

# NEWSLETTER



**Happy New Year! Hope you and your families had a well-earned rest and enjoyed the festive season.**

It is always a busy time for all of us coming back in the New Year and it's a hectic time for LACA too!!

As you are probably aware, the **Department of Education** has invited tender bids in three different lots for three key areas:

- to support schools to provide free school meals to all infant pupils from September 2014;
- to increase the take up of school meals
- breakfast clubs

These bids have to be returned by next Friday - 17th January.

It is clearly evident from reading the documentation that there is an expectation by the DfE for a collaborative approach for these bids.

For the last eighteen months or so, LACA has strategically been repositioning and raising the profile of the organisation that is supported by the membership, to be the Lead Association for CAtering in Education.

So in this context, I believe it is important that the organisation is seen to be involved in the tender process to secure funding to support and assist what is important to all of us involved in school food.

Due to the commercial sensitivity that surrounds any procurement process, I am not in a position to provide specific details of LACA's involvement in the bidding process until the next newsletter.

However, I can say that LACA is involved in what I think is a strong bid and want to reassure LACA members that "we're in the frame!!"

**Anne Bull, LACA Chair**

## The independent SCHOOL FOOD PLAN

We have received a thank you email from the **School Food Plan** thanking everyone who got involved with helping to pilot test the new food standards for schools and a copy is set out below.

*'We are writing to say a huge 'thank you' to you and all your team for helping us to identify schools and caterers who could help pilot test the new food standards for schools.*

*We were overwhelmed by the level of enthusiasm and engagement from all the schools and caterers that took part. The feedback we have received has been invaluable and will help enormously to shape the final standards and the practical guidance we will give.*

*The School Food Plan Standards Panel are now finalising the Standards and will pass them onto Government who will hold a public consultation on them in early Spring 2014. We will send more information on this when the public consultation starts.*

*We would like to use this opportunity to congratulate The Bolsover School in Derbyshire who is the winner of the raffle draw. They have won a celebrity chef cooking lesson.*

*Our thanks again and we look forward to continuing to work with you and all schools across England to ensure that the future school food standards really do lead to improvements in school food and create a healthier, happier, and smarter generation of children.'*

### **FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014 - LACA National Seminar & Members Forum, Kenilworth**

To book for this event at the Chesford Grange Hotel, please click here: <http://www.laca.co.uk/laca-national-seminar-2014>

Confirmed programme is due for issue next week.

If you have any issues or topics you would like discussed at the Forum, please email them to Louise Willis ([admin@laca.co.uk](mailto:admin@laca.co.uk)) by **Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2014.**



Students and schools around the world can celebrate **International School Meals Day on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 (Twitter Hashtag #ISMD2014)** by promoting healthy eating and learning, using the theme Food Stories. Stories that involve food communicate the culture of peoples and their dreams for a healthier and better future. Food brings communities together.

The purpose of the International School Meals Day (ISMD) is to raise awareness of the importance of food and nutrition in education and to share school feeding experiences from across the globe.

It is up to each individual country, school and classroom to take part and work together to make the day fun. This year schools and classrooms are being encouraged to connect with other schools and classrooms around the world and share their Food Stories.



*Students from Harmony Hills Elementary School in Maryland bonded – via Skype – with students from Dalry Primary School in Scotland to celebrate International School Meals Day last year*