

WHO IS THE BIGGEST BULLY OF ALL?

BOOK 1 : LOCKOUTS & MANDATES

**“Why Are We Harming
Our Children?”**

BOOK 2: CONTENT & CHARACTER

**“What Are We Teaching
Our Children?”**

BOOK 3 :CULTURE WAR

**“Why Are We Confusing
Our Children?”**

WHO IS THE BIGGEST BULLY OF ALL?

Especially for Parents & Grandparents

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WHO IS THE BIGGEST BULLY OF ALL?

**Pull Back the Curtain &
Expose the Bullies
Who Control Your Life**

A. J. Lactaoen

ABOUT

We begin, appropriately with questions. Throughout this treatise, we pose questions that must be asked. We offer some suggestions but in the end, only you know the answer.

Who?

This work is not written for academics or so called experts. Thus, we use no footnotes or include an exhaustive list of resources. This is written especially for Parents and Grandparents who have their own street smart sense of what is on the up and up. We know that ordinary folk pay attention to the reality of what is said and not so much who says it.

What?

We discuss these 3 important topics in our 3 part series: Lockouts & Mandates; Content & Character; Culture Wars

Why?

Parents & Grandparents are the best thing between their children and harm's way. Our children are exposed to an unexpected bully – the bureaucrats who are supposed to protect them.

How?

We know that people prefer to get their “AHA” moment of understanding from looking at one picture vs. reading 50 pages, we also understand that a quotable quote is most memorable. So we use both. Enjoy.

DEDICATION

For all the children who had to endure the cruelty of lockdowns, isolation and unreasonable mandates for too long. We, the adults, failed our own children and grandchildren by not speaking up, by not making our voices heard, by not intervening sooner, by not standing up to the Bullies.

It is our responsibility now to be good examples on how to Stand Up !

Warning - Disclaimer

This book is designed to provide information and recommendations on how to improve school safety. It is sold with the understanding that the author and publisher are not engaged in offering legal, medical, accounting or other professional services of a licensed, certified professional should be acquired.

It is not the purpose of this guidebook to provide all the information necessary for school emergencies, but instead to simplify, and complement other available data.

Every effort has been made to make this guidebook as accurate and complete as possible. However, there is always the possibility of inadvertent mistakes, both typographical and in content.

Furthermore, this manual contains information that is current only up to the printing date. Please refer to future editions for updated material. The primary purpose of this book is to educate. The authors and Legacy Books (TIG) shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused, directly or indirectly, by the information contained in this book.

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Author's Note

“Love is the greatest gift that one generation can leave to another.”

— Richard Garnett

We all wear different hats. Depending on our backgrounds, where we live, where we went to school, where we work, who are the friends with whom we share our joys and sorrows, where we go to worship, where we go to celebrate. All these factors and more play a key role in how we see the world.

We all have different lenses. Depending on our religious, political, social, economic, professional and/or labor affiliations.

What if we were to put aside our different hats and wear only one when dealing with our grandchildren's schools?

What if we were to just put on our Grampa and Gramma hat?

What if we were to just focus on the best path for our grandchildren in their schools during these challenging times?

Do you think we could agree on a good many things?

Do you think that Grandparents can help the children of our children through the confusion?

This is the purpose of our book. We want to help confront the unnamed Bullies in our grandchildren's lives just as we confronted the back yard bullies in their parents' youth.

We have some answers, we have some suggestions, we have some ideas and we have a lot of questions. We invite you to pose the questions you may have and share the answers so we can put some of those answers into action.

Our generation knows that time is fleeting so we need to start now.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up”

– John Holmes

Our goal after reading this book is to be able to answer two crucial questions:

- 1) Does your school have the right plan, staffing and resources in place to protect, nurture and educate your child or grandchild?
- 2) If not, how can you help?

BECAUSE WE CARE

Learn how to use the problem solving approach in dealing with complex hurdles which arise from bureaucratic groupthink. Become a part of the solution instead of adding to the confusion. Focus on the goal to help your children.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Clear and constant communication is the basic requirement. Do not be distracted.

BULLIES

Bullies have many faces. Look behind the masks.

FIX IT !

We must fix the mistakes we have made in the past. We must ask the difficult questions before we can find the valuable answers. The situation determines the solution.

GO TO THE SOURCE

Take advantage of the information and programs described in this section. You may be surprised to find out how much help is available.

PART 1

BECAUSE WE CARE

“The Golden Rule of school policy is to put yourself in place of the children.”

