

# SEVCA Head Start Newsletter



Monthly Newsletter for September/October 2024



## From the Desk of the Director . . .

Dear Parents,

We are truly looking forward to a fabulous new program year! We finally heard from OHS (Office of Head Start) in June, about the Change in Scope application we had submitted back in January. OHS granted our request to close Northwood's Head Start (WRJ) and Children's Place Preschool (Windsor), which allowed us to reduce our funded enrollment from 83 to 45 children. With the challenges we were facing with not being able to hire qualified staff due to our wages not being competitive with the public schools, we had no other choice but to close these centers in order to reallocate the funds to increase wages for all staff and to be more competitive with local school districts. We now have four classrooms, two at Pine Street Preschool (Springfield) and two at Chester Community Preschool (Chester). We also offer full-day/full-year child care at both centers for 15 children at each center.

We opened our program year with full Head Start reenrollment, but are still looking for a few children at each location, as some children have moved and decided not to attend. Please contact our Family Partners, Michohn Parmenter for Pine Street Preschool and Katie Murphy for Chester Community Preschool.

We are finally fully staffed, and we are grateful for this! We are still looking for substitutes, so if you know of anyone (or you yourself!) would be interested in subbing for us, please contact Jodi Farashahi, Education/Disability/Child Care Manager. A big welcome to Sarah Schleimer as the teacher associate for Pine Street Preschool, in the Daisy Room!

We have hired three new staff as part of our support team. The ERSEA/Family Services Assistant is a new position and Lindsay DeCell is bringing great expertise to this new role for her. We love having her as part of the team and look forward to her new ideas taking fruition! We have also hired Jessica Parmenter as the Health Support Coordinator. Jess was previously a family partner, so she is transitioning nicely into this new role. Last but not least, we have hired Kathleen Murray Koledo as the Program Support/Data Coordinator. We are planning on joining the digital world and having all of our files accessible electronically through our web-based program, GoEngage, so Kathleen will be very busy helping us get this up and running!

We had a very successful Parent Orientation in August before the children started back and the vibes from this meeting were very positive! We look forward to having more parent involvement events this program year.

We have also received a grant from the HOLT Foundation for \$15,000 which will assist us in covering the costs of dental care services to Head Start parents who do not have insurance to cover this. If you are interested in more information about this, please contact the Family Partners at each center.

We are so excited for this new program year and spending more time with children and families!

Enjoy the lovely fall!

Take Care,  
Lori Canfield  
Head Start Director



## Important Dates to Remember:

September 25,2024 ~ Policy Council

September 27,2024 ~ Early Release 12PM pickup

October 3, 2024 ~ **CCP only closed.** Parent Teacher Conference #1

October 4, 2024 ~ **PSP only closed.** Parent Teacher Conference #1

October 11,2024 ~ In-Service Day, **all centers closed.**

October 14,2024 ~ Columbus Day, **all centers closed.**

October 16,2024 ~ Policy Council.

October 26,2024 ~ Chester and Springfield Trunk-or-Treat.



## Birthday News for September/October

### Chester Community Preschool

*CCP1- Violet P - 9/3, Parker G - 9/14,*

*CCP2- Cindy T - 9/20, Kailynn H - 9/27, Leo R - 10/4*

### Pine Street Preschool

*Daisy- No Birthday*

*Willow- Owen B-9/22, Waylon A -10/4, McKensie H -10/23*

### Staff

*Daisy Room Lead Teacher, - Jen Tucker - 09/25*

*Chester Community Preschool, - Jodie Peebles - 10/02*

*Chester Community Preschool - Katie Murphy - 10/29*

**Please Allow Us To  
Introduce Ourselves**

## The Head Start Management Team/Office:



**Lori Canfield, Head Start Director**

I have been involved with Head Start for 34 years. I have a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. I have a great passion for the program and feel that we are able to make a difference in the lives of the children and parents we work with. Some of my favorite things include: reading, baking, spending time with my 4 grandchildren, Lilly, Hunter, Julian and Moxley, traveling and camping with my husband and family.



