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# PS 11 Planet

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## P.S. 11 Prepares for New Addition



An artist's picture of the new addition with the playground, amphitheater, and sports areas. This view is where the portables are now.

by Ruby, Ntina, Nyla, Caden, Sophia, Jennah, Maleha, & Jaica

Summer is almost here and most kids are excited thinking about the beach and summer vacation. However, while they are off having fun, the construction workers will be busy putting the finishing touches on the new addition to P.S. 11.

When the students return in September they will not only see the familiar brick building of P.S. 11 but also a beautiful addition to our school as well. Ms. Pena-Jorge reports that the addition will have "two art rooms, a science room, a multipurpose room, and a new lunchroom." She explains that soon we will also have a music room, library, and a new playground.

Victor Ferranti, a member of the construction management team, reports that P.S. 11 will soon be a "green school" and is built with recycled materials. He explains that the new addition and the upgrades to the existing building will make P.S. 11 "a state-of-the art school with technology and Smart Boards" and that "students will be amazed" when they enter the building in September.

He was enthusiastic to report that, "P.S. 11 will also have a new playground area with amphitheater seating outside the cafeteria."

Both students and staff are excited about the new building. "I really like the way the new building turned out," says Winona of Class 501. "It looks very modern and spacious. I think it was a great idea to build a bigger building so P.S. 11 can welcome more kids." Valentina agrees. "The new addition to P.S. 11 is really cool because the school is bigger. Also, I'm excited for the new science lab that was put in the addition." Franklin of Class 205 comments, "I feel a little bit happy and a little bit sad. Because I like going to computer room here and the gym here and I'll miss them. But I'm a little bit happy because I want to see how the classrooms look." Ms. Pena-Jorge joins the students in their anticipation. "I am eager about the building," she states and smiles. "I have butterflies in my stomach and I'm looking forward to it."



## Class 603 Makes a New Friend

by Nyla and Caden with Ruby & Sophia

Do you know Uncle Charley? Well, you should get to know him. The students of Class 603 did and they are happy that they have become his friends.

It all began on Halloween when Uncle Charley, an elderly man who lives next door to P.S. 361 began giving out Kit Kat bars to the 6th graders. According to Khai and Heather, Uncle Charley had been waving to the students each day at dismissal and then on Halloween he had the chance to meet them and give them candy. From that point on, an interesting friendship between the sixth graders of Class 603 and "Uncle Charley" began. Pretty soon, the kids started thinking of ways to include Uncle Charley in other events. They learned that although Uncle Charley has a niece nearby and a kind nurse who cares for him, he does not have other family members in the area. So, with the help of their teachers, the students found ways to make Uncle Charley feel

special. They invited him to different events and even made him Christmas cards. They showed up on his doorstep and sang Christmas carols. Then they invited him to their show in February. At first the kids were disappointed because Uncle Charley had not attended the performance. "We had already finished performing and we didn't see Uncle Charley," explained Ms. Argento and Ms. Yapjoco. Then he showed up. We were allowed to perform our pieces again for him and the kids were so happy." Recently the students planted flowers in Uncle Charley's garden. Now it will be time for the 6th graders to graduate and move on. Although they have invited Uncle Charley to graduation, they know it will be tough to say good bye. However, the students explain that their teachers have taught them strategies for communicating with Uncle Charley. Tasnim explained, "I will continue the tradition that our teachers have taught us by making something every month for Uncle Charley. I plan on gathering my friends and coming up with new ideas for Uncle Charley." Denisse added, "And maybe for each holiday I can give him flowers and cards." Ricardo, Megan, Tenzin, Khai, and Adam plan on stopping by to stay hello when they pass by Uncle Charley's yellow house. The students all agree it will be difficult but they know this special relationship will still continue.



*P.S. 11 Planet Staff:*

**Top Row:**  
Nyla, Sophia,  
Caden, Maleha, Ntina

**Bottom Row:** Jennah,  
Jaica, Ruby

## Staff Spotlight: Mr. Will

by Ntina and Staff

Have you ever wondered about Mr. Will's life outside of P.S. 11? Many students think they know Mr. Will as our helpful custodian. However, they are probably unfamiliar with his interesting life. We recently had the chance to sit down with Mr. Will in his basement workroom and ask him a few questions.

Q: What is your favorite part of the job?

A: Watching the kids grow.

Q: How do you get along with the staff here?

A: We are just like a family here.

Q: What is your favorite activity?