– AJL

GRATITUDE

Dear Teachers,

To those who never stopped welcoming our children into your classrooms every day, thank you.

To those who had to master a whole new world of technology using Zoom so you could keep our children up to date academically without losing their opportunity to graduate on time, thank you.

To those who had to adjust to an entirely different dynamic teaching some children on campus, while keeping many studying at home engaged at the same time, thank you.

To those who understood that our children's social skills were the most affected during this pandemic, thank you.

To those who had to fight, despite your own frustrations, to help our children cope with the bureaucracy of rules, thank you.

To those who showed our children the little acts of affection through the twinkle in their eyes or a quick peek of a friendly face behind the mask, thank you.



*“I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving
for my friends, the old and the new.”*

—RWE

In the words of Emerson, I also awoke with the realization that this project would not be complete without the insightful illustrations of our premiere artist Judy Boyle and the contributions of my assistants Ally and Janette. Gratiam habeō.

DYA DO YOU AGREE?

SHOULDN'T SCHOOLS AND PARENTS WORK TOGETHER?

CONFIRMATION: IN WRITING

- Established Policies and Procedures
- Goals and Expectations for each grade
- Curriculum and Lesson Plans

COMMUNICATION:

- Easy Access to website and school material
- Contact numbers for parents in an emergency
- Contact numbers for Administration in an emergency

COOPERATION:

- School will encourage parents to participate in school activities
- School will provide a forum for all parent concerns
- School will be open and transparent to parents regarding their child.

INTRODUCTION

“You can’t go back and change the beginning but you can start where you are and change the ending.”

– C. S. Lewis

IT’S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD WORLD

Do you feel like you are having tea with Alice in Wonderland? Or maybe on a planet in the Star Trek universe where no man has gone before? Do you feel like you took a trip on a time machine that dropped you off in an alternate time warp where everything is in a flip-flop zone?

Did you ever really think that your favorite Dr. Seuss books could be banned from the elementary schools for being harmful while explicitly graphic books are now in our libraries for our K-3 children ? Two timeless classics, Pulitzer Prize author, Harper Lee’s “To Kill A Mockingbird” and Mark Twain’s “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,” are now branded “racist.”

What’s going on, you ask?

Many of our schools, the safe harbor where the community gathers whenever there is an emergency, are now shuttered and our children are LOCKED OUT !

SOMETHING IS TERRIBLY WRONG

Our schools are the focal point of our neighborhoods. Our schools are not just brick and mortar buildings where we send our children to learn, they also serve as shelters for the community in a hurricane or flash flood, they double as centers for Adult Education, Community Programs, Musical Productions, Athletic & Robotic Tournaments, Proms and Graduations. There is no other location that has served so many people over so many generations. We even vote in person at our neighborhood school. No matter what your age, race, sex, religion or political persuasion, we are all vested in our neighborhood schools.



“All I really need to know I learned in kindergarten.”

– Robert Fulghum

- Share Everything
- Play Fair
- Don't hit people
- Put things back where you found them
- Clean up your own mess
- Don't take things that aren't yours
- Say you are sorry when you hurt somebody
- Wash your hands before you eat
- Flush
- Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you
- Live a balanced life – learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.
- Take a nap every afternoon.
- When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together.
- Wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.
- Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup – they all die. So do we.
- And then remember the Dick and Jane books and the first word you learned – the biggest word of all – LOOK.
- Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and equality and sane living.
- And it is still true, no matter how old you are – when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

SOMEBODY FLUNKED KINDERGARTEN

In simpler times, everybody took for granted the main points described in Robert Fulghum's classic regarding the "Golden Rule" and sane living. Ultimately we must come to the realization that despite the importance of knowledge, we are what we do, not what we know, think or say.

Knowledge is power. The responsibility of acquiring knowledge is applying what we have learned into positive action. In that regard, too many of us flunked Kindergarten.

Question: What's the difference between a smart man and a dumb man?

Answer: Absolutely nothing. They both think they know everything.

WHY DO PEOPLE DO STUPID THINGS?

Here are some of the reasons. Maybe you can add to the list.

- Fear: Paralysis
- Laziness: No need to check if it's safe or not.
- Carelessness: Rush, rush, rush
- Fatigue: Burn out Just hope it's not your doctor, pilot, or dentist
- Social Pressure: "What will the Cool people think?"
- Addictions: "I can't help it."
- Ignorance: "I didn't know" Ignorance is not bliss.
- Denial: "Not Me!" If you don't think it will happen to you then you won't take any precautions.
- Blame: "Somebody told me to do it!" Benjamin Franklin once said that he who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE WISE ONES GONE?

