CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
80 MAIDEN LANE, 20TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038

RICHARD J. CONDON
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (212) 510-1400
Fax: (212) 510-1550
WWW.NYCSCI.ORG

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **CONTACT: Laurel Wright-Hinckson**
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# Report Released Today

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing the findings of an investigation which substantiated that Melissa Dean, a teacher assigned to PS 143 in Queens, used the students in her class to send handmade holiday greeting cards to her friend, John Coccarelli, who is a convicted felon serving time in the Groveland Correctional Facility in Sonyea, Livingston County, New York. Dean suggested that the students write personal information on the cards, including their names and addresses, and she printed the name of the student on the back of his or her card. Dean did not obtain permission from the parents or the school administration to allow the children to correspond with the inmate.

Special Commissioner Condon recommended that Dean's employment be terminated and that she be made ineligible for future work with the DOE. The findings were referred to Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown for whatever action he deems appropriate.

The Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation is part of the New York City Department of Investigation and Special Commissioner Condon reports to Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn.