



# The Hawkeye

Fall 2024

## Population Change in Princeton Schools

By Claire Pang, Tanvi Yalakanti, Maddie Yang

Princeton has undergone many construction projects- particularly housing projects in the last couple of years. With new housing spaces opening, more families have been settling down in Princeton. Alongside new houses, there are also apartment developments springing up throughout Princeton. New families moving here will most likely be looking to put their children in the Princeton public schools, which unlike our school, cannot not limit the number of students that can attend.

As new students arrive, some schools just don't have room for them. Recently, concerns have been raised from the Princeton Board of Education about the overcrowding of the public schools. (According to a former PMS student, overcrowding at PMS has become a significant problem, leaving many students without their own lockers.) If Princeton public schools are already overflowing, how will the schools fare with even more incoming students? The Board plans to hold a referendum, a vote on a proposed measure to expand other public schools like Princeton Middle School and Princeton High School and repurpose old spaces. The estimated cost will be between 70 and 85 million dollars, paid by Princeton citizens. There is some controversy about this, seeing how a large number of our district's students either aren't actually from our district and therefore don't pay our district's taxes, or are the children of teachers who may not live in Princeton. For example, in Princeton High School, around 17 percent of students are from Cranbury. The vote on whether this referendum

will be passed or not will most likely happen in December of 2024 or January 2025.

PCS has also expanded several times throughout its history. Usually, the town School Board is reluctant to let us expand in fear that we will take students from other public schools. In fact in 2017 the school expanded to include 76 more students in the lower grades. The class of 2025 (the current eighth grade class) was the first year to have two kindergarten classes. According to Mr. Patton, "[The Princeton School Board] sued us, we sued them, and it was a whole mess." The Princeton Board of Education has clearly been against us growing as a school. Ironically, the other schools are now becoming overcrowded. Despite these issues, Mr. Patton believes that with the way that our school is now, expanding PCS further isn't advisable. "We really are built around two classes of science and history, three classes of English, four classes of [math]... if we went to three classes, we would cease to be who we are." In all, PCS is unaffected by these prospective expansions and space constraints, although this significant issue does affect many other public schools in our area.

## The New PCS Kitchen

By Kaianne Mark

During this new school year, students may have noticed construction in the charter room. It appears to be a new kitchen, but why does PCS need a new kitchen? What's going to be in this kitchen? When is it going to be finished? To answer those questions, the *Hawkeye* interviewed Mr. Patton, the head of the school.

*Hawkeye:* Are there any plans to finish the new kitchen in the charter room during this year?

Mr. Patton: Yes, the new kitchen should be done by November, but we're waiting for inspections to be done.

*Hawkeye:* What is going to be in the new kitchen? Are there any new appliances?

Mr. Patton: To understand what we're putting in the kitchen, you have to know why we needed to renovate it. Before me, Charter only had 278 students, and the old cafeteria and kitchen were set up. Charter then added more students, with one section in each grade, and that went up to 4th grade. The principal at the time, Mr. Marsee, realized that the students outgrew the space, which meant that the kitchen was very tight, and the school needed a place for students to eat without being cramped. So they expanded the school and made the old kitchen into a kindergarten room and temporarily moved the cafeteria into the gym.

At that time, the upper school had only one section of each grade. Then we started doubling 5th grade and expanded kindergarten, first, and second. As the school's population increased over the past 20 years, the cafeteria space became under-resourced. There was room for people to eat, but the kitchen was never upgraded. So I decided last year to upgrade the kitchen.

What we did to make more room was to move the wall about five feet from where it was. Even though we lost some charter room space, we could do it because we have the new big cafeteria.

Now the food served in the kitchen is called a "vended meal" because a vendor comes

and sells cooked food, cafeteria food. The company that sends us the meals is called Catering Solutions. In case we don't have the meals ready to go, we could cook food just in case.

To get out of this nightmare of worrying about the vended meals, we came up with the idea to create a new kitchen where people can cook food and not just have vended meals just in case we don't have them ready to go. There is no plan to get rid of Catering Solutions. It's not a bad company, as it sends us decent cooked meals. But we are simply making a new option for when we don't have the food.

The new kitchen will have five new sinks including a hand sink, a food prep sink, and three kitchen sinks so that we can make food on campus.