The wisdom of the ages seems to be stranded in books stacked up on shelves in our libraries, only released in graduate theses when required, mostly relegated to footnotes that nobody reads.

So who can help prevent us from doing stupid things in a crisis?

Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Augustine, Confucius are not forgotten but sorely ignored when we need their wisdom most. Instead, we get the opinions of the “experts” who tell us what we must do and how we must live.

“We should be on our guard not to overestimate science and scientific methods when it is a question of human problems, and we should not assume that experts are the only ones who have the right to express themselves on questions affecting the organization of society.”

– Albert Einstein

EXPERTS

A colleague who also conducts Active Shooter Training workshops for schools once told me he doesn’t believe there are any experts. If there was such a person who knows exactly what to do to solve a problem, then there would no longer be a problem.

It shouldn’t surprise us that “for every expert, there is an equal and opposite expert.” (Arthur C. Clarke) Robertson Davies was even more to the point. “We all create an outward self with which to face the world, and some people come to believe that is what they truly are. So they people the world with doctors who are nothing outside of the consulting room, and judges who are nothing when they are not in court, and businessmen who wither with boredom when they have to.”

WHO'S IN CHARGE ?

A truck driver got the top of his semi-truck stuck under an underpass one day when he took a risk and thought he had enough clearance.

First the executives brought in a supervisor from the highway department, the supervisor immediately called an engineer. The engineer tried to figure out an elaborate way to raise the underpass up, so the truck could be freed without damage.

A little boy, named Cooper, on his way back from fishing at the nearby pond kept trying to get the engineer's attention. "Hi Sir!! Hi MISTER!" But he was ignored as the engineer's assistant yelled at him to keep back because they were doing dangerous, important work.

The highway department supervisor evaluated the engineer's plans and thought it was too complicated and too expensive, so he came up with another idea.. He called a contractor with heavy equipment , who came out to the scene and said, "Maybe if we dig out the road under the truck with a backhoe? Then it will lower the truck and it can be driven off."

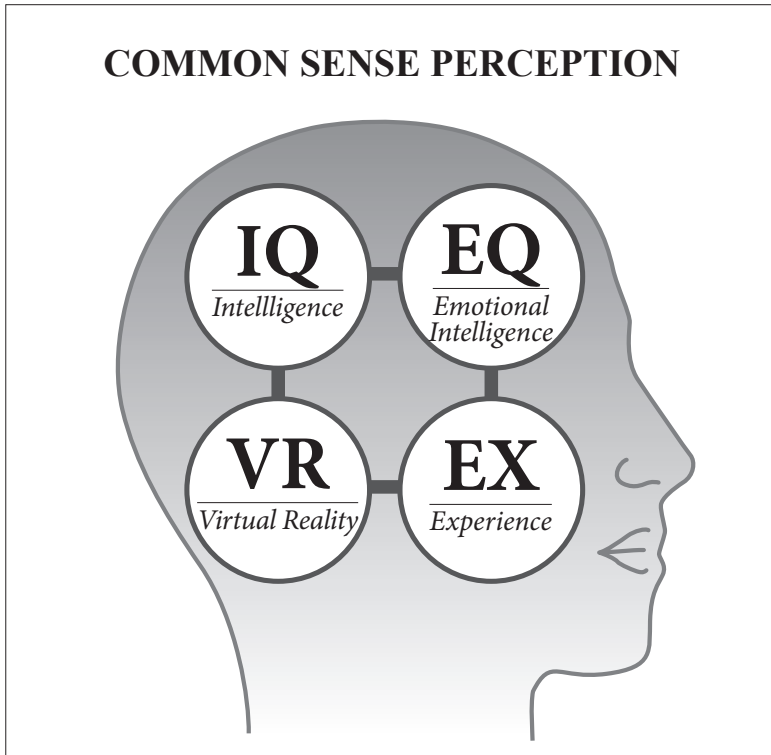
"An expert is someone who knows more and more about less and less until finally he knows everything about nothing."

Cooper was jumping up and down to get the contractor's attention.. "Hi Sir!! Hi MISTER!" The contractor just scowled at the little boy. " Don't bother us now kid. We got an emergency here."

