

February 12, 1975

Miss Dorothy Lambert, Principal
Visitation School
5134 Baltimore
Kansas City, Missouri 64112

Dear Miss Lambert,

On Monday afternoon, February 10 when a group of 5th and 6th grade boys and girls from our school were walking to the Plaza Library, as they frequently do, a group of about ten students from Visitation were playing on the school grounds. As the class passed, name calling such as "there goes those niggers" and intimidation to a great degree prevailed. Even after the classroom teacher accompanying the group asked that the students not interfere and expressed how unkind she thought they were being, the group followed the class to the library with continued antagonism.

I realize that school was not in session on Monday and you have little if any control over the behavior of the students under these conditions. However, I thought that you would like to know that the incident occurred and might want to join us in helping to promote understandings of human relationships among people.

Enclosed is a copy of a note from the Librarian at the Plaza Library who was aware of the incident. I think that the note was very uplifting and thoughtful on her part. I, too, am proud of the "restraint and good judgement" on the part of our 5th and 6th graders under such difficult circumstances. I don't know, however how they would have reacted had they not been under the supervision of their classroom teacher.

The class, and other classes from the school will continue to visit the Plaza Library for the rest of the semester and I hope that their apprehensions are at a minimum and that there are no further incidents which could develop into an unfortunate situation.

Very sincerely,

Yvonne S. Wilson, Principal

YSW:s
enclosure

February 11, 1975

Dear Girls and Boys,

I understand there was an unfortunate incident of name calling as you came to the library on Monday.

I feel bad about it and I hope you will not have this kind of experience again. Everyone should be able to come to the public library and feel welcome.

Your class used restraint and good judgment in this situation and I was proud of you. The whole thing made you look like much better and bigger people than the "name callers."

Sincerely,
Sally Heinz
Plaza Library

~~Replied~~
See Jones copy