Lunch Recipes

Pumpkin Peanut Butter Dip



¾ cup canned pumpkin

¾ cup peanut butter

2 Tablespoons brown sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Mix peanut butter and brown sugar. Add vanilla and pumpkin and stir until well blended. Spread it on graham crackers, apple slices, celery sticks or baby carrots. Store leftovers in a covered container in the refrigerator.

Yield: 20 servings, 2 Tablespoons each

Nutritional analysis per serving: 70 Calories, 5 grams fat, 4 grams total carbohydrate, 45 milligrams sodium, 3 grams protein, 1 gram fiber

Crunchy Kale Chips

1 large bunch fresh Kale Optional seasonings: Salt and pepper, garlic powder, red pepper flakes ¼ cup olive oil

Preheat oven to 350°F. Rinse kale and pat dry with a paper towel. Remove the stalks from the kale and discard. Tear the leaves into slightly larger than chip-size pieces (they will shrink). Place the kale into a bowl and drizzle with olive oil. Add the seasonings and toss to coat evenly. Arrange the leaves on an aluminum foil-lined baking sheet and place in oven for 10 to 15 minutes or until crisp. Remove immediately from baking sheet and place on paper towels to absorb excess oil. Let them cool slightly and serve.

Yield: 3-4 cups of chips (May also use Swiss chard instead of kale.)

Nutritional analysis per ½ cup serving: 70 Calories, 7 grams fat, 1 gram saturated fat, 0 milligrams cholesterol, 120 milligrams sodium, 2 grams carbohydrate, 1 gram dietary fiber, 1 gram protein

No-Cook Stir-Fry Salad

¼ cup low-fat bottled Asian sesame salad dressing

2 Tablespoons rice vinegar

¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes

1 (12 oz.) bag broccoli cole slaw

10 oz. boneless, skinless chicken breast, cooked and chopped2 cups sugar snap peas In a large bowl, combine salad dressing, vinegar and red pepper flakes. Add cole slaw, cooked chicken and sugar snap peas and toss until coated with dressing. Cover and refrigerate. Yield: 4 servings, 1 ½ cups each

Nutritional analysis per 1 ½ cup serving: 190 Calories, 4.5 grams fat, 60 milligrams cholesterol, 340 milligrams sodium, 11 grams carbohydrate, 4 grams dietary fiber, 26 grams protein

Chicken Ranch Burritos

- 1 lb. skinless, boneless chicken breasts
- 1 Tablespoon chili powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 4 Tablespoons fat-free Ranch dressing
- 1/2 cup shredded lettuce
- 4 oz. shredded, reduced-fat cheddar cheese
- 4 (8-inch) whole wheat flour tortillas

Heat grill pan over medium heat. In a small bowl, combine chili powder and cumin. Rub chicken breasts with spice mixture, covering both sides. Grill chicken for about 4-6 minutes on each side or until thermometer reads internal temperature of at least 165°F. Allow chicken to rest 5 minutes or until cool enough to touch. Slice chicken into strips. Put in a covered container or sealed plastic bag and refrigerate. When ready to serve, fill each tortilla with 3-4 ounces of grilled chicken; top with 1 Tablespoon ranch dressing, 2 Tablespoons shredded lettuce, and 1 ounce shredded cheese. May serve cold or warm.

Yield: 4 servings, 1 burrito each

Nutritional analysis per serving: 400 Calories, 10 grams fat, 105 milligrams cholesterol, 740 milligrams sodium, 29 grams carbohydrate, 4 grams dietary fiber, 47 grams protein

Peanut Butter Crispies

cup peanut butter, plain or chunky
2/3 cup honey
1/2 cup dry milk

1 cup rolled/quick cooking oats 1 cup crispy rice cereal

Combine peanut butter with honey. Add dry milk and stir until well-blended. Add oats to peanut butter mixture and mix well. Make 42 balls (tablespoon size) with peanut butter mixture. Pour rice cereal onto a plate and roll peanut butter balls in rice cereal. Yield: 48 servings, 1 ball each

Nutritional analysis per serving: 60 Calories, 3 grams fat, 0 milligrams cholesterol, 35 milligrams sodium, 7 grams carbohydrate, 1 gram dietary fiber, 2 grams protein

Toasted Coconut & Dark Chocolate Cookies

cup flaked sweetened coconut
cup all-purpose flour
teaspoon baking powder
teaspoon baking soda
teaspoon salt
cup brown sugar, packed
cup trans-fat-free margarine spread
teaspoon vanilla extract
large egg
ounces dark chocolate, chopped

Preheat oven to 350°F. Place coconut in a small baking pan, in a single layer. Bake until lightly toasted, stirring once. Set aside to cool. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a medium bowl; stir with a whisk until blended. Place sugar and butter in a large bowl; beat with a mixer until well blended. Beat in vanilla and egg. Add flour mixture, beating at low speed until combined. Stir in toasted coconut and chocolate. Drop by tablespoons 2 inches apart onto greased baking sheets. Bake for 10 minutes or until bottoms of cookies begin to brown. Remove from pan, and cool on wire racks.

Yield: about 30 cookies

Nutritional analysis per serving: 70 Calories, 3 grams fat, 10 milligrams cholesterol, 35 milligrams sodium, 11 grams carbohydrate, 0 grams dietary fiber, 1 grams protein

University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences United States Department of Agriculture •Local Extension Councils Cooperating University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