The precocious little boy wouldn't give up trying to get the truck driver's attention. "Hi Sir! Hi, MISTER!" The truck driver, who felt sorry for ignoring the kid, smiled at him and said, "What is it?"

"Mister, I know what to do!" Cooper said. "JUST LET THE AIR OUT OF THE TIRES!"

I always loved that story because it demonstrates clearly to the ones in charge, the "EXPERTS," that maybe they do not know best and maybe they do not have all the answers... maybe because they are not asking the right questions.



COMMON SENSE APPROACH: A Different Perspective

How many times have you heard someone say, “That’s just plain common sense,” or read in the news, “Just use your common sense.” Based on these comments, it seems that people assume that everyone has or should have what is known as “common sense” and that people are born with this innate, practical wisdom. As a matter of fact, a nationwide survey reveals that the majority of Americans believe that a high level of common sense can lead to healthier, happier and more successful lives.

So the question remains, why is common sense not common practice? We believe that common sense is a life skill that has to be developed. Only a part of our intelligence is inherent in our genes. However, we have the ability to develop and enhance the rest of our Common Sense Perception.

COMMON SENSE FORMULA = IQ + EQ + VR + EX

- **IQ = Intelligence**

Einstein is an example of a genius who was extremely strong mathematically while being relatively weak verbally. Book smarts is another way to describe the analytical skills measured by IQ tests.

- **EQ = Emotional Intelligence**

An individual's ability to manage him or herself as well as other relationships. It consists of four fundamental capabilities of self-awareness, self management, social awareness, and social skill. Employers now recognize that an individual with high EQ makes for good leadership potential and is a competitive edge in the marketplace.

- **VR = Virtual Reality**

This is our label for learning that takes place through multiple learning styles such as visual learning, auditory learning, musical learning. For example, we learn from watching movies, by listening to recordings, by hearing stories, parables and fables read aloud to us. We learn about ethics and philosophy from proverbs and speeches or from mentors and the example of others. It's visualizing how to dance before we actually do the dance steps.

- **EX = Experience**

We learn by actually doing the deed and succeeding so we know what works; or failing so we know what doesn't work. As Marilyn vos Savant, the woman with the highest IQ ever recorded said, "If you don't make mistakes, you probably don't know much."

An individual with a highly developed common sense perception has a critical balance of all four qualities and continues to develop them regularly. Which of these are you most comfortable with? Do you consider yourself more analytical or creative? Do you think you are more practical or theoretical?

The following story dramatically illustrates the difference between the two. Two students from a prestigious Ivy League school were camping in Yellowstone Park when they came across a grizzly bear. The first student, an academic whiz with a full scholarship, immediately calculates that the bear can reach them in exactly 19 seconds. “No way we can outrun him,” he tells his companion who is putting on his running shoes. The other boy, who barely passed his entrance exams, says to his friend: “I don’t need to outrun the bear. I just need to outrun you.”

As a follow up on that thought, practical intelligence versus intellectual intelligence, did you know that scientists involved in the creation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) are at a loss when it comes to instilling common sense reasoning into it’s robotic computers. The reason is the difficulty of programming emotional intelligence into their systems.

Question: In an emergency, which doctor would you choose to help your child ?

1. Dr. with 10 degrees, 10 honorary titles, published 10 books, no patients.
2. Dr. with one degree, 10 years experience, multiple children patients.

UNCOMMON SENSE

To reiterate:

Common Sense is not inherited

Common Sense must be learned.

Common Sense can be taught.

Common Sense comes from experience.