### **After-School Activities at PCS this Year**

By Maya Romalis, Arjun Krishnan, Ruhi Zhou

#### **Science Bowl:**

Science Bowl is a competitive club run by Ms. Celik that contains fast-paced, difficult math and science questions. There are two opposing teams. The moderator, someone who oversees the match, reads a toss-up question worth four points, answered individually. If someone on the team gets the answer correct, they get a chance to answer a bonus question worth ten points, after discussing it beforehand. To be allowed to compete on the team, you must do well on graded tests, on in person questions, and memorization. Your skills must also blend with others'. Ms. Celik says, "Yes [you have to be good at science], but you have to be fast as well." According to Ms. Celik, the best part about science bowl is that you never know what

will happen during a game. You could be underprepared or overprepared and do better or worse than you expected. So always be optimistic when participating in Science Bowl.

### **MathCounts:**

On Thursdays, Princeton Charter students participating in MathCounts meet to compete and solve math problems. Their teacher, Mrs. Khachatrian, leads them in tackling hard problems. She explained “ We usually solve lots of problems, [There is] lots of thinking and use of different knowledge. [We] practice topics so we have experience when competing in competitions.” The students will be competing in the spring, with students from all over the world. Ms. Khacharian says in order for students to enjoy math, “the process of solving the problem [should be] fun. ” All things have to be difficult to be easy”. Ms. Khachatrian says organizing MathCounts is logistically hard. “Most students that join [MathCounts] have commitments to other activities, so it is very hard to find common times.” She recommends students to join MathCounts if they love math and want to improve.

### **Operation Smile:**

Money raised by Operation Smile provides free surgeries for children around who can't otherwise afford them to fix cleft lip and palate, a condition that prevents them from having a “normal” life. Operation Smile, according to Dr. Bill Magee Jr. the co-founder and CEO, is an organization that decides “to make somebody else's problem [their] problem.” Students can help bring smiles to the world by volunteering and raising money to pay for surgeries that help those in need of medical attention, especially those who can't afford to pay for it. One way you can help raise money is by participating at school's fundraisers, such as

the ugly sweater contest. With your help we can make a difference.

### **8th grade play:**

PCS has an 8th grade play each year in which the 8th graders show off the skills they have learned throughout their years at PCS. Students audition for the optional 8th grade play at the end of their 7th grade year. Rehearsals take place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and there are additional rehearsals closer to the performance dates. Those who play fall sports can still participate in the play, although not in a lead role. The actors help choose what play they perform. The after-school rehearsals are a time to learn to act while spending time with friends. This year the 8th graders prepared and performed *Peter and the StarCatcher*, a twist on Peter Pan, based on the novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson. They performed their play for students and parents three times (November 22 and twice November 23), and each ticket cost one dollar.

### **Spring Musical:**

The spring musical is a chance for the 6th through 8th graders to unleash their musical talents in a spectacular recreation of their favorite movies. If singing, dancing and acting sound fun, don't worry, the auditions are in December, leaving you with plenty of time to find 30 seconds of a song that shows off your musical talents. If you're better at acting you can also audition with a 30 second monologue. This year, on March 14 and 15, PCS will be performing *Legally Blond*, a movie starring Elle Woods, which we will be performing as a musical. In *Legally Blond*, Elle Woods' boyfriend dumps her for someone smarter, just when she thinks he is going to propose! She applies to Harvard Law School to prove how smart she is and goes through a journey to show

that anyone, regardless of looks, can do anything.

### **Jazz Band:**

Jazz band is an afterschool program run by Mr Cuiffreda. Grades 5-8 can participate, on Mondays in the black box theatre, beginning at 3:15 and ending at 4:30. Mr. Cuiffreda encourages all different instruments from woodwinds, brass, and even string instruments. This year's winter concert is in January. Performers will perform pop, rock, and Stevie Wonder songs this year. Jazz Band allows students to express their feelings through music and make enjoyable experiences along the way.

### **Orchestra and Prep Orchestra:**

Orchestra and prep orchestra are both after school activities taught by Mr. Schaffer on Wednesday afternoons. Prep orchestra includes third and fourth graders and runs directly after school from 3:15 to 4:30 while Orchestra includes fifth through eighth graders and runs from 5:45 to 7:00 after school. In both orchestras, the music is either classical or modern classical, and there are a variety of instruments ranging from percussion to woodwinds and string instruments. At the Winter Concert in January, the orchestra performs. There is a spring concert in which both orchestra and prep orchestra play. If "Would I enjoy playing in orchestra?" is something you're asking yourself, Mr. Schaffer says, "In short, yes. Not fun like going to the movies but fun like getting to see an invisible part of a story."

