...may get her own special day

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Amanda Krznaric, 34, got involved as a lunch supervisor when her oldest child started school because she thought it would be a good way to get back into the workforce. A business management graduate, she's been a stay-at-home mom since 2007. This is her second year on the job. She is currently monitoring Grade 5 classroom



AMANDA KRZNARIC

portables which means she is running between them in all types of weather.

"If it's raining, you are in the rain. I don't mind. To be honest, I really enjoy doing (the work) so it doesn't bother me," Krznaric says.

Still, "It's not easy. It really isn't. Especially when you start off; you don't know how to keep them quiet, how to get them to listen to you, how to get them to relate to you. Once

they know you and you get to know them it gets easier."

Then there is Antoinette Kiss. She supervises at a different school than the one her grandkids attend so as not to cramp their style. During lunchtime, she is in charge of four classes, all Grade 2 students, between the ages of 7 and 8 years old.



ANTOINETTE KISS

"I was working as an administrator for 35 years. I quit my job for my grandkids. My daughter is a teacher and she needed help. It's too expensive for afterschool care and one was still in daycare," Kiss says. "My daughter encouraged me to apply for this job because she knows I don't like to stay home."

On the days when inclement weather does not allow for outdoor recess, Kiss teaches the kids crafts. Making paper flowers is one of her super powers.

"We make tulip, lily, rose. It's really nice, they all get interested," she says with a hint of her old-country accent. Kiss, she says, is a Hungarian name.

These three women are just a sample of the super hero lunch ladies keeping kids like Giulianna Melchionna secure at St. Catherine while school teachers get a meal break.

The Grade 4 student thinks recognizing them is a good idea.

"I think it's a big responsibility because you have to keep children safe," the nine-year-old says.

She says the protagonist in the Lunch Lady graphic novel reminds her of her lunch supervisor Mrs. K., "because she is very nice and she helps



GIULIANNA MELCHIONNA

children too. She tells us to look out for other students."

Instead of fish stick nunchuks, Mrs. K's weapon of choice is her whistle.

Melchionna describes how Mrs. K will blow the whistle if kids in her portable are too rowdy.

"She will go see other classes if we are all okay, but if we are all up out of our seats she will calm us down again. To do this, she will turn off lights or if we are too loud she will even blow her whistle and tell us we are too loud and we have to sit," she says.

It's not as glamorous as battling evil cyborg substitute teachers and school bus monsters but it's exciting enough for this super squad of lunchies.

Now they may even throw down their hair nets and declare, "Justice is served."

For more information on celebrating School Lunch Hero Day visit www.schoollunchheroday.com





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