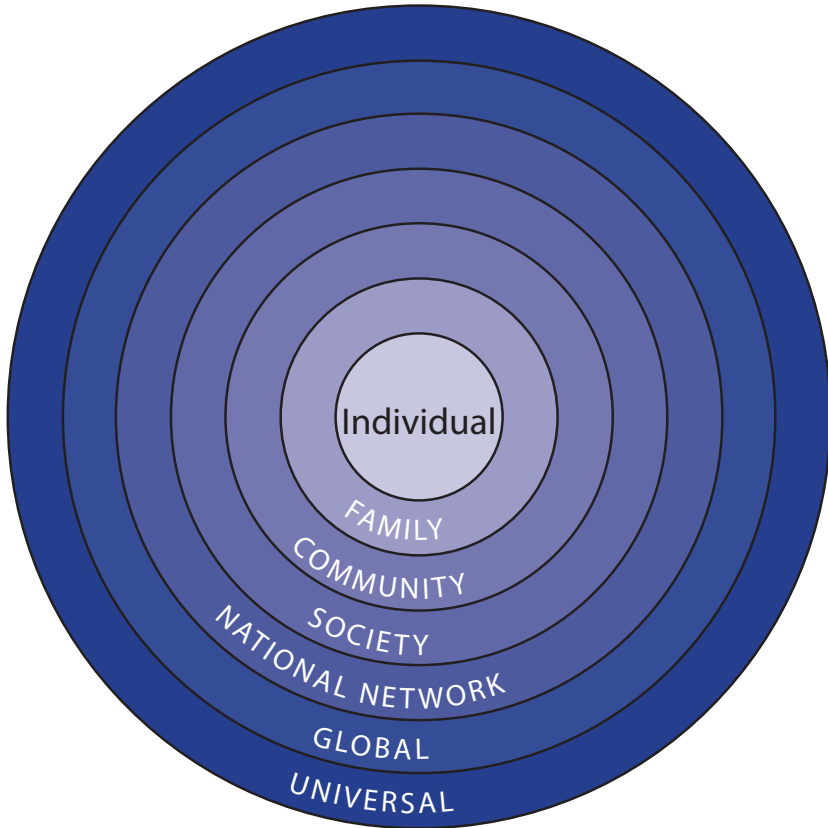
“The fault lies not with the mob, who demands nonsense, but with those who do not know how to produce anything else.”

– Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra

*Twelve***Common Sense Principles***for Living*

1. Every day is a new beginning.
2. The first step is the most difficult.
3. If you never try, you will never succeed.
4. Things are not always what they seem.
5. Be ready when opportunity knocks.
6. You can be anything you want, but not everything.
7. If you're sure you're right, stay the course.
8. Turn life's challenges to your advantage.
9. Communication is the key.
10. Join forces for a greater cause.
11. Do the right thing right.
12. Honor the golden rule.

THE CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE



Circle of Influence

Relying on our common sense perception, we conclude that if we want people to grow up to be self-sufficient, contributing members of society then we need to teach them that responsibility begins with the individual. Once the individual is able to take care of himself/herself, then he is able to help others in the family. As soon as the family is able to take care of their survival and safety needs, then they are able to help their neighbors. This circle keeps expanding outward in a continuing cycle of helping hands.

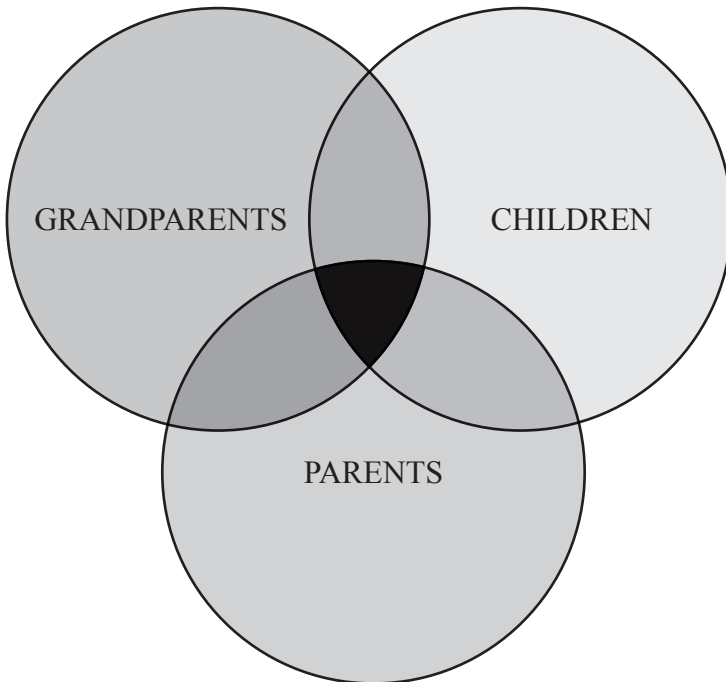
This is the same process employers should follow in helping our community. Start with your own workplace then expand to the next neighborhood and community with best practices.

Cycle of Generations

Our goal is to provide a safe and nurturing haven for our families. We can do this so much more effectively when each generation shares in the task. Children and grandparents can create a bond that can keep a family together through the worst of disasters and the cruelest of tragedies. If each generation does its part, contributing their own talents and skills, then everyone benefits.

See illustration of Cycle of Generations.

