

Piney Ridge Elementary School

December 2024 Newsletter



Dear Piney Ridge Families,

We hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing Thanksgiving break. The break was a good time to reflect on the things that we are thankful for in our lives. At Piney Ridge, we are thankful for the great students, supportive families, and hard-working staff. While we are giving thanks, we also want to give a thank you to the many parents who came out for our fall parent-teacher conference nights. Though all of our fall conference nights are complete, we encourage parents to contact teachers at any time if there are questions about a student's progress.

Looking ahead, we are excited about two school concerts that take place this month. On December 4th, the 4th grade Band & Orchestra, along with 5th grade soloists will be performing. On December 11th, the 5th grade Band & Orchestra and 3rd grade Chorus will perform. Each concert begins at 6:00 PM. The performers as well as Mr. Dundore and Mrs. Thomas have been hard at work preparing for these performances.

The mid-term date for the second marking period is December 11th. Parents of students in PreK through Grade 2 will receive an interim report from the teacher. Parents of students in grades 3 through 5 are encouraged to check Home Access Center for updated student grades on or about that date.

Lastly, we want to remind parents to begin thinking about the possibility of inclement weather and its impact on schools. If an announcement is made about the delay or closing of schools, this information will be communicated through the CCPS website, School Messenger emails and/or calls, Channel 21, and other local radio or television stations. It is a good idea to plan ahead so that your family can be prepared for a delay or closing of schools with short notice. For more information about inclement weather and schools, [click here](#).

We wish everybody a safe and healthy month of December!

John Code, Principal
Morgan Pratt, Asst. Principal

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Board of Education of Carroll County does not engage in discrimination that is unlawful or contrary to Maryland State Department of Education guidance on the basis of age, color, genetic information, marital status, mental or physical disability, ancestry or national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. The Board of Education of Carroll County is firmly committed to creating equal employment and educational opportunities for all persons by providing an environment that supports optimal academic achievement and productive work and is free from any form of unlawful discrimination, including access to school facilities, educational programs, and extracurricular activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Director of Human Resources 125 North Court Street Westminster, MD 21157 (410) 751-3070.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 2-6 National Inclusive Schools Week

- 12/4 - Concert at 6pm (4th grade Instrumental and 5th grade small group/solos)
- 12/6 PTA- International Night
- 12/10 PTA- Chipolte Spirit Day
- 12/11- Concert at 6pm (3rd Grade Chorus & 5th Grade Instrumental) | PTA Meeting at 7pm
- 12/23-1/1 Winter Break

LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found is growing quickly. Please be sure to take a look if you are in the building visiting. If your child is missing something, staff can support them in searching the rack. Thank you!



SPECIAL REQUEST FOR OUR SPECIALS TEACHERS



Our specials teachers (Media, Art, Music, Gym, Health) are in need of Tissue Donations with Cold and Flu season approaching. Donations can be brought to the front office. Thank you!

Nurse's Nook

Cold and Flu Facts

The flu and the common cold are both respiratory illnesses but they are caused by different viruses. Because these two types of illnesses have similar flu-like symptoms, it can be difficult to tell the difference between them. Flu comes on suddenly, while a cold appears gradually.

Symptoms At a Glance:



Is it a cold or the flu?

SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU
Fever	Rare	Usual; high (100°F to 102°F, occasionally higher, especially in young children); lasts 3 to 4 days
Headache	Rare	Common
General Aches, Pains	Slight	Usual; often severe
Fatigue, Weakness	Sometimes	Usual; can last up to 2 to 3 weeks
Extreme Exhaustion	Never	Usual; at the beginning of the illness
Stuffy Nose	Common	Sometimes
Sneezing	Usual	Sometimes
Sore Throat	Common	Sometimes
Chest Discomfort, Cough	Mild to moderate; hacking cough	Common; can become severe

“Stomach Flu” is not the Flu, but a virus affecting the intestinal tract. The term “stomach flu” is a misnomer that is sometimes used to describe gastrointestinal illnesses caused by organisms other than influenza viruses.

Please contact your Primary Care Physician or Pediatrician to receive the Flu shot for yourself and your child.

Hearing and Vision screening were performed by the CCHD for all Pk, Kindergarten, 1st grade and 4th graders the first week of school. If your child failed either you were notified by email and by letter. Please be sure to have your child screened and return results to the School Nurse.

Piney Ridge Elementary School



everychild. one voice.

