

Mush-On

Alaska School Nutrition Association Newsletter



The President's Report

Hello AKSNA Members,

It has been an exciting few months. Carlee Wells, AKSNA President-Elect, and I attended the SNA (School Nutrition Association) Leadership Conference in St. Louis, Missouri mid-April. SNA introduced their exciting new Strategic Plan for FY15. SNA should have it posted on their website in the near future. The Leadership Conference is an excellent time for AKSNA to Network with our Peers in other States. AKSNA Board is hoping to take two members next year to the future leader's conference which will be held April 2015 in San Diego, California. Any member who is looking at getting involved and would be interested in attending the Leadership Conference next April, please contact me and I can give you more details.

Upon returning from the Leadership Conference the AKSNA Board met for their second retreat this year. The retreat was held April 26, 2014 from 9-4. We developed our AKSNA Strategic Plan. Please look for it in our September Mush-On Newsletter. We also started planning our 2015 Annual Conference. We are looking at late February 2015 and will have those dates firmed up by September's Newsletter. Carlee Wells is the Conference Organizer and she would like to put together a Conference Planning Committee. If you would like to be on that Committee please email aknsa101@hotmail.com.

I am really excited and looking forward to attending the SNA National Conference that will be held in Boston mid-July.

I hope all of you have a great summer and look forward to a Great 2015 AKSNA.

Sandy Daws, AKSNA President

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AKSNA Board vacant position

Alvin Arboleda has served as AKSNA Treasurer for six years now. He has given the Board his resignation after this year. So AKSNA is looking for a new Treasurer which will take effect at the 2015 State Conference. This is an elected position so members will vote on it at the State Conference. Here are the responsibilities of the treasurer position:

TREASURER

- a. Supervises and monitors Association funds, investments, and securities.
- b. Submits a financial report at the State conference and each board meeting.
- c. Reports expenditures against budget.
- d. Performs other duties as assigned.

If you are interested in running for this office or would like more information please contact us at aksna101@hotmail.com.

~ A guide for Alaska's small schools ~

Pacific High School in Sitka would like your feedback on a school meals project:

There is a lot of buzz these days around improving school lunches, but if you're a small school in Alaska it probably seems distant, if not altogether absent. At Pacific High School in Sitka we're trying to bring that excitement closer and make change more accessible to our state.

We are creating an implementation manual that will guide small schools in Alaska in starting or improving their own lunch programs. As we move into the final stages of development we would like to solicit potential replication sites for feedback on manual content and implementation partnerships.

Our Healthy Lunch, Healthy Lives program is centered around a federally compliant lunch program where 1-4 students make nutritious lunches for the school from scratch on a daily basis. Our program is house run without the assistance of a contractor, and complemented by nutrition, gardening and culinary curriculum that cultivates students' connection to the food they eat every day. The implementation manual will cover everything from compliance and documentation to the basic culinary skills required to provide students with the best lunches possible. As we move towards publication, we want to make sure it includes everything YOU need to develop your own program.

You can find more information on our program here:

<http://bit.ly/PZDeYe>

If you are a small school that would like comment on draft materials or develop your own lunch program please contact co-principal Sarah Ferrency at [907-966-1375](tel:907-966-1375) or ferrencys@sitkaschools.org. Or contact VISTA volunteer Abby Long directly at longa@sitkaschools.org.



Meatless Monday Recipe Contest

The Humane Society of the United States is launching a Meatless Monday Recipe Contest to showcase school food service professionals' leadership and commitment to providing healthful, meat-free meals. School food service professionals are encouraged to enter one recipe for a plant-based (vegan) entrée by July 31, 2014. The recipe will be judged according to taste, ease of preparation and use in school cafeteria setting, and visual appeal. The contest winner will receive \$500.

As you may know, the [Meatless Monday](#) initiative is sweeping the nation and thousands of schools are serving more plant-based meals in an effort to provide healthier, more nutritious offerings. For complete rules and contest submission information, visit <http://bit.ly/meatlessrecipecontest>.

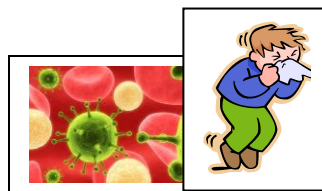


Allergy Corner

Allergies are diseases of the immune system that cause an overreaction to substances called "allergens." Allergies are grouped by the kind of trigger, time of year or where symptoms appear on the body.

Here are some quick links for allergy information.

- <http://www.foodallergy.org/>
- <http://www.aafa.org/>
- <https://www.aafaalaska.com/>



Dates to Remember:

May 2, 2014 –
School Lunch Hero Day

May 5-9, 2014 –
School Nutrition Employee
Week

May 11-17, 2014 –
Food Allergy Awareness Week

May 21-22, 2014 –
Industry Boot Camp
National Harbor, MD

June 21-22, 2014 –
FARE National Food Allergy
Conference
Rosemont, IL

July 13-16, 2014 –
Annual National Conference
Boston, MA

October 13-17, 2014 –
National School Lunch Week

Your Feedback on School Modernization Act Needed!

