

A Note from the State Association President

Sue Lampert

Welcome Back to School Year 2021

The year 2020 gave us some unique challenges that none of us have had to deal with in the past. Serving meals to students this school year will look a little different but you will all rise up to the challenge and feed children throughout Alaska when they and their families need it the most because that is what child nutrition professionals do. You rise up and feed children, no matter what!

Now more than ever we need to rely on our fellow AKSNA members for strength and encouragement as we “boldly go where no man has gone before”.

Please feel free to contact me or any of the AKSNA Board members anytime with your questions or concerns.

State Agency Update

Jo Dawson, MS, SNS

As school year 2020-2021 rolls out, I want to extend my on-going appreciation for everything school nutrition professionals are doing across our amazing state. I know that the last six-months have not been easy, but I remain impressed and in awe of the jobs you are doing.

To see which waivers Alaska is participating in, please watch the USDA page for Alaska which can be found at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/alaska>; there are a lot of options to create flexibilities for schools. If you have any questions or want to opt-in to any of the waivers offered under the school nutrition programs or summer programs, please contact Beth Seitz at Elizabeth.seitz@alaska.gov. Please be mindful that some waivers are only extended until December unless funding causes USDA to reduce the time period, whereas others are thru the school year.

I also want to encourage districts to attend our weekly roundtable discussion on Wednesday afternoons, this has been a great opportunity to discuss any changes in USDA waivers and policy as well as hear from your peers across the state about how they are making the waivers work for their school districts. Please contact Beth or Debbie Soto at Debbie.soto@alaska.gov to be added to the invite list.

Note that we will be having the annual AKSNA conference virtual this year, please watch for more information but I look forward to “seeing” you all there!

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Cordova Feeds the 4,000

Sandie Ponte

Cordova School District began serving under 2,000 meals per week in March and now serves over 4,000 meals per week.

IMPORTANT DATES

53rd Annual Conference

Save the Date

AKSNA's 53rd Annual Conference

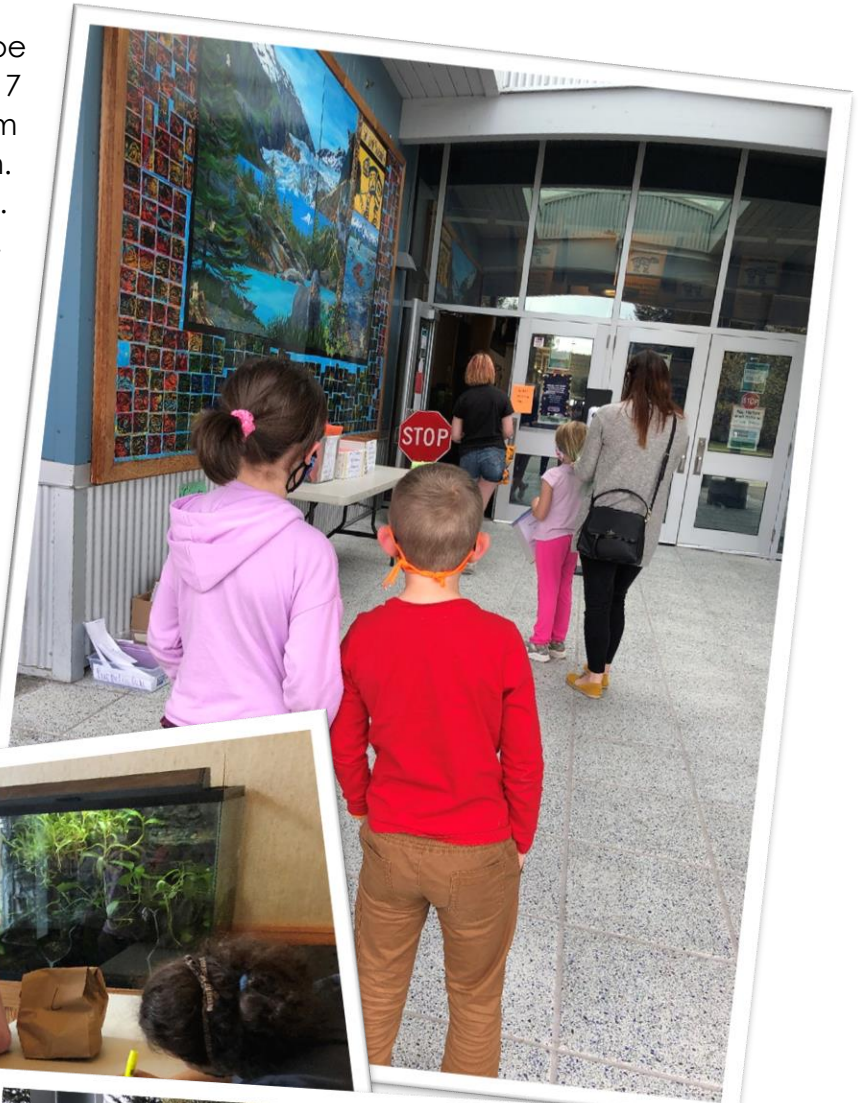
January 26 – 28, 2021



Juneau School District Offers SFSP Meals 7 Days a Week

Adrienne Schwartz, MBA, SNS

The Juneau School District is excited to be providing free breakfast and lunch meals 7 days a week! Meals are distributed from every school between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and home delivery is also available. Weekend meals are distributed on Fridays! All children ages 1-18 can pick up meals. More information is available on our Juneau School District Student Nutrition Facebook page and on our Juneau School District website.





New School Meals Bill Introduced

All school nutrition-related bills and legislation can be found on SNA's [Action Network](#). One (1) new Federal bills impacting school nutrition programs were introduced in August 2020:

- Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (NV) introduced [S.4447](#), the Child Nutrition Relief Act, the companion bill to Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez's (NY-07) [H.R.7764](#) to allow the USDA to extend all COVID-19 emergency school feeding waivers through June 30, 2021.

