

A new story of mine, thought folks here might enjoy

"Overheard at a Country Club"

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"Conversation overheard at the Country Club"

Don't you look terrific, that's the cutest new hairstyle. . .something you wanted to talk about, sure.

Oh, gosh isn't that frustrating when your school just dumps your son's behavior problems back on you— I mean with the tuition you pay, getting called in for conferences and having them complain to you—its outrageous. But I'll tell you, our new school is just terrific that way, really set up to make a Mom's life easier. Believe me, it's worth every penny of tuition, maybe you should consider it next year.

An example?

Oh, OK, well they don't "send notes home" - or they do, but explaining how the problem's been taken care of. And that is such a relief to me.

So, for instance, Brad has a big problem with a potty mouth. It just gets me so peeved, you know. And I can nag him all day long, about it, which just gets me irritated, or I can do what I did the other day: went on the school's website, into the secure parent's area, and filled out a disciplinary request form.

Its so simple, point and click, there's a place where you describe what the problem is, a place where you can indicate your preference as to 'corrective methods' -that's what they call it, 'corrective methods'—it sounds so formal and scary, doesn't it? Well not scary for me, but scary for Brad I think.

No, I don't tell him, I think its better for him to find out when he gets to school, leaves him wondering and prevents any arguments. I just wave goodbye as he leaves with his backpack, knowing that what was wrong will get fixed, with no bother to me.

They're very firm about it, I gather. When he arrives at school, on his way in the Head Matron is there with his slip, she tells him he's on report and leads him to the Administration Wing. I bet its embarrassing for him to see his friends going the other way to class—everyone knows what 'on report' means, I gather. And they use some of the more responsible Senior girls to help out, along with some of the college students who are doing their student-teaching internships—those girls have to learn how handle discipline of unruly boys, and nothing gives them the opportunity like this.

When he gets the slip, there's no turning back. That's what I love about it. There's at least one of the school staff, and one of the student-teachers, or senior girls, they tell

him he's on report and just march him along. Any back-talk, and questioning, anything like that, and he gets 'enhanced', some kind of additional punishment.

They're really creative about their discipline there—they know just how to correct misbehavior. You can look at the website, they've got a lot of case studies, and they've got recommended programs for all sorts of difficult or recurring problems.

Well, for the potty mouth problem, they took him in back, and had him sit out in the hallway at one of those old fashioned desks, copying over something boring about keeping his mouth clean. I got a whole write up of the episode after -that's what they're so thorough about—so I know just about everything that happened. You can go in and watch, if you're inclined to, but I like just having them take care of this, it makes it so much simpler.

So he sits there, copying whatever, longhand, into his book, while the secretaries and whatnot walk by— can't feel too smart sitting out in the hallway copying lines and waiting for his just deserts, can he?

No, and I'm told that they're always apprehensive about just what's been ordered for them. The school has a very elaborate discipline facility, oh, not medieval torture chamber, the smaller of the two rooms looks just like a living room, but there are all kinds of things hidden away,

And in this particular case, the potty-mouth called for appropriate treatment—an old-fashioned mouthsoaping! You can't imagine how happy I was when they added it to the discipline options menu! The PTA had been asking for it, but you know how long it takes to get things organized.

Anyway, they have it now, and this lovely Sarah Bainbridge—you know here, she's Karen Bainbridge's daughter—well she's student teaching there this year, and she's just a whiz at it! Can you imagine, they have a mouthsoaping specialist! I talked to her a while back and she said that a lot of moms had asked her to do it when she had her babysitting jobs, and so she'd taken the trouble to learn just how, what soaps to use, all those details. She's just as cute as a button, too. . .such a pretty smile, and such a darling figure, and that cute blonde hair she pulls back into a ponytail. They say all the boys have crushes on her. Isn't that funny?

So what Sarah tells me she does is to walk up to Brad and let him know when his punishment will be. She always makes sure he has to wait at least half an hour, writing his lines, or doing corner time, or whatever. She'd like to do more, because she thinks boys need it, but there's classes to consider and so on.

I think this particular day, he got sat down writing lines around 8.45 when first class would have started, and he got the note from her that his punishment would begin at 9.45. She's just so great, she knows how to make them shiver in their shoes.

At 9.30, she comes and examines the lines he's been copying over, and then takes him to their bathroom. Now, they tell me that they want their boys to use the bathroom first, if they're going to get a spanking, but Sarah's made some changes. They've got it all set up for a mouthsoaping. They've got one of those chairs and shampoo sinks, like at the beauty parlor.

Yes, the boy lies down on the chair, face down, and they tip him forward. I think Sarah said that she likes to have his pants down, too, even if she's not going to spank him just then, because it certainly is embarrassing and it gives her a little more control. The boys all know that when they see her in her waterproof smock, with her hands in the gloves, that they're going to get a dose of Camay discipline. Ooooooh yes, that's a fun part—you can pick which soap they use.

So she's all in charge and introduces him to old fashioned correction. She's so good "a dirty mouth gathers soap" is what she says—I do love that girl. Where was I? Oh, so I think she gave him the mouthsoaping of his life. Can you imagine anything more humiliating for a boy of his age? To have a girl just a few years older than him open up his mouth and work the soap in?

You betcha it worked. But that's just one part, I'll have to tell you about how they do their spankings some other time.