



HEALTHY SCHOOLS NETWORK, INC.

www.healthyschools.org

MEDIA: for release, Sunday, February 8th, 9 AM Eastern

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Kids v Commodes Photos on p2

THE BAIL-OUTS: KIDS CLASSROOMS v. COMMODES

Congress ignores kids' needs for healthy school buildings

(Washington, DC, February 9) **Asks Claire Barnett, Executive Director, Healthy Schools Network** and coordinator of the **national Coalition for Healthier Schools**, “Kids v. commodes says it all. There is nothing ‘moderate’ about ignoring the needs of 54 million school children to have schools that are dry, clean, and quiet, and have good Indoor Air, lighting, and sanitation.”

The national Coalition for Healthier Schools and its 200 organizational members coordinated by Healthy Schools Network are calling on Congress to fund US Environmental Protection Agency at \$125million in the stimulus bills to ramp up its inter-agency coordinating work and national outreach to help states develop building assessments, advance Indoor Air Quality during hazardous renovation work on occupied schools, and work to ensure that school modernizations tackle the building features that most impact child health and learning. US EPA is the only federal agency that has federal and regional staff, national and local grant partners, and voluntary best practices for healthy school environments funded and working in the field.

EPA estimates that half of the nation’s schools have polluted indoor air, due to factors such as roof and plumbing leaks, poor ventilation, the use of toxic cleaning and pest control products, and toxic or damp sites. Studies show that healthy environments can reduce asthma at school by nearly 40% and upper respiratory infections by more than 60%. Asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism and a leading occupational disease of teachers and custodians.

“Kids v commodes is a priceless example”, said Barnett. Today the score is Commodes- 35,000, Kids- 0.”

Healthy Schools Network is a national environmental health not for profit that has won federal and state laws and funds to improve school facilities.



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P 2- photos and data**

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From Jan 22 news: Merrill Lynch's CEO in early 2008, he hired Michael S. Smith Design to revamp his office suite, spending approximately \$1.22 million according to documents.

The following is a list of the items in his suite:

Area Rug	\$87,784
Mahogany Pedestal Table	\$25,713
19th Century Credenza	\$68,179
Roman Shade Fabric	\$10,967
Roman Shades	\$7,315
Coffee Table	\$5,852
Commode on Legs	\$35,115



At left- NY Daily News photo 8/19/08:

Summer school space for children with autism.

NYC leased facility used for summer school for autistic and emotionally disturbed young children, and under renovation.

120 children and 60 staff were onsite in July when the NYC Dept of Education toured the site.

It was closed the last week of summer session, with a promise of full and complete repairs by September. Friable asbestos was found throughout. There was no report of testing for lead, PCBs (caulking) or microbials.