



## 12-Year Old Threatened by Schoolmates for Being White

Philadelphia: Joseph Messina, a 12-year-old 7th-grade honors student at Mastery Charter Thomas Campus, was attacked and beaten by six other students. Several weeks later, a racial threat was spray painted on his home that read, "Snitch'n ass. Die cracker", an epithet often used by blacks against whites. [We hesitate to carry this story because we do not want to be part of a process that leads to race hatred. The father of this boy clearly is so angry that it appears he is ready for violent retribution. Our enemies are masters of 'divide-and-conquer', and such action, while easy to understand on the part of the father, would play into the hands of the enemies of both races that want race war and martial law to place the final clamp-down on America. Yet, this event really happened, and we are under an obligation to report it honestly and objectively. However, we fervently hope that our readers will not step into the trap of counter hatred and violence.] -GEG

A first honors student at Mastery Charter Thomas Campus, the 12-year-old loves baseball, but Joey can't shake the troublemakers at school.

"They don't like me, they never did," he says.

Overnight, this seventh-grader's schoolyard differences followed him home, spray-painted for all to see on his South Philadelphia home where he lives with his parents and two younger siblings.

The threatening racially-charged words cut deep.

“I turned around and just went, ‘Oh my God.’ I called him and said, ‘Hurry up, get out here and look at this,’” Margaux Messina, Joey’s mom, said.

“He walked outside and saw that, he came right in, said, ‘Dad, I am scared now,’” said Joey’s dad, Joe Messina.

Joey’s mom and dad say their son was targeted because of his race. The family is white.

They have police reports documenting a 6-on-1 school hallway attack that happened three weeks ago.

“And then they all started coming in and punching my back, I was covering my face,” the younger Messina said.

The Messinas accuse staff at Mastery Charter Thomas Campus of looking the other way.

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