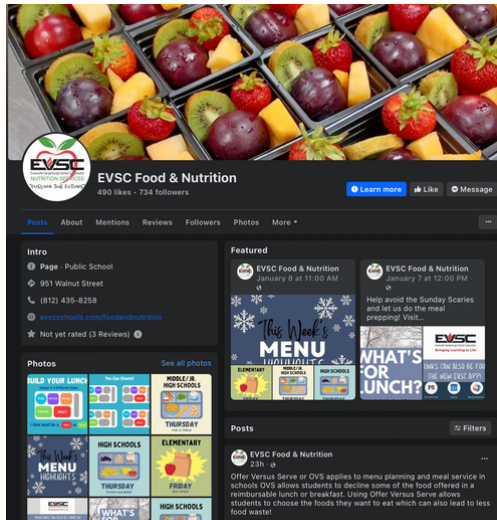


FOOD FOR THOUGHT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024



PROMOTING YOUR PROGRAM

The EVSC Food and Nutrition Department started our Facebook page at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year and we already have over 500 followers! Our main objective for creating the account was to promote our program to parents and guardians and hopefully increase participation. Most of the time the only exposure parents and guardians get to the NSLP is the feedback they hear from their students, which may influence a family's participation in the program. We wanted parents and guardians to see and learn about the delicious meals and wide variety we serve through a platform that is easily accessible.

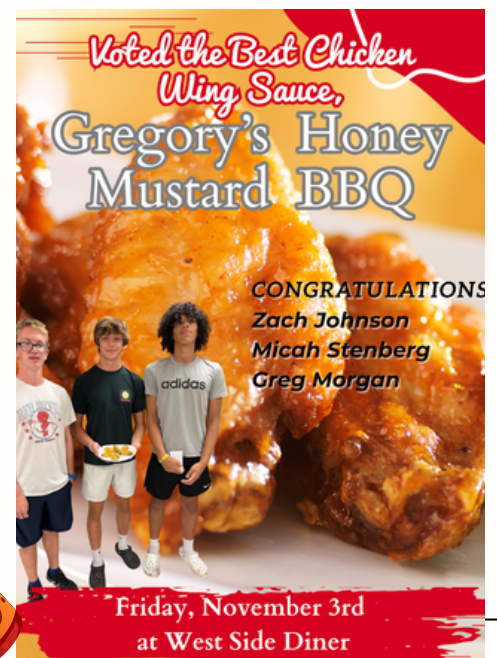
I dedicate time once a week to building out Facebook posts for the next week. Each day has a "theme" (Menu Monday, Wellness Wednesday, etc) so I do not run out of content to post. I have my managers send me pictures throughout the week of different meals they have created and then on Friday I post all the photos for our followers to see! It has been a very positive experience so far and does not require as much time as you might think to maintain. The managers enjoy showing off their work and the parents enjoy seeing what is going on in the school cafeterias! I can't wait to see where the page takes us in the next semester.

DRUMROLL, PLEASE!

West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School had a nice event on Nov 3rd!

The culinary class had a chicken wing sauce throwdown in October with 12 teams competing. The overall winner's sauce was featured on one of our serving lines - Wing Bar Day.

The kitchen staff prepared the winning recipe which was much enjoyed by students and building staff.





PICKING UP THE PIECES

2023 ISNA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 8-10, 2023 *French Lick Resort*

2023 ISNA Annual Conference

A big THANK YOU to those who joined us at the Annual Conference 2023 at French Lick Resort, where attendees gathered not just to explore new horizons but also to "Pick Up the Pieces" of wisdom, innovation, and connection.

Day 1 - Wednesday, November 8, 2023:

The conference opened with the inspiring Opening Ceremonies featuring Courtney FitzSimons and Keynote Speaker Shannon McKain. Attendees dove into breakout sessions, picking up the pieces of knowledge on measuring success in school nutrition programs, financial overviews, and practical advice on equipment purchases and change management.

The day concluded with the Presenting Partners' Dinner, a gathering where the pieces of the puzzle started to come together, forming connections and networks brought to you by our Presenting Partners Piazza and the Indiana Department of Education.

Day 2 - Thursday, November 9, 2023:

The second day dawned with welcoming remarks and a keynote session by keynote speaker Jon Colby. Attendees took part in a series of breakout sessions, where they continued picking up the pieces of creative menu concepts, farm-to-school initiatives, and insights into emotional intelligence. The day featured a series of mini-breakout sessions, legislative updates, and discussions on how to pick up the pieces when it comes to the changing world of school nutrition.

The evening brought the Prized Partners' Reception and the President's Reception, where attendees picked up the pieces of relationships, laughter, and shared experiences.

Day 3 - Friday, November 10, 2023:

The final day began with a business meeting and a general session followed by a series of breakout sessions.

The exhibit hall later showcased innovation and up-to-date information, where attendees picked up the pieces of the latest trends in school nutrition. Attendees left not only with knowledge but with a variety of experiences, connections, and the pieces needed to elevate school nutrition programs. A HUGE thank you to ISNA partners who made the exhibit hall a great success!

For more details on how the pieces came together, visit indianasna.org. Until the next conference, let's keep picking up the pieces!





APPLY FOR A SNA COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL POSITION TODAY!

Serving on a SNA national Committee or Council offers exciting opportunities to grow professionally, develop new skills, work on issues from a national perspective, and contribute to the school nutrition profession.

We are looking for members like you who want to play an active role in shaping the future of school nutrition programs. Open positions for the 2024-25 year include 18 school nutrition operator member positions, 4 state agency member positions, and 9 industry member positions. All forms are due by Friday, **February 17, 2024**.

