

Email sent Friday, February 10th to all 5th and 6th grade families

Dear 5th and 6th grade OES families-

Oregon Elementary School is a community that believes in the importance of a student's voice. We want our students to know that we hear and value their thoughts and ideas. We also believe in the importance of transparency with our families.

Last week, I became aware of an informal lunch club that was teacher-initiated for 5th and 6th grade students who were wanting a space to discuss the importance of differences between people and what that can mean for individuals. The voluntary group would meet once a week during the lunch block in the teacher's room. The first twenty minutes were for socialization amongst the students, and the last ten minutes were discussions led by a student that allowed for any sharing of concerns or thoughts from the group. The club started with around fifteen students and did expand to over thirty students.

We were also informed by a parent that a pride coloring page was used during the time the group was together. As we understand it, some students requested the coloring page be printed and the teacher provided the page. It was the teacher's intent to provide the coloring page to students who requested it during this time as a stress relief activity. (<https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health/speaking-of-health/coloring-is-good-for-your-health#:~:text=Coloring%20is%20a%20healthy%20way,feelings%20of%20depression%20and%20anxiety.>)

Please know that during these meetings, there was no sharing of resources of outside services for students or counseling done by the teacher.

While we appreciate the intent of the teacher to allow this group of students to meet, the administration at OES have found it would be in the best interest for the group meetings not to occur on school grounds during the school day and be supervised by school personnel. As always, if you have concern or questions, please reach out to [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].