
LETTERS

Bullying is unacceptable

To the Editor:

I'm a sixth-grade girl at Worthington Park Elementary School. I also think that bullying has gotten out of control at our school and that the kids should be nice to each other and don't start rumors.

I have been bullied off and on since first grade. At one point, I cried because no one was nice to me. Now it just hurts sometimes. Also, I have friends who get bullied and get their feelings hurt.

Thanks for your Nov. 28 letter, Emma McCandlish. Maybe the people who are bullying others will listen and start being nice instead of being mean and hateful.

Katy McCoy

Bullies often learn through violence, unfortunately

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to Emma McCandlish's Nov. 28 letter.

As a father of four sons who have attended Worthington Schools, my heart goes out to you, Emma. Over the years, I have been forced to speak to several parents and the young kids themselves concerning this matter of "bullying" my sons.

It may help to know there are a lot of parents out there unaware of their child's behavior who are good people. You also learn there are "bullies" with issues that can help you better understand their behavior. Bottom line is that caring educators and staff do what they can, but their hands are tied and they have little success.

Reading your letter reminded me of when my son Jordan, while in sixth grade, came home frustrated with a kid who continually picked on him. As we spoke, I decided that day he had my permission to "put an end to" whatever this kid started, and I would back him up with the school.

He was not allowed to start anything, but I told him to make it clear to this kid he would not want to pick on you again. Was I surprised at the call about a week later from Mr. Monroe? Nope, I was expecting this. As Mr. Monroe explained Jordan was being suspended for fighting, I asked

him, "Mr. Monroe, was it with so and so?"

"Yes it was," was his reply. I went on to explain the history of this kid continually picking on Jordan, and of my decision to allow Jordan to put an end to this. I still remember Mr. Monroe leaning across the table saying "good for you ... this kid is trouble ... but I still have to suspend Jordan." This kid never bothered Jordan again.

It is unfortunate, but a reality of life, that all some of these bullies understand is what they perpetuate ... violence. You can have all the programs in place you want along with educators that care, but sometimes you are forced to answer their bullying behavior with a stronger force that puts an end to their hurtful behavior. This I speak from experience and wish you the best.

David DePaso