

## **Kati Garcia-Renart, Parent**

My daughter is in 4th grade. Every year I am faced with the dilemma of pulling her out of the public school system. Being a single mother, my options are extremely limited, but the implementation of the new core curriculum leads me to contemplate extreme measures. I feel as though she has been a lab rat as big corporations and politicians make decisions based on fear, competition and a warped perception of what makes our country number one. The love of learning is being eradicated as testing and fear based teaching becomes more and more predominant. Respect for teachers has been diminished. Veteran educators have chosen early retirement rather than face a future where their life work has been rendered insufficient. I see school administrations scrambling to keep up with a haphazard roll out of the "new" curriculum. New is not the word I would use to describe it. Much of it is developmentally inappropriate when looking at the new standards for elementary school children. You cannot force a child to learn how to read, expect them to garner information to answer questions often worded in ways to confuse and then expect that same child to find the creative desire and inspiration that should be the foundation of education, teaching and learning. The elephant in the room is the incredible disparity among classes and the inequality of economically diverse regions and school districts. Give all children the tools, teachers who love what they do, a safe and nurturing environment, and respect for themselves and the world in which they live and then we will be on our way to the true meaning of education.