

## Kittery School Nutrition Program ~ October 6, 2020 ~ Quarterly Report

**TO: Eric Waddell, Superintendent**  
**FROM: Wendy Collins, School Nutrition Director**

Walter Beesley, DOE Child Nutrition Director, has the following quote on his email reply.... "We never left but will be back stronger than ever. We are the school lunch crew!" That is the focus of my quarterly report, the amazing dedication and hard work that the School Nutrition Professionals put in since last March.

We revamped our business model overnight and have changed it myriad times. The team took each change in stride, making the meals, packing them in containers and then into bags and into coolers. They made breakfast and lunch for an average of 325 students daily during closure. Participation dropped off in the summer and is now picking up again this fall.

K-8 students are currently having meals packed in totes and delivered to classrooms. Traip students come to the kitchen and the lunch staff is safely behind Plexiglas putting the food the student chooses on the tray. The Traip staff is also packing and distributing remote meals daily outside the café. Families drive up and take the bag off a table to ensure the safety of all.

These ladies stood outside handing out meals with snow on the ground, trying to keep warm, in the pouring rain and in the very hot sun! They are truly LUNCH HEROES! I personally dedicate this quarterly report to them! They even took time to donate food to other Front line heroes at the Kittery Police Department and York Hospital.

I would be amiss if I didn't thank Chef David Vargas for stepping in for the first two weeks of school to help the kitchens in my absence. Thank you for your kindness, expertise and support of our program!

We started a partnership with the Kittery Land Trust Victory Garden last spring. We planted seeds donated by Strawberry Banke, Slow Food Seacoast, and Shapleigh School with the intent of growing produce to hand out to families. We couldn't sustain taking care of the seedlings and donated them to the Victory Garden across the street from Shapleigh. In return they donated produce to us all summer to use and hand out to families. We received generous donations from Greenlaw Gardens and Three River Farm Alliance. Manager Karen is making sauces and other recipes and freezing them for later use in recipes.

Thank you to the community for all your pictures, notes and gifts! Thank you to the support from the Admin team! Thank you to the local businesses that donated produce, books, and treats for staff and children. It was heartwarming to see "I AM KITTERY" first hand.

These pictures tell the story better than I ever could. Thank you to an **AMAZING** staff!!!

