



Spitzee Elementary School

409 Macleod Trail

High River, AB

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<http://spitzee.fsd38.ab.ca>

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Re: Multi-Aging at Spitzee Elementary School

Dear Spitzee Families,

We are writing to inform you that beginning next year (2017-2018) Spitzee Elementary School will be moving to a straight grade format for our K- 5 classes. Our Superintendent and Board of Trustees were notified prior to our Easter break.

Spitzee Elementary School has been multi-aged since 2009. A lot has changed in our community, school and in education over the past 8 years. While multi-aging made sense in the past there have been more and more questions from parents and staff about whether this was the most effective way to structure our learning environment. Over the past four years we have examined the effectiveness of multi-aging at Spitzee and have determined that at this point in time we can best meet the social, emotional and academic learning needs of all students through a straight grade system.

Current research indicates that multi-aged learning environments don't have any significant impact (positive or negative) on student achievement. Beyond the current research, Spitzee teachers' also identify many challenges with multi-aging in today's education system. As things change in our world, so have our children. Teachers have identified that the academic/social and emotional gaps between the older and younger students in a multi-aged classroom is widening and at times problematic. The age gap between the oldest and youngest students in a multi-aged classroom typically goes beyond two years.

There are many positive aspects to a multi-aged learning environment. The Spitzee staff has worked hard to identify those things and will be working hard to find ways to include those elements in the school in other ways.

Regardless of the grade configuration at Spitzee, we will continue to work hard to provide an innovative and quality learning environment for all children. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brooke MacNeill, Principal



"We All Belong"

