

THE FUTURE OF THE AES HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

As most of you know, Alberta Infrastructure has decided that a new school will be built for the Ardrossan Elementary. Construction is scheduled for the summer of 2015 and hopefully we will see our new home in the Fall of 2017.

The great news is that the AES LunchBox has been designated kitchen space in the new school. Our board members have been working very hard over the past couple of months to come up with the best solution for the program. We are currently trying to find a new location to house our kitchen for the next 2 years. However, if that does not work out, we have found a catering company that would take on our school.

Discontinuing our great program is *not an option*.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT MY FAMILY?

Ordering/Payment Options Will Not Change: The LunchBox will still use the services of HotLunches.com as our online provider.

- In previous years, a 'Generated Fee' was automatically added to students' account upon the placement of their first lunch order. This money paid for the cost of the online program.
- We will continue to accept cash/cheque and online PayPal, VISA and MC payments.

Our Plan Options:

Primarily, you will see an increase in cost. To what extent is unknown to us until we finalize our plans.

PLAN A - New Kitchen Location:

We have been looking into all local options for a temporary kitchen. The LunchBox will face additional expenses for rent, insurance and transportation costs. Our fundraising and grant monies will be directed towards these expenses; however, we may need to adjust the 'Generated Fee' to help with the difference.

Our food cost has been increasing since September. We have tried to make some adjustments to menu items as the year went on, however, our overall menu prices will need to be reviewed. We will make the lunches at the new location and transport it to the school. Volunteers/Students will deliver lunches to the classrooms. Parent volunteers will receive a \$1 credit.

PLAN B - New Catering Company:

If we hire an external catering company, the cost of lunches and delivery will be passed on directly to your family. Volunteers/Students will deliver lunches to the classrooms. Parent volunteers will no longer receive a \$1 credit.

Fundraisers & Grants

Over the next 2 years, The LunchBox will apply for grants to help fund our program. This money will be used to help us with both our existing and new costs over the next couple of years.

We are asking you and our community to help keep our program alive by raising money on our site, www.aes.fundraiserorders.com. Most of our fundraising energy will be directed towards our new kitchen. Our equipment is quite old and needs to be replaced.

SAVE THIS DATE! – Monday, April 13th

HELP US RAISE \$2,500! We have asked a local business, Stocks Greenhouses (Hwy 21 just south of Fort Saskatchewan), to help us bring on Summer! We will be selling a limited number of hanging planters, tomato plants and a variety of herbs over a 2 week period. Delivery of the plants will be after the May long weekend. Due to the limited number of product, our online ordering will be our preferred method of taking orders so the system will keep track of the inventory sold. We will be handing out a flyer soon with all of the specifics.

We Need to Start Preparing for the end of the Year.

The biggest piece of this preparation is to clear all the account credits and not allow any new credits. As a result, when June's Schedule is released in May, you will be reminded that if you have any credit/debits on your accounts, they must be used/paid.

- For those of you who use PayPal for payment, you do not need to do anything different. The system already looks at your account and any credits/debits are cleared immediately.
- For those of you who pay by cash or cheque, it is crucial that you print off the remittance form and pay the amount indicated. Please do not just pay the amount of your current order. The remittance form reviews your entire account (current order – any refund / volunteer credits + generated fee + etc).
- Unfortunately, there will be no volunteer credits given in the month of June for delivering lunch. We understand that this \$1 credit was just an added bonus and not the main reason that all of you came to the school. We hope that you can understand our position and continue to sign up to deliver in June.

At the end of the school year, ***we will be clearing everyone's accounts to zero. If any credits remain on any accounts, we will consider it a donation to our program.***

The LunchBox Board will continue to keep you informed as we move forward. You have all been so supportive of this great program. We hope that we can count on your continued support and patience as we move through this transition period and look forward to our new and exciting kitchen in a few years!