

SCHOOLS

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Ellis culinary club heads to the 'beach'

Members of the Ellis Middle School eighth-grade culinary club were treated to a gastronomic presentation and buffet at Barefoot Charlie's Restaurant in Hendersonville on Friday, March 26.

Thirty members strong, the club cut back on membership from the 80 members that joined in the inaugural year. According to Cathy Carter, the club's sponsor, the enthusiastic response from last year's students created cooking challenges for the school's facilities.

"We utilize the teen living area, and 80 students plus sponsors and parent volunteers made for very tight quarters," Carter said. "Thankfully, everyone was able to cook, and the food was delicious. We knew though that we would have to limit membership due to space issues. This year, perspective members were required to submit copies of their favorite recipes and an essay.

Students watch chef Stephen Padilla's presentation on island-themed cooking at Barefoot Charlie's in Hendersonville.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Members were chosen on the enthusiasm and interest demonstrated in their essays."

Chef Stephen Padilla's presentation took students step-by-step through the preparation and cooking of lemon and herb salmon en papillote, a dish in which salmon is steamed with vegetables in parchment paper. Included in the presentation were crab cakes and crab-stuffed salmon. The students had never seen fish prepared in this manner, but found they learned a delicious new way to create seafood delights.

After the presentation, members enjoyed a buffet that featured Haitian voodoo chicken wings and fixings, steak fries with



queso dip, fried pickles, the headliner salmon en papillote and pina colada bread pudding. Aaron Longe beat Cam Angus in the wing-eating contest by devouring 27 wings.

"I was trying to be on my best behavior since our principal, Ms. Opal Poe, was in

by Gray Line Tours.

—CATHY CARTER /
FOR THE STAR NEWS



Students from the Ellis Middle School Culinary Club dine at Barefoot Charlie's.

attendance," Longe said. "But, the wings were so great that I couldn't stop any sooner!"

Ellis students had visited Barefoot Charlie's last year and unanimously voted that this year's members also return for the buffet. The students were transported to and from the restaurant