**Barbara Vandenburg, Health/Family/Mental Health Services Manager**

My name is Barb Vandenburg. This is my 20<sup>th</sup> program year with SEVCA Head Start, and my 34<sup>th</sup> year working with Head Start in general. I am very passionate about Head Start, the program is an extension of who I am. I am the Health/Mental Health/Family Service Manager for the program. I have a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. I love to garden, camp, go on cruises, and spend time with my grandchildren. I also instruct Paint and Sip classes. I look forward to this program year!



**Jodi Farashahi, Education & Disabilities Manager**

I am a married mother of a 25-year-old daughter, a 17-year-old son, and a 12-year-old daughter. We live in Marlborough, New Hampshire. I received my bachelor's degree in Psychology, with a focus in Child Development. I also have my early childhood educator license in the state of Vermont. Before taking this position in November of 2006, I was a Head Start teacher for four years. In my "spare time" I also coach cheerleading for Northern Lights All Stars~ GO HEAD START!!



**Kathleen Murray-Koledo, Program Support & Data Coordinator**

This is my first year with SEVCA Head Start. I am the Program Support as well as the Data Coordinator and I work in the Windsor Management Offices. I very much look forward to my new position and learning many new things. I live in Springfield with my significant other, his daughter who is 17 years old and our Kitty Kat Piper and our precious Pomeranian, Xena. In my spare time I love to spend time with family and friends, as well as play poker.



**Jessica Parmenter, Health Support Coordinator**

Hello Head Start Families! My name is Jessica Parmenter and I'm so excited to get to spend a second year with you and your children in a new position. In May of 2023 I graduated with my Bachelors in Social Work and this is when I decided to join Head Start. I joined Head Start that same month, with last year being my first full program year as a Family Partner for the Windsor/WRJ sites. This year I will be rejoining as the Health Support Coordinator in the management office in Windsor, which is awesome since I spent the summer getting my License to be a Nursing Assistant. Outside I like to spend time with family as well as my two dogs, Maizy and Winnie. I also like to mess around on my sewing machine and get to the beach when I can!



**Lindsay DeCell, ERSEA Coordinator & Family Services Assistant**

Hello my name is Lindsay DeCell. I am the ERSEA Coordinator and Family Services Assistant, located in Windsor at the Management Office. I live in Chester with my family, Hannah 18, Matt 16, Dylan 15, Khloe 14, my partner Will, and our two dogs, and cat. I enjoy reading a good book, spending time with my family, playing board games, camping, and gardening. I also love traveling to Colorado to spend time with family out there too.

This is my 10<sup>th</sup> program year working for SEVCA Head Start but I have been with SEVCA since 2011 in a few different areas. My children all attended the Head Start program at the Chester Community Preschool. This is where I fell in love with Head Start. I received my associate's degree in Human Services from the Community College of Vermont. I am embarking on a new journey to get my Bachelor's degree in Human Services with a focus in Children and Families at University of New Hampshire.

Here are the ways to contact me:

Office Phone: 802.674.8419

Email: [Ldecell@sevca.org](mailto:Ldecell@sevca.org)



**Marilyn Gabriel, PhD- Mental Health Consultant**

Marilyn Gabriel, PHD, LICSW is our mental health consultant. She visits all the classrooms in the fall and is available to consult with teachers and staff regarding the needs of students. She sometimes attends staff meetings and has presented training to staff and parents over the years. If staff or parents have special concerns regarding the child's mental health and development, she is available to support referrals, treatment planning, and evaluation.



**Lara Peck, Registered Dietitian**

Lara has been employed as a dietitian and diabetes educator for the past 20 years. She has been working in the area of nutritional counseling for individuals and group programs for a good part of that time. Most recently Lara has been trained as a wellness/health coach. Lara really enjoys helping individuals make lifestyle changes to improve their overall health. Her practice areas of interest span the life cycle and include diabetes education, chronic disease management and wellness coaching.



