

Minutes
SCA Munsey Park
Parent Council Meeting
November 4, 2009

The SCA invited a representative from Reading Street to discuss their reading program. This Scott Forsmann program has been introduced at the Elementary schools for grades K-3.

Reading Street is research based and has changed with the times. It is proven to be one of the best strategies to become a good reader. It focuses on concept development so a child can gain passion and understanding for reading by decoding words. It also has differentiated instruction, meaning that a child receives instruction based on his or her ability.

Reading Street follows a three tier model. There is a core program for advanced readers so that they can be challenged. The second tier is core program plus for average readers. The third tier is intensive reading which is intervention for struggling readers. This intensive reading accelerates them and brings them up a level.

The reading program is broken up by units, with each unit based on a theme. It is most likely concepts that have value outside the classroom. Different books are chosen based on this theme in each unit. Grades K-3 usually have 50% fiction books and 50% non-fiction. The literature is balanced so it appeals to both boys and girls. Oral vocabulary is also key to becoming a good reader. Maybe a child can read a word but not necessarily understand it. First grade oral vocabulary is a predictor to what a child can read in 11th grade- it affects their comprehension.

New literacies are built into the Reading Street program such as learning to search a web page and using email. Media and technical skills are also taught. This is so the students are prepared for skills that required in today's world. There is a website called "21stcenturyskills.org" that looks at the changing world and finds ways to prepare students for that change.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.