



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 2, 2005

Mr. George Albano
Principal
Lincoln Elementary School
174 Lincoln Avenue
Mount Vernon, New York

Dear Mr. Albano:

I want to thank you, the staff and student body of Lincoln Elementary School for making our visit on January 27-28, 2005 an extraordinary experience. Both the Park Elementary School team and I greatly appreciate the time you took to plan and to host our visit. You were most generous in sharing your time and spared nothing in making us feel comfortable and welcome. This was all done on top of the daily demands of running the school. Your willingness to share your strategies and wisdom will help Park Elementary School and other Pennsylvania schools strive to duplicate the outstanding success of Lincoln Elementary School.

The primary objective of the State Board of Education and The Education Trust in sending the Park Elementary School team to Lincoln Elementary School was to convince team members that it is indeed possible to successfully close the achievement gaps. Not only did the team leave Lincoln Elementary School convinced of this but also with a belief that they too can achieve the same level of success.

Simply walking into Lincoln Elementary School strikes one with a powerful sense that the school is serious about its work. Its pleasant, welcoming environment invites students, parents, alumni, community members and educators to join in its quest to stretch everyone to reach their full potential. Your strong leadership and uncompromising expectations for your carefully selected staff to assist each and every student to excel has clearly produced extraordinary results.

You and your team provided us with an invaluable experience. I encourage and support your efforts and interest to continue your work to assist policymakers and educators from across the nation to learn from the Lincoln Elementary School experience. I encourage those who can help to assist you to expand such opportunities to do so. Lincoln Elementary School is a rare treasure. Its secrets should be open for all educators to see.