

The Smell of School

Am I the only one that loved getting new school supplies at the first of the school year? I would arrange the brand-new crayons, pencils, glue, and paper very carefully in my tote and may have rearranged it several times to ensure I had it all just right.

The lists for school supplies were much simpler in past days as compared to today's expansive, detailed list that includes glittered glue sticks and fancy folders with cartoon characters. Not to mention the required Kleenex tissues the kiddos now must supply.

The lunch box situation has been the biggest changing point, I think. I was told to be fine with a brown paper bag on the rare days that I took a lunch to school to the Cresson Elementary school. We had the best lunches ever made by Mrs. Shipp. She would provide homemade cornbread with the tastiest pinto beans you can imagine. Here was Mrs. Shipp's trick to getting us to eat the cornbread-she would mix honey with peanut butter and that was our butter for the hot cornbread fresh out of the black iron stove.

Once I left second grade and we were bussed over to Granbury Elementary, I was of course spoiled to fancy lunch trays with either vanilla or chocolate milk and never took my lunch. It was much 'cooler' to get in the line with all my friends and get to receive my food all spiffy on my tray with compartments!

There was also the smell of new shoes that I fondly remember. There was typically one pair of new shoes, and we were thrilled to get them. We took them off everyday once we got home to ensure they were not exposed to the rigorous treatment of us playing outside of riding our bicycles on our not so smooth gravel roads. If there was a need for 'tenny' shoes as we got older, again there was only one pair. That fresh leather or canvas material only lasted for a short while as we quickly would get them wet, dirty and truly broken in!