

**FROM THE DESK OF ROBERT GALELLA**  
PRINCIPAL: DUNMORE ELEMENTARY CENTER



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Dear DEC School Community:

Parents, educators, and legislators value assessments. But they don't want tests to reduce instructional time. Last spring's round of Common Core assessments (PSSA exams) revealed deep ambivalence. In most places, testing covered several days of tests in grades 3 – 8. Many parents and legislators protested the extra use of school time, nearly eight hours of testing per student.

Parents and educators are in agreement that there is an over-emphasis on high-stake testing in our schools throughout the nation. "The United States is the only civilized country in the world that thinks testing every kid every year from grades 3 – 11 is smart public policy," says David Browne, Superintendent of Randolph Twp. Schools in New Jersey. "It's horrendous and debilitating, and parents are, frankly, right about this."

Although, many of us as educators and parents feel our voices would not be heard at the state level; I believe that the more of us who stand united on the issue of placing too much emphasis on high-stake testing; maybe some day we may see positive changes being made that are decided by truly putting students first.

Educators work very hard every day to prepare their students for a PSSA exam or a Keystone exam but as the Common Core standards remain as our core instruction, we will continue to see lower test scores until adequate funding is provided to districts to pay for professional development and training, resources such as technology, hiring more highly-skilled teachers in general education as well as special education.

For more information pertaining to (CIA) Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment, visit:  
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