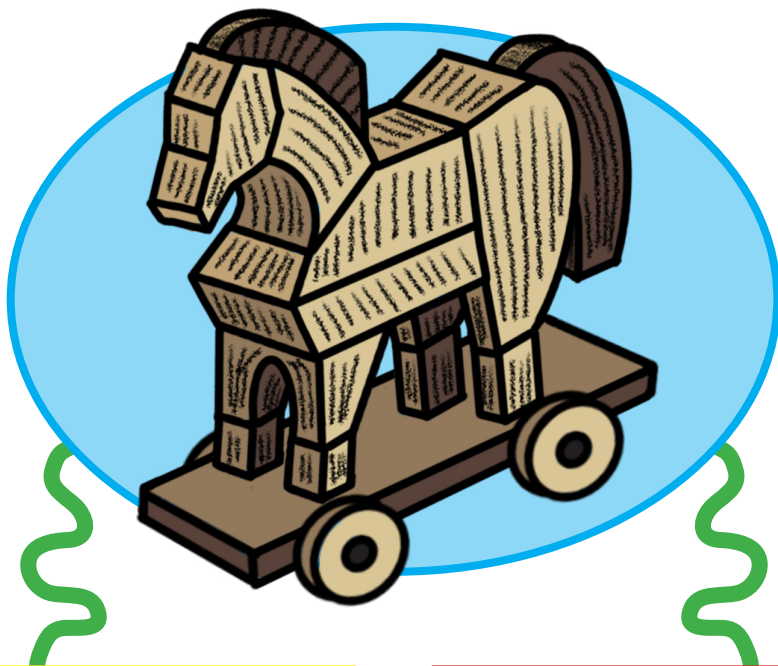
THE CYCLE OF GENERATIONS



Betrayed

**Active
Shooters
Violence**

**School Yard
Bullies
Cyber Bullying**



**COVID 19
Lockouts
Mandates**

**Unintended
Disastrous
Consequences**

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Remember what seems like a lifetime ago, we were sent invitations to workshops and conferences at the schools regarding emergency plans for countering Bullying and Cyber Bullying among the student body. We were encouraged to talk to counselors, teachers and administrators. We were asked to participate in antibullying efforts to combat the spread of bullying through the technology every student held in the palm of his hand. Parent participation was encouraged.

Active Shooter Training was the next required training. Parents were again asked to help prepare their children for the sometimes traumatic drills for every class. Board meetings were held to discuss how best to install new barriers on the outside of the school buildings. Parent input on what security system would be best to monitor the interior of the campus. Again, parents were advised and encouraged to submit their comments and suggestions.

BETRAYED

Is it any wonder then, that parents and grandparents felt betrayed when so many of our neighborhood schools just shut down and literally locked us out. There were no Parent-Teacher meetings to discuss options.”

The parking lots were gated. Entrances to indoor facilities were chained. Access to outdoor facilities were blocked. Calls were not returned. Voicemail boxes were full.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Many schools stayed open.

Many schools chose to shut down.

Many schools were told to shut down by their local or state agencies

Many schools opted for a hybrid system.

WHAT DID YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL DO?

RECKONING

The usual management term used to evaluate the response to an emergency is “post-assessment.” After two years plus of our reaction, response and treatment of the pandemic in our schools, I believe the more appropriate term is the one I am using here “RECKONING.”

Reckoning signifies not just an evaluation, it clearly suggests a “Price to Pay.”

PRICE TO PAY

Preliminary reports are now substantiating our worst fears. The repercussions of imposing lockouts, at home instruction, mask mandates and one way only approaches will be felt for years to come.

DYA : DO YOU AGREE?

Every child is unique, so every one of our children’s health, mental and safety treatment should also be unique.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Many of our schools mandated draconian rules with no exceptions and cited emergency powers. So why did we act surprised when we were faced with the following unintended consequences on our student population on every level Kindergarten through College.

- Bullycide
- Drug Overdose
- Mental Illness
- High School Drop-outs
- Domestic Violence
- Divorce
- Decrease in math and reading scores
- Increase in emotional needs
- Depression

“What do you get when
you mix science with
politics?”

POLITICAL SCIENCE

“What do you get when
you mix philosophy
with science?”

COMMON SENSE

ZOOM WORLD

Would it surprise you to know that many teachers were blindsided by the ramifications of the Lockouts. Some of our schools opted for a hybrid system so that some students would be on campus and others would participate in the day's lessons via ZOOM.