### **Fall Sports Wrap-Up**

By Aryan Kondakindi and Yusuf Maruf

Fall school sports, including cross country and field hockey, have concluded rather

recently, with the participants gaining useful, important skills such as sportsmanship, teamwork, and responsibility.

Soccer: Soccer, led by coaches Miller and Gonzalez, was, unfortunately, canceled due to bad turnouts, about 7-8 people were showing up during practice and not enough people had signed up from the start, even though the sport was available to everyone from grades 6 through 8.

Field Hockey: The field hockey team, led by coaches Burd and Madea, though having issues with a lack of personnel at times (meaning not having substitutions), having two rookie goalies in the goal, and going against tough teams, the team persevered and had an amazing season this year, holding a record of six wins, two losses, and one draw.

During an interview with Mrs Burd, she found that a game she found fairly difficult was the Princeton Middle School game. Maybe Cranbury. We beat Cranbury once and then lost once. When asked about the difficulties throughout the season, she thought the biggest difficulty was the same thing as last year, which was their lack of players. They only had 12 people so if a few kids were out for practices - it was difficult to run a practice, and we had a few games where one person was out, so we literally had no subs. A standout game for the field hockey team was when they played Princeton Middle School's A team, when they won 2-1, as well as Cranbury's team in which they won one and lost one. She didn't think they could have done anything better as she was pleased with how the season went. When questioned if she enjoyed the experience, she said that she felt as though every single year the field hockey team, whether having no subs or 5 subs, a small time,

or a big team, is constantly working hard and they just show what it means to be an athlete. As a final remark, she would like to shout out the seventh graders on the team, which “were just absolutely phenomenal.” The sixth graders, even though there were only a couple of them, did a tremendous job learning and growing throughout the season, and the eighth graders, who will be missed.

### **Get to Know Ms. Dowling**

By: Yusuf Maruf and Lucas Cervantes

The *Hawkeye* asked our new K-4 principal, Ms. Dowling, some personal and professional questions in hopes that students can get to know her better. Ms. Dowling is in her second year at Princeton Charter School.

*Hawkeye:* Why did you choose PCS?

Mrs. Dowling: I chose PCS because I thought it was a really good fit. It's a K8, which I really believe in. I think it's really the perfect setting for children to lay their foundation for a lifetime of education. And I just loved the people that I met through the interview process. I loved Mr. Patton and all the teachers that I met and I felt like it was a really good fit for me personally.

*Hawkeye:* What do you think about the environment at PCS?

Mrs. Dowling: I think that it's the perfect environment. I think that we are a school that lets kids be kids, that sets high expectations, and that teaches kids and cares for kids.

*Hawkeye:* How does it feel being principal?

Mrs. Dowling: I think it's a really big job. It's a really important job, but it's one that I love and I feel that I can have an impact on lots of kids, so it makes me really happy to get up every morning.

*Hawkeye:* How long have you been teaching?

Mrs. Dowling: I've been in education for over 30 years, believe it or not, which I know it's hard to believe, because I can't imagine I've been in it for 30 years. I actually started as a high school teacher. I was teaching Spanish and mathematics in high school and then I was asked to teach a middle school class, so I was actually a middle school principal before I was a lower school teacher. So I started in high school and worked my way down.

*Hawkeye:* What school do you come from?

Mrs. Dowling: Before coming to Charter, I was at Stuart Country Day school, but I was actually home with my children for three years, because I wanted to be a stay at home mom while they were going through middle school. And I was working on my doctorate, so I'm very close to defending my dissertation.

*Hawkeye:* Have you taught any other subjects?

Mrs. Dowling: I actually taught a reading class for a teacher that was on maternity leave, but other than that, I've mostly taught math and Spanish.

*Hawkeye:* What do you think is the most effective teaching method and why?

Mrs. Dowling: I think you can teach anybody how to teach a subject. I think knowing how to interact with kids is probably the most important. I believe that people either have it or they don't have it. They either love to teach kids or they don't. And so the most effective teacher I've seen in the classroom is a teacher that really wants to work with kids and really cares for kids.

*Hawkeye:* What type of students are your favorite?

Mrs. Dowling: I love all different types of kids. What makes me love my job is that every kid is a little bit different and every kid brings something new and different and amazing to the community.

