

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
DISCUSSION AT POTTER THOMAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PHILADELPHIA, PA
FEBRUARY 26, 1996

TALKING POINTS

[Acknowledgements: Mayor Rendell; David Horbeck, school superintendent; Felicida Melendez, school principal; parents, teachers and volunteers]

■ I am delighted to be in Philadelphia and to visit such a fine example of a school that is successfully building partnerships between parents, teachers, and the community. —
have come together to invest in the education of children.

■ I believe that one of the most important challenges our educational system faces is to strengthen the ties between schools and parents. *This is a partnership you have created a partnership that everyone has taken responsibility for the future of this city's children.*

■ As a nation, we are at a crucial point in deciding not only what we can expect from education, but what education can expect from us. ←

■ That is why I am so pleased to hear that many parents and other members of the community volunteer their time here -- as classroom assistants, hall monitors, part-time secretaries -- and in countless invaluable ways.

■ We can succeed in solving many of the problems that confront our society if we share information, pool our resources, and believe in our own ability to get the job done. The concern is there; the willingness is there. If only we can now tap into all the unfulfilled potential of parents, schools, and communities to do right by our children.

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→ This sends a signal not only of *your* concern and commitment to *their* children, but also to your entire community.

Pat Solo Geste Curant
Sara Peggy Mike Feldman
URGENT!

MEMORANDUM TO ERIC EVE

FROM: MIKE STACK PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA CLINTON/GORE

#(215) 568-5051

RE: PHILADELPHIA PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT SCHOOLS

DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 1996

1) Potter Thomas Elementary School
6th & Indiana Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19133
#(215) 227-4423

763-4812 (h)

Wofford @ from Superintendent of School
Bendell
Superintendent

Potter Thomas is seen to many in Philadelphia as the quintessential parental involvement type school. Sixty parents volunteer throughout the week at the school in a variety of ways. These include working in the classroom as assistants, serving as typers in offices, and supervising the students in the halls and cafeteria. Workshops are provided by parents with professional backgrounds for other parents on issues such as problem solving with kids and parenting. The home-school association is very active, and boasts of having a father as President. There is an Instructional Team made up of a consultant, parents, and faculty which decides on how the school spends money. This team also gives workshops on how to support students and how parents can refine their leadership skills.

Superintendent - Children Achieving program

The school is one of the first in the area to have bi-lingual education. The students who attend Potter Thomas are in Kindergarten up to the 6th grade, ages 5-11/12. This school has deep roots in the community and is approximately 30-40 years old. Potter Thomas is primarily latino and the children wear colorful uniforms.

2) Thomas Middle School
9th & Johnson Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19148
#(215) 952-6225

*All children can achieve + all
children can perform*

Thomas Middle School is not as active, yet does have a home-school program. Parents work as assistants, some of which are paid. Parents volunteer in the library, help with class trips, and work with the parent-teacher association in providing support for student concerts, book sales, and other school affairs. This school also provides parental workshops.

The students who attend Thomas are in grades 6-8th, ages 11-13.

No uniforms, this school is 48% white, 42% African American, and 9% Asian.

Funding
Students
✓ No X's
other school events?