

Rising Costs Hit School Lunches

Those nutritious hot meals served to school children every day cost a total of over \$19 million more in 1974-75 than they did in 1973-74, according to statistics released recently by the Department of Public Instruction's division of school food services.

Federal support for the school food service program increased over \$8 million between 1973-74 and 1974-75, from over \$44 million the first year to over \$52 million last year. That increased support can be translated into an increased reimbursement from 30 cents per lunch the first year to 35 cents per lunch in 1974-75.

Federal food donations also increased from over \$14 million in 1973-74 to over \$17 million in 1974-75. That represents an increased contribution of roughly nine cents per lunch to ten cents per lunch for each lunch served.

Although federal support increased, the percentage of the total school food service program being supported by federal funds decreased slightly, from 62.1% in 1973-74 to 61.5% in 1974-75.

Both state and local contributions also increased markedly, from 12 million in 1973-74 to \$13 million in 1974-75. But the actual amount of increase is difficult to determine, according to Ralph Eaton, state school food service director, because of a new cost accounting program instituted by all local school units last year. The new system of keeping records has

provided much more accurate figures on local contributions to the school food service program than we have ever had before, said Eaton. Therefore, the marked increase in local contributions may be due to inaccurate figures in the past.

School lunchroom managers were faced last year with rising costs despite a slight decrease in the number of children participating in the program. The decrease, from an average of 1,080,240 students eating lunches each day in 1973-74 to 1,075,878 students eating each day in 1974-75, has not greatly affected the percentage of participation, however. Eaton emphasized that still between 78% and 80% of the elementary and secondary school population eat lunches prepared in school cafeterias each day.

By eating in the school cafeteria, Eaton noted, each child is guaranteed a Type A lunch every day, including all the essential nutrients a child needs. The Type A lunch consists of a minimum of one-half pint whole milk; two ounces of lean meat, poultry, fish or meat substitute; a three-fourths cup serving of two or more fruits or vegetables; one slice of whole grain bread; and one teaspoon of butter or fortified margarine. And the Type A lunch can still be purchased for an average price of only 50 cents for each lunch served, Eaton noted.

Participation in both free and reduced price lunches and the

breakfast program increased in 1974-75. The percentage of children participating in the free and reduced price program increased from 44.62% in 1973-74 to 48.05% in 1974-75, while an increase of 47,536 children was recorded in the breakfast program.

About Social Security

Earnings Limit Rises

People under 72 can work and earn more and still get their social security benefits starting in January, according to W. W. Thomas, social security district manager in Fayetteville.

"In 1976 people can earn as much as \$2,760 and get their full social security retirement or survivors benefit," Thomas said. "The yearly earnings limit for 1975 was \$2,520. The increase keeps the amount in line with increases in general average wages."

For earnings over \$2,760 in 1976, social security benefits will be reduced by \$1 for every \$2 earned. "But no matter how much people earn for the year," Thomas said, "they can get their full social security benefit for any month in which they neither earn over \$230 nor do substantial work in their own business." The 1975 monthly earnings limit was \$210.

Different rules apply to disabled

Well, tomorrow's the last day before Christmas vacation and around the school everything is really

Hoke Highlights by Barry Ellis

looking like Christmas. In the Hoke gym students were a little shocked to see three gigantic snowmen standing around looking very cold when they came to school Tuesday morning, along with two white Christmas trees all of them covered with 'snow!' However, it was just the Christmas decorations for the Chorus and Chorale Christmas concert, held this past Tuesday, and for the Miss Ekoh Pageant being held tonight, (Thursday, Dec. 18, 1975), in the Hoke gym. The pageant is at 7:30 p.m. and everyone is invited.

All the members of the Chorus and Chorale hope that everyone who came to their Christmas concert really enjoyed it and want to wish everyone a 'Merry Christmas'.

The Health Occupations I class went on a fieldtrip to the Veterans Hospital and Fayetteville Technical Institute in Fayetteville Dec. 2 and Dec. 9.

At the Veterans Hospital the students were given a tour of the hospital in order for the students to see the type of work and the function of the various hospital departments. Each department head talked to them about their department, some including the educational background of employees in the department. The departments visited are as follows: Nursing Home Unit, Doctor's and Patients Library, Dental Department, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Corrective Therapy, Business Office and the many departments there, the Outpatient Clinic, Pharmacy and Hemodialysis. The hemodialysis was very interesting to the students since they actually saw and talked with the patients receiving dialysis. In each department, the work continued so that the students could see the type of service rendered. This was a very educational and interesting tour. Many thanks to the VA staff, who gave of their time to receive these students and who made them feel welcome is expressed on behalf of

the Health Occupations Class. Mr. Joe Edwards, coordinator, at Fayetteville Technical Institute arranged a tour of the allied Health Program offered at FTI.

The Dental Hygiene Lab was the highlight of this tour. The Hoke High students observed the dental hygiene students busy in a clinic of their own with patients. This helped the students see how those enrolled in a health program receive their training.

Another class busy at work that was visited was the Nurse Assistant Program working in the nursing program laboratory.

Mr. Edwards talked to the students about all the allied Health Programs offered at FTI, the requirements to enter the various programs and the importance of planning and selecting required courses in high school.

The Health Careers Club had their regular monthly meeting Dec. 9 at the Hoke Co. Rescue Squad Building. Bobby Conoly, Jim Wade and Charles Maloney talked to members about the work of the Rescue Squad and demonstrated the use of the equipment used in emergency care. This was a very informative and interesting program. The club presented a donation to the Rescue Squad for their appreciation of the service rendered to the community.

Thursday, Dec. 11 marked the beginning of the first clinical work for the H.O. II students. 14 H.O. II students visited the Open Arms Rest Home for orientation. They will continue to work at the home every Thursday.

The F.H.A. - H.E.R.O. Club held its monthly meeting December 2, 1975. The program consisted of a crafts demonstration, given by Mrs. Mary Vann. She was presented to the club by vice-president, Idell McNeill. Mrs. Vann demonstrated marble craft, Swedish embroidery, and dough molding. She also encouraged participation in the student crafts contest that will be held at Hoke County High School, January 6, 1976.

The F.H.A. - H.E.R.O. club is also planning a Christmas dinner December 17, 1975, for the two occupational classes.

I hope everyone has a great vacation and a wonderful Christmas. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



J.P. Stevens Store

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KING	\$18.99	\$15 ⁹⁶

Bath Towels

100% Cotton - Towels - 20" x 30" - White

The address of the social security office serving this area is 111 Lamont Street, Fayetteville. The telephone number is 483-2661.

Service Personnel

Navy Aviation Structural Mechanic Third Class Marvin McPhatter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McPhatter of Rt. 1, Red Springs, has been promoted to his present rank while serving with

Patrol Squadron 56 at the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla.

A former student of Hoke High School, he joined the Navy in July 1973.



POLICE DANCE - Youths turned out to enjoy music by "Brandy", dancing, and a chance to have a "rap" session with Raeford police officers to improve communications. Expenses for the dance were paid by donations from merchants.



SNACK BREAK - Gene Hasty takes a break from the dancing and enjoys a hot dog at the get-together for police and youths Friday night. Area merchants donated food and soft drinks to make it possible.