The Alaska Food Coalition has been in discussions with the Pew Charitable Trusts over the [School Modernization Act](#). If passed, this act would provide grants and loans to schools to upgrade their kitchens. Recently, Pew released an [Alaska specific report](#) highlighting kitchen equipment, infrastructure, and training needs for the state.

The Alaska Food Coalition would appreciate any feedback the School Nutrition Association has about these proposals, as you are the experts in this field. Please consider the potential impact it could have in Alaska, your communities, and your schools, as well as any challenges that it might pose in implementation. Any initial thoughts would be much appreciated by Pew. Please [email](#) them to Cara Durr, AFC Manager, by Friday, May 23 who will compile all the comments of the coalition and send them to Pew.



SNS Credentialing Exam Are you ready?

AKSNA will be providing a Credentialing Exam for members who are ready to take the SNS credentialing exam. AKSNA will be offering it during the February 2015 conference. If you are at all thinking about taking the test, please start getting your paperwork together now.

Here is a link for the requirement along with the exam handbook.
<http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Content.aspx?id=132>

Please start planning now. By fall we are hoping to also identify the members who are planning on taking it and begin having Study Group conference calls.

If you have questions please send them to aksna101@hotmail.com and we will get that question answered for you.



SNA's Annual National Conference

The SNA National Conference will be held in Boston, MA this year July 13-16, and the AKSNA Board is excited to be sending a few of its members:

Sandy Daws, AKSNA President
Carol Larson, AKSNA Secretary
Dean Hamburg, AKSNA Public Policy & Legislation
Jo Dawson, State Administrator of Child Nutrition Programs



In addition congratulations to Raldeen "Noni" Albino. Noni won a free trip to the conference during our AKSNA Conference in February! ***Congratulations Noni!!!***



We look forward to hearing about everyone's experience upon their return and sharing it with our members in the fall newsletter.

Helpful Links:

AKSNA Website –
www.AKSNA.org

AKSNA Facebook page -
www.facebook.com/pages/Alaska-School-Nutrition-Association/127128467377407

OR
www.facebook.com and search for the Alaska School Nutrition Association page

School Nutrition Association Website -
www.schoolnutrition.org

Fuel Up To Play 60 Homepage –
www.fueluptoplay60.com

Washington State Dairy Council –
www.eatsmart.org

Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE) –
www.foodallergy.org

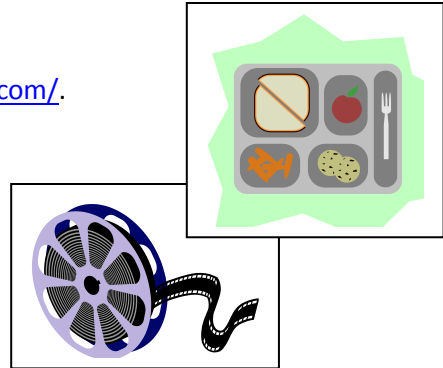
Healthier US Schools Challenge Online Application –
www.fns.usda.gov/tn/HealthierUS/application.html

State of Alaska, Child Nutrition Program –
www.eed.state.ak.us

SNA “Fed Up” Documentary Resources

“Fed Up” opens in select theaters nationwide and through video on demand starting on May 9. Details and the trailer can be found at <http://fedupmovie.com/>. The film, which is highly critical of the food industry, contains a 10 minute segment that negatively portrays foods and beverages sold in schools (some of the visuals are of competitive food choices).

While the film does outline the meal pattern changes, it rehashes the “pizza is a vegetable” controversy, quotes a student saying “it doesn’t look like the choices have improved,” and does not mention that upcoming competitive food standards will ensure the candy, soda and high fat/calorie foods pictured in the film are not sold in school stores.



Fed Up’s promoters are contacting school administrators to request that they host school screenings of the film, and SNA has provided extensive feedback encouraging that these screenings promote informed discussions about ongoing efforts to promote healthy school environments. However, SNA members should be prepared to respond to questions about the film.

SNA has created the following resources to help: talking points, a sample letter to administrators, and a customizable letter for parents. Now is a great time to promote the many benefits of school meals, so feel free to [download this flyer](#) to share with parents.

Visit www.schoolnutrition.org/pr for additional news and resources.



Update from Alaska Child Nutrition Programs

☐ The PrimeroEdge software training has been going great, remember every Monday through May you can dial in for questions, in June and July we will move to twice a month for those of you working in the summer.

☐ We are still working on our project to create a collection of recipes using Alaska foods. If you have a popular dish that you serve, please send it to us so we can make it available to your peers across the state.

