

KIDS NEWS

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SWATTING, SPANKING, PADDLING - IT'S ALL A PAIN IN THE SCHOOL

See Story on Page 2



Ricky Duggan - 7th grade, ENMS. When there's a fight that involves blood or someone hurt, then swatting is OK. But not for other things - especially for not doing your homework, even if it happens often.



JOEL EASTMAN, 7th grade, Pine Ridge Middle School - Swatting is OK if it's something real serious, like fighting. But not for interrupting class - not for trivial things. Get parents to come in if trivial things keep happening.

DEDICATED TO YOU

It's a big world.
And everything is made for big people.
Adult people.
All the glasses are in the upper cabinets.
Out of reach.
The peep hole in the door is 4 feet from the floor.
And I'm only 3 foot six.
And I can't live in certain places 'cause they don't allow Kids.
Like I had something contagious.
And the only place that's really made for me is school.
And it's just not fair.

In our society, "Kids" seems to be a 4-letter word. And that's not right - Kids are people, too. So this paper is just for Kids. About Kids. What's interesting to Kids. What's in town for Kids. Interviews with Kids. Letters from Kids. From you. For you.

PLEASE HELP

KIDS NEWS invites you to write an article, a poem, a letter to the editor, draw a cartoon - anything you would like to do or say. Or just let us know what you think of KIDS NEWS.

REMEMBER, KIDS NEWS is for you, and can't be done without you. So write or call us with your suggestions or news or questions. If you don't want your name in the paper, tell us, but please include it in your letter. Also include your age, school, home address and phone number. Write or call us at KIDS NEWS, P.O. Box 45, Naples, FL 33939; phone 774-7772.

SPIDERMAN ARRESTED

Spiderman was spotted scurrying up the outside of the 110-story Sears Tower Building on May 25.

After making it to the top floor, police took him into custody.

Welcome to the real world, Spidey!

TWO SIDES TO A STORY

CHICAGO, Illinois - More than 100 toy weapons were surrendered by school Kids to the minister of their church while 1400 students of the private school pledged "I do not want to hurt anyone in the world and I do not want to be taught to hurt anyone."

The Rev. George Clements is trying to change the "mentality of violence" in his parish.

NAPLES, Florida - Two thousand fourth and fifth graders were taught to fire a .22 caliber rifle and given several hours of firearm safety lessons.

The Kids, supervised by Collier County Sheriff's deputies, were taught that firearms are only as dangerous as the person handling them.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Dick Lansdale, without whom KIDS NEWS might still not be published. Your many hours in our behalf are greatly appreciated.

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN

By Debbie Cona, freshman, St. John Neumann

Hey, eighth graders! Are you and your parents looking for a high school for you next year? A school with a college future, with spirit, with good teachers, with a learning atmosphere, and fun, too?

Well, stop looking, the train stops here, at St. John Neumann of Collier County. We are located at 3000 53rd Street, S.W., Golden Gate. We are now at temporary quarters, but by September, our new building will be ready.

Our classes run from 8:15 to 2:45 and in between we work our brains out.

Courses include Religion I - old and new testaments of the Bible; English - literature, drama and grammar; math - algebra I or higher courses; physical education - fun; social studies - Soviet Union, China and Latin America; languages - right now only Spanish is offered, but by September, other choices will be available.

Our passing grade is 70.

Extra-curricular activities consist of clubs, school newspaper, school magazine, and year book. Some of these are to be developed as we get more students.

On the athletic field we have football, soccer, basketball, baseball, track, wrestling, swimming, golf, tennis, cross-country, softball, cheer leading, volleyball - all played on the freshman and junior varsity level. We're called the Neumann Celtics.

Our school colors - and uniform colors - are green and gold. Girls have a choice between 2 skirts and white or yellowish gold blouses. Guys can wear any dark colored pants - but not jeans. No sneakers, obviously.

So, come on out in September and give us all a chance to help build your knowledge.

WATCH FOR AMUSEMENT CENTER

Save your loose change - a new amusement center is coming soon to Coastland Mall, next to the movie theater.

KIDS DIVORCE BOOK

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts - Twenty elementary school students wrote and had published "The Kids' Book of Divorce" to help Kids - and adults - through a divorce.

The book, published by the Lewis Publishing Co., was written, illustrated and photographed by a group of Kids from the Fayerweather Street School in Cambridge. Their teacher edited the book.

The students researched current books on the subject of divorce and interviewed psychiatrists, lawyers, ministers and others. The Kids thought some of the books were "ridiculous"; and no one really understood the Kids view.

So they wrote their own book. And they wrote it so Kids can understand it.

NOW YOU KNOW

There is no letter Q, and no letter Z on the phone dial.

SPANKING IN SCHOOLTHE KIDS SIDE

Kids call it "swatting". Teachers say "You're going to get "IT."

You get "It" more often if the teacher doesn't like you.

