

STRIKE STORIES



By Eddie Ponce
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The recent transit strike gave this bus operator an opportunity to discover a whole New World. A place where colorful artwork and pictures fill the room and create smiles, laughter and memories for those who pass through.

Such a place exists on MTA property just adjacent to One Gateway Plaza. The Child Development Center.

While the wheels of the bus had stopped rolling, these children, mostly MTA dependents, just kept right on trucking. Oblivious to a labor dispute, these kids' only concern was, "what's for snack?" Their disputes were easily settled with compromise.

The picketers did their part, though, by agreeing to hold noise levels down during the children's naptime, which was very considerate of them.

When not picketing, I would enjoy spending time at the Center. With two daughters attending, it was a perfect opportunity to watch them interact, as well as interact myself.

I listened to little minds just full of wonder. I reminisced about the days of playing with toy buses. How carefree we were as kids.

Most of us carry something over from our childhood. That is to learn to settle our differences and forgive, so we can continue to "play" together nicely.

The staff can take some credit. They are truly incredible teachers who love to teach.

Although it was nice to be "Teacher for a Day," I was glad to be back behind the wheel, listening to stories of people working for their families, as the MTA once again works as a family.

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