☐ August training is nearly set, the Anchorage dates will be August 5-7, 2014 and in Juneau August 12-14, 2014. The agenda will be available shortly.

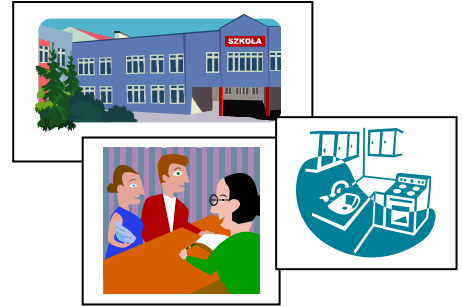
☐ Still interested in the Community Eligibility Provision? Time is running out. Applications must be received by June 30, 2014 to be a CEP school or district for next school year. For more information, see our CEP website at <http://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/cep.html>

Jo Dawson | Child Nutrition Program Manager | Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

Dear SNA Member:

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) is now accepting applications for the [Baxter Equipment for Education Grant](#)! This grant will award one school district in need of improving its school meal kitchen facilities through a competitive grant process with:

one (1) OV310 Mini Rotating Rack Convection Oven ([Electric](#) or [Gas](#))
Stand base
2 - year parts & labor warranty
Delivery & installation by Hobart Service
Training/demonstration with sales representative



[Click here to apply](#). Online applications are due by May 30, 2014. Applicants must be current SNA members who are responsible for directing the school nutrition program of the school district.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Edna Lowder, elowder@schoolnutrition.org or (301) 686-3131. Thank you to our generous sponsors at Baxter Manufacturing for providing SNA members with this grant opportunity.



Public Policy and Legislation

STATE PPL activities: The 2014 Legislature for the State of Alaska did authorize – pass the 2014-2015 capital item provision of \$3 million as support for the Nutritional Alaska Foods to Schools. (NAFS) On this 5/15/2014 date, the next step for this NAFS funding opportunity is awaiting the Governors final approval as included in the overall listing of capital budget items.



Should Governor Parnell again authorize the final OK for NAFS funding, it will establish the 3rd year of opportunities for the sponsors of USDA School meal programs serving Alaska children, to include Alaska sourced products as part of USDA school meal menuing.

The past successes of this NAFS funding does include the provision of Alaska cod, Alaska salmon, Alaska halibut, Alaska barley, Alaska produce, and Alaska sourced beef and pork products.

Bottled water is not yet allowed as a product supported with NAFS funding. As it appears to now be a time for consideration of NAFS support in the 2015 Legislative session, AKSNA is making an on-going effort to get bottled water included with the NAFS as an Alaska sourced item.

AKSNA will be looking for help from AKSNA members to share to our legislators the validity of bottled water as an allowable provision in NAFS.

National PPL activities: Please do go to the School Nutrition Association web site and review the very active efforts by SNA to share to the USDA and Congress the continued concerns about upcoming changes in required menu-nutrient practices.

AND; Huge Reminder—2015 is a year for reauthorization of the National School Lunch Act. This is another significant opportunity for considerations of funding and all things related to all parts of USDA school meal sponsorship.

SNA- AKSNA members need to make their expectations very clear to the USDA and Congress as we work through the reauthorization process.

Dean Hamburg – SNS
Public Policy and Legislation Chair - AKSNA

School Lunch Hero Day was May 2
Here's some of our amazing School Nutrition Staff!



**Kodiak Island
Borough School
District
Main Elementary
School**



Students' grand entrance to present
aprons to:
Super Heroes Helen and Londa!

Angie brought her trumpet and played
the theme song to "Superman" while
the kids walked down the stairs with the
signed aprons on some lunch trays!



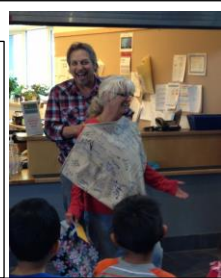
Chef Jo Michalski whips up some
delicious rockfish tacos at Sitka
High School

She's been doing a great job of
serving up local fish in Sitka
Schools.



*Sitka appreciates these
Chef's (and all school food
service staff) for all their
hard work to get local
seafood on the school
lunch menu.*

Chef John Wathen, at
Mount Edgecumbe High
School, has served some
fabulous fish lunches over
at the state boarding
school. In this picture he's
grilling tortillas for local
rockfish tacos.



Harborview Elementary School principal
presents an apron to:
School Lunch Hero Darlene Jacobsen
Oops! He got it on upside down!

**The Juneau School
District said a huge
thank you to ALL their
School Lunch Heroes by
presenting aprons with
student signatures and
drawings!**



Riverbend
Elementary School
Lunch Heroes:
Jacquelyn and
Teresita



Dyann and Mary,
heroes at
Juneau-Douglas
High School



Angie and Lecia,
heroes at
Thunder Mt.
High School



School Lunch Hero
Yvonne Welch
Dzantiki' Heeni Middle Sch.

