

**Thomson Elementary School
1200 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005**

September 19, 2007

Dear Mr. Klausner:

Thank you so much for your personal words of encouragement. It means a lot to me to know that everyone is involved in this process and has great care for the success of our students. I just had a meeting with my third grade team to determine our intervention groups. We have decreased our number of "Intensive" students to less than 20 percent per class (in the past, our classes had over 50 percent of students in the red). Our third graders this year have used the Voyager Passport reading intervention program for the past two years. The progress that we have made is very addictive! Everyone is so involved and excited to see where we will be in a few years.

I would like to share with you a story of a little girl named Daysy who came to us the beginning of last year from Mexico. She did not know a single word in English and was extremely shy. However, she worked diligently along with her ESL/Intervention teacher using Voyager and by the end of the year she was testing at grade level. There have been minor setbacks during the summer (as expected with most kids), but she tested on the higher end of the "Strategic" instructional recommendation according to our DIBELS Benchmark I!

Just know that whatever you are doing at the "top", it is felt many levels away in the lives of our students. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

In 2002, I received a fellowship to study the educational system in Japan. During my visit, I had a conversation with our translator that inspired my educational philosophy. There is a saying by the tea master Sen no Rikyu, "ichi-go, ichi-e", which translates to "one chance, one meeting". My teachers and my students know that we will never have this time again once it passes, as it does everyday. So, we must always have a sense of urgency to teach and learn every second...

Again, thank you for your support.

Best,

Yen Nguyen
Literacy Coach
Thomson Elementary School