

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Every week your child will bring home a new set of spelling word patterns that have been introduced in class. Each night your child is expected to do a different activity to practice the spelling and word patterns. Students will bring home the words cut up in a Ziplock bag. Students will also bring home the words written on a list to show the correct categories and patterns needed to sort the words. Please keep the cards inside the bag and in the planner as we will be using them at school and at home every day. Each set of words will have a heading that will identify the group according to its spelling pattern. It is very important for your child to learn and identify these patterns instead of memorizing the spelling of the words. By recognizing the pattern, he/she will be able to apply these patterns in their everyday writing.

Your child will be introduced to a different spelling pattern each week and will practice the sorting in school prior to taking home the list on Monday. Once your child is comfortable with the process, it can take as little as 10 minutes to practice the words each day. On Fridays, during the spelling challenge, your child will be asked to spell 15 words from the given list.

Some students may find that their spelling words / patterns are familiar to them and that they have studied the words last year. It was necessary to revisit the same spelling patterns with some of these students as we have noted in the latest spelling assessment that the children were not able to apply these spelling patterns in their everyday writing, however practice will strengthen their spelling skills.

Students were placed into different groups according to their strength and ability to recognize the various patterns.

Here are the home activities for the students:

Monday: Monday is a regular sort. Remind your child to sort the words into categories like the ones we did in school. Your child should read each word out loud during this activity. Ask your child to explain to you why the words are sorted in a particular way – what does the sort reveal about spelling in general? Ask your child to sort them a second time as fast as possible. You may want to time them.

Tuesday: Do a blind sort with your child. Lay down a word from each category as a header and then read the rest of the words out loud. Your child must indicate where the word goes without seeing it. Lay it down and let your child move it if it is wrong. Repeat if your child makes more than one error.

Wednesday: You have two options for Wednesday. You can assist your child in doing a word hunt, looking for words in a book that have the same pattern and sound as their sort. Try to find two for each category. The other option for Wednesday is to do an oral sort. Here you will set up the headers like you did for Tuesday. Then read the words out loud to your child. Have them spell the word out loud to you then tell you which category it goes into.

Thursday: Do a writing sort to prepare for the Friday spelling challenge. As you call out the words in a random order, your child should write them in the correct categories. Call out the word again if your child spells it wrong or puts it in the wrong category. Do not give them the correct spelling but rather ask them to try again.

If you have any questions about the program, please stop by after school or call me. Thank you for your help.

Mrs. Kadar