

May 31, 2023

TO: Director Christa Rive and 2022/2023 Food in Schools Committee,

On behalf of DPAC, we would like to express gratitude for your ongoing effort to advocate and assist students and families who are going through vulnerable times. It is always our PACs' passion to help enhance the quality of education and fulfilling the basic needs of students. We would like to be staying connected to the Family Affordability Program's update and announcement for the next school year.

After having a discussion about the best way to reach out to PACs and parents at the Family Engagement Committee on May 15, DPAC decided to conduct a short survey in regard to Food in Schools programs in 2022-2023. As you will see, each PAC's feedback are varied including some PACs still contribute a large portion of their fundraiser money to invest in food programs in schools despite the Family Affordability Fund disbursed in schools.

It is the DPAC's wish to have our PACs included in a consultation process on how the upcoming Feeding Futures Fund will be allocated in each site in order to see the most effective joint effort on feeding students and improving the equity-seeking approach.

Thank you very much for your time spent reading each PAC's reports. We hope this survey will help shape improved Food in Schools programming in the next three years.

Sincerely,

Miyuki Shinkai DPAC Secretary / Family Engagement Rep / ESS PAC President
Karla Shield Langdale DPAC Rep / Food in Schools Committee Rep

Pender Harbour Secondary PAC

Food in Schools PAC Survey

1) How is your PAC involved in any food service at your school? What programs do you support? Is your support financial, or with person hours? What is the purpose of your service? (fundraising, feeding hungry kids, fun)

Our PAC fundraises throughout year, and also asks for sponsors from the community. Rotary has been helpful, too.

2) Does your PAC subsidize food for vulnerable students? How does your PAC identify those in need? How is food provided? Are steps taken to destigmatize food access?

Our weekly hot lunch is free to all students. It is prepared by a parent volunteer or Oak tree Market.

3) What challenges do you have in providing food programs as a PAC?

Challenges are finding enough sponsors. And parent volunteers.

4) What solutions, resources or wins have you found that could help other PACS?

Cannot think of any on the spot.

5) Do you work with any other organizations to provide food services? How do you communicate or interact with these organizations?

Sometimes Oak Tree.

6) Comments and questions for next year.

As for food, I find if the PAC does not get the money then it is out of sight out of mind. Everyone keeps talking of this big food budget that school board approved but it didn't affect our hot lunches so I didn't care about it as much. Probably spent with community school for breakfast program.

I want cafeteria in PHSS with a lunch lady. Or a trail by the road so kids can walk safely to post. It is crazy that they walk on side of a highway. I still think it's crazy that they took away vending machines. That was a quick option for a hungry student who didn't have time to go to Petro Can.

Medeira Park Elementary PAC

Food in Schools PAC Survey

1) How is your PAC involved in any food service at your school? What programs do you support? Is your support financial, or with personal hours? What is the purpose of your service? (fundraising, feeding hungry kids, fun)

Our PAC for this term has provided the service of ordering and serving, hot lunch one day week. The funds came from the community school from the food grant. Previous terms we had local businesses sponsor lunch plus funds from pac so that it didn't cost families. Our orders are much higher when it doesn't cost families. We don't use hot lunch to fundraise, we want all tummies to be full. (Also most of our lunches are ordered from local businesses, our volunteers make one home-made lunch a month ie: mac n cheese, spaghetti)

2) Does your PAC subsidize food for vulnerable students? How does your PAC identify those in need? How is food provided? Are steps taken to destigmatize food access?

When we did charge, we always offered families who couldn't afford, to contact the school admin and we would cover the cost. Now our school has food available to any child via our EA's and school admin who have different options for kids that would like something more to eat. Our lunch volunteers (and breakfast which is via community school) and EA'S are aware of our most vulnerable students, however having options for any child that feels like that need something makes it so that no child stands out as "needing help" which I think does help to destigmatize food access.

3) What challenges do you have in providing food programs as a PAC?

