PUMPKIN AND SPICE AND EVERYTHING NICE

(Adapted from "The Looneyspoons Collection")

Makes: 12 muffins

1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 cup wheat bran or whole wheat flour

2 tsp pumpkin pie spice *
1-1/2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda

1/2 tsp salt

1 cup canned pure pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling)

1/2 cup plain low-fat yogurt

1/2 cup pure maple syrup or liquid honey

1/4 cup butter, melted

1 egg

1 cup finely grated carrots

1/2 cup mini semi-sweet chocolate chips (or raisins)

1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Spray a 12-cup muffin pan with cooking spray or line with muffin cups and set aside.

- 2. In a large bowl, combine flour, wheat bran (or whole wheat flour), pumpkin pie spice, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside.
- 3. In a medium bowl, whisk together pumpkin, yogurt, maple syrup, butter, egg and vanilla. Stir in carrots. Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and stir using a wooden spoon just until moistened. Fold in chocolate chips (or raisins) and walnuts. Batter will be thick.
- 4. Divide batter evenly among 12 muffin cups. Bake for 20-22 minutes, or until a wooden pick inserted in center of muffin comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

^{*} Pumpkin spice substitute: 1-1/2 tsp ground cinnamon, plus 1/4 tsp each ground ginger & ground nutmeg.