



TAKING A BIG BITE out of her fish sandwich, Melissa Ritter, a fourth grader, was enjoying the food and the break from school during lunch time.

Fish & Smiles

It's lunchtime for Jennings students

After a hard morning of classes, it's time to head for the cafeteria and have lunch.

At Prairie Heights School in Jennings, that means anything from barbecued beef to chicken fried steak, milk and salad bar.

Since it's Lent, fish is the main course most Fridays. Sometimes this is accompanied by fries and sometimes by 'tater smiles,' a baked potato round with a smiley face cut into it. After getting the entrée, students head for the salad bar to stock up on lettuce, pickles

and assorted fruit.

Milk is always available with a choice of 2 percent, whole or chocolate, each in a neat little carton in an open cooler. Students get their own.

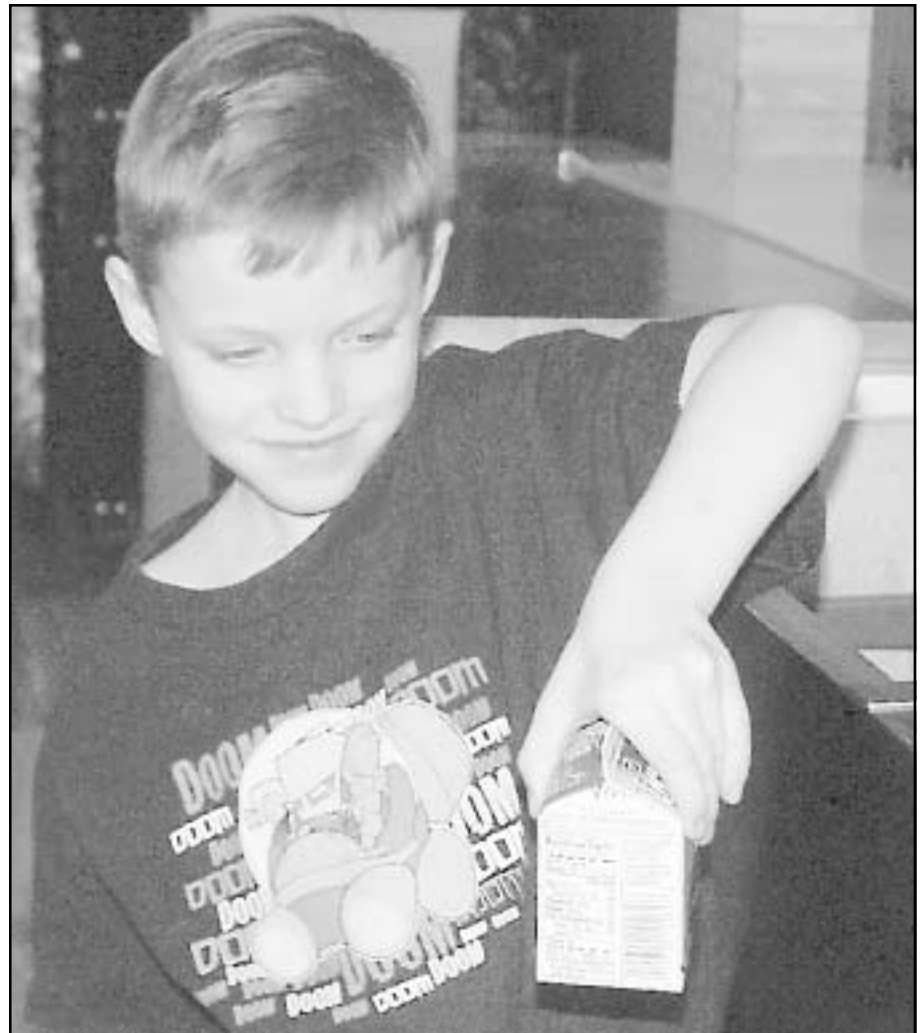
Presiding over the meal are head cook Ruth Schillig and assistant cook Clara Gillum. Lynn Tacha helps with the lunch count and assists anyone who needs an extra hand to get their food and milk.

Between 90 and 100 pass through the lunch line each day,

with the little ones first. The grade schoolers have their lunch from 11:05 to 11:30 a.m. and then the high school comes through from 11:30 to 11:53 a.m. Teachers and staff eat with the students.

Meals are a modest \$1.30 for those in kindergarten through sixth grade and \$1.45 for those in seventh through 12th. Adults pay \$2.25.

Breakfast is also available, so no one has to start the day on an empty stomach.



MILK MADE THE MEAL for one of the Bird twins (above.) While the first grader was getting milk, Jordan Baker (below), also a first grader, selected pickles from the salad bar and Diedre Kramer (left), a fourth grader, sat down to eat.



Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes