Chicken Mozzarella Pasta with Sun-Dried Tomatoes (Serves 4)

Recipe adapted from Julia's Album

Ingredients:

3 large garlic cloves, minced

1 small jar (3-4 oz.) sun-dried tomatoes in oil, chopped

1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite-size pieces

Salt & pepper

Pinch of paprika

1 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded

8 oz. penne pasta

1 Tbsp. dried basil

1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes (or more, to taste)

1/2 cup reserved cooked pasta water (or more)

Directions:

- 1. Drain sun-dried tomatoes from oil, reserving 2 Tbsp. of this oil.
- 2. Cook pasta according to package directions. Reserve some cooked pasta water. Drain and set aside.
- 3. In a large pan, on medium-high heat, add reserved oil from the sun-dried tomatoes. Add chicken, paprika and salt and pepper to taste to pan and saute for 2-3 minutes, remove to a plate. Add garlic and sun-dried tomatoes to pan and saute for 1 minute.
- 4. To the pan, add half and half and cheese and bring to a gentle boil. Reduce the heat, add chicken back to pan. Add basil and red pepper flakes and simmer and cook until chicken is cooked all the way through.
- 5. Add cooked pasta to the pan and stir to combine. Add about 1/2 cup reserved cooked pasta water to thin the sauce as desired. Season pasta with salt, pepper and more red pepper flakes, to taste, if needed. Let it simmer for a couple of minutes for flavors to combine.

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