Being the size school that we are, being able to provide lunch more days a week than just one, is extremely challenging. I think this could only happen if we could subsidize a parent volunteer. We do not have a commercial kitchen at our school so that is also challenging. Being that food really is a crisis right now we really want to continue to provide lunch one day a week at no cost to families however without funding that means we are hitting up the same small businesses over and over and our tiny community already sponsors the high school hot lunch so it essentially the small businesses that our parents own, that are paying for lunch.

4) What solutions, resources or wins have you found that could help other PACS?

5) Do you work with any other organizations to provide food services? How do you communicate or interact with these organizations?

6) Comments and questions for next year.

Halfmoon Bay Elementary PAC

Food in Schools PAC Survey

1) How is your PAC involved in any food service at your school? What programs do you support? Is your support financial, or with personal hours? What is the purpose of your service? (fundraising, feeding hungry kids, fun)

PAC assists with hot lunch. Currently this is free of charge to all families thanks to HMB community association and our grant.

2) Does your PAC subsidize food for vulnerable students? How does your PAC identify those in need? How is food provided? Are steps taken to destigmatize food access?

Yes, this is all managed and supported by community school coordinator

3) What challenges do you have in providing food programs as a PAC? Volunteers

4) What solutions, resources or wins have you found that could help other PACS?

Our amazing HMB community association.

5) Do you work with any other organizations to provide food services? How do you communicate or interact with these organizations?

Members of the HMB community association are so eager to help and be involved with the school and food programs.

6) Comments and questions for next year.

West Sechelt Elementary PAC

Food in Schools PAC Survey

We have a hot lunch program, 2 or 3 days a week. That is a fundraiser for the PAC. Parents run it. And, popcorn on Fridays. Then we have the snack program two days a week, which is provided by Community Schools. We also have one takeout day, one cooking day, and popcorn day. The snack program is Ted and our hot lunch coordinator puts out snack trays I think almost every day.

Chateletch Secondary PAC

Food in Schools PAC Survey

We have a lunch program that the PAC runs, 3 days a week. They just line up and order what they want, parents volunteer for that.

Kinnikinnick Elementary PAC

Food in Schools PAC Survey

1) How is your PAC involved in any food service at your school? What programs do you support? is your support financial, or with person hours? What is the purpose of your service? (fundraising, feeding hungry kids, fun)

There is a breakfast program (8am-830am) run by two EAs, where oatmeal, boiled eggs & toast are provided to any child that is hungry, especially those arriving on the early 8am bus.

Each day a "snack tray" is made for each class & delivered by morning break - it includes cut up fruit, veggies, toast or bagels. In the past this was 100% PAC volunteer run, however KES now has 2 women who share a paid contract "kitchen position". Between these 2 women there is a paid kitchen person at KES everyday, from 830-230 (approx); also we continue to have volunteers come & help them, with making food, picking up grocery orders & doing an endless amount of dishes.

Each day there is a lunch "top up" option, previously made 100% by volunteers, but now made by the paid person, which includes soup, sandwiches, wraps, salads, whatever...this is meant to not replace kids bringing a lunch but instead works as a "top up" if a child is hungry or if they forgot to grab their lunch/had a small lunch.

Our kitchen also has snacks available throughout the day (fruit, granola bars (both homemade & store bought)

PAC supports sports day hot dogs & freezies, gingerbread houses at xmas time, turkeys & pie at thanksgiving, with both volunteer hours & the actual funds to purchase.

PAC also runs a popcorn fundraiser (\$1 per bag) - this fundraiser has occurred approx. 10 times this year, but ideally it would run every single Friday - the funds from this go towards our accessible playground.

PAC also runs a "for purchase" hot lunch program - this fundraiser has occurred approx. 9 times this year, but ideally would run every single Wednesday - it is usually pizza or hot dogs, and the funds go towards our accessible playground fundraising goal.

The purpose? Fundraise for an accessible playground (we have 2 kiddos in wheelchairs who cannot use the current structure); feed kids; expose kids to different foods.

2) Does your PAC subsidize food for vulnerable students? How does your PAC identify those in need? how is food provided? are steps taken to destigmatize food access?