Register Now for the Virtual Directors' Best Practices Conference

Hear the best ideas to feed kids during a pandemic, learn what's working and what's not, discuss financial sustainability and collectively brainstorm solutions to complex challenges in this one-of-a-kind conference taking place on three afternoons of October 26-28. [Learn more](#).

SNA Webinars are Here to Help

Dr. David J Schonfeld, Director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement Children's Hospital Los Angeles joins SNA this month for a brand-new webinar. This educational session will provide practical advice on how school nutrition professionals can help students cope with the current COVID-19 pandemic and how to support grieving students and some guidance related to professional self-care. Dr. Schonfeld will share tips and techniques to help you navigate your way through these unprecedented circumstances. There will be time available for questions to engage with Dr. Schonfeld and other SNA members. Taking Care of Yourself and Your Students: Coping with Pandemic Crisis & Loss will air live on September 16, 2020 at 3 pm ET. For more information and to register, sign into the [Training Zone](#).

Nika White will be headlining our October 1 webinar with a focus on leadership and practical ways to be an inclusive leader. Stay tuned and keep checking the Training Zone under the [Events](#) page for further updates.

If you ever miss a webinar you can find the recording in our expanding library of [On-Demand Webinars](#). Here you can explore school nutrition topics in every Key Area and receive credit for participating.

Dining Guide for Meals in the Classroom

This new dining guide, created with inspiration and support from many School Nutrition Association staff, board and members, is a suite of customizable resources to help school nutrition professionals more easily communicate with all stakeholders their plans and procedures for eating in the classroom for SY2020-21. [Learn more](#).

AKSNA Calendar Photo Contest

Gavin M. Northey, MBA, SNS

The Alaska School Nutrition Association (AKSNA) is pleased to announce the 2020 Calendar Photo Contest. The contest is open to all school nutrition professionals in the State of Alaska. Winning photos will be featured in the 2021 – 2022 AKSNA Wall Calendar which will be presented at the 53rd Annual AKSNA Conference, 26 – 28 January 2021.

Theme

We invite you to submit photos in one of the following themes:

- School Nutrition
- Food (production, agriculture, service, or presentation)
- Alaskan

Special Themes

- October: Farm to School Month
- May: School Lunch Hero Day

Contest Deadline and Rules

Submission and Deadline

Submissions must be received no later than 4 December 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (AKST).

Each submission must include one or more photos, a short 1 – 3 sentence description of each photo, and a copy any image release forms (if applicable), and the entrant's personal information.

Visit the [AKSNA Photo Contest Web Page](#) to download an Entry form and receive entry instructions.

Prize

Up to thirteen (13) winners will be selected and will receive a free 2021 – 2022 AKSNA Wall Calendar. We will mail the calendar to the address provided on the entry form via US First Class Mail or Priority Mail, whichever service we deem most appropriate. The winning photos will be presented at the 53rd Annual AKSNA Conference, 26 – 28 January 2021.

Purpose

The purpose of this contest is to collect photographs for use in the AKSNA 2021 – 2022 Calendar. The calendar will be offered for sale following the 53rd Annual AKSNA conference with proceeds supporting AKSNA. AKSNA funds are used to host an annual conference, advocate for school nutrition in Alaska and the U.S., and provide training and professional development resources to Alaska's school nutrition professionals.

Photo Size and Quality

Submit high resolution photos only in JPEG, PNG, BMP, or PDF format. Photos will be printed on 11 × 8 ½ inch paper; to ensure maximum quality, do not compress, resize, or convert photos from their original file format or size. Photos that may not print well due to image quality will be disqualified.

Human Subjects

If a photo contains a human subject, please include a copy of the Photo/Image Release form (or similar document) which provides consent to use the subject's image for marketing and promotional material, both printed and online. If the subject is under 18 years old, a parent or guardian must sign

the release. If multiple subjects appear in the same photo, include a list of the subjects and where they appear in the photo (for example, "From left-to right: Ima Eaton, Ed Ebol, and Teri Aukey").

If no release is submitted, we may crop or edit the photo to de-identify the subject. If we are unable to do so, the photo will be disqualified.

When a Release is Not Required

While we prefer a release form for all subjects in a photo, it is not required for adult subjects appearing in a public space or when the photographed person (adult or minor) is not identifiable. For example, an image of food service in a park would be acceptable if the primary focus of the photo is not the person or people who incidentally appear in the photo or the people appearing in the photo are so far away that it would be impossible to identify them.

Multiple Entries

We will accept multiple entries from a single participant. A single participant photos may appear more than once in the calendar and we may create a collage and present multiple entries from the same individual as a single entry.

No more than one (1) prize will be sent to a single participant, even if multiple entries are selected for the calendar.

Copyright

Participant must be the legal copyright holder of the image(s) submitted. Participants grant AKSNA the right to print and reuse the photo in digital and printed media in its original or an edited form. Participant understands and consents that AKSNA may use the image, original or altered, to generate revenue directly or indirectly. AKSNA may transmit the image to a third-party for the purpose of producing media on AKSNA's behalf. AKSNA will not transfer its rights to a third party without the participant's express written consent.

Eligibility

Participant must be an actively employed school nutrition professional residing in the State of Alaska or be a current member in good standing of the Alaska School Nutrition Association.

AKSNA Member entries will be considered first. Entries from eligible non-members will be considered second, and entries from AKSNA Board Members will be considered last.

Share your success! Send articles, photos, success stories, and more to share with your colleagues working across the Great State to fuel our future. Email: news@aksna.org.