

VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 9 • MAY 2023

# CAFE CONNECTIONS

CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER MEALS



The Summer Food Service Program is back! That means **FREE** meals for your children all summer long.

Meals will begin **Tuesday, May 30th.**

Any child age 18 and younger may come to any of our advertised sites during the dedicated meal times to receive a free breakfast or lunch. There are no registration or income requirements and children do not need to be enrolled in a Laveen school to participate. Meals must be consumed on-site. Adult meals will be available for purchase.



Stay tuned to our social media (Instagram and Facebook) for updates regarding meal service details.



## SUMMER 2023 P-EBT

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) will be issuing Summer Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits to Laveen families whose students are approved for free or reduced-price school meals before May 24th and were enrolled in the Laveen Elementary School District during the month of May. P-EBT cards will be mailed in the Fall and each student will receive \$120.

Parents and guardians should ensure that their address is up-to-date with their school office. Also, all families are encouraged to complete and return the 2022-2023 school meal application if they have not done so yet. The online application is available at [EZMealApp.com](https://EZMealApp.com)

**If you have any questions, please contact the DES P-EBT hotline at 1 (844) 841-3802.**

## MAY – MEAL CHARGE POLICY

Per our District Meal Charge Policy, students will **not** be permitted to charge meals to their lunch account during the month of May if there are not adequate funds available.

Our department strives to provide nutritious meals to students each school day. While there are circumstances that occur from time to time in which students do not have adequate funds to cover the price of lunch, unpaid meal charges place a large financial burden on the school district.

Students who do not have money available on their accounts will be provided a meal at no cost that consists of a cheese sandwich, fresh fruits and vegetables, and white milk. This meal still meets all USDA meal requirements. Students will never be denied nourishment due to lack of lunch money.

Parents and guardians are responsible for ensuring that their students' lunch balance is paid in full before the end of each school year. Add funds to your student's lunch account and check balances at [EZSchoolPay.com](https://EZSchoolPay.com). Lunch costs \$2.50. This policy can also be found on our district webpage [HERE](#).

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS...

# MAKE LEMON BARS

## INGREDIENTS

- Crust
  - 1 cup all-purpose flour (or whole wheat or oat)
  - 1/3 cup butter, solid, cut into chunks (or solid coconut oil)
  - 1/4 cup granulated sugar
  - 1/8 tsp salt
- Filling
  - 4 eggs
  - 1 cup granulated sugar
  - 2/3 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
  - 2 tbsp lemon zest
  - 1/4 cup all-purpose flour (or whole wheat or oat)
- Topping
  - powdered sugar

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Add crust ingredients to a food processor and pulse for about 30 seconds, until mixture holds together when pressed.
3. Press crust into oil-sprayed, square, 8x8-inch, glass baking dish. Poke all over the surface to aerate crust.
4. Bake for 14-17 minutes, until lightly golden brown. Set aside to cool slightly.
5. Combine all filling ingredients, whisking together thoroughly. Pour mixture on top of warm crust.
6. Return to oven and bake for 35 minutes, until filling has gelled and is cooked thoroughly.
7. Allow to cool completely, resting on the counter for ~2 hours. Place in refrigerator to cool for 1-2 hours.
8. Dust with powdered sugar and slice into bars. Enjoy!

*Recipe adapted from <https://mindovermunch.com/>*



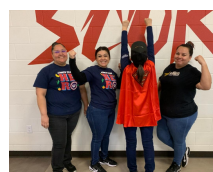
# SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY

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## HONORING OUR SCHOOL LUNCH HEROES!

On Friday, May 5th, we celebrated School Lunch Hero Day! Our staff received donuts and a visit from our Superintendent, Dr. Sprout; and each school did special things to honor our staff such as letters from students, treats, and one school received capes and masks! These individuals prepare and serve school meals and help to nurture our students through their daily interactions and support, which is exactly why we call them HEROES. We deeply appreciate these valuable employees and commend their good work on behalf of the students they serve. We couldn't do it without them.



Our team had an awesome time celebrating!



## FROM OUR DIRECTOR



In Good Health,  
Jennifer

As another school year comes to a close, I want to thank all of our staff for doing their part to ensure the students of Laveen are well-nourished and ready to learn. Their hard work and dedication makes our mission possible and they do it with a warm smile each and every school day. To wrap up the year, we recently brought the entire Child Nutrition Services team together from all 9 schools and the district office for our end of year celebration. It was so nice to gather and enjoy a nice meal together. We now shift our focus to the summer months. We are finalizing plans for our Summer Meal Program and more details will be forthcoming. All 9 schools will be open for free summer meals during the month of June and we will scale back operations in July. All pandemic-related waivers have expired, so children and their families who participate in summer meals will be required to consume the meal in our school cafeterias during our designated meal times. We will offer free breakfast and lunch to ALL children 18 and younger and adults meals will be available for purchase. Finally, be sure to apply for free or reduced-price school meals before the last day of school (if you haven't already) to be considered for the summer P-EBT benefits that will be issued this Fall. Have a wonderful break and we look forward to serving the Laveen community this summer.

Find us on  
**Facebook**

**Instagram**

@LaveenChildNutrition



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