



Tips to enhance your trip to Ye Olde School

Lunch

For generations, children have taken their lunches to school. Pioneer boys and girls usually carried their noon meal in a tin syrup pail or lard can. A replica of these lunch pails can be made from a three-pound shortening can or a large coffee can. (Please be careful – the edges can be sharp!) If coffee cans are used, they can be painted silver or covered with butcher paper. Punch holes in the can for the handle using a nail and hammer. A piece of wire or heavy cord can be fastened through the holes for a handle.

A scrap of cloth makes a cover.

Pioneer lunches contained whatever there was in the house - there were no neighborhood grocery stores. Poor children sometimes took molasses or lard and sugar sandwiches or cold pancakes left over from breakfast. The lunch that the children take to the school in this lunch pail should be as authentic as possible. Please do not bring modern-day snack foods with excessive packaging.

Examples of what to bring:

- Sandwich (cheese, peanut butter, jelly, egg or dried or smoked meat) on whole- grain bread.
- Hard-boiled egg (if soaked in beet juice, it will turn pink)
- Beef Jerky
- Fresh fruits and vegetables (apples, pears, grapes, plums, carrots, cabbage wedges, corn, tomatoes).
Exotic fruits like pineapple or oranges were rare.
- Cookies (homemade)
- Corn bread
- Muffins
- Pancakes
- Pickles
- Licorice

Each child will be responsible for her/his own lunch pail and lunch. Label your pail so it can be left in the cloakroom.

Old Fashioned Clothing (Optional)

Perhaps your class would like to dress in old-fashioned attire to add to the authenticity of your day at Ye Olde School. The following is a list of clothing commonly worn by schoolchildren at the turn of the century. Feel free to use your creativity.

Girls

Long skirts or dresses
Petticoats
Bloomers or pantaloons
Aprons or pinafores
Shawls
Bonnets or hats
High shoes
Black or brown tights
Hair in braids, pipe curls or a bun
Bows in hair
Pins or locket

Boys

Knickers - short pants or sweat pants pulled up to
knee with long socks coming
up to pants
Suspenders
Bow ties
Bib overalls
Flannel or blue work shirts
Bandanna
Twine belts
Flat hats
Straw hats
High shoes
Bring a cloth handkerchief, slate, books held together by a strap, etc.