

Summer Food Program: Shake, shake, shake your butter

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By [Starla Pointer](#) • Staff Writer • July 25, 2019



Marcus Larson/News-Register While at the STARS summer camp, Will Jackson dances around the room shaking a container of milk and salt as hard as he can, making it turn into butter. The butter making session was a cooperative effort of the McMinnville School District's summer food program and McMinnville Parks and Recreation, which sponsors STARS day camps.



Marcus Larson/News-Register STARS camp leader Joel Domenichini pours a pinch into a container of cream so the group can make butter during a session at Newby Elementary School. A tight lid is also important to the process, he said.

Youngsters in the STARS summer camp program made their own snack Thursday: Fresh butter they churned themselves.

As part of the McMinnville School District's summer meal site "School to Summer" program, they started with Organic Valley whipping cream. They poured it into a large jar, added a pinch of salt, and started shaking the mixture.

They shook and shook, taking turns. In one group, Milo Russo did most of the shaking, using his whole body as he moved the jar.

"I'm getting into solid butter!" he exclaimed, as the butter fat began separating from the liquid.

Later, he explained that the jar was really easy to shake, at first. Then it became "all gooey, then sorta solid" — and more difficult to shake.

"I just shook some more," the 7-year-old said.

The butter making coincided with the theme of the STARS camp this week, Oregon Outdoor Adventures. Today, the group is taking a field trip to the End of the Trail Museum in Oregon City, where they will discuss foods that pioneers carried with them in their wagons as they crossed the country in the mid-1850s.

After Thursday's butter shaking session, a STARS leader undid the jar's tight cap and spooned out the solids, leaving buttermilk behind. Milo and his fellow campers lined up to try the pale yellow butter on whole wheat crackers.

"Salty. Good!" Milo said, holding his thumb up as he chewed.

Other campers agreed.

"Delicious!" a boy pronounced.

"I want to eat this butter every day," a girl said.

And another asked, "Can we get thirds?"