**![C:\Users\Diane\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\LC6QSTQS\MC900281179[1].wmf]() Spelling Challenge**

 *Our Spelling Challenge is to pass all the*

 *spelling tests this year with great scores!!!*

Dear Parents,

 In an effort to help children become proficient spellers this year, they will work with spelling lists on an individual basis. I want to meet the spelling needs of all my children! The children will move at their own pace through the spelling lists. This way, those who need extra practice can have an additional week to master the words while those who are ready to move on can at their own pace. I know this way of doing spelling may be different from previous years, but my goal is to help children at the level they are at instead of everyone having the same spelling list each week! The lists are made up of words from the High Frequency Word (HFW) List, phonemic spelling, and common everyday words used in writing. I start at the beginning of the HFW list which is basically a review for third graders so the first few lists may be pretty easy. That is just fine…this will help the children adjust to the new format! The HFW list is made up of words that are used the most in everyday writing. Since the goal of spelling is to be able to spell words as one writes, it makes sense to have the children learn words that will give them confidence as they work through the Writing Process this year. I also want the children to practice phonemic spelling since many times we learn how to spell an unknown word by referring to the basic phonemic rules we have discussed in class. Since the lists are made up of various types of words, I believe each child will benefit at some level with our spelling challenge this year!

**\*Spelling Challenge: Please read carefully!**

1. Each child will receive the first 16 spelling lists (they are on one sheet; front/back – saving a tree ☺) This sheet will stay at home to study each week. I will also give the children a spelling sheet to keep in their notebooks here at school so they can review as necessary. Once those lists are mastered, I will send home the next 16 lists. There are a total of 32 lists for the entire year. Please put the spelling lists in a safe place at home to use each week. I will not give out additional lists. However, I will have them on my website and on spellingcity.com just in case so you can print them out!

2. Each week, the children are responsible for studying the list they are on. I have added each list to spellingcity.com. This is a great site to practice each list online with games! The children do NOT turn any homework into me. Their homework is to learn their words! I will know if they are studying if they are passing their spelling tests or not. In case your child enjoys studying the lists in a variety of ways, I will send home a task board of creative ways to practice the words at the beginning of the year. This is not to be turned into me…it’s just to help your child learn the words at home. You and your child can decide what works best in order to help your child master the words. I suggest having a specific time to study nightly. This really helps in teaching responsibility with homework!

3. If your child does not pass the list the first time (score of 90-100 is considered passing), then, he/she will practice that list again for the next week’s test. This time around, written homework will be due on the following Friday. I will send home the spelling homework assignment if this happens. The goal is for your child to truly master the words so practicing the same list on more week will be very beneficial!

4. Spelling tests will be each Friday using spellingcity.com with our iPads during your child’s Language Arts time with me. The children will record their spelling score in their agendas for parents to see. They will also write any misspelled words in the agenda so they can practice the words for the next week’s test. The children will have a spelling chart in their notebooks at school that will be color-coded as they pass each test as a quick reference to see how they are doing with our Spelling Challenge!

5. Children may take 2 tests each week if they are prepared. This is very motivating for those children who a super spellers especially at the beginning when the words are pretty easy. However, they must pass the first test that Friday in order to take the second test that day. If your child only wants to take one test, that is perfectly fine!

6. After each set of 10 lists, the children have to take a Challenge Test which contains 35 of the harder words on those 10 lists. This is just another way to make sure the children are mastering the words!

7. Once the children have mastered all the spelling lists, then they have met the Spelling Challenge and do not have to study for spelling for the rest of the year! YAHOO!!! However, I will expect the words to be spelled correctly in their daily writing since that is the reason why we have spelling in the first place!!!If not, reviewing previous spelling lists may be necessary in order to help. I always tell children that reviewing words isn’t a punishment but an opportunity to get it right! WE love second chances in our room ☺

8. Spelling grades: Each week, I will record the spelling test grade that the child makes. If the child retakes the same test the following week, I will record that grade for the following week as well even if it’s the same list. The spelling tests will be referred to by the date taken and not the list number.

9. If a child continues to misspell the words on the list, then, I will conference with the child individually and adjust the words according to the child’s needs.

 I hope this explains our Spelling Challenge this year! Remember, the ultimate goal of spelling is to incorporate it into one’s writing!!!

 Happy Spelling,

 Ms. Moore

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