

August 24, 2009

Dear Falk School Families:

One of the major changes brought about through the expansion and renovation of the school has been changes to our cafeteria options. These will include more options, healthier choices, a greener environment and more locally grown produce. These changes, and more, are all explained in the first edition of the Falk Cafe Newsletter which is included in this mailing.

An additional change is in the way money will now be collected for your son's or daughter's lunch and snack. There is no longer a need to declare for the meal plan at the beginning of the year. Also, your cafeteria fees will no longer be collected by ECSI. Instead, the University of Pittsburgh has contracted with Mealpay Plus. Anytime after August 31, you can go to the website listed and establish an account for your child. This account is managed by you. You can determine how much money to maintain and when you want to be contacted as the account balance drops. You can also place restrictions on specific foods (e.g., allergies). On days your child eats the full lunch, that amount will be deducted. On days that the offering does not appeal, you have the option of ala carte or bringing lunch from home. This will eliminate your paying for food that your son or daughter doesn't eat.

This system is designed to work with a bioscan system. During the first week of school, a barcode utilizing each child's index fingerprint will be created. This information is only used to identify your child within the cafeteria and to assure that you are paying only for something he/she has selected. However, if you prefer that this method not be used, we can also issue a four digit number to be used in place of the bioscan reader. In either case, as you child enters the lunch line, he/she will place a finger on the reader or enter the code. The reader will recognize the student and when he/she approaches the checkout, his/her face and name will appear. As the cafeteria worker enters the food items selected, if a product that you have restricted should appear, the "failsafe" will not allow that item to be recorded.

We are excited about these changes and at each of the initial parent meetings, representatives of Sodexo will be present to answer questions and discuss these new offerings.

Sincerely,

Wendell R. McConnaha, Ph.D.
Director