Nextrex Recycling Program- Bring in your plastic bags and help Piney Ridge earn a free bench! We are over halfway to our goal of collecting 1000 lbs.

Lend a Paw- If you are interested in volunteering in any way (big or small) reach out to preptapres@gmail.com.

Knowledge is Power

Electronic devices and screens have become integral to our daily lives, influencing various aspects of our routines and interactions. However, there is an increasing body of evidence indicating that early exposure to video games and social media can be detrimental to the mental health of our children. This growing concern highlights the need for awareness and action to mitigate these negative effects. [Click Here](#) for some helpful resources regarding screen safety strategies.

LEARN MORE



INCLUSIVITY AT PRE

Check out the resources below for activities to try with your child!



Handy Handouts®

Free informational handouts for educators, parents, and students

Barrier Games—“Do You See What I See?”









by Kevin Stuckey, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

Barrier games are a great language tool—they provide opportunities to develop receptive (understanding) and expressive (speaking) communication skills. In a barrier game, two players sit across from each other with a barrier, such as an easel, between them. Each player has duplicate scenes and objects. Place the barrier so that each player is unable to see the other player’s scene and objects. One player—the directing player—chooses where to set each object on his/her scene. The directing player then gives verbal directions to help the other player set up his/her scene exactly the same way. The barrier keeps both players from seeing each other’s scene during this process. Each player must be very attentive, patient, and clear in his/her descriptions or questions in order to match the two scenes. Once the players feel like their scenes match, let them compare their scenes.



What Are Some Benefits of Using Barrier Games?

The barrier game format is perfect for improving receptive and expressive language skills such as:

-  • Listening carefully to directions and details.
-  • Giving clear and concise directions.
-  • Questioning for clarification and accuracy.
-  • Comprehending and expressing basic concepts.
-  • Storytelling.
-  • Using and understanding vocabulary.
-  • Using describing words such as adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions.
-  • Discussing and reflecting on an activity.

What Are Some Examples of Barrier Games?

From Head to Toe – Print out two copies of the same person or character and two identical

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Free informational handouts for educators, parents, and students
(cont.)



sets of clothes and accessories, then cut out and laminate the copies. Seat each child on either side of the barrier. Give each child the same person or character and set of clothes and accessories. One child dresses the person or character and describes to the other child how to do the same. The other child listens to the directions and attempts to make his/her person or character look the same. When the clothes and accessories are on the pictures, the children then compare the pictures for similarities and differences. A great variation to this game is to use Mr. Potato Head®.

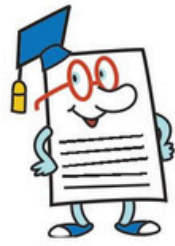
Make It Match! – Provide each child with a piece of paper and markers or crayons. One child draws a picture and describes it. The other child listens to the directions and attempts to draw the same picture on his/her page. Switch roles after each turn. Modify this task by giving the children copies of a page from a coloring book to color.

Say What? – Provide each child with identical picture scenes (park, beach, store, etc.) and objects for his/her side of the barrier. The teacher or parent gives the children different commands (i.e., “Put the fish in the water.” “Put the bird in the sky.” “Put the girl beside the blue car at the mall.”). The children follow the directions at the same time. Once the teacher or parent gives all directions, compare each child’s work for listening and comprehension accuracy. For extension, the children can tell a story about a time they went to the park, beach, store, etc.

Variations on Barrier Games

To increase the difficulty level, have the children give two or more directions at a time. To practice social skills, have the children work together in teams of two or more on each side of the barrier. To work on narrative skills, have the children create a story about the scene and the people or characters in it.

For more FREE Handy Handouts®, go to www.handyhandouts.com



Handy Handouts®

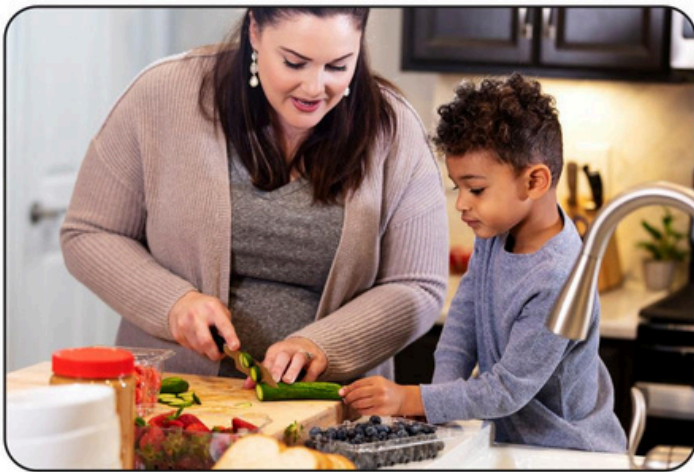
Free informational handouts for educators, parents, and students

