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April Noble, Principal

Theresa Curran, Assistant Principal

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Dear Parents,

Our school is in the process of implementing flexible literacy groups. (Kindergarten is calling this Rainbow Reading). Flexible grouping is a term that describes a variety of ways to group students for the purpose of delivering specific instruction, and maximizing growth within the regular educational setting. Group size and composition are adjusted to reflect student progress and instructional objectives. While our primary focus is the quality of instruction, grouping students across the grade level is an instructional strategy that will be used to ensure all students achieve outcomes.

Since August, all of our teachers have been meeting with instructional coaches, putting a plan in place for our students, doing formative/summative assessments with our students, and delivering literacy instruction to their classes. Common literacy assessments were given to all Grade K or Grade 1 students. From these results, and teacher observations and assessments within the classroom, we have developed our literacy flexible groups.

Groupings

- Student data decides individualized student targets (this means your child may be grouped with students whose needs are similar (they may not have their homeroom teacher as their literacy teacher).
- Every child is given a common pre-assessment prior to the start of a flexible grouping unit.
- Each grade level team will meet to discuss the assessments and place each child in an appropriate group.
- Mini-assessments are used throughout the literacy block to monitor student progress. If a student's placement does not seem to be promoting growth, the team will meet to discuss possible changes for that student.
- Flexible grouping units last about 6 weeks.
- Students are moved from group to group when they achieve their learning target.

Your child's progress on the focused literacy target is monitored by the teacher providing the instruction. This information is shared regularly with the homeroom teacher during team meeting time. All students will be given a post-assessment to determine growth. The grade level teams work very collaboratively together in order to address questions or concerns to the classroom teacher. Parent/teacher conferences will be booked with your child's homeroom teacher. If a child grasps the essential literacy outcomes, they will be stretched and enriched during flexible literacy group time. If students need an intervention, or additional time and support, they will receive it. Flexible grouping will be ongoing, fluid, and flexible in nature, based on individual student needs. Should you have questions about flexible grouping, you may contact your child's teacher or WES administration.

Thank you for your continued support in your child's education,
April Noble,
Principal, Wells Elementary School