

March 11, 1969

Dear Mr. Falk:

I learned today that an eighth grade student, Mark Lincoln, is being considered for suspension because of a leaflet he was seen circulating on the school grounds. I understand that the harsh punishment of suspension is being considered because: (1) he violated a school ruling on leafletting, and (2) because the leaflet was considered "inflammatory."

I wish to submit that my son Eddie (Class 8-341) also leafletted the same flyer today on the school grounds. I cannot see that this one violation of a school rule could be considered so serious as to have a suspension pending.

As for the flyer, I have read and reread its contents and see nothing that could evoke such description as "inflammatory." It is a leaflet telling students of a meeting on Friday, March 14 to discuss five grievances against the school—denial of a speaker, clothing rules, harassment about appearance, entrance rules, and having no voice in student planning.

Such phrases as "School is a jail" and "We must get together to defend ourselves" seem typical of student rhetoric in today's expressions of protest.

I do not think there is any need for such alarm as seems to be revealed in such a harsh action against a student. It should be a flattering commentary to the school and a credit to the students that they are showing such awakened concern in the social ills and superficial values that permeate this society. I do hope you will reconsider your decision in whatever is being meted out for breaking a school regulation on leafletting. If Mark Lincoln is to be punished for any violation, my son, too will fall in that category. However, I cannot see that the punishment fits the crime. Suspension from school for such a questionable offense does not seem in fairness to students who are seeking educational outlets relevant in coping with today's problems.

I hope, too, that other parents of P.S. 43 students will not view student activists as rabble-rousers merely for a fad or attention-seeking, but as students seriously exploring ways and means in expressing their needs and desires for changes deemed necessary towards a more meaningful education.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary Kochiyama
Mrs. Mary Kochiyama,
parent of Eddie Kochiyama

ATTENTION all students

COME TO A MEETING FRIDAY MARCH ~~31~~¹⁴, 1969

We will discuss the following---

---A member of the community was denied permission to speak to us in our school on Jan. 24

---We are not allowed to wear what we want to because of the clothing rules (boys can't wear dungerees and girls are not allowed to wear slacks)

---We are harassed about our appearance

---Entrance rules that force us to walk around the block are ridiculous

---We have no voice in planning the assembly programs---WE HAVE NO VOICE IN OUR EDUCATION

school is a JAIL

IN 1967, 12 THOUSAND KIDS WERE SUSPENDED----- OVER 90% WERE BLACK
AND PUERTO RICAN

THERE WILL ALSO BE A FILM ABOUT THE BLACK PANTHERS CALLED

OFF THE PIG!

WE WILL MEET AT 129st AND AMSTERDAM AT 4pm AND WALK TO CITY COLLEGE

we must get together

to defend ourselves