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Grade : 7

Teacher : Miss Lexi Salisbury

School : Light of the World Academy

My School Brag: Mr. Tom, the Custodian That Does It All

When I first saw the topic for this essay I had many ideas - I could write about Miss Kathy, the director of my school who has made a difference in the lives of so many students. I could also write about my amazing teacher, Miss Lexi, who always makes sure we have the tools we need to be successful. I could even talk about any of the fantastic programs we have at Light of the World Academy; however, today I am here to talk about someone different, Mr. Tom.

Mr. Tom has been the only custodian at my school for two years. Mr. Tom single-handedly does everything from disinfecting the school to plowing the parking lot. He spends countless hours making sure everything is in working order. One job I always see him doing is taking care of the animals, and there are a lot of them! He loves visiting with them and making sure they are happy. His favorite animal is Disco, a lonely cockatiel, that has no one to talk to over breaks. So, Mr. Tom comes in everyday to take care of him and the other animals.

Even though the jobs Mr. Tom has to do are difficult, he always has a smile on his face! He is always positive and constantly goes out of his way for the students. For example, when the

soccer balls get stuck on the roof during recess, Mr. Tom gets them down without complaint. He even went out of his way and bought kites for the elementary students to play with.

Most people take Mr. Tom for granted. They are used to the school being clean and tidy. What they don't realize is what school would be like without him. The halls would be messy, the bathrooms would be dirty. While my classmates and I are enjoying a break Mr. Tom is at school cleaning the carpets, painting the classrooms, and even checking to make sure the animals are fed. During this recent shutdown due to COVID-19, Mr. Tom has even risked infection to make sure our school is clean when we return.

Mr. Tom is selfless, doing things for others without anything in return. He loves Light of the World Academy and the students and staff as well. My school would not be the same if it weren't for Mr. Tom, which is why he is my #schoolbrag.