

Sarah A. Leveque
Principal

333 Charles Street
Reading, MA 01867
Phone: 781-944-7831
Fax: 781-942-9186

John F. Doherty, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Christine M. Kelley
Assistant Superintendent
for Learning and Teaching



J. Warren Killam School

A T.R.R.F.C.C. Place to Be!

May 13, 2020

Dear Killam Families,

The end of the year is always filled with many emotions, and this year those sentiments feel even greater. As we finish up the current school year in a distance learning model, we must begin planning for the next school year with incomplete information about what the fall will look like in terms of learning. This is not an easy task. Each year, placement is determined at the building level with the staff and I meeting together multiple times to create our class placements. Our primary goal is to think about what our students need to be the most successful in the year ahead; this year is no different.

After many discussions with the building leadership team and the classroom teachers, we have decided that placement requires unique consideration this year. Overwhelmingly, we heard from you in the parent placement input forms that you are looking for ways to provide consistency and time with your child's current class as we move into next year. ***After careful consideration, we have decided to move all class groupings forward as is for next year.*** This ensures your child will be having continuity and familiarity with their peers when they enter the new school year. The only change will be your child's teacher, with the exception of Ms. McGuire, who will be looping with her class. Your child's new teacher will be able to build off of the current established student relationships to create a supportive classroom community for all our children.

The pandemic required that we approached and considered placement completely differently than in the past. We discussed many options, and ultimately concluded that this decision puts our children first. The decision allows us to focus on the social-emotional wellbeing of our students. Your children will return with peers that have been with them through this entire closure and experience. They will have learned with each other and from each other. Most importantly, they have built a community that supports each other. This also allows us to think creatively about scheduling next year, particularly about how your child's current classroom teacher can support and spend time with your child next year. We do not know how the new year will begin, or if we will have to undertake distance learning intermittently during the 2020-21 school year. We feel that having the consistency of a classroom community of learners will help mitigate some of the concerns and questions about the upcoming year.

Please be assured we have thought about your children's needs during each phase of our placement discussions. We greatly appreciate the information you submitted on the family placement input forms. Your careful thoughts and insights will be shared with your child's teacher and your input will inform their work with your child. In the weeks ahead, you will receive further information regarding who will be your child's teacher next year. We wanted to share this placement information as soon as possible. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you,

Sarah Leveque, Principal
J.W. Killam Elementary School