

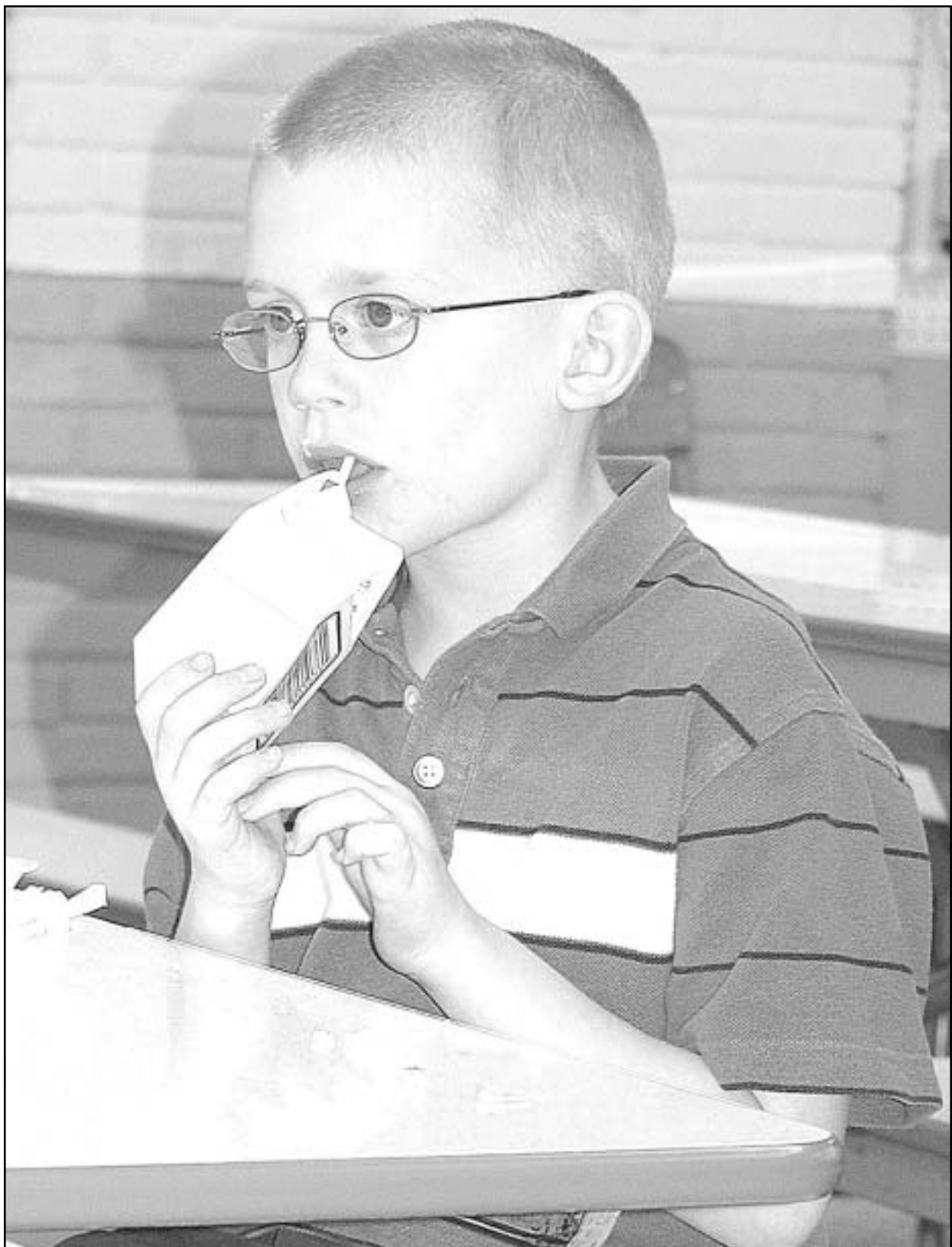


AT LUNCH ON FRIDAY, Demi Murray and Whitney Witt (above) talked and showed off while they ate, then they headed outside to play. Timothy Helm (below) finished off his milk after he was done with his lunch.

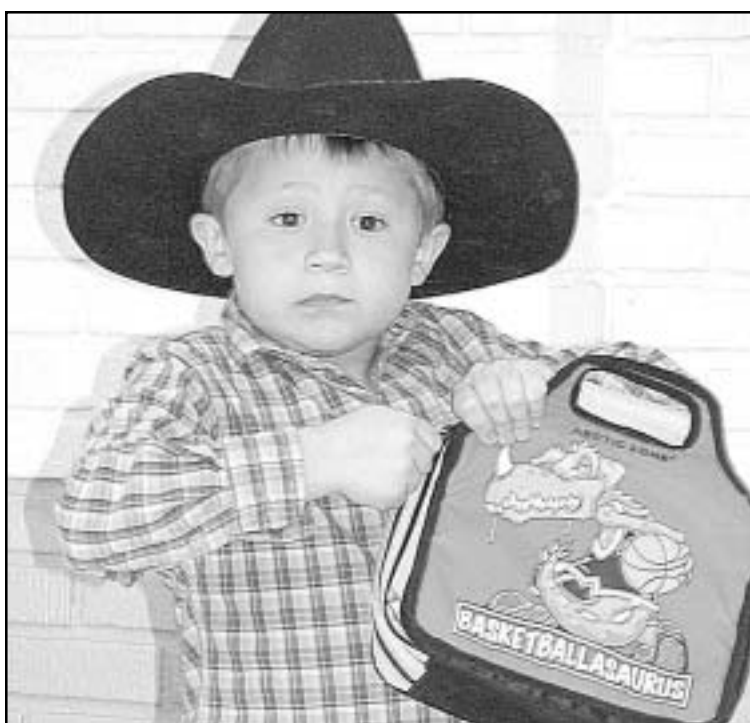
Elementary youngsters chow down

Youngsters talked quietly with each other while they waited in line Friday outside the Oberlin Elementary School lunch room, waiting until they could go inside, hang up their coats and get a tray full of food. The students had two main entree choices on Friday, either beef and noodles leftover from Thursday or ham-and-bean soup. Head Cook Marilyn Diederich said the state requires students to get a balanced diet at lunch. They each have to get two ounces of meat, a fruit, vegetables, bread and milk, all in the basic food groups. The kids walked through the line and sat in a row at a long table. All the time talking to their friends, as if they hadn't seen them in a long time. After eating a sufficient amount of food they raise their hands and almost bounce up and down waiting for the teacher to say that they can leave for recess. That means those items are things the kids have to take. At the grade school, students have to raise their

hand and have a teacher let them go for recess. The students are in charge of taking their tray up to the lunch counter. After students are excused, they are then allowed to go play on the playground. The school has two shifts for lunches. The younger kids go first at 11:25 a.m. and then the older kids go at noon. Mrs. Diederich said all the food is cooked at the high school and then hauled to the grade school. She said cooks at the high school including herself, Denise Jones and Donna Sauvage, normally start about 6 a.m. baking bread, fix breakfast and then start working on lunch around 6:30 to 7 a.m. Normally, all the food is ready by 10:15 a.m. and is put in insulated metal bun boxes and brown totes for the trip to the grade school. The dirty dishes and bun boxes are returned to the high school, cleaned and set by the back door for the next day.



WITH A PIECE of bread in her hand, Grace Randel (above) talked across the table. Konnor Witt (right) zipped up his lunch bag.



Story and photos by Kimberly Davis