



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie Lenox
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Taste of Success: Kids Compete in Culinary Competition

Salem, OR— Young chefs at A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village have honed their culinary skills over the past six weeks and will showcase their kitchen know-how in a competition of dishes using local ingredients on November 5.

In a class emphasizing sustainable and healthy food choices, students perfected the art and science of eating locally under the guidance of Evann Remington, CEO of Organic Fresh Fingers, a Salem company that produces ready-made organic meals for kids. Designed to familiarize students with new territory in the kitchen, the class explored the concept of seasonal eating and introduced term "locavore", a term all eight students had never heard before.

By the second to last class, all could define the term, which seven-year-old Ellea McCrae explained was an "animal that eats only local food." Another important lesson learned along the way, according to Ellea: "Remember to wash your hands."

Each week, the students created (and later ate) meals at the museum including an omelet frittata, fruit salad, coconut ceviche and pasta and sauce from scratch. To learn about the science behind foods, the class sampled a variety of cheeses, honey and chocolate and discussed variations in taste and consistency. Students ventured beyond the kitchen to learn about edible plants on a "weed walk" with herbalist Randi Embree and visited Pringle Creek Community, a sustainable housing development in Salem.

A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village

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In the final session, students will demonstrate what they've learned in an "Iron Chef-like" competition in which they must create a side dish or main course. Dishes will be evaluated according to taste, presentation and use of local ingredients. Students will also present a narrative on the math and science behind their entry.

Judges include Chef Kurt Lucas, vice president of product development for Organic Fresh Fingers, Assistant Director Kim Baldwin (a former 4-H food judge for the Yamhill County Fair) and several celebrity judges including KBZY radio personality Kate Kelly. The healthy competition, held at the museum on November 5 from 10 a.m. – noon, ends in a potluck feast for all involved.

A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village is a private nonprofit children's museum located in downtown Salem's Riverfront Park. Founded in 1989, A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village provides innovative and stimulating educational experiences that spark children's natural curiosity. The Village's mission is to provoke curiosity, inspire awe, awaken interest, foster enjoyment, encourage learning, and enable understanding in all youth.

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