



The Haitian Community Says: **NO** to the Abuse of our Children! to Discrimination in our Schools!

On March 16th 2005, following an altercation between some students in the lunchroom of PS 34 in Queens Village, Mrs. Nancy Miller, the Assistant Principal of the school, singled out the 13 Haitian students of the school's only 4th grade Bilingual class and forced them to sit on the floor to eat their lunch of chicken and rice with their bare hands. When the students protested, she screamed at them in front of all the other students in the lunchroom: **"In Haiti they treat you like animals and I will treat you the same way here"**.

Instead of acknowledging this cruel and inhumane treatment of our children and the entire Haitian community, the Principal of the school, Mrs. Pauline Shakespeare, who according to a Haitian parent described her child's behavior as "animalism", has chosen to stand with her Assistant Principal. She has been repeatedly pulling some of the 13 Haitian children out of their class to try to convince them that the March 16th incident never happened. According to one of the students, Mrs. Shakespeare has even gone as far as offering the children free ice cream if they were to **"say something else"**. Since last year the parents of PS 34 have had great difficulty expressing their many concerns to the school leadership because the school stopped having Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings and the Parent Coordinator has been doing hallway security duty.

The Haitian Parents Initiative demands no less than the firing of both, Nancy Miller and Pauline Shakespeare. A transfer to another school where they can continue to abuse other children and promote discrimination will not do. Once their employment status with the Dept. of Education is terminated and they are replaced, Haitian parents are prepared to work together with the new school leadership to improve our children's learning environment at PS 34.

**Join us on Thursday April 21st, 2005 from 2pm to 4pm
at a picket line in front of PS 34
104-12 Springfield Blvd. in Queens Village, NY**

Support us by contacting the following to express your outrage and echo our demand:

- Local Instructional Superintendent Janet Won at 718-281-3407
- Regional Superintendent Judith Chin at 718-281-7528 email: jchin@nycboe.net
- Chancellor Joel Klein at 212-374-0200 email: chancellor@nycboe.net
- Chancellor's Sr. Counselor Jean Desravines 212 374-5159 email: jdesrav@nycboe.net

Call EVERYONE to spread the word and fax this sheet to all Press contacts

For more Information: Call 718-735-4660

Haitian Parents Initiative, is a group of parents committed to advocate for our children who attend PS 34 in Queens Village. They came together after the March 16th incident which is only the latest in a series of abuses that occurred under Shakespeare and Miller's administration leaving our children in a traumatic state.