

July 7, 2008

*'No child from our school is now allowed to take part in any reality show. Our institution has zero-tolerance towards these shows. Children need to play... or have fun swimming in the ocean of knowledge.'*

**Mrs Hilda Peacock, Principal, La Martiniere for Girls, Calcutta**, speaking during assembly on July 2, 2008.

Dear Principal,

We are sure many of you share Mrs Peacock's views; we could not agree with you more. Reams of newsprint have been used; sound bytes have come from the wise and the tea seller, but children are still being pushed into neon-lit caves called the reality podium with their tears masked by a thick coat of grease paint. Our hearts cry out in unison: *leave our children alone*.

You may be already thinking along these lines. We are with you all the way.

Some interesting questions have been thrown up by the Shinijini episode:

Is money leading parents to these pressure cauldrons?

Are we pushing our young ones into an area unknown even to us?

Who are these 'judges' commenting on the skills of our children?

Are our 'amazing' children being used to become flag bearers of crass consumerism?

The answer to these questions is simple: keep that soiled hand of the talent scout away from our children.

Let them play.

Let them have fun swimming and discovering in the ocean of knowledge.

Yes, like Mrs Peacock, I feel strongly on this subject. May be you do too.

Is it the morning assembly address? Or, any other way you think best.

With every good wish



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with the Know & Grow team

P.S. Would love to hear from you.

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