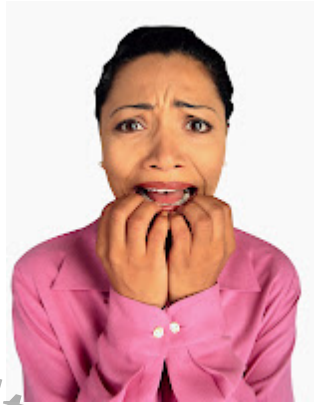


Guest Blogger Jenny: Waiting For Admissions Letters Gives New Meaning To The Word "Stress"

Description



The clock is currently ticking down to the moment when the envelopes are sent out, separating out those who get into the private school of their choice, and those who are losers forever and must get "Private School Reject" tattooed on their foreheads, and immediately change long term plans for their progeny from President to Professional Pooper Scooper. Sorry, but the future comes down to whatever is delivered by your postman (or email) in late March and it won't matter how much you tipped him over the holidays.

Yes, this is a gross exaggeration. But, you can't deny that the air is filled with a certain tension as acceptance or rejection letter day approaches. You've been through the endless tours, the hours of research, the shuttling of your child to interviews and testing. You've begged for letters of recommendation from influential people you barely know, kissed butt at a bunch of parties, and generally genuflected before the great god of private school education, all in hopes of getting your pride and joy into one of L.A.'s hallowed halls. It's exhausting and needlessly stressful. You need some perspective and some downtime.

First off, if your child doesn't get into one of the most popular private schools, it's not an express ticket to Loserville. I did the calculations once, and it turns out that it may be easier to get your kid into Harvard College than into the Center for Early Education. Sounds absurd, I know, but it's true. On a simple supply and demand basis (leaving out the fact that your child would need near-perfect SAT scores and be a professional level musician to approach the Ivy League), The Center has fewer spaces available than Harvard for the number of applicants. This is not depressing news; it's meant to soften the blow, because if your child doesn't get into The Center, it's not a death knell for his future. Obviously, no one gets into The Center!

There are many, many private elementary schools in this city. And hopefully, if you've been reading this blog and the *Beyond The Brochure* book, you've applied to a variety of them just to strengthen the odds of acceptance. Thus, when the letters start flying through the mail slot, Harry Potter style, there will hopefully be less of them blowing raspberries in your face.

Here's how it works. A complete acceptance letter demands an answer, pronto. If you receive one of these, and it's the school of your choice, call immediately and accept. Then, write a fat check. That's it. You're done. A complete rejection letter, however, requires no response on your part, although the ritual burning of it out on the deck is your call. But, how about a "wait list" letter? Well, I can speak from

experience that a wait list letter often leads to an acceptance later down the line. If you really want to turn a wait list letter into an acceptance, call immediately and tell them youâ€™re interested. Perhaps call them a month later to again express your interest. And then wait. Thatâ€™s how my daughter got into Mirman, so I know it works.

In the meantime, though, you need to get yourself together. Stop talking about it with your friends. Your real friends donâ€™t want to hear about it, and your fake competitive friends want to make you feel insecure about it. If youâ€™re biting your fingernails, go get one of those indestructible gel manicures; they taste really bad. Try to be out of the house when the mailman shows up, either because youâ€™re at work and never there anyway or by conveniently needing to do many errands. Donâ€™t mention any of this to your kid unless you like staying up until 3 a.m. dealing with their anxiety over possibly changing schools. Eat ice cream. Have a coffee. Have something stronger.

Most of all, maintain some perspective. At this point, weâ€™ve all heard many private school success and failure stories, but none of them ever ended with the studentâ€™s prospects for the future being utterly dashed. There are too many private school routes to take to think that thereâ€™s just one school that would work, or just one type of education thatâ€™s acceptable. The ability to see the big picture here is really important.

And good luck to you all!

Jenny Heitz has worked as a staff writer for Coast Weekly in Carmel, freelanced in the South Bay, and then switched to advertising copywriting. Her daughter started 4th grade at Mirman School this year. She previously attended 3rd St. Elementary School. Jenny has been published recently in the Daily News. She now writes about gift ideas and products on her blog, [Find A Toad](#).

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1. Beyond The Brochure

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