Ironically, it was not the students who had difficulty with the technology of using Zoom, it was the teachers and the parents who were asked to monitor their kids on the platform.

PULLING BACK THE CURTAIN

For the very first time because of a confluence of unforeseen circumstances, parents had the opportunity to witness first hand their children's teachers in action on the computer laptop. Many parents, of course, sat in on their children activities in elementary school but never had a chance to do so for their older kids. What they witnessed was sometimes stunning, sometimes shocking.

Many parents were impressed by the professionalism of so many instructors who could handle teaching 15 children in the classroom while at the same time interacting with another 30 students who were participating from their homes.

On the other hand, many parents were taken aback by the lack of training their children and teachers were given on how to use the Zoom platform and were frustrated in their attempts to help, often because of equipment failure on the schools part, or procedural shortcomings on their own. Many parents found themselves basically home schooling their children without the proper guidance in the technology.

SECRETS EXPOSED

Most disturbing was the incriminating evidence piling up regarding the content. Subject matter did not seem to match the school's purported curriculum on file for the grade level in question. Even more surprising was the attitude from the school staff that students should not tell their parents what was happening in the classrooms. At times, students were asked to keep information from their parents.

Helicopter Perspective



HELICOPTER VIEW

To clarify our comments regarding schools. We usually recommend that people make sure to take the Helicopter View before forming any opinions outside of their own personal observations.

First of all, every school campus is unique. Therefore every school's policies and curriculum must be unique:

- Unique to the student body, enrollment, gifts and potential;
- Unique to the faculty and staff with their talents and capabilities;
- Unique to the school campus grounds, buildings, utilities;
- Unique to the location with its benefits and hazards;
- Unique to the community and its resources.

Taking the Helicopter view reminds us that what is going on around the country where the news centers are located, do not necessarily reflect on what is happening in our own neighborhood school. This is the reason we recommend focusing on what we can control.

Develop the background you need to ask the difficult questions. Develop the priorities to help you find the answers to the challenges facing your school.

“You’ve got to have a plan of action, You have to stay focused on the things you can control, and don’t get discouraged or distracted by the things you cannot control.”

– Yankee Bernie Williams

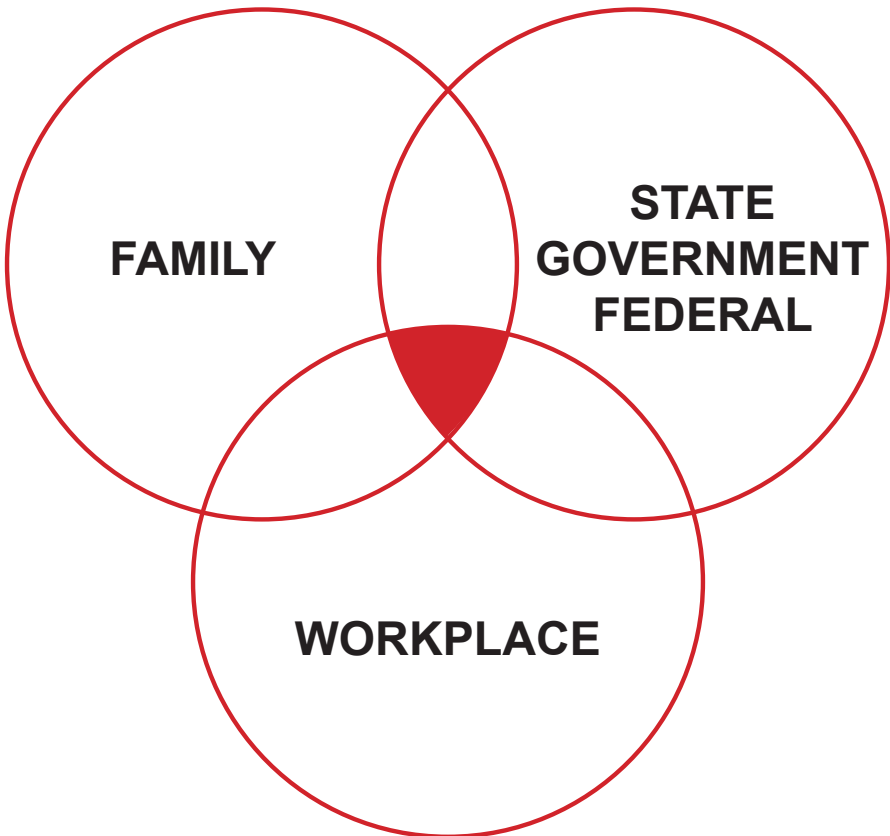
Parents and Grandparents must love, protect, nurture and guide their children. Schools should help them by providing the resources, personnel, knowledge and activities to develop their skills, talents and intelligence to the best of their ability.

