

School Food Innovator Series: Lead Engaging Student Taste Tests

February 28, 2024

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CENTER FOR
ECOLITERACY

CALIFORNIA FOOD
FOR CALIFORNIA KIDS*

School Food Innovator Series: Lead Engaging Student Taste Tests

February 28, 2024

Jen McNeil, RDN, SNS

Founder and CEO
LunchAssist

Janelle Manzano, MPH

Farm to School Program Specialist
San Diego Unified School District

Camille Biazzo, MPA, RDN

School Nutrition Consultant
LunchAssist

Cole Mazariegos-Anastassiou

Farmer and Co-Owner/Operator
Brisa Ranch



Agenda

- Welcome New Network Members
- Policy Updates from LunchAssist
- Panel Discussion on Student Taste Tests
- Recipes Featuring Local Ingredients
- Resources
- Regional Breakouts
- Closing





CALIFORNIA FOOD FOR CALIFORNIA KIDS[®]

California Food for California Kids is an initiative of the Center for Ecoliteracy



Welcome Our New
California Food for California Kids
Network Members!

Rialto Unified School District

Fausat Rahman-Davies
Lead Agent

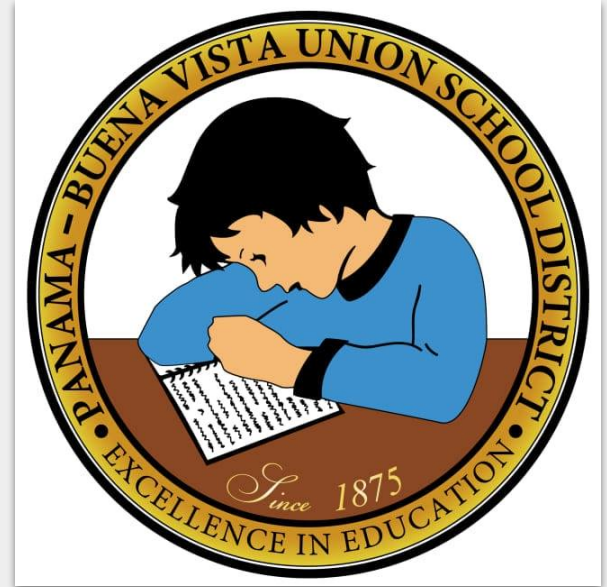
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Panama-Buena Vista Union School District

Kristi Sepsey
Director of Nutrition Services

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Knightsen Elementary School District

Lauren Buck
Cafeteria Supervisor

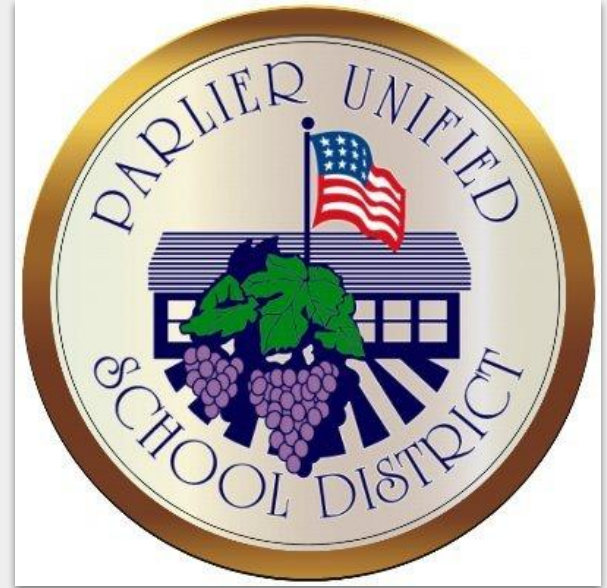
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Parlier Unified School District

Marina Navarro
Director of Child Nutrition

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California Food for California Kids Network



2,175,272

STUDENTS ENROLLED

340,376,388

MEALS SERVED ANNUALLY

Policy Updates

Jen McNeil, RDN, SNS
Founder & CEO of LunchAssist

Meet LunchAssist!



