



# Mush-On

Alaska School Nutrition Association Newsletter

October



2015

## Monthly Highlights!

- National School Lunch Week (NSLW) is here... Oct. 12-16!
  - 2015 theme is "School Lunch Snapshot." It's about sharing the best, real images of today's school lunch. Organize a celebration in your cafeteria then share your story or pictures with your school nutrition peers around the state. Send to: [lori.buzzell@juneauschools.org](mailto:lori.buzzell@juneauschools.org) for publication in the Nov. Mush-On.
- NEW What's for Lunch? To continue the NSLW theme of sharing real images of today's school lunch we would like to add a new section to our monthly Mush-On highlighting school meals being served throughout Alaska. Send your photo, school name, and district name to [lori.buzzell@juneauschools.org](mailto:lori.buzzell@juneauschools.org) for publication in upcoming newsletters.

## Alaska Association of School Business Officials ALASBO request!

ALASBO is planning for their annual conference in December - it'll be hear before we know it! Many members are involved with food service, especially those from the smaller districts. In addition to a presentation from Elizabeth Seitz, ALASBO would love to have a session on best practices, or something innovative that's going on from a school district staff person. This would be a 45- minute session on Tu 12/8 or W 12/9 at the Hotel Captain Cook.

Can you recommend someone to invite? If so please contact: Amy Lujan, Executive Director, ALASBO, 907-723-7415, [www.alasbo.org](http://www.alasbo.org)

## Invite Your Member of Congress to Your School and Enter to Win!

As the new school year is upon us, now is the best time to invite your Member of Congress to visit your school cafeteria! You can enter to win one free trip for two to LAC 2016 and participate in SNA's Charge to the Hill! Last year's sweepstakes was such a success, SNA hopes to surpass it this year with even more Members of Congress seeing firsthand the incredible work SNA members accomplish every single day.

**To enter**, simply invite a Member of the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives to your school and provide proof of the invitation or visit (email, photos, video, news stories, etc.) to SNA by December 31, 2015. Invitations will be accepted from July 1, 2015. For more information on how to enter:

[https://schoolnutrition.org/uploadedFiles/Legislation\\_and\\_Policy/SNA\\_Policy\\_Resources/2015CafeteriaSiteVisitSweepsInfo.pdf](https://schoolnutrition.org/uploadedFiles/Legislation_and_Policy/SNA_Policy_Resources/2015CafeteriaSiteVisitSweepsInfo.pdf)

## AKSNA Executive Board

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### State Farm to School Representative:

Johanna Herron  
[johanna.herron@alaska.gov](mailto:johanna.herron@alaska.gov)

### Marketing Chair:

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## Farm to School Update

### October is National Farm to School Month!

Farm to School month is a time to recognize the importance of farm to school programs as a means to improve child nutrition, support local economies and educate children about the origins of food. Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and preschools. Students gain access to healthy, local foods as well as education opportunities such as school gardens, cooking lessons and farm field trips.

Over the past decade, the farm to school movement has exploded across the United States, reaching millions of students in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. In addition to improving child health, when schools buy local, they create new markets for local and regional farmers and contribute to vibrant communities, a win-win-win scenario.

Whether you are a food service professional, a farmer, a teacher or a food-loving family, there are plenty of ways to celebrate and get involved!

- Hold a special day or event that features a food producer or local chef and talk with students and faculty about local food.
- Invite a food producer, local chef, or expert from the community to come talk to your class about the food system.
- Assign a class project to search the media for news related to Farm to School.
- Host a taste test with local product to see what is the most popular.
- Participate in a Local Lunch Day at the school if they offer one.

We are excited to partner with National Farm to School Network this year to hold an extra prize drawing for any Alaska projects that submit their information to the National Farm to School Month activities. To participate in the national effort go to: [farmtoschool.org](http://farmtoschool.org) and they will be promoting the sweepstakes on their homepage, so it should be easy to find. We will be giving away Alaska Grown aprons, 'Square Food Gardening with Kids' books, and Root View activity kits.

For updates, news, grant opportunities, and announcements join our listserv at: <http://list.state.ak.us/soalists/akfarmtoschool/jl.htm>

For more information about the Alaska Farm-to-School program, or if you have any questions, contact: Johanna Herron, [Johanna.herron@alaska.gov](mailto:Johanna.herron@alaska.gov), (907) 761-3870.

Discovery Southeast enjoying their harvest...



### **Conference Committee Co-chairs:**

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### **RCCI Representative:**

Mario Martinez  
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### **Dates to Remember:**

Oct 12-16, 2015 –  
National School Lunch Week

Nov 18-19, 2015 –  
Fall Industry Boot Camp  
National Harbor, MD

Jan 17-19, 2016 –  
School Nutrition Industry Conf.  
San Diego, CA

Feb 28-Mar 1, 2016 –  
Legislative Action Conference  
Washington, DC

March 7-11, 2016 –  
National School Breakfast Week

April 20-22, 2016 –  
National Leadership Conference  
Baltimore, MD

May 6, 2016 –  
School Lunch Hero Day

July 10-13, 2016 –  
Annual National Conference  
San Antonio, TX



Is your program participating in Local Lunch Day on October 23rd in celebration of Food Day, by serving a food item that was grown or harvested in Alaska?  
If yes, you could receive a special prize.

Go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GSQHZQK>  
and complete the survey by October 23, 2015  
to register your program.

The first 40 to complete the survey will receive a free thermometer or apron.  
The Grand Prize will be drawn from all who completed the survey.

Grand Prize is an Educational Resource Package full of stickers, plush produce characters, and dry erase posters to use in your Food Program.



For more information please contact:

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State of Alaska  
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[susan.lampert@alaska.gov](mailto:susan.lampert@alaska.gov)