*Hawkeye:* Do you have any memorable moments from your work here or at any other schools?

Mrs. Dowling: I love that every day is a new day and a different day. But I have to say the most memorable thing about each and every day is the hugs and the smiles that I get from the students.

*Hawkeye:* Do you have any pets?

Mrs. Dowling: I have one dog named Brody. He's an Australian labradoodle and he just turned six on Sunday.

*Hawkeye:* Do you live far from the school?

Mrs. Dowling: I don't. I live in Skillman .... It takes me eight to 10 minutes to get to work in the morning.

*Hawkeye:* Do you have any children?

Mrs. Dowling: I do. I have four kids, and they're all a year apart, so I have a sophomore, junior, senior, and then a freshman in college.

*Hawkeye:* If you don't mind sharing, what's your middle name?

Mrs. Dowling: I actually don't love my middle name, so I changed it when I got married, but my middle name at birth was Barbara.

*Hawkeye:* Where are you originally from? What is your ethnicity?

Mrs. Dowling: I'm a first generation American. I was born here, but both of my parents are Cuban.

*Hawkeye:* What's your favorite time of the day?

Mrs. Dowling: I'm definitely not a morning person. So I like the late afternoon into early evening.

*Hawkeye:* What's your opinion of social media?

Mrs. Dowling: Oh. I personally am not on social media. I feel like I missed the curve, so I don't spend time on social media, but I feel like it's here to stay, so it's something that as educators, we need to do a good job of making sure that we teach the younger generation how to be on social media responsibly.

### **New Teacher Interviews** by Jonina Hou

With every new school year come new teachers. The *Hawkeye*: interviewed these teachers and asked them some personal and professional questions in hopes that students get to know them better.

#### **Matt Sichel, 5-8 math:**

*Hawkeye:* What subject and which grades do you teach?

A: I teach mathematics, and I'm teaching a class of 5th graders, 6th graders, 7th graders, and 8th graders.

*Hawkeye:* How long have you been teaching for?

A: I'd like to think that I've been a teacher my entire life, but I have been formally teaching middle school for the previous two years. Before that I held a bunch of different teaching positions at community college level, both adjuncting and kind of every position you could have in a community college.

*Hawkeye:* Have you taught any other subject other than math?

A: I have. Before I studied mathematics, I studied entomology, the study of insects, and environmental sciences, and I helped teach

sections of entomology at Stockton University and at Drexel University for one semester.

Hawkeye: What do you like most about teaching?

A: The kids. Kids are always the best. Teaching allows me to be goofy, I hope fun, and when the students join in with that along with mathematics, I think that's really what makes the job fun for me.

Hawkeye: Why did you want to become a teacher?

A: I don't know if it's "wanted to be a teacher". I think it is the "there's nothing else I would have wanted to do." Just everything about the job I enjoyed, and I come from a line of teachers.

Hawkeye: What do you think is the most effective teaching method and why?

A: I don't think that there is a single best teaching method because students all learn differently. What you do as a teacher and you've been teaching for some time, you kind of collect a bag of different teaching techniques, and a lot of times when you are teaching students you find what works best for some of them and others what works best for other students. One thing that I like to do in my classes is I like to have students working at whiteboards a lot, so if you look around my room, I had extra white boards put in. A lot of times during problem solving, when we're doing examples of problems in class, I have the students working in small groups at boards. I found that to be effective, but I found every student works differently. So, I try to adapt what I'm doing for each student.

Hawkeye: What type of students are your favorite?

A: This is an easy one! I like students who work hard, are willing to ask questions, and come with an enthusiasm to learn. Those are my favorite.

Hawkeye: Do you have any memorable experiences from teaching?

A: Yeah, yeah! Always a lot of good experiences. One that I remember, that I particularly enjoyed, is that I am a huge West Ham United soccer fan, and when we lost to our rivals, my entire class came in to sing their fight song at the beginning of class. I'm a West Ham, so I'm used to losing. It was memorable and a lot of fun.

Hawkeye: What's your opinion on social media?

A: Not to give away my age, but I am a millennial. That puts me in about a 10 to 15 year window, and I am one of the few Millennials with zero social media. I have none. I don't have a Facebook page, Instagram, and I don't know what the other ones are, but I use zero social media. I understand that social media has its benefits because both my brothers live on the west coast, one in Seattle and one in San Francisco, and I probably don't get to talk to them or see them as much as I would like. But social media, for me, is just not worth the downsides.

