



Spotlight: Sister Kay Lurz, Principal at St. Kateri Tekawitha School. St. Kateri is a Catholic Elementary Parish School in Irondequoit, NY.

The High Five Lady

Last school year we had a wavy blonde haired, blue eyed Kindergarten girl who came in the front door of school, walked in about halfway and stood stock still and said, "Where is the High Five Lady"? Avrie was not about to walk down the Kindergarten hallway until she had given me a high five. I got there just in time to give her a high five and a "Good Morning.

This is the way we begin each morning as I greet students as they enter school. It allows me to welcome each child, read their emotional status and interact with each. As the front doors are secured, the bell rings and we begin prayer together.

The day now gears into its own individual mode depending on the day, month and what is scheduled. It can be a parent meeting with someone who is worried about how their divorce is affecting their children, money difficulties, or a dad worried about his wife who is at the end stage of brain cancer.

After deciding what the priorities are for the day, it's off and running. Classroom supervision gives you an idea of how your teachers are performing as well as how the students are learning and mastering the material. Walking up and down the halls also can give one a perspective of the entire school. It's always amazing to me how everyone is working; the building is quiet and humming with activities.

Depending on the day, there are Parish staff meetings, Faculty Meetings, Finance and Long Range planning, security and safety, bullying prevention etc. Noontime finds me walking and supervising either the hallways or monitoring a grade whose lunch monitor is out. You do this only a few times in the sixth grade, and you know the current movie stars that the girls are infatuated with and giggling.

Dismissal is a well-coordinated event involving busses, cars, and occasionally the child who doesn't know whether or not s/he is supposed to go to Extended Care, on the bus or "Grandma is picking her up." These are times of great consternation, tears, reassurance, quick phone calls

and relief when the right person shows up.

Then there are scheduled meetings regularly with the Religious Education Director and evening meetings with Parents' Association, Fundraising, Parents Prayer Night Out, Budget Preparation, Information Evenings, Open Houses, and Recruiting Volunteers etc. Since the school was reunited with the parish, I am also involved in many of the planning meetings, celebrations, and parish staff meetings. I have found this to be reinvigorating, meeting new faith filled people, and feel so privileged to work with a group of religious men who are dedicated educators and truly men of faith, the Basilians.

I wear many hats that include the Spiritual, Professional and Managerial. Each day and month has its own identity and uniqueness and brings with it many ways that enable me to bring love, support, and energy to all the people who God puts into my life at that particular time.