This is tricky to do. Most of our food is free; however the hot dog/pizza hot lunch & the popcorn is a "for purchase" option. In the past PAC has funded food for students at the teachers request - it is up to the teacher to speak to PAC & then

we cover the cost of that child's food...often we cover the cost of younger students, who might feel extra left out not getting hot lunch, however for the older grades we do not usually subsidize...also, there is always a free option available.

3) What challenges do you have in providing food programs as a PAC?

Volunteers - always the same people helping

Cost of food - so expensive now

So many dishes

For our hot lunch - people filling in forms incorrectly or providing incorrect payment or no payment

No extra help to deal with recycling & food waste associated with massive food production - it takes a lot of time to clean up afterwards

4) What solutions, resources or wins have you found that could help other PACS?

A five day a week paid position in the kitchen is a MUST. This is too important for our kids to simply rely on volunteers. Also, support the paid position with volunteers, but also with proper equipment (dishes, dishwasher, recycling facility).

5) Do you work with any other organizations to provide food services? How do you communicate or interact with these organizations?

I think we work with Community Schools - they help us with \$ but not with people/hours.

6) Comments and questions for next year.

Keep funding food, please, its so important!!!!

DO NOT expect parents/teachers/volunteers to take this on - its too much!

Its not enough to fund the food, we must create positions that are adequately compensated & well supported, in order for these programs to be successful.

*As a PAC we would like to continue weekly "for purchase" food (hot dogs, pizza, popcorn) while continuing our free 'top up' kitchen options. The paid hot lunch gives parents a break & is loved by students. It does contribute to our funds. However, we are still 100% in support of a coast wide food program & are excited to see what will happen :)

Davis Bay Elementary PAC

Food in Schools PAC Survey

1) *How is your PAC involved in any food service at your school? What programs do you support? Is your support financial, or with personal hours? What is the purpose of your service? (fundraising, feeding hungry kids, fun)*

- PAC hours: popcorn days weekly (fundraising)
- PAC hours: 1-2 paid hot lunches a semester (fun. Sometimes there is a small profit).
- Parent volunteer hours in the greenhouse (kids eat the food)
- PAC hours: BC Agriculture in the Classroom (distributing milk and fruit/veggies)
- PAC funded/hours: Sports Day lunch
- Pre-covid, PAC funded and provided a breakfast tray by the office. During covid this was taken over by staff as we were unable to enter the school. Currently a paid worker comes in and makes grab-and-go snacks and baking funded by the Affordability Fund. This is supported by a few parents who bring baking in from home. We are not sure if this will continue in the fall.

2) *Does your PAC subsidize food for vulnerable students? How does your PAC identify those in need? How is food provided? Are steps taken to destigmatize food access?*

- PAC subsidizes hot lunches for those who are unable to pay. These kids are identified by administration, or volunteer parents who take the orders. Otherwise confidential.
- A small fridge was purchased (not PAC funded) and placed in the hallway. Kids help themselves throughout the day. This is stocked with greenhouse goods, agricultural program leftovers, grab and go items like yogurt and cheese sticks + things made by the paid food worker. We are aware that the worker may not continue in the fall so more PAC support may be needed to continue this.

3) *What challenges do you have in providing food programs as a PAC?*

- Volunteer availability during school hours.
- Kitchen space. Storage especially.
- Sustainability commitments. (Garbage and food waste concerns.)
- Water shortages (Sechelt was in a state of emergency until late 2022, so PAC stayed away from doing much that required water/washing etc.)
- Health vs 'fun' food. (Vocal parents.)

4) *What solutions, resources or wins have you found that could help other PACS?*

- Last year we purchased reusable dishes.
- This year we purchased a dishwasher (for the dishes!)

5) *Do you work with any other organizations to provide food services? How do you communicate or interact with these organizations?*

- Ted Chisolm at the Sechelt Community Schools helps to coordinate greenhouse activities and the current breakfast program. Ted comes to our PAC meetings when he can, and works with a few DBES parents in other ways (SCS, Greenhouse subcommittee.)

6) Comments and questions for next year.

