff, faculty, and administrators. The menu consisted of three different hot entrees to choose from: boneless buffalo chicken bites, zesty beef nachos with hot cheese sauce, or an Angus beef cheeseburger. Baked French fries, a variety of fresh fruit, vegetables, milk, cold sandwiches and salads, and ala cart snack options were also available. What a fun Superbowl Party!

Submitted by Shawn Perry



Williamsport Area School District New Equipment

Out with the old and in with the new! The United States Department of Agriculture, as part of the Fiscal Year 2014 Agriculture Appropriations Act, designated \$25 million to State agencies to competitively award equipment assistance grants to eligible School Food Authorities participating in the School Nutrition Program. The Nutrition Group assisted with the overwhelming grant process, and the Williamsport Area School District was granted \$174,000 to replace 5 dishwashers and 1 steamer throughout the district!

Submitted by Patty Webster



McKeesport Area School District New School Open House

It was The Nutrition Group's privilege to prepare refreshments for the new elementary school in McKeesport School District, which includes grades K-5. This was a wonderful evening attended by many alumni, board members, and the community. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony and tours of the building that included the

classrooms and of course, the cafeteria! Guests were also treated to samples from our Wellness Wednesday program, and we heard many rave reviews!

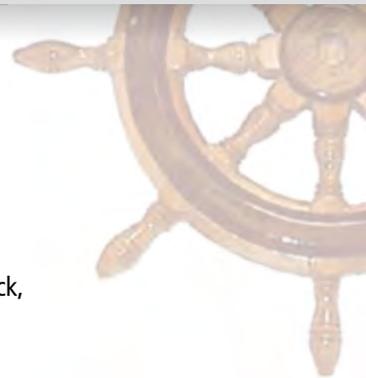
Submitted by Tammi Davis



Welcome Aboard...

To our newest members of The Nutrition Group and the FMS team:

Fawn Boggs, Erin Brandi, Taylor Danko, Andrea Gamber, Becky Genetin, Mallory Hamilton, Seth Hartman, Nicole Holt, Maria Kreider, Stephen Marcin, Alexis Marquette, Timothy Martino, Gregory McKee, Johanna Nichols, Cory O'Brien, Travis Peterman, Jessica Rocco, Megan Roemer, Brandon Segon, Randy Stimmell, Angelette Warren, Elizabeth Whitnack, Marie Wilson, Amanda Wychunas, Jennifer Zeigler



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Nutrition in the Community

Beaver County Polar Plunge

The third annual Beaver County Polar Plunge was held this winter to benefit Special Olympics in Bridgewater. What a wonderful example of the teamwork exemplified by The Nutrition Group's staff members! Aliquippa Food Service Director Louanne Schmitt decided to serve chicken noodle soup to the brave plungers and asked for volunteers to help with the event.

The two chefs at Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit, Sherry and Tracey, made the soup from scratch the morning of the event and filled the containers. Regional Manager Kim Cassidy and her husband helped Louanne pack up all the supplies and soup then headed to the waterfront. With the help of an amazing team of volunteers, we were able to serve over 480 Polar Plungers with

much need chicken noodle soup and hot chocolate! Special thanks to our volunteers for making this idea a reality: New Brighton Food Service Director Becky Jaros, Aliquippa Food Service Director Louanne Schmitt, Central Valley Food Service Director Debbie Fontana, Central Greene Food Service Director Ada Goroncy, Hopewell Food Service Director Tonya Conrad, Rochester Food Service Director Robin Siget, and Regional Managers Kim Cassidy and Janet Connors.

Submitted by Kim Cassidy

