December

Winter Squash

Nutrition Info
One cup of cooked, cubed squash has 115 calories and provides vitamins A & C and fiber.

Fun Facts
In Native American folklore, winter squash was one of the "three sisters," along with corn and beans. These were staple foods in the Native American diet.

There are over 15 different types of winter squash including: butternut, Delicata, Hubbard, banana, acorn and spaghetti squash.

The heaviest squash ever recorded was 1234 pounds!

Uses
Puree cooked squash and add to soups for a creamy texture. Squash seeds can be roasted and eaten just like pumpkin seeds.

Try stuffing squash with a blend of rice, apples and kale, adding roasted squash cubes to a savory pizza, or using a spiralizer to make squash noodles. No spiralizer? Try a spaghetti squash!

Family Friendly Activities
Have your child help scoop out a cooked spaghetti squash; show them that the flesh looks like spaghetti noodles!

Let your child find, pick out and count the seeds in the squash. Then roast them and enjoy as a healthy snack!

Pick:
• Choose winter squash with firm skin that is free of nicks, cracks, or soft areas.
• Select squash with an attached stem.

Store:
• Fresh, whole squash can be stored in a cool dark place for several weeks to months, depending on the variety.
• Store cooked squash for a few days in the refrigerator or freeze up to 6 months.

Prepare:
• Winter Squash is versatile. It can be baked, microwaved, roasted, sautéed, boiled, and/or steamed.
• Use a very sharp knife to cut or peel squash.
Autumn Roasted Squash Soup
Serves 6 (1 cup per serving)

Ingredients
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1 butternut squash (approx. 2 pounds) peeled and cubed (reserve seeds for roasting)*
1 medium onion, peeled and quartered
1 small head of garlic, peeled
1 medium tart apple, peeled and cubed*
4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. cayenne pepper
½ cup half and half

Directions:
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly brush the surface of squash, onion, garlic and apple with the olive oil and place onto sheet pan. Roast for 30-45 minutes or until fork tender. Place all the roasted items into a large pot with the chicken broth, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil then reduce to a simmer for 15-20 minutes. Meanwhile, rinse and dry squash seeds. Lightly spray with olive oil and a sprinkle of salt. Place on sheet pan and roast for 10-20 minutes, stirring every few minutes, until evenly brown. Once soup is done, purée with an immersion blender, food processor or blender. Stir in the ½ and ½ and serve. Garnish with roasted squash seeds.

For more information on Farm2School visit: www.laxf2s.org

Color a Squash!