

GlencoeNews

District 35 lunches to go organic next fall

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On June 1, Glencoe School District 35 students enjoyed a taste of the organic life.

A free lunch was served to the students by OrganicLife, the District's new lunch vendor for the 2010-11 school year, said Stephanie Macakanja, Glencoe PTO co-president.

Lunches are offered by a third party through the PTO as a fundraiser. During the 2009-10 school year, Food For Thought supplied lunch four days a week, including one cold lunch. On Fridays, the PTO has rotated vendors.

While very impressed with Food For Thought, Macakanja said that OrganicLife seemed to offer more for the same price. Each lunch will cost parents roughly \$6.50.

With the new vendor comes new lunch options. Central School students will see the addition of a full salad bar. OrganicLife will offer hot meals five days a week, which will allow for "more variety," Macakanja said.

With parents this year complaining that kids get tired of the food selection by the end of each session, OrganicLife will have a two-week rotation, Macakanja said.

While trying to stick with the "tried and true" favorites of kids -- pizza, chicken fingers and pasta -- special days such as "Brunch for Lunch" will be available. OrganicLife enables children the flexibility to have a vegetarian lunch as well, Macakanja said.

All the food is cooked in a nut/peanut-free facility and the vendor does its own serving of the meals. In the past, the PTO has had to ask parents to volunteer to serve lunch to the students.

OrganicLife will also take over the food orders instead of the current process with parent volunteers. This will enable OrganicLife to begin serving food on the first day of school next fall, rather than having to wait a few weeks into the school year.

Eating OrganicLife's food won't just be good for the body, but also good for the environment. Instead of serving food in containers, OrganicLife will "use real plates and utensils" and wash them after each to cut down on waste, Macakanja said.