At the principal's office (or vice principal or wherever), you are told to bend over and put your hands on your knees.

Some teachers do "It" themselves, others have the administrator do it.

Some use one hand to hold the paddle, while others grab hold of it with both hands and swing it like a golfer or batter.

If you move your hands off your knees, chances are you will get another swat in addition to the original 1, 2 or 3 you already have coming.

How hard you are swatted "... depends on how much the teacher dislikes you."

Aside from getting swatted for fighting, food fights, etc., it is fairly common to get swatted for not doing your homework, putting your feet on the desk, and smart mouthing the teacher.

It is possible to get swatted for a very minor offense if the teacher is in a bad mood and wants to set an example to the class.

Some Kids prefer getting spanked to getting a detention (staying after school). Parents don't generally find out about swattings, but detention not only requires a parents signature, but someone has to pick you up after school. So you're not only in hot water with the school, but with your parents, too.

Psychologically Speaking

Dr. Benjamin Spock, the famous child psychologist, and other child psychologists are against spanking by teachers because they fear it is an immediate and too easy way to deal with a problem, rather than investigating each problem, consulting with parents, counseling, and other procedures to try to reach a constructive solution.

Psychologists claim that spanking and yelling build hostility in both child and parent, and make them both feel guilty. Do teachers use spanking as an outlet for their hostilities and feelings of ineffectiveness in disciplining students? Do they feel guilty when they have to spank a Kid?

Aren't parents ignoring the very real pain, fear and humiliation that is being imposed on Kids in the classroom or the principal's office?

If spanking a Kid ONCE, changed his or her behavior forever, perhaps it would be - not OK - but at least understandable. However, spanking only makes one resentful and more careful not to get caught the next time - it does not change behavior so much as hide it.

Zoo keepers have discovered that affection training is more effective than the whip and the chair. We can tame wild horses, have a killer shark eat from our hand, and stick our head in the mouth of a lion. Why do we resort to cave man behavior and dark ages psychology in raising our own Kids.

If we are the civilized, intelligent, compassionate society that we claim to be, why can't we find alternatives so our Kids can be constructively disciplined rather than painfully punished?

It's Legal

"Corporal punishment" is endorsed by the Collier County Public Schools in the publication "Code of Student Conduct." Florida State law makes it legal.

Collier County public schools, and most private ones, find corporal punishment to be "the use of reasonable force in the exercise of lawful authority to restrain or correct pupils and maintain order." (From the Code of Student Conduct).

But Is It Right?

Funk and Wagnalls College Dictionary describes corporal punishment as "physical punishment given a convicted offender, such as death, imprisonment, or flogging."

Just because swatting is the customary, accepted, legal or widespread way of maintaining order, doesn't mean it's morally right.

Teach The Teacher

How about seminars for teachers?

By the time a student must see a counselor, he has been identified as a problem. If teachers were trained to constructively discipline effectively in the classroom, a lot of Kids could be saved that "problem" label.

Isn't an ounce of prevention worth a pound of cure?

And it takes two to tango. If the Kids don't always behave, maybe it's because the teachers don't know how to deal with them.

Teachers can make lesson plans, and grade papers and impart their knowledge. They have four years of college and maybe years of experience. Why is it they can't make a Kid take his feet off the desk without threatening to send him to the office for a paddling?

WHY IS IT?

When adults do it, they are discriminating gourmets.

When Kids do it, we are picky eaters.

When adults do it, they are letting off steam.

When Kids do it, we are screaming brats.

When adults do it, they are taking it easy.

When Kids do it, we are slow.

When adults do it, they are accident prone.

When Kids do it, we are clumsy

When adults do it, they are forgetful.

When Kids do it, we are stupid.

When adults do it, they are pre-occupied.

When Kids do it, we are deaf

When adults do it, they are too tired.

When Kids do it, we are lazy.

Some Kids misbehave to get attention ...



THE TEACHERS SIDE

KIDS NEWS conducted a survey of area schools. Of the 9 schools that would talk to us, all but one use corporal punishment on a regular basis.

School administrators claim that Kids are spanked only as a last resort, after other forms of discipline have failed. Or only Kids who repeatedly break the rules are paddled.

Some Kids need to know how far they can go - they need exact limits set on their behavior. So they continually misbehave, almost demanding to be paddled. And they don't stop until they are physically punished - that being the outer limit.

- Some misbehave just to get attention. And since any kind of attention is better than none at all, getting spanked fulfills that need. The student gets the attention of the other Kids in the class, the teacher, and a school administrator.

Let's face it, Kids that do their homework, get good grades, and behave well in class get lots of praise and attention from the teachers. So Kids that don't do well feel they must raise a ruckus to get any attention at all.

- Certain Kids just laugh at other forms of discipline. Only paddling commands any respect at all from them.

- Teachers are only human. We sometimes lose our tempers and have a Kid paddled when perhaps there was another way. We don't always have the patience and understanding of a saint.