**Susan Brown, Practice-Based Coach/Child Development Support Specialist**

I have the pleasure of being in all the Head Start classrooms this year. What these positions allow me to do, is to play with all the children and provide support to the teachers and support parents. I will also provide activities, within the classroom, which is one of my favorite opportunities.

I do have a mascot that accompanies me at times. Her name is Hollis and she is a great horned owl puppet. She has been a support to children who may need a break or someone to talk to. The best part is watching children react to her blinking eyes and when her head moves around. I have three adult children and my husband has two. I have three grandchildren, and I live in Chester with my husband and sister. What I enjoy doing, when I am not at work, is growing my own food, take care of my many flower gardens, hike with my husband, quilting, cooking, reading and art activities. I love going to the ocean with my family. Every year we pick a different location but usually stay on the east coast.

Some organizations I have worked with or facilitated are Children with Attention Deficit Disorder (CHAD), Autism Awareness, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and Hospice (end of life training course).

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. I hope that you enjoy celebrating all your child's milestones along this year. These young years are fast and filled with celebrations. Enjoy it all.



**Alec Benoit, Safety & Maintenance Coordinator**

My Name is Alec Benoit, and I will be going on my second year working for Head Start as the Safety and Maintenance Coordinator. Previously, I worked in the Springfield School District for many years and in many positions including substitute, paraeducator, and even a short-term music teacher. I pride myself on being a Jack-of-All-Trades and being able to pick up on new skills very quickly. In my free time I will usually play games with my two sons, making stuff out of various things (leather, resin, 3d prints, etc.), or play Magic the Gathering with some buddies of mine.

# Chester Community Preschool

## CCP#1



### Jodie Peebles, CCP#1 Lead Teacher/Center Manager

My name is Jodie Peebles and this is my fourteenth-year teaching at the Chester Community Preschool. I live in Chester with my children and my dog Rosie. I have my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Granite State College. I also have my Vt. Teaching License in Early Education. I have taken trainings as a Life Is Good Playmaker. I am so excited to use all of these activities with the children in my program to spread more joy!

When I am not working, I enjoy walking, hiking, reading, baking, watching my son's sporting events and spending time with my family. My favorite summer activity is spending as much time as possible at the beach!

I am excited to have the opportunity to get to know the new children and families that are joining our program. I am looking forward to seeing the returning children to see how much they have grown over the summer! I love being a part of this amazing preschool and enjoy every day that I spend with the children and their families.



### Karie Stevens, CCP#1 Teacher Associate

Hello families! My name is Karie Stevens. I live in Springfield Vermont with my husband, 2 children and dog Duke. We live on a farm with horses! I have been working with SEVCA for three years and have also been on various Boards throughout SEVCA over the last 9 years! I enjoy reading, being outside, and spending time with my family.

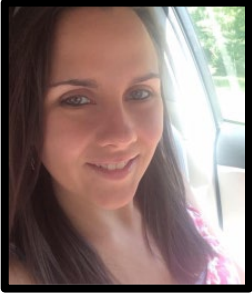


### Juliana Comstock, CCP#1 Teacher Assistant

My name is Juliana (Miss J). I am the teacher's assistant in CCP1 at the Community Chester Preschool. I live at home with my mother, her boyfriend, and my two cats. I love working with children and ever since I was able to talk, I always said that I wanted to be a teacher when I grow up - now I can say that I have accomplished that goal. Now, my goal is to help teach the next generations skills that will help them in their future. I just completed my Associate's degree

and I am working on continuing my own education. I hope to be a positive role model for the children in my care and work every day to ensure their ability to learn, be safe, and have fun. I look forward to working with everyone, my coworkers, my student's, their families, and the community, during this new school year!

