



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, SECONDARY AND CONTINUING EDUCATION  
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June 23, 2003

Mr. George Albano  
Principal  
Lincoln Elementary School  
170 E. Lincoln Avenue  
Mount Vernon, NY 10552

Dear Mr. Albano:

This is to thank you and your staff for graciously hosting our meeting on May 8, 2003. Our visit to Lincoln Elementary School was a very exciting and rewarding experience for both of us. We were tremendously impressed by your strong commitment to educate every child to very high achievement levels, in a wonderfully diverse school setting.

It is immediately apparent that everyone at the school functions as a dedicated team, from the principal to the excellent teachers. The motivation is extraordinarily high among both the adults and students. The bright, stimulating physical environment contributes to the lively learning atmosphere.

Several areas we observed are particularly noteworthy. The school has an outstanding literacy program; the K-6 writing program is especially remarkable. The early investments you've made in Kindergarten, first and second grades have had a great payoff – the grade 4 ELA and Math assessment scores are excellent. Additionally, the emphasis placed on developing critical thinking skills in students, through math, writing and chess activities, is exciting to see.

One of the most gratifying observations we made is the tremendous pride that is displayed in the schools' diversity. This is demonstrated in many ways, but especially in the strong parent and community involvement with the students and activities at the school.

Overall, our visit to Lincoln Elementary provided us with a look at what it means for a school community to be dedicated to educating the whole child – supporting a strong academic program while emphasizing the creative and aesthetic. Thank you for sharing the Lincoln Elementary School experience with us.

*Rebecca Gardner*

Rebecca Gardner  
Team Leader  
Office of Student Support Services

cc: Richard P. Mills,  
New York State Commissioner of Education  
Brenda L. Smith, Superintendent

Sincerely,

James R. Butterworth  
Assistant Commissioner of  
Middle, Secondary, and Continuing  
Education