Hawkeye: Why did you choose PCS?

A: I believe in the charter. I believe in strong academics. I think that's one of the things that impressed me about the school, and it's definitely impressed me so far just being here a couple of weeks, just how willing the students are to work hard in their academics. For me, that was a huge part of it. The other part is that I like the small school community that we have because you really get to know everyone.

Hawkeye: What do you think about the environment here so far?

A: Fantastic. One thing that I've realized so far is that one of the things that makes this a wonderful place to work are the colleagues. I quickly learned that Mr. Laga is one of the coolest people to work with. Everyone's awesome, really great people, really great colleagues.

Hawkeye: Do you have any pets?

A: Yes. I have a dog, a border collie-golden mix called Maddie, and she is a sweetheart.

Hawkeye: Do you live far from the school?

A: Right now, I live about 30 minutes from school, which is perfect because it lets me get through audiobooks at a reasonable pace. I don't really mind a 30 minute commute. It gives me enough time to unwind at the end of the day and get in the zone for work at the beginning of the day.

Hawkeye: Do you have any children?

A: I do not have any children. Maddie is my child, along with my students, as I pass on knowledge to them.

Hawkeye: Where are you originally from/What's your ethnicity?

A: I was borned and raised here, in New Jersey in the Bordentown Area. I am soon to be a PA resident, which I am very excited about> I bought my very first house recently. My grandparents, and great-grandparents were all pretty much born in the United States, but my heritage is a mix of German, English, and Austrian.

Hawkeye: What's your favorite time of day?

A: I love all parts of the day, but I especially love early mornings. You cannot be a teacher without being partially a morning person. I wake up at 5 o'clock each day, and sometimes when I'm driving to school with the sunrises and the fog it is absolutely beautiful. I love being up early because sometimes it feels like you're part of a club where everyone else is sleeping while you're awake and enjoying the beautiful sunrises, so I like the early morning.

### **Allison Walsh, 5-8 math:**

Hawkeye: What subject and which grades do you teach?

A: I teach fifth and eighth grade math.

Hawkeye: How long have you been teaching for?

A: I started teaching last year at an education center in West Windsor, so this is my second year teaching.

Hawkeye: Have you taught any other subject except for math?

A: I have also taught some English.

Hawkeye: Why English?

A: I don't know. I know English too. I majored in economics at Harvard, but I still had to know some English to get into college.

Hawkeye: How did you get into Harvard?

A: I was valedictorian of my public high school, and I worked really, really hard for a really, really long time ever since I was in middle school. I took on a lot of leadership opportunities in school and had an interesting growing up story, so I think a combination of a lot of those things helped me get in.

Hawkeye: What do you like most about teaching?

A: I really like working with the kids. I know it might sound silly, but you guys bring me so much joy, just seeing your faces light up when you understand something. It's really energizing for me and makes me really happy.

Hawkeye: Why did you want to be a teacher?

A: I wanted to be a teacher because I wanted to make an impact. I was working in the business world before, and I really felt like I was spinning my wheels and not really helping anybody. I wanted to help kids and make an impact, so that's why I teach.

Hawkeye: When did you decide that?

A: In 2023.

Hawkeye: What do you think is the most effective teaching method?

A: I like cold calling. It keeps everyone accountable and makes sure everyone is on their toes and paying attention. It's also what they do at places like Harvard Business School.

Hawkeye: What kind of students are your favorite?



A: It doesn't necessarily have to be the smartest student that is my favorite. I think I just like the students that have a good attitude. You can be the best student, but I like when you have a good attitude and you come prepared. Even if you're not the best at the skills but you have a good attitude and work hard, those students are the best kind, but students that do very well can be that as well.

Hawkeye: Do you have any memorable experiences from your time teaching?

A: Yes, I do. One time I was teaching a four-person class, but the kids decided they were going to make cards for me that said "best teacher" for Teacher Appreciation Day, and I really liked that. It was really nice to get some notes and little gifts.

Hawkeye: What's your opinion of social media?

A: I have mixed opinions on social media because when I grew up, Facebook was just coming out. When I was 12 or 13 years old, we went on Facebook, and parents didn't know what it was. My generation (I'm a millennial), we really grew up with social media. I think it has a lot of negative mental health effects, but I want to stay connected with my friends while at the same time I think it can change a lot of the ways in which we think, the way we engage with each other, and obviously for young people today it's the source of online bullying. So while I can understand that it can have positive effects, I do think the negative effects tend to outweigh the positives of social media.

