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Mr. Raymond Marshall  
Principal  
West Homer Elementary School  
995 Soundview Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to you as well as to all West Homer Elementary School staff, students, and parents for being recognized as one of our nation's No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon Schools this year. You all deserve to be very proud of this accomplishment.

I know that you had to apply creativity, hard work, teamwork, dedication, and perseverance to be eligible for this recognition. Ninety-four percent of all West Homer Elementary School students were proficient in reading and math in 2011. Ninety-two percent of economically disadvantaged students were proficient in reading and 91 percent in math. Of Alaska Native students, 94 percent were proficient in reading and 83 percent in math. These are very impressive statistics indeed.

I'm sorry I wasn't able to join you at the Assembly today, but I want you to know that your achievement is recognized here in Washington, D.C. I hope that, when you come to Washington in November for Blue Ribbon Schools events, you will have time to stop by the office. I would enjoy the opportunity to congratulate you in person.

I wish all of you a very good school year. Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator