

My wife and I wanted to place money into the cafeteria accounts of our two grandchildren, Jacob and Sarah, attending Sandersville Elementary. It was after hours and we could not enter the front of the building, but we happened to catch **Marla Smith** entering the back door of the cafeteria. Even though she was returning from a full day of meetings and she had two armloads of books and papers, in the back parking lot she permitted us to write a check to place money into the accounts. Then she took several minutes talking excitedly to our two grandchildren. ... Although Mrs. Smith must have been tired and had much on her mind as she was opening a new cafeteria in two days, for several minutes our two grandchildren were the most important thing to her. With “Fred’s” like Mrs. Smith, it is no wonder why Sarah, who will be entering kindergarten, remarked, “I just love this school already.” As a parent, grandparent and retired school principal, let me add that I just love to interact with school employees like Mrs. Smith who go out of their way to serve the public and love our kids. It would have been easy and understandable for her to ask us to return the following day, but she on-the-spot chose to be a “Fred” instead.

-- Submitted by Tom Mowery, retired principal