

# WELLNESS COMMITTEE PROGRAM UPDATE

## MAY 2021

### 1) "Welcome" All!!!!

Due to many COVID restrictions still in place at schools, and in the effort to be mindful of everyone's time commitments to their family & jobs this year, I have taken the opportunity to send out a "PROGRAM UPDATE" regarding all wellness committee and policy information. We will resume with our regular meetings next year, however that may look in the fall of 2021.

### 2) Update & summary of meal servings March 2020-March 2021:

We have been serving meals nonstop since March 2020. In parking lots, and sometimes in the rain, wind and hail! I am pleased to announce that we have **served a total of 507,214 meals** to families and community members in need!

### 3) National School Lunch Hero Day!

May 7<sup>th</sup> is the day to honor our school lunch hero's. This year instead of nominating 1 employee, the child nutrition department nominated its entire staff! These employees have totally stepped up to serve our children in this time of need. When you see any one of them please tell them "Thank you", and feel free to give them an air hug!



### 4) Recipe grant winner!

I am pleased to announce that the OUSD department of child nutrition won a standardized recipe contest and was awarded a grant. \$8,500 will be used over the next 2 years to bring our California Salsa recipe into cafeterias for taste testing! We also hope to bring lots of students into the school kitchens to teach them some fun salsa making cooking classes. Stay tuned for more details next year!

### 5) Supper audit:

The child nutrition department of OUSD underwent a mandatory audit of its new supper (CACFP) program. We did amazingly! There were no findings of any kind, and just 2 technical assistance corrections that were not only easily corrected, but was extremely beneficial for our accounting practices moving forward. **Cheers to the team!**

6) Planning for next school year:

There is lots of good news on the horizon regarding meal services next year. We plan to be back in our kitchens in some format, and serving children hot foods daily. Bringing back many student favorites such as hot pizza and a wider option of fruits and vegetables will be offered. Yippee!

7) We are ahead of schedule as far as our requirements go. We have finished our triannual assessment. It is uploaded on our district website. Please take a look if you can.

<http://www.orcuttschools.net>

8) We will be offering meals over the summer for all children 0-18 years of age. These meals are still provided at no cost to everyone! Please see our district website for all the details.

9) Wellness committee's goals for school year 2021/22:

Here are goals that we will consider for the next school year & the wellness committee:

- Discuss fundraising topics and taste testing smart snacks in the future.
- Bring back the taste testing panel in the junior high's and high school however possible.
- Bring focus and attention to mental health needs and additional support offered by our district for all students in need.
- Bring back physical education classes and sports.
- Continue with OUSD's focus on wellness spaces and alternative classroom designs to better meet all the varying needs of our students.
- Continue to update parents on meal service changes and any and all information we receive regarding the P-EBT card distribution.

10) Any comments or additional items to discuss?

If you have any questions, comments or items that you would like addressed in next year's wellness meetings please send me an email

[bmarkee@orcutt-schools.net](mailto:bmarkee@orcutt-schools.net).

Thank you all!

Bethany Markee

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