Jen McNeil
RDN, SNS



Jackie Roller
RDN



Joselyn Caceres
RDN, CDCES



Camille Biazzo
MPA, RDN



Amanda Mercer
MS, RDN



Ally Mrachek
MS, RDN, IBCLC



Emily Dunklee
CPH



Shine Benitez



Dennis Mwaura



Kammy Benson



Mike Munna



Elisabeth Mendoza



Emma Finn



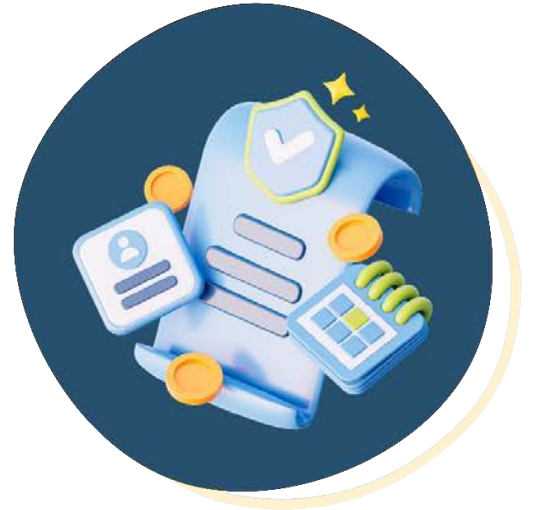
Child Nutrition Legislative Updates

- [Interim Final Rule](#): Rural Non-Congregate Summer Meals
- [Interim Final Rule](#): Summer EBT
- [CEP Final Rule](#): Lower 25% ISP
- [USDA Proposed Rules](#): Meal Pattern Changes
- [SB 1383](#): Organic Recycling & Food Recovery
- [SB 490](#): CA Buy American
- [AB 778](#): CA Preference in Bids
- [SB 348](#): Pupil Meals (Time to Eat)
- [AB 95](#): A la Carte and Second Meals (still allowed)
- [SB 628](#): State Healthy Food Access in all Policies
- [AB 1228](#): \$20 Minimum Wage for Fast Food Workers



Child Nutrition Funding Updates

- Universal Meals: additional \$122 M proposed for SY 24-25
- CDFA Farm to School Grant: \$52.8 M
- Breakfast & Summer Expansion Grants: \$1 M
- FFVP Grant: \$14 M
- KIT Funds: \$750 M
- School Food Best Practices: \$100 M
- Local Foods for Schools: \$23 M
- Supply Chain Assistance Funds: \$420 M
- Equipment Assistance Grants: \$3 M



Our Weekly Webinar Series is Back!

the
Lunch
break



Thursdays @ 2 pm
Mar. 7 - May 30



Emma Finn



Jen McNeil



Mike Munro

Hosted By
 Lunch Assist

March - May 2024

A 30-min. California call,
every Thursday @ 2 pm:

- Administrative Reviews
- CDE Updates
- CEP & Provision 2
- Farm to School
- Freshly Prepared Meals
- KIT Funds
- LCFF
- Live Q&A
- Legislative Updates
- Procurement
- Summer Programs
- Universal Meals
& more!

