

My Two Cents

Is There Something Wrong With Our Public Schools?



By:
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There is one thing to be said about attending a small school. All the kids in the same grade level know all the other kids in the same grade level.

In my case, we were all in the same room. Most of the adults in the area know most, if not all, of the parents of the kids who attend that school.

In a few cases this familiarity with each other can be to the detriment. If a family is odd or sometimes just different, they can be singled out. Once a bad reputation is gained, it is difficult if not impossible to overcome.

However, small and familiar still have many advantages. In small communities where people know each other, the children are more inclined to behave in school and out in the public because folks know their parents, provided the parents do as parents should and exercise discipline over their children. Herein lies the crux of the problem.

Over the last forty years, schools have sent good

money after bad trying to fix that which did not need fixing. One politician after the other has made it a point to “fix those bad teachers, administrators, and staff” in our public schools.

Yet, forty or more years later, the problem is not fixed. Now, I know that I’m not the sharpest knife in the drawer, but even I have to think that if one smart politician after the other has not made a difference, and billions of dollars later and the problem is still not fixed, maybe we didn’t have a clear picture on what the problem actually was in the first place.

Our schools are not broken; our families are. With over 25% of our children being raised in single parent homes, and many of those who have two parents, not being disciplined, what can the schools do?

The schools can only work with what comes through the doors.

According to a study published last year in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, children who were troublesome toddlers by

the age of three became problem teens and adults.

Short of raising your child for you, how are the public schools going to fix what you as parents screw up?

Couple broken homes with schools trying to deal with multiple languages, sometimes as many as seventeen different languages in one school, public education is doing a superb job.

President Bush, stop talking about what is wrong with our teachers and focus on the family.

Politicians, put your money where your mouths are. Instead of spending billions of dollars blowing up things and trying to fix countries that can’t be fixed, build more schools. Hire more schoolteachers and reduce the size of classes to the magic number of 12 students per teacher. Yes, I said the magic number of 12 because this is the number that study after study has revealed makes the difference in the classroom, not 15, not 20, not 30—as are in many classrooms—but 12.