**Independent Leveled Reading at WES**

Today our ‘take-home reading’ program will begin in your our classroom. Each evening, your child will bring home book(s) that s/he has chosen that is at his/her independent reading level to enjoy and share with family.

*What is independent reading level?*

**Independent Reading Level specifications:**

* *Able to read entire book with little (1 or 2) to no errors*
* *Able to read with expression*
* *Able to read smoothly with no choppiness*
* *Able to retell what happened in the book with substantial detail, including a beginning, middle and end*
* *Able to answer direct and indirect questions about what they have read in the story*
* *Seems “too easy”*

It is important to remember that most literature students encounter in the early grades is too challenging or at an instructional level. The books students are bringing home should be something that they are able to read completely independently without any assistance at all. If books become too difficult, then the focus becomes trying to understand what the words say rather than what the story is telling. Students do instructional reading at school. Home is to build the enjoyment and love of reading.

**Some questions to ask to develop higher level thinking:**

* *How would you feel if…*
* *What if…*
* *How did…*
* *Why did…*
* *What do you think…*
* *What does this remind you of?*

Teachers will move a student up to a higher reading level once the student has demonstrated the next level will be at an independent reading level. Teachers listen to students read individually and evaluate their fluency, vocabulary, ability to orally retell a story and their ability to orally answer comprehension questions. This is a continuous process in the classroom and each student is carefully and thoughtfully assessed.

**Thank you for working together with our team to ensure the focus on reading is not the level that your child is at, but the skills that they are working on to become successful and engaged readers.

Mrs. Bond