

PINE STRAWBERRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #12

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November 15, 2011

Ref: School Lunch Price Increase

Dear Parents:

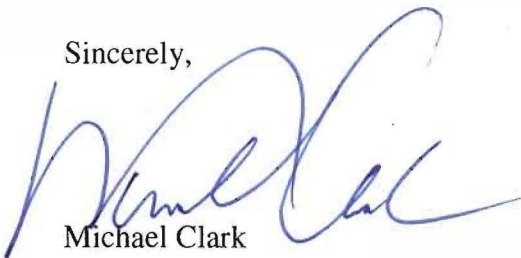
Effective January 5, 2012 the cost of lunch for students that are not eligible for a free or reduced lunch will increase from the current price of \$2.00 to \$2.50 per meal.

On July 1, 2011, the U.S. Congress passed Section 205 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. One of the provisions of the Act states, in part, that if the average paid lunch price charged to district fee paying students is less than average price amount provided by federal reimbursement for free lunches, the school district **must** adjust average prices charged to fee paying students to meet the federal. The average federal lunch price in the U.S. charged to fee paying student is \$2.46. Pine Strawberry School District only charges \$2.00 for lunch for fee paying students, thus the district is out of compliance with the statute.

The statute points out that pricing lunches below the cost of lunch production effectively increases federal subsidies for higher income children because federal funds intended for free and reduced price lunches are being use to help fill the gap between what a lunch costs and what a school receives for it.

In order to be in compliance with the Equity in School Lunch Pricing Act the district must increase the lunch fee to \$2.50 for students, to \$3.50 for an adult lunch and to \$2.75 for an adult salad bar. This will meet the elements of the statute. The increase will cause parents to pay \$12.50 per week vs. the current fee of \$10.00 per week (assumes a student eats five lunches a week).

Sincerely,



Michael Clark
Superintendent