Panel Discussion on Student Taste Tests



San Diego Unified School District



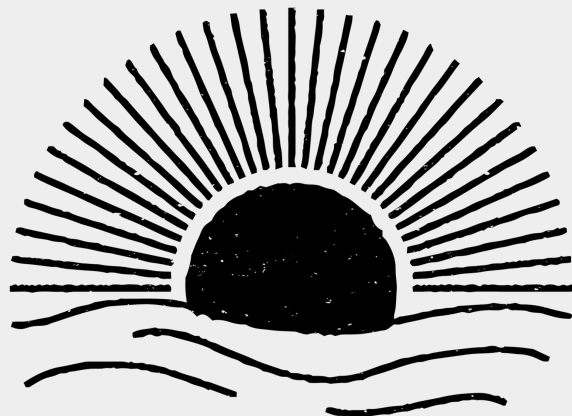
San Diego Unified School District

Brisa Ranch



Pescadero, CA

Brisa Ranch



BRISA RANCH
P E S C A D E R O , C A



Pescadero, CA

Taste Test Participation Poll



San Diego Unified School District

Recipes Featuring Local Ingredients

Upland Unified School District

Ksenia Glenn, MS, RDN
Director of Nutrition Services

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Chickpea Salad Sandwich



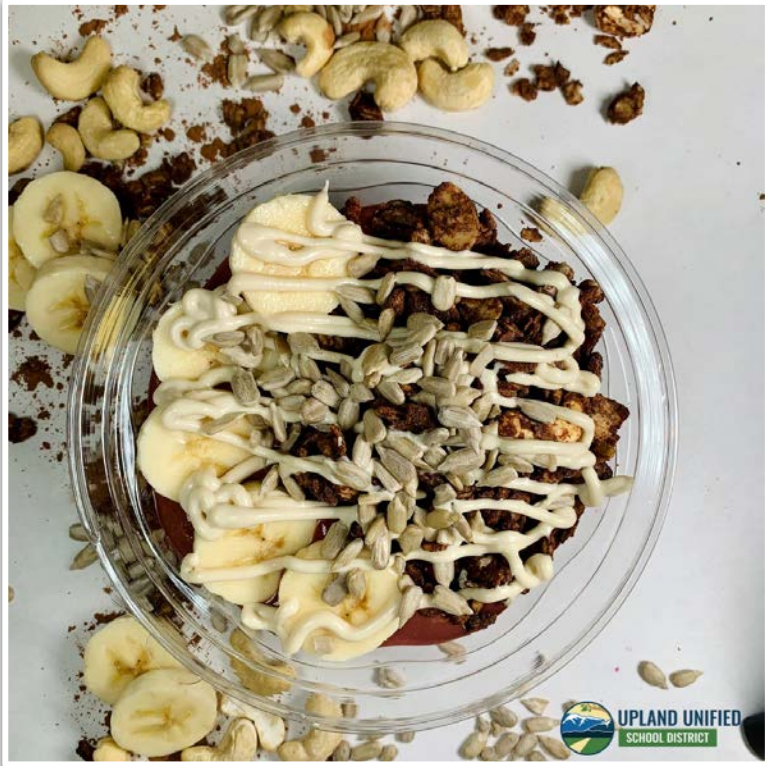
UPLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Chickpea Salad SANDWICH

plant-based version of a tuna
salad sandwich made with
chickpeas on Old Town Bakery
squaw bread

Upland Unified School District

Red Velvet Smoothie Bowl & Heavenly Carrot Oats



Upland Unified School District

Winter Specials Taste Test Flyers



Red Velvet
SMOOTHIE BOWL

Velvety, chocolaty smoothie bowl made with silken tofu and cocoa powder.

Topped with sliced banana, scratch-made chocolate granola, and scratch-made cashew cream

**ALLERGENS:
SOY & TREE NUTS**

Reminder:
Meals are **FREE** to **ALL** students for the 23/24 school year!
Each student can receive **1 free breakfast AND 1 free lunch.**



Now Serving
(For a Limited Time Only)

Heavenly Carrot Oats

carrot cake inspired overnight oats with date caramel sauce, grated carrots, & chopped pecans