## CCP#2



### **Randi Spittle, CCP#2 Lead Teacher**

Hello, my name is Randi Spittle. This is my 6th year working at CCP and my Fourth-year lead teaching. I am so excited to get to know all of the kids and families this year and welcome them into the building! My husband Ryan and I have three boys who are 10, 13, and 15 years old. I enjoy spending time outside, camping, and doing DIY projects. Over the past 12 years I have had experience teaching in a preschool as well as being a para in a Kindergarten classroom and working with intensive needs children.



### **Andrea Moffit, CCP#2 Teacher Associate**

Hello! My name is Andrea Moffit. This is my second year at CCP as an associate teacher and I couldn't be more excited! I live at home with my daughter, partner and two crazy cats. I have two grown children, one of whom is getting married next weekend. It will be a new chapter in our family. In my free time I enjoy crocheting, reading, and listening to music.



### **Felicia Rowe, CCP#2 Teacher Assistant**

I have been here at Head Start for nine plus years and am working on getting my Associate's Degree. I have a husband and five children. Some of my favorites include: camping, family time, "Tiny House", riding four wheelers, the ocean, doing things outside, playing games, movie time and cooking.



### **Vanessa Heybyrne, CCP Food Service Provider**

Hi I am Vanessa and I am the cook in Chester. This is my 7<sup>th</sup> year cooking for the preschool. I am originally from Long Island NY but have lived in Vermont for 17 years now with my husband and four kids ages 17, 14, 12 and 9 who all attended CCP! In my free time I like to bake, read, and thrift shop. Looking forward to meeting you and cooking for all the kids!



**Katie Murphy, CCP Family Partner**

Hello my name is Katie Murphy. I am the Family Partner at the Chester Community Preschool. I live in Chester with my husband and our 3 children, Liam, Maya, and Silas. We have 2 dogs, Buddy and Luna, and 3 cats, Bougie, Maggie, and Thumbs. When I am not at work, I enjoy reading, spending time with family, swimming, and traveling.

It's hard to believe this will be my 10<sup>th</sup> Program Year with Head Start in the Family Partner role and I could not imagine doing anything else! I participate in the Building Bright Futures Springfield Area Regional Council meetings once a month and continuously look for ways I can represent our program in the community.

After hours I also represent Chester as a member of the Green Mountain Unified School District Board of Directors. I find this is a great way to be involved in my community and the education of all of our children.

Part of my role as a Family Partner is to support our families in any way I can. I will offer home visits and monthly check ins. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you, not only as parents, but as individuals. This year I will be looking for lots of input on Family Activities and ways we can engage the community in our program. If you have any ideas please reach out!

My contact information is as follows should you have any questions or need to chat at any time this year.

Phone: (802) 460.0297

E-Mail: [kmurphy@sevca.org](mailto:kmurphy@sevca.org)

Facebook: CCP Family-Partner (send me a friend request)

Website: [www.sevcaheadstart.org](http://www.sevcaheadstart.org)

Don't forget to like us on Facebook: SEVCA Head Start

## **Pine Street Preschool**

### **Daisy Room**



**Jen Tucker, Daisy Room Lead Teacher/Site Director**

HI! I am Jen Tucker, Lead Teacher at Pine Street Preschool Daisy Room. I have been with Head Start for 17 years this year. I have my Bachelor's Degree in both Psychology and Early Education and also have my Teaching License.

In my free time, I love to read, camp and hang out at the pool in the summer. I live in North Springfield. My daughter lives with me. My son lives with his

girlfriend in Chester. My Grandson, Ryder James, was born in February.

I am so looking forward to getting to know you and your children! The month of September we will be learning all about your children and your families.

Feel free to reach out to me for any concerns or questions.





**Sarah Schleimer-DeCell, Daisy Room Teacher Associate**

I am so excited to be a teacher in the Daisy Room with Ms. Jen and Ms. Meagan. I live in Chester with my family and my two dogs, Mabel & Wolfe. I enjoy running, hiking, reading, playing with my dogs, paddle boarding, kayaking, playing volleyball, and spending time at the gym preparing for my Spartan Races with my sister.