Cooking – A Recipe for Learning Success!

by Julie A. Daymut, M.A., CCC-SLP



Cooking is a great activity to do with your children—you spend time together, make something delicious, and have fun! As well, cooking can help children learn and practice many skills. Following recipes requires children to *plan* (have the ingredients), *prepare* (get the ingredients and cooking tools ready), *process* (read and understand the directions),



and *perform* (follow the directions using the ingredients and cooking tools). From start to finish, children must follow each step of the recipe. They learn to complete a task and then enjoy the result of their hard work—the food!

When helping your children learn to cook, pick simple recipes with just a few steps and a few ingredients at first. Then progress to more complex recipes with more steps and more ingredients. If your children cannot read yet, read the recipe to them and have them repeat the ingredients and steps back to you. And...be creative with

cooking! Besides food, you can make fun things like homemade clay or soap. Creating your own “special recipe” is another fun idea. As you are cooking, teach your children about both kitchen and food safety. And be sure to supervise your children *during all cooking activities.*

What Skills Can Children Learn from Cooking?

Cooking is a hands-on activity that can help children learn many different skills. The list below outlines some skills children can learn as they follow instructions for various recipes.



- **Language skills** – When cooking, children must understand certain *vocabulary*. They need to know vocabulary for cooking tools like oven, *mixer*, and *whisk*. Flavors—*salty, sweet, bitter*, etc.—and textures—*sticky, gooey, melted*, etc. are also important to know. As well, children can learn figurative language related to cooking terms such as “a baker’s dozen,” “a piece of cake,” and “in a nutshell.”



- **Math skills** – Math is a very important cooking skill. Children need to know numbers and counting in order to *measure* and *add* ingredients. They must be familiar with measurements like teaspoon, *liter*, and “a pinch.”



¡Cocinando – Una Receta para un Aprendizaje Exitoso!

por Julie A. Daymut, M.A., CCC-SLP

Cocinar es una gran actividad que usted puede hacer con sus hijos. ¡Usted y sus hijos pasan tiempo juntos, hacen algo delicioso, y se divierten! El cocinar puede ayudar en el aprendizaje y la práctica de muchas habilidades. Siguiendo recetas requiere que los niños planeen (tengan los ingredientes), preparen (busquen los ingredientes y tengan los utensilios para cocinar listos), procesen (lean y entiendan las instrucciones), y ejecuten (sigan las instrucciones usando los ingredientes y utensilios para cocinar). Del principio al final, los niños deben seguir cada paso en la receta. Ellos aprenden a completar una tarea y después disfrutar el resultado de su fuerte esfuerzo, ¡La Comida!

Cuando usted ayude a sus hijos a aprender a cocinar, primero escoja recetas simples, con pocos pasos e ingredientes. Entonces progrese a recetas más complejas, con más pasos e ingredientes. Si sus hijos no han aprendido a leer todavía, léale la receta y pídeles que le repitan los ingredientes y los pasos de nuevo. ¡Sea creativo cocinando! Además de la comida, usted puede hacer cosas divertidas como arcilla o jabón casero. Creando su propia “receta especial” es otra idea divertida. Mientras está cocinando, enséñele a sus niños acerca de ambos, la cocina y la seguridad de la comida. *Asegúrese de supervisar a sus niños durante todas las actividades de cocinar.*

¿Cuáles Habilidades Aprenden los Niños Cocinando?

Cocinar es una actividad práctica que puede ayudar a niños a aprender muchas habilidades diferentes. La lista de bosquejos abajo son algunas de las habilidades que los niños pueden aprender mientras siguen instrucciones en varias recetas.

Habilidades de Lenguaje – Cuando cocinan, los niños deben entender cierto *vocabulario*. Ellos deben conocer el vocabulario para los utensilios de cocina como el horno, el mezclador, y el batidor. Los sabores *salados, dulces, amargos, etcétera* y las texturas *pegajosas, empalagosas, derretidas, etcétera* son también importantes de saber. También, los niños pueden aprender *lenguaje figurativo* relacionado a términos de cocina como “una docena del fraile”, “un pedazo de pastel”, y “en pocas palabras.”

