



Search

Of Education And Skinny-Dipping

Published: April 19, 1998

To the Editor:

As Director of Little Red School House and Elisabeth Irwin High School I appreciate the article about our buildings ["Progressive Education in a Onetime Mission Church," March 29]. We had not wanted to go public with our plans for expansion, as we are very much in the stage of deciding how and when it makes sense for us to go ahead.

PRINT

SAVE

ARTICLE TOOLS
SPONSORED BY

DO YOU WANT LIES WITH THAT?

Given the article's focus on the early days of our school, may I provide some more up-to-date information about the education we offer? I would like, for instance, to correct any lingering impression the article may have left that we still define progressive education as something that puts mixed skinny-dipping ahead of learning to read.

We are extremely proud of our college entrance record -- as we are of a very high success rate in getting students into schools like Stuyvesant and Bronx Science, which have academic testing as the only entry criterion. We believe strongly in project-based "learning by doing" -- because it is deeper and longer lasting and exercises a far greater range of mental muscles than learning in more traditional teacher-centered classrooms.

We believe in diversity -- and have done so for decades before it became the fashion so to do. And we believe that individual dignity and worth are far better served by a demanding academic program, leading to genuine achievement, than by the old-fashioned notion, with which, alas, progressive education has often been associated, that things like spelling somehow don't matter.

As for nude bathing -- that was half a century ago. Today such lack of coverage would result in all too much thereof -- and not in your real estate section.

ANDREW MCLAREN
Manhattan