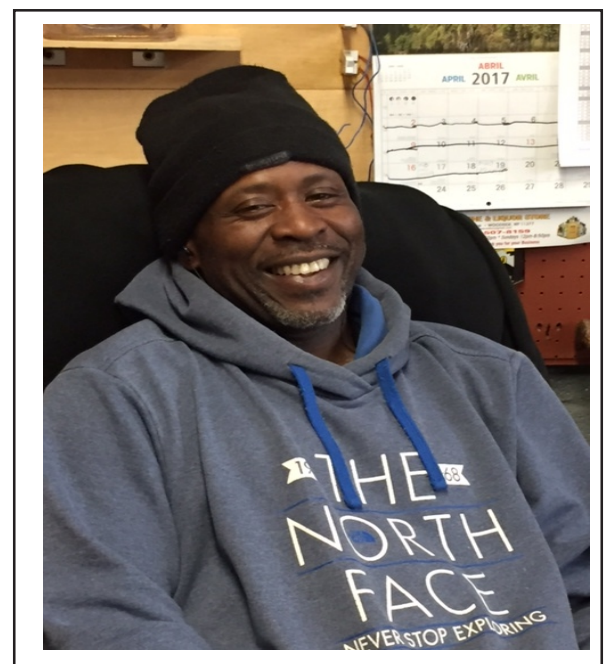
A: I love to spend time with my family! I also like to go to music studios and record rap songs.

Q: What is your favorite animal?

A: The bald eagle because its only enemy is humans and it has freedom.

Q: What school subjects do you like?

A: I like history because then you can learn the truth. Also, I like reading because I want to know all about world facts.



Mr. Will relaxing in his basement office.

## Staff Spotlight:

**Ms. Mary**  
by Ruby, Caden, & Sophia



Ms. Mary Masterson, the P.S. 11 Supervising School Aide, will be retiring in June. She has supervised the cafeteria for several years and many of us have known her since kindergarten. We visited her in the busy aides' room and asked her a few questions.

*Q: How do you feel about leaving P.S. 11?*

A: I will miss the children because it has been so fun working here, seeing their smiling faces each day.

*Q: What is your favorite thing about our school?*

A: I like lunch duty where I get to interact with the children. I enjoy reminding them to eat so they can grow big, strong, and smart.

*Q: What are your plans for after P.S. 11?*

A: I plan to do volunteer work in a hospital and maybe go back to school to study in an area related to teaching.

*Q: What is your favorite memory as a kid?*

A: I loved talking with my grandparents. I was very close with them.

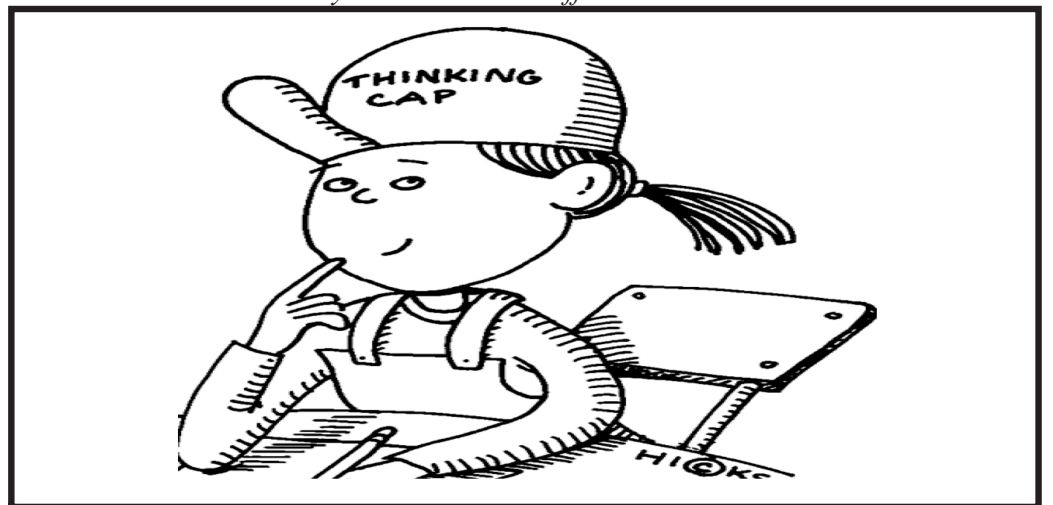
*Q: What is your favorite food?*

A: I love pizza! I've had it since I was a little girl.