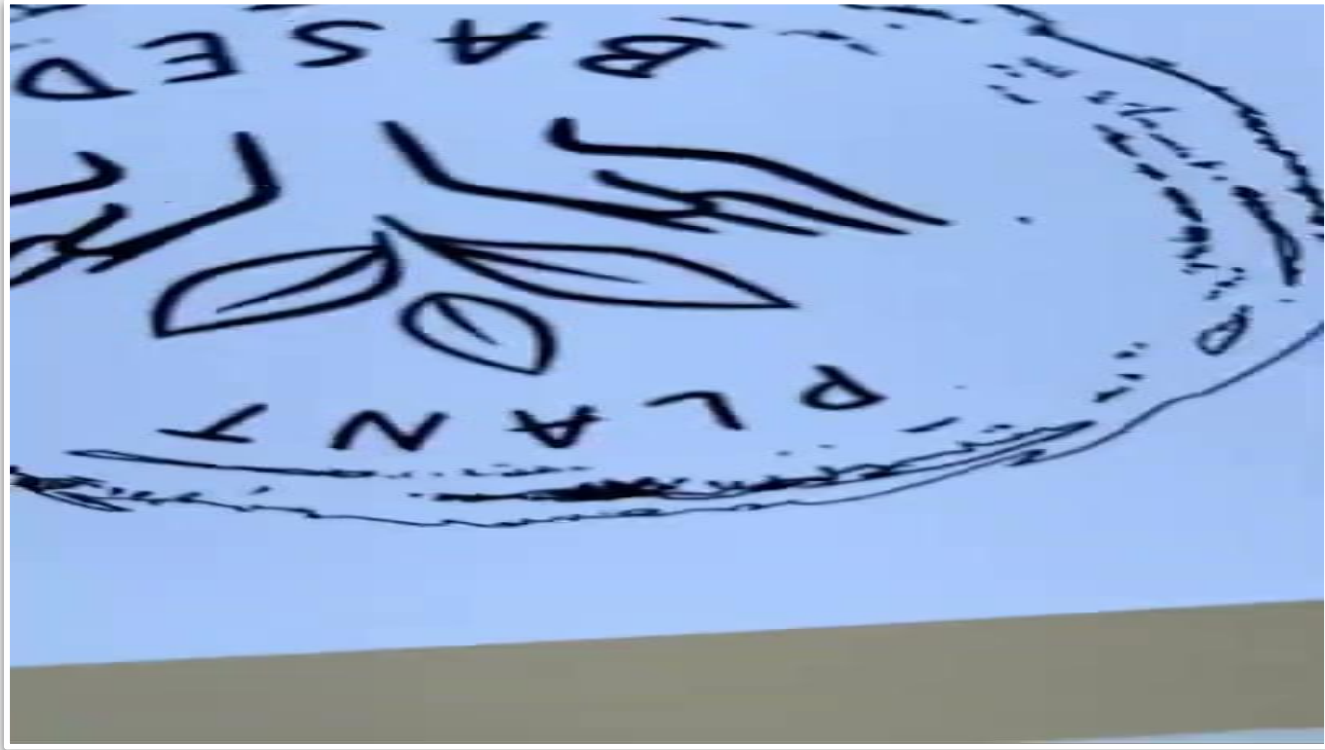
CONTAINS: SOY & TREE NUTS

Brought to you by
@UUSDFARMTOSCHOOL



Upland Unified School District

Taste Test Promotional Video



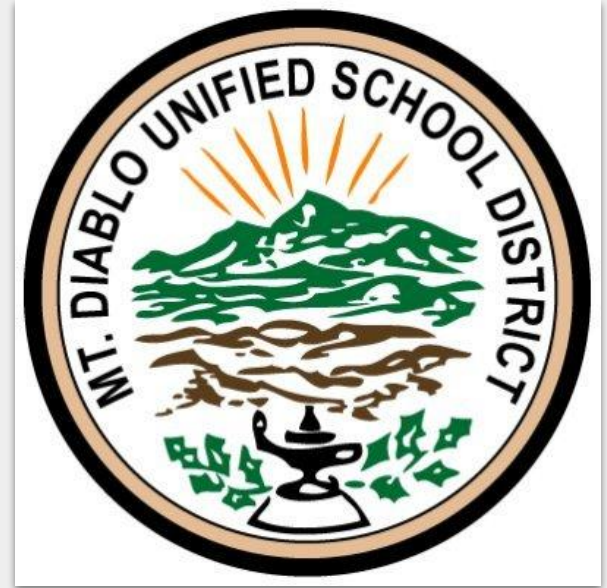
Upland Unified School District

Mt. Diablo Unified School District

Alex Emmott

Director of Food Services

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Chana Masala with Chutney



Mt. Diablo Unified School District

Yogurt Parfaits with Fresh Fruit



Mt. Diablo Unified School District

Fruits and Vegetables Poll

Resources

Center for Ecoliteracy Resources

- [Plant-Forward School Meal Resources: Taste Test Poster](#)
- [Savoring California: A Comparative Tasting of California Fruits and Vegetables](#)
- [Menu Planning Support Session: Student Taste Testing](#)
- [Meaningful Student Engagement Strategies](#)
- [School Food Innovator Series: Wed, May 1 @ 1:30 p.m. PT](#)

Join the California Food for California Kids[®] Network

California Food for California Kids is an initiative of the Center for Ecoliteracy that builds the capacity and commitment of public school districts to provide all students with fresh, locally-grown school meals and develop connections between the cafeteria, classroom, and garden.