Roberts Creek PAC- Food Committee

Food in Schools PAC Survey

1) How is your PAC involved in any food service at your school? What programs do you support? Is your support financial, or with person hours? What is the purpose of your service? (fundraising, feeding hungry kids, fun)

Our PAC runs a whole school Hot Lunch Program (1x/week) and a whole school Breakfast Table Program (5 days/week). We also contributed \$3,000 this year to Roberts Creek Community School for food programming. Hot lunch as a dual purpose of feeding students as well as making a small profit to use towards other school items or classroom support. (ex. Community School Programs or Sports Jerseys) The Breakfast Table is entirely devoted to feeding children who are hungry, growing or may have forgotten to eat that day. Our volunteers donate hundreds of hours each to the programs.

2) Does your PAC subsidize food for vulnerable students? How does your PAC identify those in need? How is food provided? Are steps taken to destigmatize food access?

Yes, as mentioned earlier we donated \$3,000 this year to supplement the Community School to support vulnerable students gaining access to food. Our Breakfast Table provides enough food to support the whole school, so all vulnerable students feel comfortable accessing food in a stigma free environment. The PAC Hot Lunch Coordinator has access to the vulnerable student information via the Community School's account on Hot Lunches.net. The Community School food coordinator orders food for the students on their account. Since all students who order food via the software receive labels on their plates, no vulnerable student is identified as receiving a special meal.

Also, during every hot lunch many students will visit the lunch room asking for leftover food. We somehow always manage to get extra food out to those who are not "identified." Also, we see many repeat student volunteers offering to help deliver food to the classrooms who commonly do not have any lunches from home. The Hot Lunch Coordinator often orders/subsidies herself extra meals to feed those students.

3) What challenges do you have in providing food programs as a PAC?

Kitchen Space, Dishwasher is insufficient, sink is a common shallow sink that can't wash large trays. No freezer. Storage is minimal. Difficulty in communicating with staff in general regarding coordination of dish return, leftover meals, and student volunteers. Support at the school is minimal.

4) What solutions, resources or wins have you found that could help other PACS?

Hot lunch software is helpful. No cash for volunteers to have to spend time counting/rolling. Local Restaurants are amazing and willing to design healthy menus for kids.

We use reusable bowls, plates, and cutlery to save waste. We also compost all food

waste.

Monthly emails to the Parents helps to outline the menus and the ordering cut off dates.

Google sign up sheet to manage volunteers.

Use volunteers who are connected to the school as it really makes a difference. Many of the kids get to know the breakfast and lunch volunteers, and become comfortable enough to be able to ask for food.

5) Do you work with any other organizations to provide food services? How do you communicate or interact with these organizations?

Yes, we are partly sponsored by Human Landscape Design. Also, many businesses donated silent auction items to support the Breakfast Table at our school.

6) Comments and questions for next year.

We are left wondering about so many things. We cannot properly plan our 2023/2024 Pac budget because there has been no information disseminated down from SD46 regarding the food program's frequency of delivery, number of students to be fed, or even how food programming will be delivered. (staff or volunteers, Community School or Current lunch programs). It takes time to populate school lunch software, create volunteer databases, and to negotiate and plan with community restaurants to deliver food. This usually takes a volunteer all summer on a part time basis. Without knowing whether SD46 plans to feed the RC students, we will not proceed to do all that work and waste the time of a volunteer(s) which may leave a gap in food programming in the fall or all of next year at the school.

Stigma free food for all students is the ultimate goal for the Roberts Creek PAC- Food Programming Committee. We are hoping to see an improvement from the Roberts Creek Community Schools method of only identifying 15 vulnerable students who get food delivered (separated in a library or lunches in brown bags with their names written on it). If only 15 will be fed at our school a better plan needs to be in place to offer food in a stigma free way.

Cedar Grove Elementary PAC

Food in Schools PAC survey

Our concerns have always been that each student has the same opportunity to not go hungry and that there is not place for social or income status in hunger.