## Little Miss Know-It-All

by P.S. 11 Planet Staff



**Dear Little Miss Know-It-All,**  
I am 10 years old. My 3-year-old brother always copies whatever I do. He even copies me when I do homework or study for tests. What should I do to solve this big problem?  
Sincerely,  
Totally Irritated

*Dear Totally Irritated,*  
I understand your problem because I have had the same situation. Maybe he wants something from you. You can occupy him with activities such as books, drawing, or exercising. Even though he can be a bit irritating, remember that he's lovable, too.  
Sincerely,  
Little Miss-Know-It-All

**Dear Little Miss Know-It-All,**  
My used-to-be best friend doesn't like me anymore. I'm having a really hard time finding a new friend. Please give me any suggestions about what I can do!  
Sincerely,  
Annoyed and Without a BFF

*Dear Annoyed/BFF-less,*  
I can understand that you feel both really annoyed and sad. I think you should try sitting next to a kind person and start talking to him or her. I feel that you can then get along with that new person and make a new BFF!  
Sincerely,  
Little-Miss-Know-It-All

**Dear Little Miss Know-It-All,**  
I have a problem. My sister is always yelling at me at home. My sister doesn't let me do anything or else she gets really angry.  
Sincerely,  
Please Help

*Dear Please Help,*  
Maybe you can calmly ask your sister to stop yelling at you. You can explain that yelling does not often solve anything. Have you told your parents about your feelings? If not, maybe you should. Remember, you can always talk to your sister about it. Who knows? Maybe this situation will help you both to become better friends.  
Sincerely,  
Little Miss-Know-It-All

**Dear Little-Miss-Know-It-All,**  
My best friend has been hanging out with another girl. We used to do everything together but now she is always spending time with her. I don't have many other friends and I feel jealous. Can you help?  
Sincerely,  
Feeling Jealous

*Dear Feeling Jealous,*  
This is a normal situation. It can be difficult but you can find a solution. If your best friend likes this girl, then the new girl will probably like you, too. Maybe you can try to find activities that you both enjoy. Also, talk to your best friend about this. She may not realize that you're feeling so sad.  
Sincerely,  
Little Miss-Know-It-All

## Culture Night at 11 Showcases Talent



Earl Times and Sophie (202) sing a song together.

by Jennah, Sophia, & Ruby

Culture Night at P.S. 11 was an enormous success! Families shared food, talents, and time on May 17th. Different events were held in the gym, the auditorium, the lunchroom, and individual classrooms. In the auditorium Earl Times, assisted by Mr. Feldman of Class 503, sang and played guitar. His daughter, Sofie, of Class 202 joined him at the end of the performance. Ms. Stavrou had an exhibit on Ellis Island that her students had created. She was excited about the experience and commented, "Parents who came to view the slideshows enjoyed them tremendously. It was an enjoyable and informative night!" Kimberly of Class 404 enjoyed dancing with Precise Dance Studio. "My favorite part was



Avery (106) and family enjoy the food festival in the lunchroom.

the food because it was delicious," she commented. Roni Spilios-Kinane expressed the opinion of many when she stated, "It was a true representation of our neighborhood and it was wonderful to see all the children enjoying time with their classmates."



Jennah (401) displays the Greek flag as she wears her traditional Greek dress.



Above: Teachers enjoy working in the lunchroom. Below: Mary Kate (201) and other Irish step dancers perform.



Above: Skylar's mom (204) poses with Alashay in front of the ENL classroom map. Below: Dancers participate in a traditional dance.



## 5th Grader Takes the Stage!

By Maleha and Jaica

"Lights, camera, action!" These are words familiar to Tai of Class 502. To some people, Tai may seem like a typical extroverted 5th grader with red hair and freckles. However, Tai's life outside of school is quite different.

Tai entered the acting world when she was five years old and by the time she was in 2nd grade she got the part of Jane in Mary Poppins. Tai says she began acting because of her dad's example. "I think the person that inspired me was my dad. When I was born, my dad was acting on Broadway in Mary Poppins. After that, I just kind of grew up in the theatre."

Although she has a lot of experience, Tai still feels nervous on stage sometimes. When that happens she uses a trick of looking in between people instead of directly focusing on the audience. She also chooses to think positively, "so that people will recognize my talent."

Tai explains that her family is involved in her career. Both her parents are actors and help out however they can. Tai's mom manages her bank account since Tai makes money with different acting jobs. According to Tai, both her parents "help coach me when I have to go over lines to make sure my acting is perfect." Tai says her parents help her balance school responsibilities and acting and her teachers are helpful, too. "Most of my auditions are after school hours," she explains. "But if not, I have to make sure I finish my school work and the teacher usually understands."

In spite of having to work hard to balance school and acting, Tai is happy she has chosen this career. "I enjoy acting because I think actors are open-minded people. I like how my friends support each other when they get a role. When I get a role they don't get jealous, they are happy for me." Also, Tai explains, "Acting gives you the chance to experience what it's like to be someone else. And that's pretty cool."



Tai works on a voice recording in the studio.