[SNA Committees and Councils Interest Form](#)

[Learn More](#)



Change. Challenge. Opportunity.

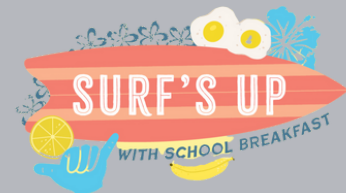
#LAC24 Registration is Now Open—Secure Your Spot! SNA is urging professionals to navigate the evolving landscape of school nutrition. The time to act is now!



#NSBW24

March 4-8, 2024. The sun is rising on the 2024 National School Breakfast Week (#NSBW24), and this year, we're catching the wave with the theme "Surf's Up with School Breakfast." Get ready to bring the excitement and energy of surfing culture to your cafeteria while promoting healthy and delicious breakfast options.

The [#NSBW24 shop](#) is now open!



BECOME AN

SNA Awards JUDGE

Calling all school nutrition experts! The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is seeking judges to assist in reviewing and scoring regional nominees for the 2024 SNA Awards Program. The awards program highlights Employee of the Year, Manager of the Year, and Director of the Year applicants for their accomplishments in their profession.

The deadline to apply to be a judge is February 2, 2024.

[Apply Now](#)



THANK YOU PARTNERS!



Albies
Amazing Fruit Products
Aspire Bakeries

ATLAS
Bongards
Brookwood Farms



TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD YOUR FUTURE!

The Indiana School Nutrition Association and the Indiana Department of Education have joined forces to create a program that will add value to the School Nutrition Profession in the state of Indiana and qualify as a State Recognized Certificate as defined by USDA. ISNA is actively marketing this program to Superintendents and School Business Officials as the criteria to look for when hiring. The program is designed to be completed within two years and is comprised of 17 targeted courses specifically designed for Indiana.

Want more information?

[Learn More!](#)



2024 ISNA SUMMIT

Plainfield, Indiana
April 12, 2024

Save the Date



04



12



24

Save the Date!

2024 ISNA Annual Conference
November 6-8, 2024
South Bend, Indiana



2024 ISNA AWARDS

ISNA and SNA celebrate members who work every day to ensure well-nourished students across the country are prepared for success.

Awards are available in the following categories:

- Employee of the Year
- Manager of the Year
- Director of the Year
- Super Star Service Award
- Assistant Director/Supervisor of the Year
- Office Assistant of the Year

Nominations Due: March 1, 2024

[Click HERE to learn more!](#)



JANUARY

IS NATIONAL SOUP MONTH

In the deep chill of January, National Soup Month warms us up with piping hot bowls of comfort! National Soup Month calls the family to gather and enjoy a hearty meal together!

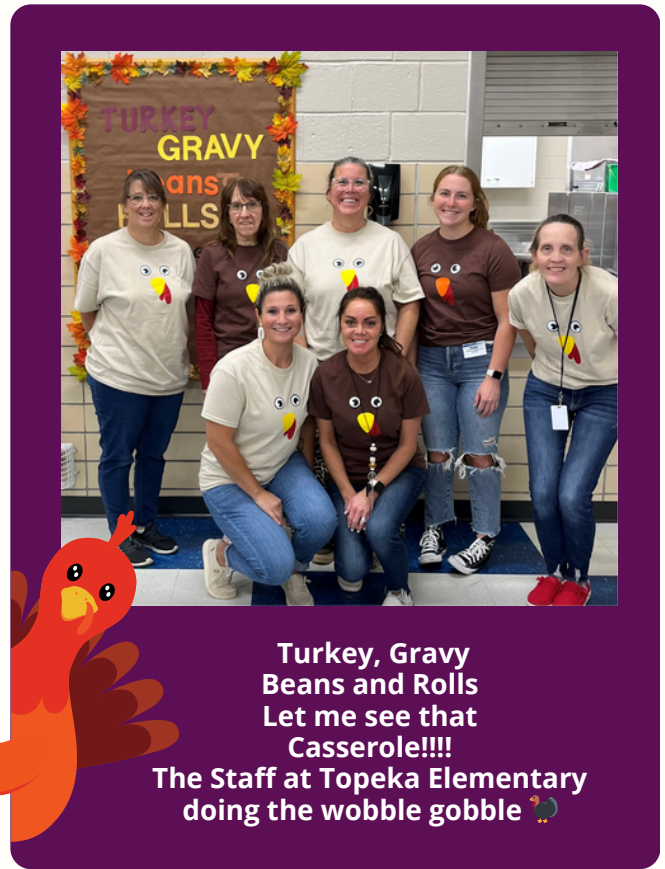


SHUCKING GOOD TIME AT MISSISSINEWA

Recently, we ordered fresh corn from DOD at the high school. We were under the impression that they were cobbetts and thought the students would enjoy the different offering.

It turns out we received 400 UNSHUCKED ears of corn! Luckily, Mr. Peterson and his class came to the rescue and shucked every piece!

We also had a teacher who came down and asked to take an ear to show their students how to eat corn on the cob. Unfortunately, many children do not know how to eat corn on the cob because it takes longer to process/cook. That makes my heart sad: however, I'm so happy to be able to offer new foods the students may not get to enjoy at home and the teachers who go above and beyond guiding the kids with new experiences.



Turkey, Gravy
Beans and Rolls
Let me see that
Casserole!!!!
The Staff at Topeka Elementary
doing the wobble gobble 🦃

Interested in sharing something through a future Food for Thought Newsletter?

Email information to [admin@indianasna.org!](mailto:admin@indianasna.org)

NEW ALBANY FLOYD COUNTY SCHOOLS CELEBRATES INDIANA FOOD DAY!

