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Table wizardry on Movie Night

By Janice Denham



“Back at the beginning of the Harry Potter craze, a lot of parents started to share reading the books with their kids. It draws families together and it’s important to share lessons. When it takes them into the kitchen, it empowers them to do something family-friendly at home,” she said.

Kassel, mother of a daughter almost 10, keeps her ears open for likable themes from books, movies

and keeps an eye on the way kids currently like to dress for fun.

Savor Sorcerer’s Potion Punch alongside Tigress’s Tasty Tofu Tostadas. Save room for a Wookiee Cookie.

The destination for a flick may be TV or a theater, but food is its natural companion as families watch with hands in a bowl of popcorn. Extending the food connection is another tasty option. Kids’ cooking classes court interest in food, dangling it directly or by suggestion with a film.

House Foods America is tied to *Kung Fu Panda 2*, which opened May 26. Po, a food-loving panda, is now a legend in his family’s tofu and noodle shop where he grew up. House Foods’ premium and organic tofu will show Po on its wrapper and a sweepstakes winner (www.kungfutofu2.com) will win a trip to China and prizes connected to healthy tofu. Tofu Tostadas come straight from this inspiration.

Faronda Davis of ABC Chefs Cooking Academy in Chesterfield (www.abcchefsacademy.com) recently enticed a young class with Po’s adventures.

“We did some of the noodles he likes and spring rolls. Kids from 3 to maybe 10 or 11 like themes a lot. Spongebob (SquarePants) is another favorite,” she said.

Pandas are not the only ones with connections to the late. Local cooking instructors get in the theater spirit,

and keeps an eye on the way kids currently like to dress for fun.

Lauren Hunsinger brings themed cooking events – invitations, favors, food, balloons and other extras – into people’s homes with Chefs in the Making (www.chefsinthemaking.com). Among her suggested themes is “Movie Magic,” with super heroes, wizards and fairy tales.

“It’s awesome to see kids loosen up a little bit, try some new things and get a little dirty in the kitchen,” she said. “We can adapt the occasion to whatever the child is most passionate about. Magic potion can come out of the bowl with a puff for a wizardly theme. We also can adapt themes to older girls, such as 14-year-olds, who want fondue.”

She noted an earlier movie that drew cooking interest was *Ratatouille*, which follows Remy, a rat who dreams of becoming a chef. *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* appeals to younger children as a book reading adventure or any age can watch the movie, which followed in 2009. Now, she says, musical theater is popular with older children as TV’s “Glee” has taken hold. The movie *Grease* is a happy occasion for youngsters to wear ‘50s clothing and make and eat burgers and shakes



Tofu Tostadas

½ pkg. (7 oz.) medium firm tofu, drained, cut in small cubes

½ cup finely chopped onion

1 serrano chile, finely diced (or other mild pepper as desired)

1/3 cup chopped tomato

2 tsp. chopped fresh cilantro

1 avocado, peeled, seeded, chopped

Juice of 1 lime

Salt and pepper, if desired

4 corn tostadas, fried or crisped

In medium bowl, mix tofu, onion, chile pepper, tomato, cilantro, avocado and lime juice. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Spoon tofu mixture over tostadas.

Makes 4 servings.

