

November 4, 2008
Primrose Hill School Sets Up
'Test Kitchen'
Second-graders Sample Items
For Future Harvest Lunch Menu

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It was mashed or roasted. It was orange. Most of the children still tried it. The second grade students at Primrose Hill School acted as taste-tasters late last month for a harvest lunch that will be served in Barrington schools on Friday.

Representatives from Chartwells, which provides school lunches to Barrington schools, and Kids First, an organization that supports a healthy environment within the schools, teamed up for a nutrition event for the second-graders at Primrose.

The student taste-testers were offered samples of butternut squash, roasted or mashed. They also tried roasted butternut squash seeds and several kinds of apples.

Most students had no problem picking up their spoons and digging in, but a few opted out.

"I'm not trying it. I'm trying the apple, but not the squash," Lily Piette said.

After some thought, Lily tried the mashed squash, decided she didn't like it, and then opted not to try the roasted version.

Connor McDermott said he was not afraid to try the squash.

"I would eat it all up," he said.

Aidan Grant tried it all and decided the roasted seeds, tossed with garlic and salt and paper, were the best.

Cameron Buffum enjoyed the slice of honey crisp apple ... but the squash, not so much. "I hated them, all three," he said.

Some of the students were more enthusiastic.

"It's really good. I wanted more seeds," Isabella Richardson said.

As far as roasted butternut seed tasting goes, the jury was still out for Courtney Andreozzi.

"I still smell those seeds. They tasted like Cheerios at the end, but in the middle they tasted kind of weird," she said.

The harvest lunch will feature turkey with all the trimmings, including roasted or mashed butternut squash, whichever the youngsters at Primrose decided upon. The second-graders voted on their favorite; with one class still in the testing stage, the roasted squash was ahead.