

Good afternoon, my name is Marilyn D. Sylvia and I were colleagues in the Regina Public School system. When I think of Sylvia I immediately think of an incredibly talented and energetic person. She was always smiling and encouraged everyone with her presence.

I first met Sylvia at a Regina Public Schools meeting of Arts Education teachers. I knew that Sylvia was not one of the full time teachers but was available to substitute. I was amazed that someone would choose to be a meeting when they were not obligated to be there! I learned that her love for children and music were the reason she was there. She never wanted to miss out on new music we were covering or new directions being introduced by the board. I had the privilege of having her cover my classes several times; my students loved her and asked if she might come back every time that I was away.

I believe that Sylvia chose to be a substitute teacher so that she could have the best of both; she could share her joy of music as a teacher to school children, but she could also spend time with her own children and granddaughter whenever needed. It was evident to all of us that her family was very important to her. She would often tell the Music teachers that she would be unavailable to sub for a period of time because she would be visiting her children. She was especially proud to tell us when she would be babysitting her granddaughter as she loved spending time with her.

Sylvia attended many music conferences and became part of the executive of the Saskatchewan Orff Chapter. At our music conferences Sylvia was never shy; she would literally jump off of her chair and volunteer to participate in whatever part was being offered at the time. With her winning smile and contagious enthusiasm she would soon encourage others to join in the activities.

I feel very privileged to have known Sylvia. She was an inspiration to all of us as Music teachers, always willing to help in any way. She always demonstrated great enthusiasm and thoughtfulness in everything she did. She was always willing to lend a helping hand and share her expertise. Her positive outlook on life was indeed a reflection of the inner joy and peace she possessed. I am happy to say that Sylvia and I shared a love for the same Lord and Saviour as well.

We will all miss Sylvia. Thank you for allowing me to share today.