

Newsletter

Summer 2019

It may still be cool and breezy outside, but that hasn't stopped summer from sneaking up on us. The end of the school year is just around the corner, bringing another great year of Student Nutrition Programs (SNPs) to a close. This year it's been wonderful to see SNPs expand their menus, get students involved, and get creative. Thank you to everyone who has participated in, and contributed to, SNPs this year. Wishing you all a restful summer, and we'll see you all again in September!

Program Spotlight: Fairbank Memorial Community School

Happy and warm is the best way to describe what breakfast feels like at Fairbank Memorial Community School. Each day, Kathleen Ip whips up a hot breakfast for the students who have come to know her as a core member of the school community, which isn't surprising given that she has been volunteering with the Student Nutrition Program for over 25 years! Mrs. Ip has seen multiple generations of students come through the school, and she's been cooking up healthy food for all of them. Longstanding volunteers seem to be a trend at Fairbank, as Leticia Montano has also been volunteering at the program for multiple years. She started doing so when her children attended the school and has kept going years after they've graduated.

The commitment of long term volunteers has created a program that is a true staple in the school community. It starts with the hot breakfast, served before school. Kathleen and Leticia know all the students by name, encourage them all to try new foods they've never tried before, and to get some studying in while they're there. More recently, Kathleen has started up a Morning Meal program as well, with food going to each classroom once school has started, making healthy food available to all students in the school.

Principal Susan Wawrow has seen the great impact the SNP has had on students. It serves as a reliable source of food that students can count on, really encourages them to try different foods, and gives them the energy they need to learn. Plus, it has become an integral part of the school community, with staff, students and parents all working together with the shared goal of bringing healthy food to students each day. Fairbank's SNP serves as a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when a school community comes together.



New Initiative: Bulk Purchasing Program

This year the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) was excited to pilot a new initiative, the Bulk Purchasing Program, in 67 schools. Through this program, staple SNP foods are purchased in bulk and then delivered directly to participating SNPs. TFSS has been so pleased to see how the program has helped participating SNPs stretch their budgets (save money), and expand their menus to offer new foods that they wouldn't have been able to offer otherwise. Baby cucumbers and grape tomatoes have been a great hit! A big thank you to our donors who made this program possible: Breakfast Club of Canada, The Grocery Foundation, President's Choice Children's Charity, and Mazon Canada.



Samuel Hearne Middle School: Composting and SNPs

One of the strengths of Student Nutrition Programs is how they can be used as a platform for other programs and learning opportunities. At Samuel Hearne Middle School, they've embraced this, and have rolled their SNP into their EcoSchools Program, with great results!

At the school, the Grade 5 Composting Team works to compost organic waste produced by the SNP. With this, each individual classroom, along with common areas (such as the Library, the Office and the Staff Room) has been provided with a compost receptacle. Each day, the Grade 5 Composting Team empties these bins into double layered organic waste bags, which are taken for composting.

This program has been a great hands-on learning opportunity for the students, demonstrating the need to properly dispose of organic waste, and to divert it away from the garbage. It helps keep the classrooms clean and tidy, and it gives the Grade 5 students, the youngest students in the school, an opportunity to be actively involved and contribute to the school's EcoSchool and SNP goals. It also offers an opportunity to learn about environmentally sustainable practices, which is a part of the Grade 5 Ontario Curriculum.



Updates from your FoodShare Animators!

We've almost arrived at the end of another great year in student nutrition. Thank you!!

We, your friendly team of FoodShare Animators, would like to take some time to introduce ourselves. Who are we? What do we do?

Together, our team of 12 led by our manager, Fiona, support 617 sites with 817 Student Nutrition Programs (SNPs) across our city.

Angie supports 70 sites in Wards 1 and 7.

Ayesha provides support to 55 sites in

Wards 25 and 21. In Wards 5 and 9, Iris supports 67 sites. Nadira works with Wards 16 and also shares Ward 12 with Noellie, who additionally supports the 63 sites with programs in Wards 17, 22 and 23. Cecilia, the newest member of our team, supports 61 sites in Wards 2, 3 and 4. Wards 10, 14 and 19 are Sherry's with 64 sites. Tashiana supports 70 sites in Wards 20 and 24 and the remaining 38 sites within the French Catholic (CSCMA), French Public (CSV), some TCDSB schools and Independent Schools are supported by Ulla.

Our team provides one-on-one training to co-ordinators and volunteers on the day to day running of SNPs. Our time is spent visiting programs daily to support co-ordinators and volunteers in many areas, including food sourcing, budgeting, grant application support, menu planning, fundraising, volunteer recruitment and community awareness.

We facilitate a variety of workshops throughout the school year that offer tools to further encourage and support successful and sustainable SNPs. This year to date, we have offered 15 workshops, attended by 126 participants from 89 sites. It has been quite a year and we're not done yet. We also led 12 Community Connect networking sessions attended by 107 participants from 70 sites and 8

more are currently ongoing. What a year!

Have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you in the Fall.



Thank you!



We'd like to send a big thank you to everyone who has dedicated their time and energy toward supporting Student Nutrition Programs this year. Every piece of fruit washed, veggie chopped, and bin packed has real impact on students and school communities. We wish you all a wonderful and restful summer.



Closing Your Program for the Summer

FOOD

Plan out your remaining meals and shopping to avoid having leftover food when your program closes.

Freezing Food for the Summer

As SNPs are wrapping up for the year, some programs have food left over and want to freeze the food for use in September. Toronto Public Health does not recommend that programs freeze food over the summer because food quality may be affected by power outages or tampering.

Food that is stored needs to be regularly checked by someone. However, if you are thinking of storing food in the freezer, here is some important information from Toronto Public Health:

1. [Safe food storage tips](#) (link)
2. [Information on power failure and food safety](#) (link)

If you have any questions, contact Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600.

EQUIPMENT

Give all work surfaces, appliances, and kitchenware a thorough cleaning before placing them in storage for the summer. Have some questions on how to clean kitchen appliances? Click below to check out the SNO-Toronto eLearning tutorial for extra tips:

[How to Clean Kitchen Equipment](#) (link)

FINANCES

Make sure you are up to date with your monthly financial reports, and, if you were given any types of coupons or vouchers throughout the year, use up any you have left.

PEOPLE

Remember to give a final thank you to all volunteers, staff and parents that have contributed to your Student Nutrition Program. Now is also a great time to have a final meeting to discuss next year's program, so when September "sneaks up again", you're ready to hit the ground running.



Want to learn more?

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