I received my bachelor's degree from Castleton University in 2021.

I cannot wait to get to know all the children and families this year.



**Meagan Hannigan, Daisy Teacher Assistant**

Hello, my name is Meagan Hannigan. I am the assistant teacher in the Daisy room at Pine Street Preschool. I have been working for Head Start since 2022. I live in Springfield, Vermont. I have a daughter who just started going to kindergarten. I am also taking college courses to earn my associate's degree in early childhood education. In my free time, I like to go swimming and spend time with my daughter,

friends, and family.

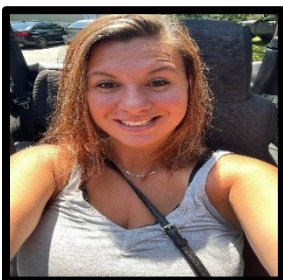
I am looking forward to working with all the kids and family this year.

## Willow Room



**Ruby Tumanda, Willow Room Lead Teacher**

Hello friends! I am Ms. Ruby and I am the Lead Teacher in the Willow room. I have been working for Head Start for 4 years. I have received my B.A. in Elementary Education. At home, I live with my husband and beautiful cats. I love to sing, play the guitar and keyboard, travel, create videos, go camping, and spend time with my family, friends, and my work family.



**Nicholle Veysey, Willow Room Teacher Associate**

Hello Everyone! My name is Nicholle Veysey. This is my 7th year teaching for Head Start at Pine Street Preschool. This year I am the Teacher Associate in the Willow Room. I am currently enrolled back into college to finish off the last few classes that I need to complete my Associates degree in Early Childhood Education with the Community College of Vermont. I have a 10-year-old daughter

Cassadee that is my world. She keeps me very busy with her passion for all sports and dance. I have been with my partner Mat for 8 years and he has 3 additional children Leia, Jordan, and Aaron. We have a blue nose pit bull named Jax. As a family we love to go to amusement parks, camping, swimming, playing

mini-golf, going to the beach, taking our jeep out, and we also really enjoy making spontaneous day trips to various destinations. In my free time I truly love to play bingo and go to concerts! This year I was fortunate to see Jason Aldean again and was able to take my daughter to see Usher for her first concert! I really look forward to getting to know and build relationships with all the families and kids this year!



**Alyssa Dalaba, Willow Room Teacher Assistant**

Hello, I am a teacher in the Willow room at Pine Street Preschool. I have worked with Head Start for a year and absolutely love it! I specifically love my job because of the relationships that form with both the children and the families. Being a teacher was always one of my dreams as a kid! At home I live with my partner Logan and our yellow lab Zola, our favorite adventure is going in nightly walks! We are currently pregnant with our first and we are so excited! I can't wait for a great year!



**Larissa Jordan, PSP Food Service Provider**

My name is Larissa. I am the cook here at Pine Street. I have a degree in Culinary Arts. Food, cooking, and baking are some of my biggest passions. I am a momma of four, ages 22, 17, 12, and 5! We love touring food trucks, camping, and creating new and fun meals together! I look forward to providing all of our nutritious and delicious meals this school year!



**Michohn Parmenter, Family Partner/Center Manager**

Greetings, My name is Michohn Parmenter. I'm the family partner/ center manager for Pine Street Preschool. I've been with Head Start for 18 years now. I have 6 children of my own, 4 of them are previous Head Start kiddos! That's how I got started with this program. I'm a Nene to 3 beautiful granddaughters. In my free time I love spending time with my family, hanging out with my bratty bulldogs, going to the beach and watching a good tv series! I look forward to working with you all this year!!

