

Feeding Futures

School Food Program

November 2023



Rosanne James

Coordinator of Food Programs
Chilliwack School District

Hello!

Welcome to the first issue of the Feeding Futures School Food Program newsletter. In this edition, I am excited to share the most recent updates with you. The focus during the initial stages of the program has been on the following areas: breakfast, lunch, and safe food handling. I have been assessing the current breakfast programs, strengthening our partnership with Chilliwack Bowls of Hope, and ensuring food handlers are trained on food safety. The focus on those areas will continue as I work toward the next stages that will outline an action plan for our district. I will be seeking involvement and input from staff, students, families, and community partners in the coming months.

On November 8, the Ministry of Education and Child Care is hosting a Feeding Futures Fall Gathering. The event will bring together district School Food Coordinators from across B.C. to network and share information on school food programs. I am looking forward to representing the Chilliwack School District and find ways to collaborate with other districts as we navigate this new opportunity together.

You can connect with me directly by sending an email to rosanne_james@sd33.bc.ca or by calling 604-701-4911.

FOCUS AREAS

SEPTEMBER- DECEMBER 2023

Updates



Identify and evaluate current breakfast programs across the district.



30 Site Visits

- 18 Elementary Schools
- 2 K-8 Schools
- 4 Middle Schools
- 5 Secondary Schools



Meetings were held with administrator's and/or support staff at each site.



Expand and enhance our lunch offerings through Chilliwack Bowls of Hope.



BOH Deliveries Started on Sept 7

- 27 Schools
- 17,930 Servings
- 116 Volunteer hours
- 1,123 lbs of locally grown food



- 25 Schools
- 15,665 Servings
- 203 Volunteer hours
- 79 lbs of vegetables grown in the Community Roots Garden
- 2,295 Servings from our 2 Culinary Programs



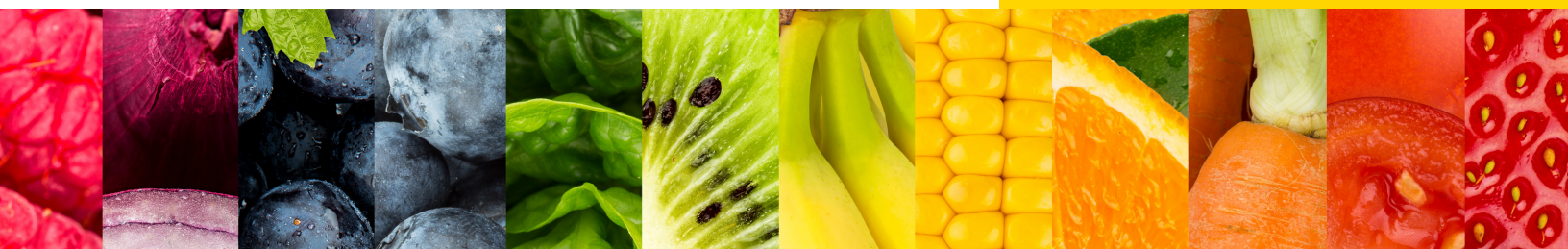
Ensure schools and food handlers are trained and following the safe food standards.



PRO D event for food coordinators was held with a tour of the Community Garden, Chilliwack Bowls of Hope kitchen, and safe food information session.



Fraser Health is hosting FoodSafe Level 1 for food coordinators.



Identify and evaluate current breakfast programs across the district.



Breakfast

Many schools in our district have breakfast programs in place. The breakfast options and offerings vary from site to site. A staff member has been identified as the food coordinator that oversees the program at each site. How purchases are made for each program has been identified as a challenge. Schools have made partnerships with groups and local businesses in the community who help support and fund the programs they are currently offering. Organizations that have been supporting our schools are the Breakfast Club of Canada, Rotary Club of Chilliwack School PAC Committees, local businesses, and churches.

Lunch

Chilliwack Bowls of Hope's **Feed the Children Program** has been in operation since 2005. They began by providing lunches to students at Robertson Elementary school and have since expanded to now reach 25 schools across our district. Through the Feeding Futures School Food Program, the Chilliwack School District has committed to continue to support and expand the partnership with Chilliwack Bowls of Hope by increasing and enhancing the lunch offerings to reach more students. With the support of community-based volunteers, donors, and other community partners they will continue to introduce children to a variety of healthy food choices by using locally grown ingredients. Visit www.chilliwackbowlssofhope.com to find out more about the organization.



Expand and enhance our lunch offerings through Chilliwack Bowls of Hope.

Food coordinators were identified on the first communication form that went out to all administrators. The school needs were determined, and deliveries were arranged to start the first week of school. Communication to food coordinators and administrators has included weekly menus with ingredient lists and weekly feedback forms. The menu feedback forms will be essential as BOH continues to expand and enhance the menu options they are providing. I will continue to look for additional ways to engage and include more of the school community.

The culinary programs at Chilliwack and Sardis Secondary schools started providing students at their site with lunch options in October.

Ensure schools and food handlers are trained and following the safe food standards.



Safe Food Handling

Food coordinators from each site were invited to attend a Pro D session held on Friday October 20. The group took a tour of the Community Roots Garden, Chilliwack Bowls of Hope kitchen followed by a best food practice information session. Fraser Health will be hosting a FoodSafe course for the coordinators on **Friday November 24**. This will be an opportunity for the food coordinators to receive their FoodSafe Level 1 certification. Registration information will be sent out to the coordinators.

