

While winter might not want to let us out of its grasp, believe it or not, spring is upon us. There's been so much happening in our schools and Student Nutrition Programs (SNPs). It has been a great year so far, and we're happy to see the new and exciting things *popping up* in SNPs across the city. Here's a peak at some of the happenings, some tips, and what to look out for in the months to come.

## IKEA Visits SNPs

It's always a pleasure when we help make local connections between SNPs and the individuals and organizations in their communities. Sometimes this happens on a small scale, with individuals reaching out to find out how they can get involved in their local school's SNP. Sometimes it happens on a larger scale, with major companies and partners looking to see how they can give back at the local level.

This year, staff from the two Toronto IKEA stores (a partnership through Breakfast Club of Canada) visited two local schools, to donate breakfast bags that they had prepared. And, staff from the North York IKEA not only visited Muirhead PS but also decided to volunteer once a week, helping out with the morning meal program. The Etobicoke IKEA sent their team to deliver bags to The Holy Trinity CS in their new



school. After the warm and friendly welcome they received from the staff and students, they are now also going to start volunteering regularly at the school. Thanks again to all the IKEA staff who volunteer their time, and thanks to the schools for being such welcoming hosts.



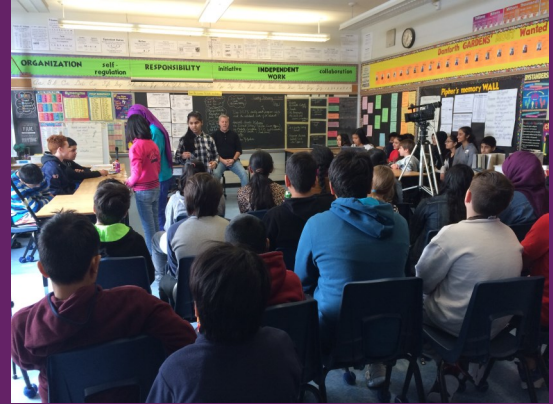
Interested in stretching your budget by getting fresh produce, from local grocery stores, at no cost?

If so, contact Cindy MacMillan  
Email: [cindy.macmillan@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:cindy.macmillan@tdsb.on.ca)  
Tel: 416-394-7253

## Danforth Gardens Public School Makes it a Debate!

The Grade 8 students at Danforth Gardens Public School brought some critical thinking to their Student Nutrition Program, and used it as a topic for their Health Class debate. In their students-only debate, students were divided into teams and asked to answer the question: "Does our school's daily snack program help to meet the nutritional needs of its students?". Both the "Pro" and the "Con" teams researched nutrition information, put their arguments together, and their knowledge to the test.

It was wonderful to see how the school's SNP inspired students to think critically, do research, form opinions and really stop and think about the impact their SNP has on them and their school community. This is a great example of how SNPs go beyond filling tummies, and can be used as a way to learn more about nutrition, social programs, and the school community. *Hats off* to the students at Danforth Gardens PS for the great work they did!



### Vendor Spotlight: OSNS

Ontario Student Nutrition Services (OSNS) is a full-service food distributor, serving Student Nutrition Programs (SNPs) across Ontario. In Toronto, OSNS has partnered with Mister Produce, a wholesale produce distributor, to offer a variety of food and supplies to SNPs. SNP Coordinators can place orders for food and supplies on the OSNS website, and Mister Produce will deliver directly to the school and invoice for the items.

#### Advantages:

- Food cost savings compared to traditional retail and wholesale distributors.
- Additional cost savings through bulk purchasing discounts and rebates.
- Purchasing guides focused on SNP items that meet nutrition standards, as determined by Toronto Public Health.
- Wide range of items covering all three food groups required for SNPs.
- Online ordering.
- Delivery directly to the school.
- Easy financial tracking and reporting with a credit account.

#### How to access:

Any Student Nutrition Program operating within Toronto is eligible to purchase from OSNS.

To learn more about this opportunity, contact:

Gerard Capellan | Food & Logistics Coordinator  
Toronto Foundation for Student Success  
t: 416.394.6887 | e: [gerard.capellan@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:gerard.capellan@tdsb.on.ca)



## Updates from your FoodShare Animators!

If you've attended a Volunteer Workshop facilitated by FoodShare's Animators you will, no doubt, recall the emphasis we place on the three "R"s in relation to Student Nutrition Program volunteers. For those who have yet to attend this workshop, or who need a refresher, we've found that three key actions help ensure strong and sustainable SNPs: Recruit, Retain, and Recognize.

Together, more than 3,000 dedicated individuals in approximately 620 sites throughout the city constitute a network of volunteers responsible for the success of over 800 student nutrition programs. April 15th-21st marked National Volunteer Week. Please remember to appreciate those who give their time, energy, and skills to help benefit the children and youth who participate in your program. If you haven't yet, it's never too late to show your appreciation.

A program's success can be a direct reflection of good volunteer support and often a thank you goes such a long way. Always remember to appreciate your volunteers every day, from the time they enter the room until the time they leave.

Watch out for an email inviting you to the annual **Volunteer Appreciation Events.**

Details to come shortly. We're looking forward to celebrating all the amazing work you do to support your Student Nutrition Programs



## Longo's Lends a Hand at Briarcrest Junior School

The fine folks from Longo's had a taco-filled morning while helping to prepare the Morning Meal at Briarcrest Public School, in support of the Toonies for Tummies campaign.

The volunteers rolled up their sleeves and made delicious veggie tacos for the whole school. It made for a delicious day.



Want to learn more?

[www.studentnutritionontariotoronto.ca](http://www.studentnutritionontariotoronto.ca) ~ 416-394-4491 ~ [info@studentnutritionontariotoronto.ca](mailto:info@studentnutritionontariotoronto.ca)