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West Auckland school joins school lunch programme
AMY BAKER Last updated 12:00, October 27 2016



A Massey primary school is benefiting from 20 new lunches each week.

The social enterprise Eat My Lunch (EML) is able to provide more lunches at Massey's Royal Road School thanks to \$20,000 worth of sponsorship from New Zealand Kettle Korn.

Principal Wayne Leighton says the programme is a "lovely addition" to the lunches the school would normally provide.

"The children seem to really enjoy the lunches - they're always eaten. We just keep it so everyone feels very comfortable coming up," he says.

EML provides 20 lunches a day to the school. The business works on a 'buy one, give one' model where for every lunch purchased, a lunch is given to a school student in need.

Leighton says they circulate them around different classrooms, so "everyone gets a turn" at having one of the special eats.

Royal Road School has also been providing its own lunches for around two years using

bread and spreads through charity KidsCan.

Leighton says the number of children needing a lunch "varies from day to day" and they top up any discrepancy in the EML lunches provided. Lunches contain four items each, which changes each day.

Headboy Bernie Cai, 13, says his class "loves" the new lunches. "They get it everyday, and they really like it," he says.

Kahlia Faneva, 12, says it's a "healthier choice" than just a packet of chips. "People get sleepy during the day if they're not getting proper food in their body," she says.

New Zealand Kettle Korn co-director Trent Brock says the company were looking to support the community in some way, and EML "just fit".

Brock describes the EML founder Lisa King and chef Michael Meredith as "visionarys", who saw a need for the programme.

Kettle Korn are also aiming donate 100,000 bags of popcorn to EML to supply in their lunches and are working off the same principle of 'buy one, give one'.

Leighton says getting a good meal is always beneficial.

"We all know that if we miss breakfast, we don't feel good. Good nutrition is good nutrition, really," Leighton says.

"We just really appreciate the generosity of Kettle Korn. It's fantastic." - North Harbour News

