

ZCES Sharing Feast embodies true meaning of Thanksgiving

By Kathryn Reed

ZEPHYR COVE – Sampling the pie before the main course was barely touched, a pair of third-graders gave the sweets thumbs up.

Rachelle Hernandez is used to eating pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving, so for this meal she chose cherry. Her friend Alyssa Siewell was not going to break with tradition, so she was diving into the pumpkin.



Rachelle Hernandez and Alyssa Siewell are fans of the pie at ZCES' Sharing Feast.

Photos/Kathryn Reed

Both said the pie at Wednesday's Sharing Feast at Zephyr Cove Elementary School was the best part of the meal.

"This is coming in second place right here," Alyssa said of the roll she had covered with mashed potatoes. While that isn't usually how she eats bread or potatoes, it was working

for her the day before Thanksgiving.

Now in its third year, the Sharing Feast is the brainchild of parent Kelly Krolicki. The idea to ensure everyone – students, teachers, administrators, parents – have at least one hot Thanksgiving meal.

The sharing part is that it's a group effort to feed 210 students plus all the adults. They share in the preparation and the eating. Per health codes regulations it is store bought food the parents must bring, while under the guidance of the school nutrition manager the hot food is freshly prepared.

Lakeside Inn donated the turkey. Filling out the plate were green beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, and fresh fruit. Rolls and cranberries were on each table, with pie and juice also available.



Teachers and parents share a meal with students Nov. 23.

No worries about twin kindergartners Henry and Andrew Craig fighting over who gets more gravy. Andrew doesn't want a drop to hit his plate. Henry is more than glad to have another ladle.

"I love gravy on my mashed potatoes," Henry said.

While Andrew is a huge fan of potatoes – it practically looked like he licked his plate – he likes them au natural.



Kelly Krolicki dishes turkey to students at ZCES.

Principal Nancy Cauley walked among the tables with a plate of food – making sure everyone was having a good time. She is proud her school is the only one in Douglas County School District to have such a feast.

Mixed in with the students are parents and extended family members.

“The food is so good,” kindergartner Hana Muller said as she cut another piece of turkey.

No one seemed to care they might be having a very similar meal today.