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Beth Dever  
Chief School Business Official  
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Dear Avoca Parents/Guardians:

School has been in session for about a month now. I wanted to touch base with you on our new food service program with Quest. We have been very pleased to be able to offer freshly made items. It is exciting to see our Avoca West students have a fresh fruit and vegetable bar to choose items from. Common offerings include grapes, watermelon, cantaloupe, tomatoes, cucumbers and celery. At Marie Murphy, the salad bar has been refreshed with many of the same items. Students at Marie Murphy are enjoying eating fresh made-to-order sandwiches on a daily basis. They have also tried many types of paninis and soups. As many of you know, we had Sushi on the menu one day this month. We ordered 50 servings for each school and ran out at both buildings. While we were very happy to see it was a "hit", we are sorry so many missed out that day. We will continue to offer Sushi once a month. We have increased our order and look forward to offering it next month. I have also heard and seen on a few occasions the kitchen running out of an entrée item during the last lunch period. Quest has responded to this concern and increased the number of servings made daily. At Avoca West there are two entrees offered on the menu plus a variety of sandwiches and salads to choose from. Marie Murphy has the same number of offerings plus homemade soup every day. Even if something runs low there are many other options to choose from.

The District invested in many upgrades to allow us to offer more options. We have a wonderful new reach in cooler at Avoca West that provides easy access to our drink selection and other grab and go items. We purchased the new fruit and vegetable bar described above and both buildings now have Panini grills. For those of you that support green practices, you will be happy to know we have been using our plastic trays vs only using Styrofoam trays. We will soon be fully stocked with plastic trays for both buildings. We also have new utensil dispensers so there is no longer any plastic wrapping around them. We are looking into straw dispensers too.

I try to observe the lunchrooms at both buildings once a week. I am looking at what students are purchasing, eating and throwing away. I also observe the time it takes to get through the lunch line and seated at the lunch tables. In the beginning of the year, this is always a slow process as everyone is either new to the program or re-familiarizing themselves with their PIN number and the process. At Avoca West, we bought a scanner to use to get students through the line quickly. Unfortunately, we found that process to be slower than students entering their own PIN numbers on the keypads. I have been working with Quest to make sure they are able to serve the students on a timely basis so they have time to eat their lunch. Each day this seems to improve. Occasionally the Mealtime POS station will freeze and stop the line but this has not happened too often. If for some reason a student has not finished their lunch, the lunchroom supervisors will allow them a few more minutes to eat prior to going out to recess.

I want to thank all of you for your patience and support over the last month. Considering we had our previous food service provider for close to 30 years, I think Quest has done a great job serving lunch for their first 18 days. While I have received many positive comments, I recognize not everyone has been happy with the program. We will continue to work hard at providing a variety of freshly made options to choose from. I have

attached the October menus for your reference. They will also be posted online and included in the Avoca Weekly newsletter. If you have any questions about any specific food items, you can contact Margaret Black, our food service manager, at [blackm@avoca37.org](mailto:blackm@avoca37.org). If you have any questions about your Mealttime account, you can contact Kathi Meinzer at [meinzerk@avoca37.org](mailto:meinzerk@avoca37.org). I can also help you with your Mealttime account if Kathi is not available. Account statements will be emailed home on Tuesdays to anyone with a balance of less than \$10.00 in their lunch account. Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beth Dever".

Beth Dever

Chief School Business Official