

**PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOOD SERVICES**

August, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Parkland Food Services Department welcomes your child to first grade. Our elementary school cafeterias utilize a debit system called CafTRAC.

Each student already has an account set up for CafTRAC. If a student decides to buy lunch or purchase ala carte products, parents can deposit funds by check, by credit card online, or send cash with the student. They may either send \$2.10 to school each day to cover the cost of a lunch or they may pre-pay for lunches as far in advance as they wish by depositing money into the student's account. This is done by sending cash or a check payable to "PSD Cafeteria Account" to the cafeteria. Please place the funds in an envelope clearly marked with the student's name and teacher's name. A student may drop off envelopes any morning prior to the start of the school day to the cafeteria. When a student with an account balance purchases a lunch, the cost is automatically deducted from his/her account.

The Parkland School District is pleased to announce a new payment service over the internet. Your child's school now accepts payments for school meals through the MySchoolBucks.com online payment service. MySchoolBucks.com offers a secure transaction gateway that accepts VISA® or MasterCard® as a means of adding money to your child's meal account for a small fee. Both credit or debit cards can be used. There is a link to the website on the Parkland School District webpage. This service also allows parents to check purchases, account balances, and set up automatic payment schedules.

Account balances may also be used to purchase a beverages, additional menu items or any other a la carte item that may be available (e.g. fruit, snacks, juices, milk, etc.). The CafTRAC operator will limit a la carte purchases to **two** per day. Parents wanting a student's account to be used only for lunches may do so by notifying the cafeteria in writing. This information will be entered into the system and the CafTRAC operator will be made aware of the request. If you choose to do this, be advised that you are "blocking" **ALL** a la carte purchases **ALL** the time.

Alternate Entrees and Cereal Meals are not available to First Grade Students in the start of the school year. This is done to give students the opportunity to adjust to the process of buying lunch in the cafeteria. The alternates will be available starting Monday, October 3, 2011.

The CafTrac operator alerts students of a low account balance. Parents then have an opportunity to deposit additional funds or to pay for lunches on a daily basis. If an account reaches a negative balance, a letter is sent home with the student indicating the negative balance and requesting additional money to be deposited.

Students eligible for free lunches merely proceed to the operator when they receive a lunch. The system will alert the operator and no money will be requested. Students eligible for reduced price lunches are required to deposit a minimum of \$2.00 to cover the \$.40 lunch charge. To maintain confidentiality, students eligible for reduced price lunches **may not** pay the operator on a daily basis. Students eligible for free or reduced price lunches may deposit money into their account to allow for a la carte purchases.

Should you have any questions about CafTRAC, please do not hesitate to contact the school cafeteria or the Parkland Food Service Office (610-351-5670). The September menu is available now on the Parkland School District website.

Todd W. Holmes
Food Services Supervisor