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

<p>This institution is an equal opportunity provider.</p>	<p>1 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Toast Mandarin Oranges 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Cheese Pizza on WGR Toast Garden Salad Watermelon 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Cheese Slices WGR Rice Cakes</p>	<p>2 <b>Breakfast</b> Hard-Boiled Eggs Mixed Fruit 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Ground Beef with WGR Elbow Pasta and Cheese Strawberries Green Beans 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Yogurt Mixed Fruit</p>	<p>3 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR English Muffins Applesauce 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Ground Turkey Meatballs Gravy WGR Rice Corn 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Carrot Sticks WGR Wheat Thin Crackers <b>CHESTER CLOSED</b></p>	<p>4 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR French Toast Peaches 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Scrambled Eggs WGR Toast Orange Slices Diced Potatoes 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Celery and Cream Cheese Goldfish <b>PINE STREET CLOSED</b></p>
<p>7 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Cereal Pears 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Ham and Cheese WGR Tortilla Bananas Carrot Sticks 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Strawberries and Pineapple Yogurt</p>	<p>8 <b>Breakfast</b> Oatmeal Muffins Pineapple 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Cheese Pizza WGR Crust Garden Salad Apple Slices 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Cucumbers WGR Wheat Thins</p>	<p>9 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Toast Mandarin Oranges 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Ground Beef WGR Spaghetti Broccoli Honeydew 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Mixed Fruit WGR Rice Cakes</p>	<p>10 <b>Breakfast</b> Scrambled Eggs Peaches 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> BBQ Chicken WGR Rice Corn Strawberries 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Celery and Peanut Butter Graham Crackers</p>	<p>11  <b>CLOSED</b>  <b>In-Service Day</b></p>
<p>14  <b>CLOSED</b></p>	<p>15 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Toast Peaches 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Cheese Pizza on WGR English Muffins Garden Salad Strawberries 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Yogurt Graham Crackers</p>	<p>16 <b>Breakfast</b> Scrambled Eggs Pineapple 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Spaghetti with Beef Meatballs Mixed Veggies Honeydew Melon 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Celery Sticks Peanut Butter</p>	<p>17 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Bagels Pears 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Baked Chicken WGR Rice Green Beans Bananas 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Apple Slices Cheese Slices</p>	<p>18 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Pumpkin Muffin Squares Applesauce 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Turkey Sloppy Joe's on WGR Bun Broccoli Cantaloupe 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Hard-Boiled Eggs WGR Triscuits</p>
<p>21 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Cereal Pears 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Ham and Cheese WGR Tortilla Celery Orange Slices 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Carrots WGR Wheat Thins</p>	<p>22 <b>Breakfast</b> Hard-Boiled Eggs Mixed Fruit 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Cheese Pizza on WGR Sandwich Thin Garden Salad Cantaloupe 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Teddy Grahams Bananas</p>	<p>23 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Oatmeal Muffins Mandarin Oranges 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> WGR Macaroni and Cheese Strawberries Carrots 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Cheese Sticks Cucumbers</p>	<p>24 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Toast Peaches 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Turkey Burgers WGR Rice Blueberries Broccoli 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Yogurt Mixed Berries</p>	<p>25 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Pancakes Applesauce 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Ground Beef Taco WGR Soft Tortillas Lettuce and Tomato Mixed Fruit 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Peanut Butter WGR Rice Cakes</p>
<p>28 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Cereal Peaches 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Chicken WGR Bread Carrot Sticks Honeydew 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Peanut Butter Apple Slices Yogurt</p>	<p>29 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Toast Pineapple 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Cheese Pizza on WGR Crust Garden Salad Strawberries 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Celery with Cream Cheese Gold Fish</p>	<p>30 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Bagels Pears 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Ground Turkey WGR Penne Pasta Broccoli Bananas 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Peach and Yogurt Smoothie WGR Multi-Grain Cheerios</p>	<p>31 <b>Breakfast</b> WGR Cereal Mixed Fruit 1% unflavored milk <b>Lunch</b> Chicken WGR Rice Corn Cantaloupe 1% unflavored milk <b>Snack</b> Hard-Boiled Eggs Cucumbers</p>	<p>This menu is subject to change.  <i>WGR=Whole Grain Rich</i></p>