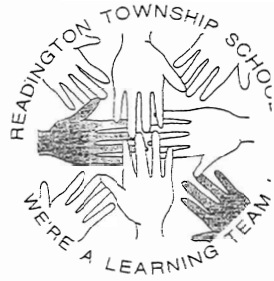


Readington Township Public Schools

Irene G. Benfatti, Ed.M.
Superintendent

Joan M. Matula, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent



September 9, 2004

Dear Parents,

Our student assessment program for school year 2004-2005 has already begun with pre-kindergarten screenings that were held during the last week of July and the first week of August. While their parents met with administration and completed an input form, the children spent about forty minutes rotating through four stations that were facilitated by kindergarten, intervention, and child study team staff. The assessment is constructed so that the children are participating in game-like or hands-on activities that indicate various levels of readiness. The children were rewarded with stickers and an official 'I am in kindergarten' bookmark. The data and information acquired from the screening was used by the teachers to balance class lists and will be utilized to guide instruction in the classroom. The teachers enjoyed this experience and feel that they already know many of their upcoming students.

Early in the school year various grade levels will also be experiencing some diagnostic screenings. On September 14th, second and fifth grade students will be given the InView Aptitude Test that measures cognitive or thinking abilities in academic areas by assessing skills in verbal and quantitative reasoning, sequences, and analogies. The results, along with other criteria, will be used in the identification of students for various programs. The results also indicate whether a child is achieving to the level of ability.

During the week of September 20th, students in grades one, two, five, and seven will be administered the TerraNova Multiple Assessment in reading, language, and math. With a turnaround time of about four to six weeks, the results will be used by the child's teacher during this school year to assess the progress of each student in acquiring skills in these critical areas. The data, along with other information about the student, will be used to differentiate instruction in order to better meet student needs. The teachers will also use this information for points of discussion during common planning times in order to meet the curricular needs of the students at the grade level.

Additionally, students in grades two and seven will be given a Custom assessment that correlates directly to the state assessments. The information from these assessments will guide instruction so that it more closely aligns with the tasks required for proficiency on the state tests. Those tests are the NJ ASK in grades three and four and GEPA in grade eight. Pre and post data will be used to evaluate the progress toward attaining school and district goals.

Finally, electronic assessments, known as iknow, will be utilized by teachers in grades three through eight. Following professional development and training in September, teachers will administer a pre-assessment. The utility of these assessments is that they can be used throughout the school year for assessing entire classes on multiple skills or individual and small

groups of students on specific skills. Test scores and analytical results can be acquired within seconds of taking the test. Teachers and students get immediate information in order to effectively target instructional strategies for increased student performance.

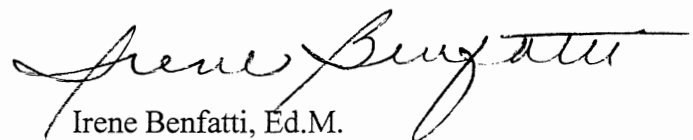
Parents, particularly in grades one, two, five, and seven, who will receive reports from the *TerraNova* are invited to attend a **Parent Information Workshop on Understanding the Home Report** presented by Bonnie Williams of CTB/McGraw Hill. It will be held on **Tuesday, October 19, 2004, beginning at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria of Readington Middle School.** Please try to attend.

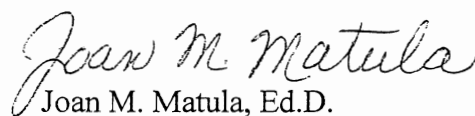
Our assessment plan is designed to provide us with increased data on our students so that we can better address the needs of our struggling students and better challenge the performance of our more advanced students. As importantly, the data provides information for *all* students so that they can meet the grade level goals and objectives. As parents, we ask for your support in encouraging your children and working in partnership with the teachers for achieving these identified learning goals. ***Remember to mark your calendars for October 19th.***

Assessment Plan

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Test</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	<i>TerraNova</i> Basic	Sept 20-24, 2004
2	InView Aptitude Test	Sept 14, 2004
	<i>TerraNova</i> Basic and Custom	Sept 20-24, 2004
3	iknow electronic assessment	
	NJ ASK	March 14-16, 2005
4	iknow electronic assessment	
	NJ ASK	March 14-18, 2005
5	InView Aptitude Test	Sept 14, 2004
	<i>TerraNova</i> Complete and Custom	Sept 20-24, 2004
	iknow electronic assessment	
6	iknow electronic assessment	
7	<i>TerraNova</i> Complete	Sept 20-24, 2004
	iknow electronic assessment	
8	GEPA	March 7-11, 2005
	iknow electronic assessment	

Sincerely,


Irene Benfatti, Ed.M.


Joan M. Matula, Ed.D.