

First Year Teacher Journal

by Alisha Buttke

September 7, 1998

I have made it though the first week of school—as TEACHER. Very scary. I've gone through all of the (probably common) thoughts of “Why am I doing this? Who do I think I am? What insane part of my membrane though I would enjoy this?” Thursday was the worst (the second day). Wednesday was amazingly easy in comparison—and fun. I thought “this isn't going to be too bad.” One day at a time. I am not and cannot be a superhuman... it's just a job... but I have a huge effect on a lot of young minds. I'm not perfect... but all those students... and I can't please everyone. My mind is in a constant argument with itself. The headaches were bad on Friday. I'll be OK as long as I don't take it too seriously and be uptight. Remember, I was laid-back at one point in my life. I can be again. I am so in charge! It's insane! I'm the outlet on the wall that has to charge the entire group. Wow. That part is going to be very

difficult to get used to.

October 7, 1998

Wow! I'm in my 6th week of school. I can't believe how fast it's going. I am extremely frustrated. And I feel betrayed. By all of my teachers. No one told me about all this other stuff! Well, they did, but they didn't say how bad it was! I don't remember thinking ever that I would like to spend a lot of time fund raising, planning for trips or advertising or trying to be a politician! I feel barely a split second ahead of the students in class—and it's all because I have to deal with so much other stuff. My teachers told me this but they didn't say how bad it would be. So I feel betrayed. I pray that I do not pass any real kind of judgment on this job until I have finished the year.

November 6, 1998

Things have been looking up for quite

some time, especially when I remember that I can't control everything or have all the answers right away. I feel pretty good about how I'm doing though I don't think I should complain so much because I do have a good job and great colleagues and my students have been receptive and I know that these things make such a huge difference because I have heard some awful horror stories. Things are actually pretty good. I may be just entering the disillusionment stage, though too. I'll find out.

Alisha Buttke graduated from St. Cloud State last spring with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education. During her time in St. Cloud she taught traditional and Suzuki lessons and was actively involved in performing groups. She is in her first year of teaching. ‡