



**NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUSINESS, FINANCE AND PLANNING
100 Walnut Street
Newton, MA 02460**

Telephone 617.559.9025 Fax 617.559.9026

September 3, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians of Students in the Newton Public Schools,

As the school year is ready to begin, we are writing to update you about our school lunch program, which is up and running in all of Newton's schools. We do need to ask for your understanding and to inform you that we still are completing the process of transitioning to a long-term solution for nutritious and affordable food service in the Newton Schools. You may recall that in light of increasing financial constraints, the School Committee approved a budget initiative that called for either contracting out the school lunch program or achieving significant savings to the existing in-house program through labor negotiations, beginning this year. This initiative would return close to one million needed dollars to our core educational mission. As a result, the district prepared a request for proposals which resulted in a successful competitive process in which we selected Whitsons New England, Inc. as the firm that we would like to manage the program in the future. Whitsons, with its proven track record of high quality and cost-effective food service, will bring us more choices of fresh, delicious and nutritious meals for your children at a reduced cost.

In order to make the transition to Whitsons, the School Committee must reach an agreement with the School Nutrition Workers Association and the negotiations are ongoing.

While efforts to reach an agreement continue, we have retained the district's lunch program director Rob Clickstein to operate the program within current budgetary constraints. Mr. Clickstein has been actively preparing the staff for the opening of school and planning the different menus and offerings at the elementary, middle and high schools. While the total number of food service staff will be lower and offerings will be more streamlined, you will see many of the experienced and well known lunch staff serving in your children's schools, offering nutritious and delicious food choices.

In addition to this letter, you will receive and find on the Newton Public Schools website (www.newton.k12.ma.us/) Mr. Clickstein's letter explaining all the information about the lunch program, menus, how to prepay and his commitment to providing an excellent lunch program for all students. Please note that there are no increases in the lunch prices; the prices remain the same as they have been for over six years.

Mr. Clickstein will manage the program effectively during this interim period and is available to answer questions by phone at (617) 559-9015 or email at rob_clickstein@newton.k12.ma.us.

Please visit the Newton Public Schools website for further information about the lunch program, for current menus and other information about the school lunch program as it evolves.

We wish you and your children a healthy, nutritious, and positive opening of the 2010-2011 school year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra S. Guryan".

Sandra Guryan, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Finance and Planning