

GOSSIP PRINCIPAL

Catherine Cypher

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM--DAY

Students are seated, talking to each other, waiting for the student assembly to start. A teacher, MS. WATERS sits in the front row.

PRINCIPAL WILSON

Ok, hello everyone, settle down, settle down. Before we get started with this morning's assembly, I just have a few morning announcements.

Students start sitting down and stop talking.

PRINCIPAL WILSON

Good morning Ridgewood Middle School! Here are today's announcements. It's the first week of the month, so that means you can sign up for tutoring, we have pizza for lunch today, and, speaking of pizza, Ms. Waters and Mr. Sables were seen canoodling over a slice this weekend at Gianni's.

Everyone gasps. MS. WATERS coughs and looks down at the floor.

PRINCIPAL WILSON

Don't be alarmed, don't be alarmed. I know I'm new here, and some of you students may not know me very well. So I wanted to make sure you know I'm here to be real princi-PAL, heh, heh, if you know what I mean. And that means--I'm here to sling all the juicy hot goss!

MS. WATERS stands up and smooths her skirt.

MS. WATERS

(nervously)

Ok, well, that's nice, Principal Wilson, thank you, but we should probably--

PRINCIPAL WILSON

(delighted)

Aaaaand just a reminder everyone,
Friday is the big trip to the zoo!
Don't forget to get your permission
slips in. Jimmy Kessler's house is
gonna be a real zoo tonight when he
gets home and asks his parents
about being adopted!

JIMMY KESSLER

(shocked)

But...I look just like my dad...

MS. WATERS

No you don't, Jimmy. Ok, now,
Principal--

PRINCIPAL WILSON

It's Princi-PAL, Ms. Waters! Don't
worry, I'm almost done. Juust a
couple more. The lost and found
will be cleaned out this Friday, so
make sure you stop by to pick up
any of your things. And,
uh--between you and me--rumor has
it that Erica Cummings and Jamel
Curtis lost and did not find their
virginity to each other this
weekend!

MS. WATERS

Ok, that is enough! You can't just
go around divulging details about
students' personal lives!

PRINCIPAL WILSON

You can if you want the kids to
like you! That's the only way to
succeed as an educator, you know
that. Quick poll! Who likes me?

All the students cheer. JIMMY is noticeably silent.

PRINCIPAL WILSON

And who likes Ms. Waters right now?

All the kids boo, except JIMMY, who lets out a sad squeak of
a cheer.

PRINCIPAL WILSON

Case closed!

MS. WATERS sits down, embarrassed.

PRINCIPAL WILSON

Ok, just one more! Soccer practice
is cancelled.

The students and MS. WATERS wait, frozen and expectant. A
beat goes by, then another.

MS. WATERS

(hesitant)

Ok.

MS. WATERS takes a moment to smooth out her skirt and
straighten her sweater.

MS. WATERS

Thank you, Princi-PAL Wilson,
that was...actually a useful piece
of information.

PRINCIPAL WILSON (O.S.)

(yelling)

But not because of the rain! I'll
let you all in on a little
secret--Coach Levins got a little
too excited in his BDSM room last
night, so he's at the hospital
getting a butt plug surgically
removed.

KID raises his hand.

KID

Ms. Waters, what's a--

MS. WATERS

(matter-of-factly)

A butt plug is something that
consenting adults use for healthy
sexual pleasure, Jackie. Now--

PRINCIPAL WILSON

Who said I wouldn't overhaul the
sex ed program here? Am I
right? Anyway, I expect the team
to be in top shape for their
upcoming game against the Pittstown
Cougars! And our own resident
cougar, Ms. Waters, is about to get
a very angry visit from her old
flame, Mr. Jacobs!

MR. JACOBS comes storming toward the stage towards MS.
WATERS. He is seething.

MR. JACOBS
Ken? Ken??

PRINCIPAL WILSON
(whispering)
Kids translation for ya: the "Ken"
Mr. Jacobs is referring to is Mr.
Sables.

The kids all nod and murmur in understanding.

MR. JACOBS
Are you kidding me? You got pizza
with the 22 year-old gym teacher?
What is this, middle school?

JIMMY KESSLER
Um...actually Mr. Jacobs...it is.

MR. JACOBS
(furious)
Shut up Jimmy, your mother didn't
want you!

The students and MS. WATERS gasp. There are a few seconds of
silence. MR. JACOBS knows what he's done.

PRINCIPAL WILSON
(gleefully)
Oops, I think we have juuuust one
more announcement! Mr. Jacobs is
fired!
(seriously)
We do not tolerate that kind of
talk here at Ridgewood.

JIMMY KESSLER
Thank you!!!

EVERYONE
Shut UP, Jimmy!!

Blackout.