- I would rather give the Kids a detention, but the parents complain about having to leave work to pick them up from school. Some parents actually prefer to have us spank their Kids than for them to have to leave work.

The same with suspension. If younger Kids get suspended - they have to have a baby-sitter. The older ones tend to get in trouble if left to their own resources outside of school. So parents would rather have the Kids punished at school.

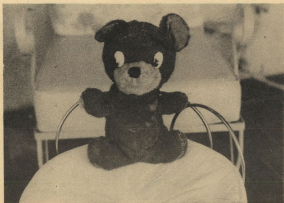
- One teacher frankly admitted to being afraid of the Kids. He said that without the ability to physically punish Kids, some might seek physical vengeance - slugging teachers or attacking them with baseball bats. Only through spanking or the threat of it are some Kids kept in line. "I want to be a teacher - not a target."

As one administrator put it, "The best kind of discipline comes from within the student.

But how do we instill such an inner quality?

And who is responsible for doing that? Parents? The church? The school? The Kids themselves?

Till we find the answers to these questions, we will continue to educate our Kids with paper, pencils and pain.



TEDDY BEARS NOT JUST FOR KIDS

If you can't go to sleep without your favorite teddy bear, don't feel like a baby - college students pay to cuddle a teddy bear, sip a cup of hot chocolate, and hear a bedtime story before they drop off to slumber land.

It's all part of a service gaining popularity on college campuses where, for a small fee, someone will come to your room and bring a teddy bear and goodies and tuck you in at night.

Most of the customers are students who wish to surprise a friend with the tuck-in gift.

So don't pack away your favorite teddy, you'll need him for college.



THE BOOB TUBE TRAP

CHICAGO, Illinois - Kids here are earning money, bicycles, and circus trips just by cutting down on the number of hours they watch TV.

In a 5 week psychology course, Kids were rewarded with so many points for each thing they did other than watch TV: reading, playing, homework, household chores, etc. For every TV show watched, points were subtracted. After accumulating so many points, the Kids were rewarded with bigger allowances, toys, movies, or whatever they agreed upon with their parents.

One 11 year old started trombone lessons, another now plays basketball, another just sees his friends more often.

The Kids found they had been watching just anything that came on, even if they didn't like it.

They were 'hooked' on TV - it replaced their friends and became a security blanket - it had to be on even when no one was watching it. The experiment made them realize that there are many fun things they can do, rather than watch someone else have all the fun on the boob tube.

While the system may be looked upon as a bribe, "Bribing a child to get a good habit is not a bad deal," said one parent.

And the Kids say they're happy to be out of the boob tube trap.

WE ARE SORRY TO ANNOUNCE

BUDDY, the dog, faithful friend of Kim Reed of Lely High School, died Sunday, March 21, 1981.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SUMMER

COLLIER COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION Summer Program. Starts June 15 for 6 weeks, 8:30-4:00. Ages 7 on up. Registration fee is \$10. Includes organized activities, sports, arts and crafts and field trips - skating, swimming, movies, etc. Certain field trips will cost extra. Two qualified supervisors will be at each location: Avalon, East Naples Middle School, Poinciana, Golden Gate Elementary, Tommie Barfield Elementary School.

For more information, call 774-8414.

BIG CYPRESS NATURE CENTER is offering a one week summer day camp. Area schools are assigned a week on the following schedule:

Avalon & Shadowlawn - June 8-12.
Tommie Barfield, Naples Christian Academy, St. Ann's - June 15-19.
Poinciana and Golden Gate - June 22-26.
Lake Park - July 6-10.
Seagate - July 13-17.
Naples Park - July 20-24.

Registration - Members \$20, Non members \$30. For more information call 262-6771

YMCA has a summer camp at Camp Winona in Daytona Beach; and a Hobo camp in Naples June 8-12, days only. Call them at 319-3148.

FLEISCHMANN PARK - Recreation room, sports fields, and much, much more. 262-7075.

GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER - Game room for ages 10 and up; open Monday through Friday 10:00 - 4:00. Pool tables, ping pong, foos ball, air hockey. Call 455-2343.

CLASSIFIED ADS

These ads are free to Kids only. Send your ad in or call, but be sure to include your name and phone number or your ad will not be published.

WANTED - Baseball trading cards. 775-0831

WANTED - Dungeons & Dragons books, etc. 774-7772

WANTED-Odd jobs to earn money to attend Scout Jamboree. Wash cars, tend lawns, etc. Hard worker. Call Michael 775-0831.

PERSONALS

Almost anything goes here, unless it is libelous or slanderous (untrue or too nasty). Last names will not be used without permission, so be sure and include your phone number, for KIDS NEWS use only.

To DAWN PALMER, Burkettsville, N.D. - Happy Birthday, from your pen pal - Isis Gonzalez

Kim + Wes - Love, Kim

Debbie 'n Sean, true love always

My best score at ATARI/Superman is 1:09. T.L.