**The Good News**

**December Volume 4 / Issue 3**

**December is . . .**

Eat a Red Apple Day (December 1), Claim with all supporting documents is due by December 14, Oatmeal Muffin Day (December 19), Pumpkin Pie Day (December 25),

Handwashing Awareness Week (1st Full Week of December)

Egg Nog Month and Pear Month

https://food.unl.edu/december-food-calendar

**The reimbursement for November claim will go out December 28, 2018.**



**Office will be closed December 25 and 26**

**Appreciation Awards**

This year providers East of Manhattan were chosen to receive an appreciation certificate from us for their outstanding performance in CACFP. The following providers have turned their paperwork into our office in a timely manner for processing and they are not on a Corrective Action Plan for the October 2017 - September 2018 program year: Lisa Auten, Denise Blount, Eileen Burenheide, Gloria Cavanagh, Dayna Hartley, Tina Klingerman, Anna Dale Miller, Penny Moon, Rebecca Moore, Lori Stallbaumer, Tina Stallbaumer, Yvonne Terry, Teri Toms, Deneane VanWinkle, and Rose Vega. Thank you for your hard work. I encourage all of you to do your paperwork daily and strive to meet all program requirements to include having your paperwork to us by the 5th working day of the month. We will be looking at some providers in Manhattan and the Clay Center area for the award this program year. The award comes with a $50 check for a job well done.

**Switching Banks**

We will be switching banks soon, this is quite an involved process, but it should go over with no problems. You will not need to fill out new direct deposit slips; however, I will be sending a pre-note to test the accounts on December 12, 2018 and I need you to just look and see if a zero amount came from us so that when I send the November reimbursement out it will go into your account.

**Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it’s not. – Dr. Seus’ The Lorax**

**Training**



**Sorry I don't have times and dates set yet!** They will be posted on Facebook, sent by e-mail and included in January Newsletter as soon as I have them.

This year we will focus on the **conquering hero** inside each of us, as we talk about the history of child nutrition education, role modeling, changes in regulations that we have overcome, a **provider led** section, serving sizes for toddlers and ideas for infant food. I'm excited to have the provider led portion this year, of course, it means participation from the providers! Please let me know if you would like the honor of sharing with the group or if you would nominate someone else. Chris and Vanda have been asked to supply me with names of providers they think are up to the task and several of you are.

In our smaller size groups for training; Holton, Clay Center, Salina, and Abilene, look over the following list and be prepared to discuss them in a round table sort of way, let's learn from each other.

Provider panelist would have answers to questions like:

What was your reaction to the whole grain once a day regulation?

What was a challenge? How did you overcome it?

Was there a change that you made over the past few years that had a positive impact on your children and families?

When you heard about needing to save your labels or boxes and packages for whole grains, cereals, and yogurts: What was your reaction? (What is said in "Vegas" stays in "Vegas")

What system did you put into place?

What obstacles did you overcome?

What advice can you share for those who are still struggling?

What support do you need from your food program sponsor?

The focus will be mainly on whole grain implementation, documentation system or notebook, and NOT serving the sweet desserts; however, general menu planning and family style service would be other topics that you could share with the group.

**Facebook Group**

I created a Facebook Group JC Family Home Food Program; please join so you can participate in the polls I will be putting out over the next year. One poll was on training in the spring and we will be having training only, no dinner this time. Other poll questions, what was packed in sacked lunches in the past, present and future? Try a new food, this will be posted once a week and if you try it with your kids then you will vote for it, maybe we will have a contest with prizes! Family style challenge, this will challenge you to serve one component family style and perhaps work up to a full meal! Any other ideas send them to me; let's have fun with this group!

**Zoom conference calls**

I need to know if there is interest in attending a zoom conference meeting during nap time, once a month? Topics? Correct serving size, grain ounce equivalents, food buying guide tool and etc. Let me know through a poll when I ask end of December. Thanks

**Healthier CACFP Award**

Be one of the first daycare home providers in Kansas to be recognized for the Healthier CACFP Award! Are you looking for a way to promote your child care program and stand out from all others? The Healthier Child and Adult Care Food Program Award is a USDA recognition system which supports child care centers and daycare home providers taking steps to improve the nutrition, physical activity, nutrition education and/or environment for children in their care. Apply today to win an award! Those who qualify will receive statewide recognition as a Healthier CACFP Award Winner and a certificate to showcase the award at their site. In addition, the first 20 Healthier CACFP Awarded sites in Kansas will receive a monetary award of $100/ daycare home! For more information on the criteria and/or for assistance with applying, contact Emily Brinkman at ebrinkman@ksde.org or 785-296-2276.

**New Meal Pattern Requirements**

**Congratulations for a job well done!**

Providers implemented the biggest changes in food program history, the road of change is often bumpy, but you made it! Now we need to maneuver through the monitoring of these changes. During home visits we are checking your whole grains, cereal and yogurt that you serve to be sure they meet the new meal pattern guidelines. This process goes much smoother if you keep the labels of those products in a notebook, a baggie, a shoebox, etc. When we find products that are not meeting the new meal pattern requirements we will talk with you about that during your home visit and note it on your home visit form. When we do our next visit if we are finding the same type of issues then a corrective action plan (CAP) could be issued by the director. The CAP form is designed as a coaching tool to help you think through your processes and list out a procedure that will keep you in compliance. When we are working through the claims in the office we will fill out a claim note and send it to you, many of you received October claim notes, this is technical assistance and if you have questions about your note please contact the office. You will be receiving this note the first week of December so please read it and fix any problems right away. When we process your December claim we will be looking for the same type of issues and if you are still not in compliance with the meal pattern requirements then we will issue a CAP. The technical assistance and CAPs are being issued in lieu of fiscal action. In other words when you forget to have the whole grain on one day you will not have any meals deducted. Meals will still be disallowed when a component is missing. Please call or e-mail the office when you have questions.

**Please let us know on your coversheet or menu form when school was closed, we can’t reimburse you for a school age child if school is in session. Thanks**

**Contact Us**

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