

April Newsletter

Sparta Area Schools Food Service



During the month of April, food service would like students, staff, and parents to focus on being a waste warrior and to think about things we eat and do that are wasteful and how we can reduce waste. Here are a few ways food service is trying to stop waste. Food service provides share tables at every building so students can put prewrapped and nonperishable food items in that they aren't going to eat for others to enjoy.

Sparta Middle School has recently made a huge change to help stop waste. We are currently using compartment melamine cafeteria trays for our food. This has helped reduce waste significantly at the middle school and we hope to use these trays at our other buildings as well. The middle school's lunch trash has dropped from 12 bags of trash a day down to 4 bags. This is an amazing waste saver for our district.

Food Service is also focusing on using less prewrapped items and more bulk options such as condiments and cutlery items. We recycle all our cardboard boxes. Most of the paper products we use are recycled. We let students choose what they want to eat for lunch instead of putting everything on their tray. These are just a few ways we are trying to make a difference. It's time to celebrate and take care of our Earth. Think of different ways you can make a difference.

Stop Food Waste:

Did you know one-third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally? It's a shocking statistic. That's why, in 2017, our parent company, Compass Group USA, started Stop Food Waste Day, which is now a worldwide movement that aims to educate and ignite change. It is the largest single day of action in the fight against food waste.



Global Eats: Korea

We're looking to push the boundaries of Korean cuisine while honoring its traditions, creating meals like Korean-Style Zucchini, Kimchi Tofu, and Gochujang-Style Chicken Lettuce Cups. The strong Korean belief in eumyangohaeng (yin and yang) is reflected in its food as well, which is nutritionally balanced in terms of colors, textures, and flavors. During the month of April our High School and Middle School students will get to taste some of this delicious food during lunch.



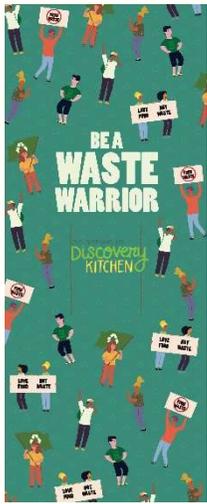
Melissa Alley
DIRECTOR OF DINING SERVICES
616-887-1744
Melissa.alley@spartaschools.org

Events & Fun Days to Look Forward to this Month

- March 28th – April 5th – SPRING BREAK
- April 10th – National Sibling Day
- April 12th – National Grilled Cheese Day
- April 16th – National Librarian Day
- April 17th – National Banana Day
- April 19th – National Cheddar Cheese Fries Day
- April 22nd – Earth Day
- April 24th – Stop Food Waste Day
- April 26th – National Pretzel Day
- April 30th – National Raisin Day

Sparta's Food Service Webpage is a great source to find all the information you may need from menus, how to add money to children's accounts, free and reduced applications, meal charging policy, meal prices, school wellness and so much more.

<https://www.spartaschools.org/departments/menus/>



This Month in Discovery Kitchen

Did you know that wasted food is the single largest category of material placed in municipal landfills? Or that 40 percent of our food supply is wasted and that each of us throws away nearly 300 pounds of food each year? During April in the school cafeteria, students will be able to participate in a variety of Discovery Kitchen activities and experiences with our “Be A Waste Warrior” theme. Since April is Earth Month and April 24 is Stop Food Waste Day, we will be featuring foods and programs that highlight the many ways that students and the community can make a difference in reducing food waste, in addition to activities designed to help them consider resources and protecting the environment. Chefs and dietitians have organized activities for students to taste and learn about delicious plant-based foods, while increasing awareness about food waste and environmental impact.



The billions upon billions of items of plastic waste choking our oceans, lakes, and rivers and piling up on land are more than unsightly and harmful to plants and wildlife. End Plastic Pollution informs policymakers and contributes to the international discussion on plastic pollution and its causes, including pushing for national legislation and corporate commitments.

EARTHDAY.ORG also engages with and informs a global network of NGOs, grassroots organizations, campus youth, mayors and other local elected leaders, faith leaders, artists and athletes, and students and teachers. The End Plastic Pollution campaign elevates the issue of plastic pollution in the global agenda and demands effective action to reduce and control it. Navigate the EARTHDAY.ORG 'Global Map of Events' to effortlessly register your cleanup or discover nearby initiatives – simply input your location and explore a world of impactful opportunities.

A Reason to Celebrate!

April 10th – National Siblings Day

Siblings Day is a way of honoring the special bond that happens within families, as brothers and sisters share life together from childhood into adulthood and even into old age.

April 12th - National Grilled Cheese Day.

Grilled Cheese, as society now knows it, is considered to be an American tradition. Recipes for grilled cheeses have been mentioned in Ancient Roman texts, so the idea of grilled cheese goes back a long way. What many people consider to be a grilled cheese can be traced back as far as the early 1920s

April 16th – National Librarian Day

Libraries can be traced back for many centuries, when they were originally used to store and organize collections of documents. Around the 8th century BC, a wealthy king of Assyria created a library and he was the first person in history to introduce the concept of librarians or “keepers of books”.

April 19th – National Cheddar Cheese Fries Day

According to Internet lore, National Cheddar Cheese Fries Day was invented in April of 2016. This is when Snuffer’s Restaurant—a Texas restaurant well known for their cheese fries started the holiday.

April 24th – Stop Food Waste Day

Our mission at Stop Food Waste Day is to ignite change regarding the global food waste issue. We do this by drawing attention to the problem, at the same time educating through engaging with society at all levels and sharing practical, creative, and impactful ways we can all change our behavior to minimize food waste.

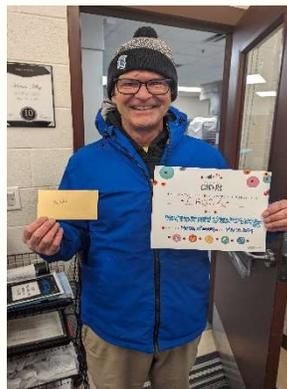
April 30th – National Raisin Day

National Raisin Day got its start more than a century ago. In 1909, the raisin growers association of the state of California introduced the idea for a day that would promote this versatile dried fruit.



Chuck Yates

Chuck is our delivery driver for the kitchens. He delivers food to our Early Childhood Center everyday. Not only does he deliver supplies to all our buildings but he also helps out in our kitchens when we are short staffed. Chuck’s cheerful outlook and can-do attitude brightens everyone’s day. Thank you for spreading positivity and being a team player!



Shannon Cone



Shannon works at Applevue Elementary Kitchen. Shannon’s dedication to our students and to her team is an inspiration to all of us. Shannon is always willing to go the extra mile and come in to cover shifts whenever necessary. Your efforts and “PERFECT ATTENDENCE” do not go unnoticed. Thank you for your commitment to our students and our district. We are lucky to have you on our team!