Habilidades de Matemáticas – La matemática es una habilidad muy importante al cocinar. Los niños necesitan conocer números y cómo contar para poder *medir* y *añadir* ingredientes. Ellos deben estar familiarizados con medidas como una *cucharadita, un litro, y “una pizca.”*





Los Juegos con Barreras – ¿Ves tú lo que veo yo?

por Kevin Stuckey, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

Los juegos con barreras son una gran herramienta de lenguaje. Estas proveen oportunidades para desarrollar habilidades de comunicación receptiva (entendiendo) y expresiva (hablando). En un juego con barreras, dos jugadores se sientan uno al frente del otro con una barrera, como un caballete, entre ellos. Cada jugador tiene escenas y objetos duplicados. Ponga la barrera de tal manera que cada jugador no pueda ver la escena o el objeto del otro. Un jugador (el jugador dirigente) escoge dónde poner cada objeto en su escena. El jugador dirigente entonces da las instrucciones verbales para ayudar al otro jugador a poner su escena en la misma manera. La barrera no permite que los jugadores vean la escena del uno al otro durante éste proceso. Cada jugador debe ser atento, paciente, y preciso en su descripción o preguntas en orden de igualar las dos escenas. Ya cuando los jugadores sienten que sus escenas son iguales, permítales que las comparen.



¿Cuáles son algunos beneficios de usar juegos con barreras?

El formato de un juego con barreras es perfecto para el mejoramiento de habilidades receptivas y expresivas como:

- Escuchando cuidadosamente a las instrucciones y los detalles.
- Dando instrucciones claras y precisas.
- Haciendo preguntas para obtener clarificación y precisión.
- Comprendiendo y expresando conceptos básicos.
- Cuentacuentos.
- Usando y entendiendo vocabulario.
- Usando palabras descriptivas como adjetivos, adverbios, y preposiciones.
- Discutiendo y meditando en la actividad.

¿Cuáles son algunos ejemplos de juegos con barreras?

De la cabeza a los pies – Imprima dos copias de la misma persona o personaje y dos colecciones idénticas de ropa y accesorios, córtelas y lamine las copias. Siente a cada niño/a en cualquiera de los dos lados de la barrera. Dele a cada niño/a la misma persona o personaje y una colección de ropa y accesorios. Un niño/a viste a la persona o personaje y le describe al otro niño/a cómo hacer lo mismo. El otro niño/a escucha las instrucciones e intenta que su persona o personaje se vea igual. Cuando la ropa y los accesorios estén en los dibujos, el niño/a compara sus dibujos para las semejanzas y las diferencias. Una gran variación para éste juego es usando al “Señor Cara de Papa o Señor Patata” (Mr. Potato Head®).



Advanced Academics

Mrs. Stump-AA Specialist

HOW CAN FAMILIES SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING?

December is a busy month for families. It's easy to let homework, and our focus on learning fall to the wayside. Here are some easy, but impactful ideas to keep students thinking and applying their learning at home!

ARE WE THERE YET?

Instead of telling your child exactly how much longer you have until you reach a destination, talk through how speed limits work. Even young children can understand that if you are going about 60 miles per hour and there are 60 minutes in an hour, it will take about an hour to get somewhere 60 miles away. When you're on a highway, have them set a timer and see how long it takes to go between two milemarker signs. Have students look for green "miles to" signs to calculate arrival times.

THE SCHEDULER

If you're heading to a movie, the airport, or anywhere else that requires you to arrive at a certain time, involve your child in figuring out when you need to leave. Elapsed time is a tricky skill. Including your child in these discussions gives them real life experience calculating it.

RANDOM IDEAS

- When traveling, or even if you stay local: visit a museum, zoo, historical site, or community event and talk about what they liked, learned, or have questions about.
- Have a family reading challenge.
- Bake and discuss fractions, doubling the recipe, chemical and physical reactions.
- Involve students in creating a budget for spending. Look through sales ads and compare store prices to find the best price.

HIGHER LEVEL THINKING QUESTIONS

Never stop reading with your children! When you are reading to them or listening to them read to you, be sure to stop and talk about what you're reading. Ask "Who, What, Where, When, Why" questions, but also ask them what they think about a character's actions, discuss cultural implications in books, and encourage them to consider different points of views and perspectives presented in the book. Encouraging children to think deeply about what they're reading helps grow important comprehension and REFLECTION skills.