We would love to see Cedar Groves breakfast program back, it was funded by a CGES Families grandparents & stopped during covid, we used to run division wide fill the freezer programs & have hot breakfast sandwiches, fresh fruit, muffins and such & the kids loved it! I WANT this back 100%

Is such a program funded by the Family Affordability program?

We are also very interested in utilizing local food / farm for food suppliers

I've heard so many positive things regarding kinnikinnick food program how they use local groceries & have student involvement with prep & cooking, what a wonderful way to teach a necessary life skill! & include the community!

I'd also love to ensued that all SC schools have fresh local foods, breakfast & lunch programs

Our students need proper nutrients to absorb the learning within schools

We have challenges with finding volunteers for morning prep and placement of food but I'd be willing to personally prep after school daily for the following day and if possible getting my partner up earlier to place platters out for hungry kids!

Our PAC subsidizes hot lunch for our 12 underprivileged students daily (we offer a 5 day a week hot lunch) we also use have the privilege of having the Robert's Creek Community society help with having a bagged lunch available in our fridge (sandwich, a piece of fruit & a juice box) I believe for students that do not have or forgotten there lunch.

The office has a basket of individually wrapped granola bars & fruit snacks for kids to grab a snack on the way by!

Let's just make sure no kids go hungry, in any schools it's heartbreaking.

Gibsons Elementary PAC

Food in Schools PAC Survey

1) How is your PAC involved in any food service at your school? What programs do you support? Is your support financial, or with person hours? What is the purpose of your service? (fundraising, feeding hungry kids, fun)

GES PAC runs hot lunch 5 days a week. We offer hot lunch to fulfill a demand from parents and use any funds raised to fund various PAC initiatives.

2) Does your PAC subsidize food for vulnerable students? How does your PAC identify those in need? How is food provided? Are steps taken to destigmatize food access?

We do not currently have any initiatives to subsidize food for vulnerable students.

GES has a lunch offering for all children to access. This is outside of PAC, between the school and community school.

We would love to be able to access and support vulnerable students who could benefit from hot lunch. During the 2021/2022 school year, GES PAC was able to work with the Community School to get hot lunch into the hands of kids who otherwise wouldn't have been able to access. The community school identified these kids and took care of consulting with and ordering on their behalf through our online ordering system. This has not happened in 2022/2023. I believe for this year; the community school has other means of providing additional support to these families.

3) What challenges do you have in providing food programs as a PAC?

Healthy options with convenience ie, pre-packaged from vendors, minimal labour required, low clean up etc.

Parent volunteers – we have a volunteer group of 17 which covers the basics but it's hard to find coverage for illness, vacation etc.

4) What solutions, resources or wins have you found that could help other PACS?

Recently completed a trial with Elphinstone Secondary School where their kitchen program made hot lunch for the school. It was great, low labour, convenient and we hope to make this a regular offering.

If we can figure out a way to access the kids with the need for hot lunch, we have ideas on how to fund hot lunch for vulnerable students. These ideas are;

1. Option to donate or sponsor a hot lunch through the online ordering system
2. Local businesses (particularly in hospitality) we've conversed with around the option of sponsoring kids hot lunch through monetary donations.

5) Do you work with any other organizations to provide food services? How do you communicate or interact with these organizations?

We work with the following vendors;

IGA

Salt and Swine

Subway

Patras Pizza

Sima Sushi

We communicate with the vendors primarily via email. We place the orders once a week on Sunday evening for the week ahead, via email.

Payments are made via e-transfer once a month or bi-weekly depending on vendor's request.

Invoices and or receipts are emailed to the PAC.

For supplies we work with Gordon Food Service.

6) Comments and questions for next year.

What hot lunch system are others on and is it working well for you and parents? What payments do you accept?

Which vendors do you use to provide healthy meal options?

Do you mark up your food costs as a way of generating revenue for your PAC? If so, how much is your spread?

How frequently are you placing orders or how far in advance are parents required to place their orders by?