FOCUS

FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CAN CONTROL!

**GOALS
RESOURCES
PROCEDURES**

**TRAINING
RELATIONSHIPS
POLICIES**



WORKING TOGETHER

Pointing fingers and blaming others will not help find the solutions we need to improve the situation many of our schools find themselves facing in the post, pandemic divide. The lack of accountability is a problem which has caused the epidemic of excuses running rampant in our organizations from top to bottom.

School boards, Administration, Principals, teachers, staff, coaches, counselors, vendors, contractors, all have something to contribute. In order to find the solutions, everyone must take on the personal accountability of critically evaluating what went wrong during the pandemic and accepting the responsibility to make the changes needed to move forward so that our mistakes are not repeated.

The goal and the vision should be “How can we improve?” “How can I make a difference?” “What can we do better so this crisis doesn’t happen again?”

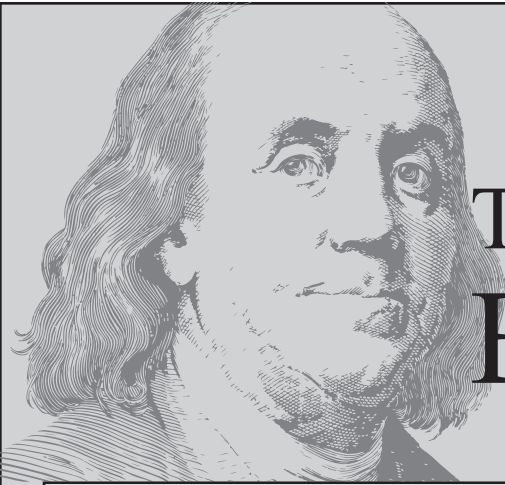
RULE OF BENJAMIN

A practical method for establishing accountability and identifying priorities is the Rule of Benjamin. Using this tool and putting it into daily action can produce astonishing results. Put down every reason why a decision is beneficial or detrimental. In simpler terms, Every action, decision or policy should be based on these two considerations only:

1. Does it help our children?
2. Does it hurt our children?

ADVICE TO PARENTS

If we follow the Rule of Benjamin, hopefully we can get back on track. Forget about what we did in 2020 (Mask Them) and 2021 (Jab Them) Let’s do the best thing in 2022 (Free Them).



The Rule of Benjamin

Pro

Con

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____

1. List all items you can think of in both columns.
2. Ponder, analyze and apply a weight to each item.
3. Remove items from each column with the same weight.

Advice To Parents

How Times Change!

1910

Spank them!

1920

Deprive them!

1930

Ignore them!

1940

Reason with them!

1950

Love them!

1960

Spank them lovingly

1970

To heck with them!

1980

Esteem them!

1990

Embrace them!

2000

Empower them!

2010

Email them!

2015

Hover over them!

2016

Text them!

2017

Twitter them!

2018

Tik Tok them!

2019

Hide them!

2020

Mask them!

2021

Jab them!

2022

FREE them!

Note: An anonymous “Advice to Parents” from 1920-1970 could usually be found on the bulletin boards of any school teacher’s lounge. We’ve updated the list.

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Have we become desensitized to the idiocy going on all around us? Are we no longer able to raise our voice against the senseless cruelty and insanity.

“in the naked light I saw
Ten thousand people, maybe more
People talking without speaking
People hearing without listening
People writing songs that voices never share
And no one dared
Disturb the sound of silence

– Paul Simon

Are we so terrified of being canceled and not being accepted that we dare not raise the obvious questions that we should?

As parents and grandparents we must ask these questions.

Why did we lock out our children from their home away from home for two years? Why did we force them to cover their faces and take away the smiles of their friends and teachers?

“Because I said so?” is no longer good enough, no matter who is in charge. The answers must contain specific, evidence based reasons with details from all perspectives not just an opinion of one.

If we stay silent, we are permitting all that went wrong in our schools. We must stand up and accept the wake-up siren.

“ Silence is the enemy of Truth.”

“It takes a great deal of courage to stand alone, even if you believe in something very strongly.”

– 12 Angry Men