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MUSINGS OF A DISAPPOINTED PARENT

BLOGS ARE A FORM OF PERSONAL EXPRESSION; THIS BLOG DEALS WITH MY POINT-OF-VIEW AND OPINION ON MY CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES. ANY OPINION EXPRESSED ON THIS BLOG IS SIMPLY THAT, MY OPINION. THE NAMES OF PEOPLE INVOLVED HAVE BEEN CHANGED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANONYMITY. BY ITS VERY DEFINITION, AN OPINION (NOUN) IS 1) A BELIEF OR JUDGMENT THAT RESTS ON GROUNDS INSUFFICIENT TO PRODUCE COMPLETE CERTAINTY. 2) A PERSONAL VIEW, ATTITUDE, OR APPRAISAL.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

Paranoid Megalomaniacs

I have formally decided to move this blog from my Hometown AOL page after receiving a "Cease and Desist" letter from the School's Attorney. Looks like my "little project" got under someone's skin. Could it be because my suppositions were true? I'll leave that up to you to decide.

POSTED BY DISAPPOINTED PARENT AT 8:50 PM 2 COMMENTS

LABELS: MEGALOMANIA. PARANOIA

BLOG ARCHIVE

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Paranoid Megalomaniacs

Educational Disappointments

ABOUT ME

DISAPPOINTED PARENT

VIEW MY COMPLETE PROFILE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

Educational Disappointments

About the blog:

This is a grassroots project started in January 2007 to raise awareness regarding New School of Orlando's unfair and unkind practices. It is my hope that this page might help other parents like myself make a more educated choice when it comes to their children's happiness. I understand that not every school is perfect, and that not every school is a good choice for all children. SO PLEASE CHOOSE WISELY!

Who should choose New School or Orlando?:

If your child is a mini Stepford Wife, this may very well be the school for you. If your child thrives under extreme stress and dictatorial conditions, this may well be the school for you. If you child doesn't mind being belittled, this may be the school for you. If you child loves to have work belittled because letters are not perfectly formed, this may be the school for you. If your child doesn't mind not having his/her emotional needs met, this may

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very well be the school for you.

Who shouldn't choose New School of Orlando?:

If your child needs love, in the form of hugs or even just genuine praise for a job well done, this isn't the school for you. If your child becomes anxious under undue stress, this isn't the school for you. If your child has any emotional, learning or physical problems (even minor such as ADD, ADHD) this isn't the school for you. If your child doesn't fit into a perfect mold, this isn't the school for you. If you as a parent do not appreciate being told how to run your home when your child isn't at school, then this definitely isn't the school for you.

No Parent is Perfect:

New School of Orlando has the "we care for all children, and all socio-economic groups" speech down pat, and it's very convincing. I THOUGHT I had found the perfect place for my child. I THOUGHT I was giving my child a jump on the reality of life. I couldn't have been more wrong, and it pains me to think of the unhappiness my poor choice caused my child for almost two school years.

How can a school that doesn't offer scholarships and charges \$9,900 dollars a year in tuition service all socio-economic groups? How can a school that labels divorced parents and single parents as "problem families", shuns mixed race children and children with disabilities really care for ALL children?

These issues only begin to scratch the surface of my family's experience at New School of Orlando. Please read on for one child's story at NSO.

The Story Behind this blog:

Disclaimer : To avoid any further threats from New School's administration and teachers, some names and identifying details have been changed. To insure privacy, my child will be referred to by the ambiguous name "Pat".

My child started New School of Orlando in August of 2005. At the time, I honestly thought I had found the perfect environment for Pat. The classrooms were clean and orderly, the class size was small (there were only 14 kids in the incoming kindergarten class), the teachers were nice, and the director could talk your ear off

singing the praises of his "little school that could". I can honestly say we had no problems for the first few months of the kindergarten year. Mrs. "Doreen", the teacher, said Pat was doing wonderfully. Then came Parent-Teacher conferences in November. My child was one of children (out of 14 kids!) who was referred to "Dr. MaryJo M. Collier" in Winter Park, FL for testing for a suspected "Learning Disability". Mrs. "Doreen" said until the test results came back they wouldn't be able to help my child, and there was a good possibility that Pat would not be allowed to move onto 1st grade. They knew all of this by November 2005, just four short months after kindergarten started? And how is it possible that 64% of these students are affected by a "Learning Disability"?

Wanting my child to succeed at NSO, I took Pat to "Dr. Collier's" office for an full educational assessment. Mind you, I was still in the yes stage at this institution. Twelve hundred dollars later I had a report in my hand that stated that Pat's abilities were Above Average to Superior in everything from IQ to short-term memory. I took the report to Mrs. "Doreen" who told me that she didn't believe what the doctor had found. She said there was still "something wrong, but she couldn't put her finger on it." She said they would wait in see, but they still weren't sure that Pat would be able to move into 1st grade the following year.

Learning Disabilities, Dr. Collier and Possible Kick-backs...
I was very upset by this. What would I tell my family and friends?
How would Pat feel about this?

Other moms, who were just as upset as I was, started talking. We soon found out we had all been referred to "Dr. Collier's" office. One mom, choosing to use a doctor on her insurance to save money, was reprimanded for not taking her child to "Dr. Collier". Another mom was refused service by "Dr. Collier" because her child spoke Spanish at home- she found a bilingual psychologist and the school wasn't happy about that either. In both instances, the school questioned the credentials of an educated and licensed professional. I honestly didn't think much about these events at the time...but my opinion would change during the next year.

The 2006-2007 school year brought new questions as pieces started to fall into place. Was it possible that New School of Orlando was receiving kick-backs from Dr. Collier for these referrals? Why was

the school so adamant that the parents use Dr. Collier's services?
And why were 95% of the children referred for testing from homes
New School calls "Problem Homes"- children of single parents,
children of divorced parents and mixed race children? From my
point-of-view these children were all bright and VERY NORMAL.

...More on this later.

POSTED BY DISAPPOINTED PARENT AT 2:38 PM 1 COMMENTS

LABELS: NEW SCHOOL OF ORLANDO, NEW SCHOOL PREP, NEW SCHOOL
PREPARATORY, NSO

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