September 14, 2015

Dear 3B Families,

This week we are starting our word study instruction. This work is essential to your child’s literacy instruction because it helps foster an understanding of words and how they work, thus assisting your child as he or she learns to read and write. Word study is part of our daily routine at school. The students will be assigned a word list each week according to their developmental spelling stage which was determined by using a spelling inventory assessment. The students will complete activities in class each day to help build fluency with the word patterns.

The students will bring their spelling words home on Mondays. They will be tested on their words on Fridays.

You can help your child practice word study at home with the following activities:

* Word Hunt: Look in magazines, newspapers, and books to find words that are examples of the skill of the week.
* Word Sort: Ask your child to sort his/her words into the categories provided with the word list. Have him/her read through the sorted words to check for proper placement of the words.
* “No Peeking” Sort: Show your child the category cards. Read each word aloud and have your child point to the category where it would be placed.
* Written Sort: Read the list of words to your child. Have him/her write each word under the category that is a match with the spelling pattern.
* spellingcity.com:

Directions for getting started on the website:

1. Click on the “students” tab.
2. Click “find a list”.
3. A search box will appear. You can search by teacher and type “Julie Elliott”
4. The lists are uploaded onto the site, but they're not in numerical order so scroll down until you find the correct list name that matches the heading on your child’s spelling list.

Once you’re all set up, students can choose from “teach me,” “test me,” or “play a game.” There are a variety of activities for the students to work on.

* “Look, say, cover, write, check”: This is a strategy that works well for visual learners. Follow the steps below for each word.

1. Look at the word.
2. Say the word and think about the sounds you hear and which letters are making the sounds.
3. Cover the word.
4. Write the word without looking.
5. Check your spelling. If you were correct, move on to the next word. If you were incorrect, repeat the steps and try again.

These are just a few ways that you can support your child with word study at home. Depending on learning styles, different activities will be more or less effective for different students. It is worth exploring different activities to find what will work best for your child. If you would like more ideas for spelling activities at home, please let me know.

Thanks for your support at home!

Sincerely,

Julie Elliott

\*\*This letter is posted on our wikispace for your future reference.