

A bountiful Open House Harvest Festival in Troy

TROY —A wonderful community event took place on Tuesday, Sept. 30, as the Troy School expanded its Open House to include a Harvest Dinner.

Organized by the Green Mountain Farm To School and the Troy School Farm-to-School Committee, the festival brought together parents and community members to celebrate the education, food, farming and community. At the school, students learned where their food comes from in lots of important ways: they are growing it in the school garden; they are eating that food in the cafeteria; they are visiting local farms; and they are preparing food themselves.

Around the school, classrooms showcased the activities of the year: field trips to Heath Orchards, seed collecting posters, and bean plants growing well beyond their containers! The centerpiece of the Harvest Festival was a delicious meal served by students with music by Wendell Hughes, Dave Corliss and students.

Mary Lou, with the assistance of students in the Jr. Chef Club, prepared a buffet of chili, spaghetti with meat sauce, pasta with pesto, garlic bread, and confetti salad. Each dish included locally grown/raised ingredients including some from our own Planting Seeds of Change program's garden.

Both the Jr. Chef Club and the Planting Seeds of Change are part of the Troy School After School Program. A wonderful variety of tasty desserts were provided by community members. Sue Barnett organized the eighth grade students who did an outstanding job serving food, cleaning tables, assisting however they could, and providing a cordial atmosphere!

After the meal, Bob Dunn brought out his new apple press and students worked hard cranking and pressing to make fresh apple cider. A local Farmers' Market in the gym featured Berry Creek Farm, Blueberry Ridge, Jed's Maple Syrup, Green Mountain Farm To School, and the Troy School After School Program.

"This was a great evening," says Katherine Sims of Green Mountain Farm-to-School, "It was wonderful to see over 215 people coming together to celebrate the school and the harvest season!"

"Many thanks to Principal Holly Heverly, staff members, students, and community members who helped to make this event so successful! (Submitted by Katherine Sims Green Mountain Farm-To-School Programs to connect schools and farms through food and education.)