Elphinstone Secondary PAC

Food in Schools PAC Survey

Our school received somewhere around \$20,000 from the Family Affordability Fund and plus school budget added to make the food program work till the end of the school year. Last time we received a report from the Vice Principal at a PAC meeting was \$23,000. I think it may have gone up after the administration decided to use the fund to cut back to a half price on entrée for students. This was such a well-received decision; students choose to purchase nourishing food in the school cafeteria at very affordable prices - such as \$3 for the main whole meal and \$1.50 for dessert, etc.

Also, administrators made an effort to improve congested line-ups at the cashier. They made a faster service by adding extra lines. The variety of lunch menu has high quality meal choices with fresh vegetables and fruits. It shows that administration believes in nourishing food enhances students' learning and energy level. They want to see ESS students stay in the cafeteria to purchase lunch rather than going to the mall to get less desirable fast food options such as pizzas, mojos, candies, and chips, etc. They have communicated to PAC on this topic many times at the PAC meeting before. Admin discourages students from consuming lunch with high sodium and sugar content, which affects their health and wellness.

ESS PAC is always proud of creations from the Cougar Café. With the great effort of administration sustaining reputable chefs and teams to run an attractive culinary program for students, while they produce high standard lunches daily including light breakfast and banquets for special events after school.

The culinary program was also able to offer pasta takeout lunch to GES and LES once a week for a few months. PAC was particularly happy about this development to support a good cause. It added to our Cougar Pride when we heard about this at the monthly PAC meeting. Administration and PAC have an open communication on food programs. PAC periodically checks with the admin about if they see more needs in food demand and cost. In the past, PAC provided funds from the Gaming Grant to subsidize the cost of food or money to be used for Cougar Café Cards for those who are vulnerable populations.

Recently, one of the PAC members informed us about the opportunity with 'Children First Canada, a member of the Coalition for Healthy School Food' who is working with Minister Karina Gould's office to organize a Pan-Canadian school food consultation. This will be a virtual conversation for youth in grade 7-12 on Saturday June 3, 2023 1pm EST via ZOOM. We have one of the Student Council members registered to take part in. He delightfully commented, "I can hopefully highlight the success of Elphi's food program and convince the government to pursue programs like ours more widely."

ESS PAC is happy to continue to be part of the consultation process to implement the best Food in School Program in the new school calendar year.

Langdale Elementary PAC

Food in Schools PAC Survey

1) How is your PAC involved in any food service at your school? What programs do you support? Is your support financial, or with personal hours? What is the purpose of your service? (fundraising, feeding hungry kids, fun)

PAC organizes a once-a-week hot lunch program from local restaurants - we coordinate the ordering, collection of payment, and distribution of the hot lunch once a week.

Families pay for the lunch for their students should they decide to order. Purely a service, not considered a fundraiser. Any extras are distributed by the school to kids that may need lunch. Person hours support this. The purpose is to make it easier for school families not having to make lunch, and provide fun and variety in lunches for the kids.

Pac sells popcorn weekly, which started as a fundraiser, and is quickly moving to just covering costs. Students purchase popcorn, and popcorn is provided to occasional students as needed.

Pac also started a weekly muffin program from Supervalu. This again is an order and pay for by families who choose, not a fundraiser.

PAC parents implement the Breakfast tray we think is funded through community schools. 1 pac parent shops for \$25 of fresh food once a week at IGA funded by the community school. Pac parents coordinate a "fill the freezer" drive asking school parents to donate baked goods or purchased bagels/bread/crackers for the freezer at the school (purchased by PAC) to support the breakfast tray. Each morning one parent prepares food for a tray that is available in the hall for any student to take from to supplement any hunger needs (or for kids to try new foods they don't eat at home) This is supported by the PAC with person-hours, but often the volunteers support this program personally providing dish soap, condiments, or equipment to fill holes in the supply of food or equipment. The purpose of this program is to ensure the kids at the school are able to fill any hunger needs they have, in a non-stigmatizing way.

PAC often provides fun treats to celebrate school events or create fun and excitement. Donuts, freezies, oranges, treats. These are financially supported by the PAC and include volunteer hours to coordinate and distribute.

