



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

December 20, 2010

Dear Mr. Gaines: *Jed*

What an amazing community event! Linapuni Elementary School was so very fortunate to have been a recipient of the ever popular Read Aloud America Program (RAP) this past Fall. I was truly impressed with the huge numbers of participants for each of the six sessions. Although the numbers dipped after the initial session, we never had less than 200 participants in attendance. By comparison, our attendance averages about 150 participants for our school events featuring students performing or receiving awards. We were truly excited to have the Read Aloud Program consistently generate such a great turn out of our parents.

In addition, by the 5th and 6th sessions, most of our immigrant parents began to acknowledge the value of reading and the joy of spending quality time with their children which was evident in their feedback on the evaluation forms. Parents also expressed interest in wanting to learn how to help their children succeed in school. It was gratifying to read the evaluations which started with comments on the door prizes and food. By the 5th and 6th sessions, most of the comments were about the read aloud experience, the value of reading, and a desire to help their children succeed in school. Having Jennifer introduce our Chuukese translators at the beginning of the sessions was a great way to encourage parent involvement. That is, parents felt comfortable responding on the evaluation forms because they could ask questions/write comments in their own language.

I know that many parents felt reluctant to attend the read aloud sessions because they were tired from a long day at work. However, to their credit, because their children really loved RAP, parents decided to attend with their children and were so glad they decided to come to the sessions after all.

In closing, I am truly grateful for the wonderful experience RAP provided to Linapuni Elementary School. The program reinforces the value of reading, the importance of school and the need for family time in a fun and engaging manner. Thank you for your wonderful partnership!

Sincerely, ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Sunahara".

Cynthia Sunahara, Principal