

A Letter from Lincoln Avenue's First Principal Mr. Don Wylie

Please give my best wishes to all who've come to our school's 50th Anniversary Celebration. It is a wonderful thing you folks are doing, and I apologize for being unable to be there with you.

Thinking back to 1967, some who are there tonight may remember that Lincoln Avenue's children and faculty started September on split session at Sunrise Drive. [Yuk!!] Many weeks later we were so glad to move into OUR building even though it was only about seventy percent complete.

There was no cafeteria, no library, no office, no nurse's office, and the gym was barely usable when the workmen were away for a while. Most classrooms did not have a door. Electricity was turned off for the entire building by the Union Shop Stewart at exactly 3:00 p.m., but dismissal time was not until 3:30. These were only the major problems. Every few hours we had to ask some poor teacher to move the class to another room so that electricians or plumbers or other workmen could put finishing touches to the room.

Somehow the adversity brought us closer together as a team; "us against Them" you might say.

Right from the start this inexperienced principal was blessed with truly wonderful faculty! I felt as time went on that we became almost like a family.

With that tiny glimpse of how it was fifty years ago I will sign off by wishing every one of you—Lincoln Avenue School faithful faculty and staff alumni—all the best from the bottom of my heart!

Love,

Don

AKA Mr. Wylie - Principal 1967-1985

A Letter from Lincoln Avenue's Second Principal Dr. Mary Ann Nolan

To My Lincoln Avenue Family:

I am sorry that I cannot be there with all of you. I am in South Carolina until the end of March and had many commitments here before I knew about the Lincoln celebration.

I do know, however, that every person who walked the halls of Lincoln Avenue, teachers, support staff, clerical, custodial, parents, ALL the children and yes, even Principals, left his/her mark on that school. My 18 years at Lincoln Avenue were filled with laughter, tears and awe. My memories bring tears of joy and, at times, sadness. We have both lost and found colleagues and friends.

I was truly blessed to have worked with a diligent staff who deeply cared and polite, loving, talented children whose parents invested their time and energy to support a strong total education for ALL the children who walked those halls.

New ideas were embraced.

When I first interviewed in Sayville, I had the sense that I had come home. My years there showed me that I was right. Sayville and particularly, Lincoln Avenue was where I belonged.

Thank you for your friendship, the caring and the joy of being part of a truly wonderful ride.

Be well and Happy!!!!

With Deep Affection,

Dr. Mary Ann (Nolan) Griffin - Principal - 1985-2003