QUESTION STARTERS

When talking about stories with your children, you can use these question starters:

- How would you change the ending of the story?
Why?
- What is the main character's character trait?
What examples from the story can you find that show that trait?
- How does the setting effect the characters and the plot?
- What do you think the author wants you to learn from the story?
- What is the theme of the story? Create a cover for the story that clearly shows the theme.
- What details could the author have included to make the theme more clear?
- Does this part of the text remind you of anything?
- How does this story event match/conflict with what you thought you knew?

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	3 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	4 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	5 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	6 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit
9 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	10 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	11 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	12 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	13 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit
16 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	17 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	18 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	19 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	20 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit
23 Winter Break	24 Winter Break	25 Winter Break	26 Winter Break	27 Winter Break
30 Winter Break	31 Winter Break	Condiments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Syrup</i> • <i>Cream Cheese</i> • <i>Grape Jelly</i> • <i>Margarine</i> 		Milk Choices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nonfat Milk</i> • <i>Low Fat Milk</i> • <i>Nonfat Chocolate Milk</i>

Breakfast Entree Options: Bacon Scramble Pizza , Mini Blueberry Pancakes , Mini Maple Pancakes , Pancake and Sausage on a Stick , Mini Blueberry Wa es , Mini Maple Wa es , Yogurt Smoothie - Peach , Yogurt Smoothie - Strawberry Banana

Assorted Breakfast Cereals: Apple Cinnamon Cheerios , Cheerios , Cinnamon Toast Crunch , Cocoa Pu s , Rice Chex , Trix

All menus are subject to change. We make it our priority to serve the menu as planned, but sometimes situations arise where we need to make substitutions. We will make every attempt to substitute similar products when they are available. We appreciate your understanding.

MONDAY

2

- Entree Choices
- Homestyle Chicken Tenders with Buttermilk Biscuit
 - Chicken & Cheese Quesadilla
 - Southwest Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Baked Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

TUESDAY

3

- Entree Choices
- French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty
 - Hot Ham and Cheese
 - Southwest Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Tater Tots
 - Corn
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

WEDNESDAY

4

- Entree Choices
- Popcorn Chicken with Dinner
 - Roll
 - Sweet and Sour Chicken over Fried Rice
 - Southwest Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Steamed Broccoli
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

THURSDAY

5

- Entree Choices
- Chicken Nuggets with Garlic Knot
 - Lasagna with Garlic Knot
 - Southwest Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Green Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

FRIDAY

6

- Entree Choices
- Cheese Pizza
 - Pepperoni Pizza
 - Corn Dog Nuggets
 - Southwest Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Mixed Vegetables
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

9

- Entree Choices
- Deep Dish Cheese Pizza
 - Popcorn Chicken with Buttermilk Biscuit
 - Chicken Ceasar Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Mashed Potatoes
 - Corn
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

10

- Entree Choices
- Beef Tacos
 - Ranchero Pizza
 - Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Green Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

11

- Entree Choices
- Grilled Cheese Sandwich
 - Chicken Patty on a Roll
 - Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Tomato Soup
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

12

- Entree Choices
- Macaroni and Cheese with Soft Pretzel Rod
 - Hamburger on a Roll
 - Cheeseburger on a Roll
 - Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Savory French Fries
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

13

- Entree Choices
- Stued Crust Cheese Pizza
 - Stued Crust Pepperoni
 - Pizza
 - Pork BBQ Sandwich
 - Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Steamed Broccoli
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

16

- Entree Choices
- Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll
 - Three Cheese Calzone
 - Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Crinkle Cut French Fries
 - Baked Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

17

- Entree Choices
- French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty
 - Mini Pizza Bagels
 - Chef Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Tater Tots
 - Corn
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

18

- Entree Choices
- Spaghetti with Meatsauce with Garlic Knot
 - Pizza Crunchers
 - Chef Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Green Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

19

- Entree Choices
- Mozzarella Cheese Sticks with Marinara Dipping Sauce
 - Teriyaki Chicken over Rice with Dinner Roll
 - Chef Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Steamed Broccoli
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

20

- Entree Choices
- Cheese Pizza
 - Pepperoni Pizza
 - Popcorn Chicken with Dinner Roll
 - Chef Salad
- Grab and Go Combo
- Featured Sides
- Steamed Carrot Coins
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

23

Winter Break

24

Winter Break

25

Winter Break

26

Winter Break

27

Winter Break

30

Winter Break

31

Winter Break

- Milk Choices:
- Nonfat Milk
 - Low Fat Milk
 - Nonfat Chocolate Milk

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