

Dear Parents,

The St. Paul's lunch program has worked hard to keep its paid lunch prices for our families low. Unfortunately, the USDA under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010 required all schools to increase their hot lunch fees to better reflect the reimbursable amount we receive from them. The Paid Lunch Equity regulation is a Federal Law from Section 205 - Paid Lunch Equity ("Effective SY beginning July 1, 2011, schools are required to charge students for paid meals at a price that is on average equal to the difference between free meal reimbursement and paid meal reimbursement; Schools that currently charge less are required to gradually increase their prices over time until they meet the requirement") and Section 206 - Revenue from Non-Program Foods ("Requires all non-reimbursable meal foods sold by school food service to generate revenue at least equal to their cost") of the HHFKA of 2010. If schools do not raise prices towards the average of \$2.46, they will be considered to be non-compliant with current federal regulations. Therefore, effective the second semester, Monday, January 23, 2012 we will be stepping up our paid meal fees to \$2.25 for 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders, \$2 for Day Care and Kindergarten students, and \$2.75 for adult meals. A carton of milk will now be \$0.30 for our cold lunch eaters or if your child wants a second carton with the hot lunch meal.

I've attached the January menu to this mailing. I will also be sending home a hard-copy with each of the students that will include the current balance on their accounts. If your child is an *everyday* paid lunch eater, they will need a balance of \$46.25 in their account to cover January's fees or an average of \$12 per week. This reflects the increase.

With this in mind, I want to remind you that your family can apply for free and reduced lunches. Only one form needs to be filled out for the entire family and can be filled out at any time of the year. Results are kept confidential between you and me. If you qualify for *reduced* status your meals would cost \$0.40. There was a packet of forms that was included with your home visit pack in August. If you no longer have that, you may stop in at the school office and receive them. Please return them to me and I would let you know as soon as possible what your status will be. This is a great program that reimburses our lunch program for each meal served. Remember, your taxes have gone into this program and you shouldn't feel guilty or embarrassed about asking for this help. Many of our brother and sisters are hurting and when one member of the body hurts, we all do. I am here to help you.

The kitchen staff prays you have a blessed Christmas season and hopes you enjoy making memories with family and friends.

Janet Jass  
Hot Lunch Accountant