PAC has in the past funded and coordinated the making of school lunches for a student when the need for lunch was clearly identified to us. This was funded and coordinated by PAC.

PAC parents have supported the Elphi-Langdale weekly hot lunch program by picking up the food from Elphi and bringing it to Langdale.

This year Parents have contributed Volunteer hours to bring a Lunch Lab experience to the school having students cook and eat 2 school-wide hot lunches with the lead from a professional chef. Extras were distributed to vulnerable families. This was not funded by the PAC. The purpose of this was to give kids the skills and experience to cook their own food, create community in sharing food together, encourage kids to try new foods and flavours, feed all kids in a non-stigmatising way, and reduce food costs for families.

2) Does your PAC subsidize food for vulnerable students? How does your PAC identify those in need? How is food provided? Are steps taken to destigmatize food access?

We don't have a specific program to subsidize food for vulnerable students. But when we are made aware of needs we cover them, in our breakfast tray program, hot lunches, and popcorn.

Identifying vulnerable students has been difficult. Occasionally families will identify to the school that they need assistance and the school will make our pac aware of extras that need to be in place for them, But even school staff at times is not aware of families' specific situations yet can kids can seem to be hungry. Families who have not been vulnerable can find themselves stretching into the blurry edge of vulnerability for either the short or long term.

3) What challenges do you have in providing food programs as a PAC?

We are a small school of just 67 families. Providing these services requires a lot of volunteer hours, over the past 9 years we have noticed more families have fewer free hours to volunteer. Primary parents have not had a lot of opportunities to volunteer in the school during the pandemic and we have lost that early initiation of these parents to our school community. This is a nice way to volunteer in the school and feel a part of the school community but it is a large commitment on a few families.

We are having a hard time stretching our \$25 food budget from community schools to cover fresh fruit and vegetables. We have been grateful for the family affordability fund to help supplement with the purchasing of cream cheese, Wow Butter, margarine, Jam, and to fill in gaps in our freezer when the parent-provided goods run low.

We need to find a better way of collecting hot lunch orders (happy to hear other PAC's solutions to this, what apps you may use, which ones were a problem)

Our kitchen space is tiny and not very well stocked. Our toaster is horrible, parents provide the dish soap, cloths and towels, and clean them. We have one tiny cutting board and two very dull knives.

4) What solutions, resources or wins have you found that could help other PACS?

The Spring fair is the main and only fundraiser, so we are not using food to raise funds.

Frequent communication with principal and admin assistant to identify needs as they arise.

Our Fill the Freezer campaign is a successful way to ensure we have filling foods available to help round out the food provided.

Our school received a waste reduction grant from the SCRCD to purchase dishes for the school to reduce use of disposables.

5) Do you work with any other organizations to provide food services? How do you communicate or interact with these organizations?

Community Schools provided us with a \$25 per week budget for the breakfast tray. There is no communication with Community Schools with us about this and we are unsure of how the program works or is funded and just go by what volunteers PAC parents have done in the past.

Our school receives a monthly delivery of BC produce from some BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program, we will receive a delivery for the school of one in-season produce such as apples, pears, cherry tomatoes, snap peas,

We receive a milk delivery, yogurt tubes, and individual cheese packs, randomly, we think community schools provided some of these and some other program provides others but we never know when they will show up.

A family has donated funds to the school to supplement the breakfast tray program in the past and due to frequent principal changes we are unsure of if those funds were used or still exist.

It is difficult to volunteer to provide food for a school program but to have a clear on how the food is funded.

6) Comments and questions for next year.

It would be great to understand what the Community School program is funding and how the budgeting for it works so we can do our best to maximize what we get and when. Whether we can save budget from our grocery orders from one week where we happened to get a large delivery and put it towards another week where we may need a bit extra. And understanding where food is coming from.



LES PAC's Tiny Gym Kitchen approx. 200sqft / No Dishwasher in the Gym Kitchen. We had to use Staff Room Dishwasher to wash 100+ dishes for the cooking food program.

LES PAC's Breakfast Program / Often volunteers had to bring personal utensils and cookware.

