

School page



Louise Spence said she only hires cooks who enjoy being around children.

Kitchen team aims to please

by SCOTT NEWTON
Staff writer

The director of food services in the Sandy Elementary District said it takes a team effort to prepare meals for 1,000 or more students each day.

In the first month of school, the staff served 17,230 meals.

"We stress team work," said Louise Spence, food service director. "If someone finishes up one job, we expect her to help someone else."

According to Spence, a lead cook may spend time cutting tomatoes, buttering bread or mopping the floor if that is what it takes to get the job done.

"I think that's why the kitchen works so well, because from the top down, everyone will help out."

Food service in the Sandy Elementary District can be mind-boggling just because of the numbers and logistics.

There are full kitchens at Sandy Grade School and Kelso School, and a "prep" kitchen at Firwood. A van takes hot food to Firwood every day.

Kitchen personnel set up a lunch line daily on the stage at Cedar Ridge, located next door to the grade school, for junior high students.

It takes eight people working six hour days — and one part-time person who works four hours a day — to get the meals cooked and served, and

the kitchen cleaned up afterward.

Except for one employee, all have from five to 12 years with the district. Spence, who works full time, has been with the district for 15 years.

But the logistics of serving meals aside, Spence said she looks for a human quality when hiring people.

"The first qualification for a job in the kitchen is to enjoy being around children," she said.

"You can teach most jobs in the kitchen, but you can't teach 'em to enjoy children. That's for sure."

Spence said that applies to her, too. "I couldn't do this if I didn't enjoy being around kids."

Morning is an important time for the kitchen staff. If everything is going well by 10 a.m., which is their lunch break, then the lunch hour with the children will probably go pretty well.

After meals are served, the staff begins cleaning up. "Everything is cleaned before we leave," said Spence, who adds that she is a stickler for cleanliness. A glance around the kitchen is evidence of that.

Spence said she believes the children are being served nutritious meals.

Each day they receive two ounces of protein, which includes either red meat, fish, poultry or dairy products, excluding milk.

They also receive a serving of two-thirds of a cup or more of fruits or vegetables, a serving of bread and a half pint of milk.

All the baking is done from scratch. That includes rolls, cinnamon rolls, cakes and cookies.

In order to convince a majority of children to eat in the cafeteria, Spence admits she serves food she knows they will like. Hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza and tostados are each served about twice a month.

On a trip through the kitchen while they are serving, Spence points out the tostados are topped with plenty of fresh lettuce and tomatoes.

Spence watches what the children eat, and if he kitchen staff prepares something the students won't eat, they quit making it.

Spence acknowledges that it is impossible to keep everybody happy all of the time, but she said they try to offer a menu that will please the majority of students.

About 25 percent of the students receive free or reduced-cost lunches through a federal subsidy.

In addition, about 25 children work doing various jobs in the kitchen to earn free meals. There is a waiting list of children who want to work at

the jobs, which are limited to nine-week terms.

The lead cook in Sandy is Jan Croonquist, and her helper is Jo Jones. Connie Fry is the baker at Sandy, and Nancy Dahlagher is the baker's helper. Reatha Krieger is the kitchen helper at Sandy.

Carol Powell is the lead cook at Kelso School, and Cindy Summer is the baker. At Firwood, Eleanor Thomas is cook. Charlene Howard is a kitchen helper at Sandy and Firwood.

Spence is certified by the state as a food service director. She previously was a cook at Columbia Christian College in Portland, and before that worked for 12 years as a cook and purchaser for restaurants.

Spence and her husband Paul, a self-employed auctioneer, have four grown children and nine grandchildren.

School briefs

ESD names budget committee

The board of directors for the Clackamas Education Service District has appointed new budget committee members.

They include Art Lowery, a board member for the Sandy Elementary District, Bob Boring, board member for the Sandy Union High School District, is returning to finish a three-year term on the committee.

The budget committee consists of county school district board members and the seven elected members of the Clackamas Education Service District board.

Together they review the general fund budget prepared by Clackamas ESD staff members.

Budget preparation will begin in early November and an orientation session for budget committee members will be held on Jan. 4, 1988.

The official budget committee meeting will be held on Feb. 29, 1988, and a public hearing on the budget

document will be held on April 18, 1988.

Preschool plans annual benefit

The Mount Hood Cooperative Preschool will hold its annual drawing on Nov. 17. Tickets will be available Oct. 20.

Money raised from the benefit goes to the preschool, which is operated out of the Hoodland Women's Club in Wemme. Participants need not be present at the drawing to win.

Tickets are \$1.

Prizes include a \$100 gift certificate for groceries at Gresham Thriftway; a night for two at Timberline Lodge; a cord of wood; Trail Blazer tickets (two sets of two); brunch for two at Rippling River; and a gift certificate at Osborn and Ulland sporting goods store in the Lloyd Center.

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Aerobics planned for youth

The Sandy Recreation Department is sponsoring an after-school aerobics class for students in the seventh- and eighth-grade. Classes will be held at the Sandy Community Senior Center, 38348 Pioneer Blvd., on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. beginning Monday, Oct. 12.

Junior high students will look and feel better while enjoying good music and fun aerobic dance movements. Each class will include a warm-up, aerobic exercise, strengthening,

stretching and relaxing cool-down period.

Improve cardiovascular endurance, strength and flexibility in a non-competitive environment with this class.

Fees for the eight-week session are \$10 for city of Sandy residents and \$15 for students living outside the city limits.

For more information call the Sandy Recreation Department at 668-5569.

Cooking class to be offered

There are two more sessions of the "Lite-n-Natural Vegetarian Cookery" classes being offered at the Sandy Seventh-Day Adventist Community Center. They will be Wednesday, Oct. 14, and Wednesday, Oct. 21. Both start at 7 p.m.

Topics to be covered will be "Sweets" and "Fun Foods." A film titled "Salt: The Hidden Threat" will also be shown.

Heather Leno will be the instructor. There is no charge for the class.

For more information, call 668-3527 or 668-6144.

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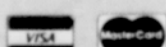
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