Partner Organization Resources

Taste Test Resources:

- [Rutgers Creating a Taste Test Fact Sheet](#)
- [John Stalker Institute NSLP & Taste Tests Resources](#)
- [USDA Ingredients for a Successful Taste Test Event](#)
- [USDA Taste-Testing Event Resources](#)

National School Breakfast Week Resources:

- [SNA National School Breakfast Week Resources](#)
- [USDA National School Breakfast Week Recognition Ideas](#)

Partner Organization Resources

LunchAssist:

- [The Lunch Break](#): Weekly California Webinar
Thursdays, March – May 2024

CAFF:

- [Small Farm Conference Regional Gatherings](#)
February 29, 2024 (in person, tomorrow!)
- [Bid Generator](#)
- [California School Produce Procurement Guide](#)

Partner Organization Resources

CDFA: [California Farm to School Incubator Grant](#)

Due April 4

USDA: [Supporting the Use of Traditional Indigenous Foods in the Child Nutrition Programs Cooperative Agreement](#)

Due April 8 – extended deadline!

Whole Kids Foundation: [School Gardens Grant](#)

Due March 1

Panelist Social Media

@BrisaRanch on [Instagram](#)

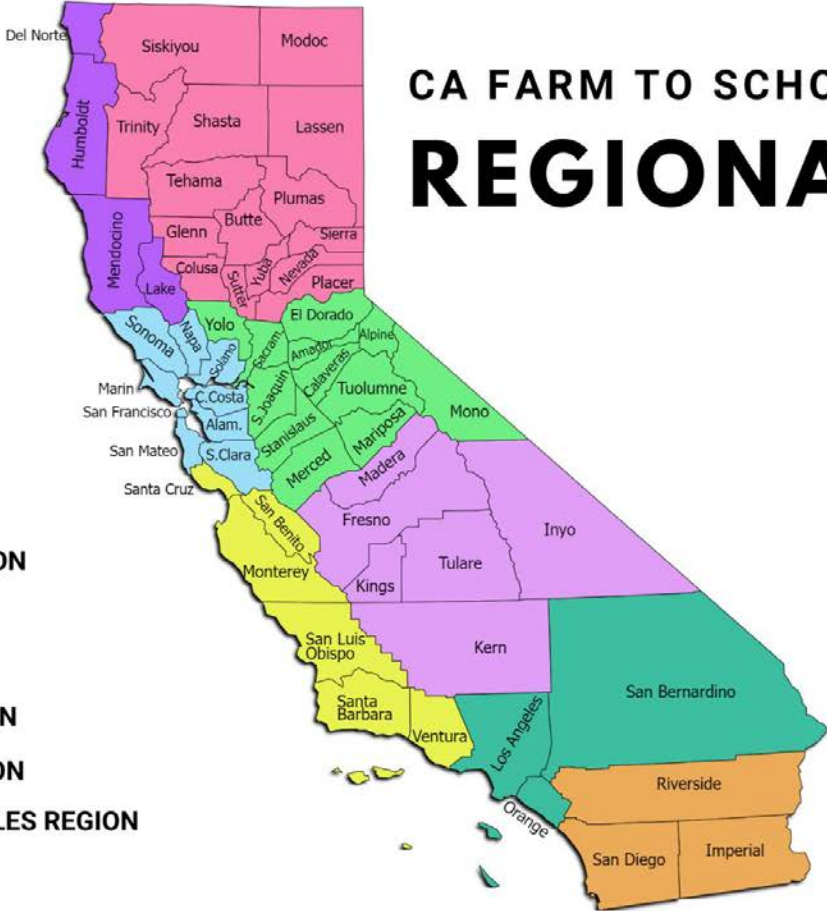
@LunchAssist on [Instagram](#)

@SDFarmtoSchool on [Instagram](#)

Regional Breakouts

CA FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK REGIONAL MAP

-  SUPERIOR REGION
-  NORTH COAST REGION
-  BAY AREA REGION
-  CENTRAL REGION
-  SAN JOAQUIN REGION
-  SOUTH COAST REGION
-  GREATER LOS ANGELES REGION
-  SOUTHERN REGION



Thank you!



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