Hawkeye: Why did you choose to teach here at PCS?

A: I was looking around for a close to full-time teaching role, and I found Princeton Charter. The first people I met were Mrs. Eckstrom, Mr. Patton, and Mrs. Khachatryan, and I really got along with them and thought they were really excellent. I really like the way they work and

their teaching philosophy, and it seemed like a good culture fit for me.

Hawkeye: What do you think about the environment at PCS so far?

A: So far, for me as a new teacher, it has been really supportive. I feel like I can ask a question to any of the other staff, and they're more than happy to help me. I feel like I have a mentor in Mrs. Khachatryan, and that's been really great.

Hawkeye: Do you have any pets?

A: I do have a dog. His name is Rue, he's two years old, he's a red mini poodle, and he weighs about 13 pounds. He's really sweet.

Hawkeye: Do you live far from the school?

A: I live about a 15 minute drive from the school in Princeton Junction.

Hawkeye: Do you have any children?

A: Nope. No children.

Hawkeye: What's your middle name?

A: Meghan.

Hawkeye: Where are you originally from/What's your ethnicity?

A: I'm originally from outside of Boston, Massachusetts, and my nationality is American, but ethnically I'm a mix of a lot of things. My last name is Walsh, so I'm technically of Irish descent.

Hawkeye: What's your favorite time of day?

A: My favorite time of day is either in the morning when I have my morning coffee with my dog or at night when my fiancé, my dog, and I watch our favorite TV show together.

### ***Hawkeye Interviews 5th and 6th graders***

By Gabriella Poynter

The *Hawkeye* interviewed this year's fifth graders to see how they're adjusting to middle school. We also talked to the current 6th graders to get their perspective on their adjustment last year.

Many fifth graders said that math class got harder, and that they were not in their homeroom sections for all classes. One adjustment fifth graders said they had to make is waking up earlier and dealing with more movement in the hallway when they are changing classes.

Many fifth and sixth grade students said that something specifically challenging for them was how computer science was a lot harder. Other people had mentioned how there was less time to hang out with their friends, and some other kids said the schedule was a lot harder since many of your classes were back to back without break.

Many sixth graders said that the biggest challenge for them is the increased amount of homework and more quizzes than last year.

Many fifth graders said that their favorite thing about being in the new building and moving up is there was a huge increase in freedom, and that the teachers aren't constantly on top of them telling them what to do. They also said that in fifth grade their lunch is later and that they have new and different friends along with new rooms. They also said that they didn't have to move buildings for P.E. They also said that homework had not only increased in amount but also in difficulty and that they had an overwhelming amount of essays.

Both grades said that the most nerve racking thing they have to do now is move up and down stairs and change buildings to go to the nurse's office.

## **Hawkeye Interviews Kindergarteners and Eighth Graders**

By: Ayona Kahlon and Romy Heuck

Once again, we are in the early months of a new school year at Princeton Charter School in which we welcome a new generation of

charter students. However, at the same time we are preparing to bid farewell to our class of 2025 8th graders in the spring. These eighth graders were in the same position in which the kindergarteners are now nine years ago. *The Hawkeye* wanted to conduct an interview that shows the change of the oldest students from when they were once the youngest.

### **Here are the Kindergarten interviews:**

#### **What is your name?**

Rossi

#### **What is your favorite part of the school year so far?**

I like recess and snacks.

#### **What is your favorite snack?**

I like Oreos the best.

#### **What is your favorite subject in school so far?**

I like science

#### **Are you doing any of the after school activities/sports?**

No, I don't do any of them. I never go to afters-school, but I do ballet 'cause it's really good practice for ball dancing. I dream of dancing in pretty outfits.

#### **What do you want to be when you grow up?**

I want to be a zoo keeper in Philadelphia. I went there and I got to see bears and peacocks.

#### **What is your name?**

Jackie

#### **Are you excited for the new school year?**

#### **Why?**

Yes, I'm excited for all of the new things I'm going to learn.

#### **What is your favorite subject in school so far?**

Science

#### **Are you doing any of the after school activities/sports?**

I don't do anything after school here, but I like to play with my sister, eat snacks, and watch cartoons.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

An artist

**What is your name?**

Adina

**Do you like the new school year so far?**

Yeah

**And do you have a favorite subject so far?**

I don't know what a subject is.

**Like what is your favorite class?**

My favorite class is only umm... my own class because my teacher is really nice and funny.

**What do you do after school? Do you do garden club or chess club?**

No I don't do any of those but I do after school.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

I want to be a school librarian or a doctor or maybe a ballerina.

**What is your name?**

Lennox

**Do you like the new school year so far?**

Yes

**Why?**

Because I like going home. I want to go home now.

**Do you have a favorite class?**

I like when I go in there. \*points\*

**What's in there?**

The first grade.

**But what's your favorite subject?**

My home

**Are you guys doing any sports or activities when you go home?**

We go to after school and I see my brother.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

I want to be a policeman and have a car.

**And now for the 8th grade interviews,**

**What is your name?**

Charles

**How are you liking the school year so far?**

It's ok

**What is your favorite subject in school so far?**

I don't really have one

**Are you doing any of the after school activities/sports?**

I do fishing clinics, batting clinics, three baseball teams, basketball, PWA math class, and the school play.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

I have no idea.

**What is your name?**

My name is Izzy. MY NAME IS IZZY.

**What do you think of the school year so far?**

It's really cool being an 8th grader because we're super cool and all the kids in the hallway are like "WOW, they're *so* cool!"

**What is your favorite subject in school so far?**

Ummmm, probably Spanish class.

**Why do you like it so much?**

Learning a new language is really fun and Senora Gaisert gives me the opportunity to speak up.

**Are you doing any of the after school activities/sports?**

Yeah, I'm in the school play. I'm Molly.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

I wanna be *RICH*.

**When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

I wanted to be a fairy princess mad scientist teacher.

**And back then what was your favorite course?**

I actually liked math when I was little.

**Did you do any of the after school activities back then?**

I still did chinese school and I did dance back then too.

**If you could tell your younger self anything, what would it be?**

Lock in.

**What is your name?**

Jasper Block

**What do you think of the school year so far?**

It's hard. 8th grade kind of [stinks]. It's alright though.

**What is your favorite subject in school so far?**

English. Ms. Miller's really chill.

**Are you doing any of the after-school activities/sports?**

Hockey and sometimes basketball.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

A professional hockey player or an interior designer.

**When you were younger, what would you have said you wanted to be when you grew up?**

An astronaut, but not anymore.

**What was your favorite course back then?**

Science

**What afterschool activities did you do?**

Same as now, cello and hockey.

**And if you could tell your younger self anything, what would it be?**

Don't wait to do that 'thing' with exterior motivation, you have to find it in yourself. Like self motivation.

**What is your name?**

Aidan. Aidan Sutphin.

**What do you think of the school year so far?**

I've enjoyed it. It's my last year here so I've kinda gotta make the most of it.

**What is your favorite subject in school so far?**

History

**Are you doing any of the after school activities/sports?**

Yeah, I'm doing the play, I was doing soccer until it got shut down, and I'm trying to run for student council.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

No real idea yet. I don't feel like it would be fair to judge something like that this early.

**When you were younger, what was your favorite class?**

I liked math class; it hasn't aged very well.

**What did you want to be when you grew up?**

Probably like a scientist or something.

**What activities did you do back then?**

I did piano for a little bit, but I was never very good at it and I did soccer.

**And do you have anything you want to say to your younger self?**

Give up!

### **Jokes and Riddles**

Compiled by: Anya Blix, Annelise Sutphin, Eliz Ruggeri, and Cassi Yang

**Q:** Why did the math book look sad?

**A:** Because it had too many problems!

**Q:** Why did the teacher wear sunglasses to school?

**A:** Because her students were so bright.

**Q:** How do you spell COW in thirteen letters?

**A:** SEE O DOUBLE YOU!

**Q:** Why did the librarian remove the clock from the library?

**A:** It was tocking too much.

**Q:** Why don't scientists trust atoms?

**A:** Because they make up everything!

**Q:** What is a mathematical plant?

**A:** The one with square roots.

**Q:** It has keys, but no locks. It has space, but no room. You can enter, but can't go inside. What is it?!

**A:** A keyboard.

**Q:** What do you find at the end of the rainbow?

**A:** The letter W.

**Q:** Turn me on my side and I am everything. Cut me in half and I am nothing. What am I?

**A:** The number 8.

**Q:** How many months have 28 days?

**A:** All of them!

### **The *Hawkeye* Team**

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