

September 2007

Dear 4th Grade Parents,

As you already know, we will continue to use the Sitton Spelling program this year. Sitton Spelling works toward the goal of helping students to spell correctly in their writing. Also, the research based program is very different from the traditional Friday test spelling program.

The program requires that a piece of writing be checked for Priority No Excuse Words (PNEW) about once a week. PNEW words are the one hundred most commonly used words (high frequency words) in the English language. Each month we will use 10 PNEW words to focus on. Students will receive a separate grade for PNEW on the chosen assignment. Students are expected to proofread all of their written work for the PNEW.

I wanted to inform you that the tests students take assess the words that they should be spelling correctly in their writing and also the skills that help to make them stronger spellers. The words used on the spelling tests are "Core Words". In fourth grade, the core words are the five hundred most commonly used words in the English language. I have sent home a copy of the Core Words with the students. Throughout the year, students can reference the yellow core words sheet to help them write and also there may be activities with the core words.

When we take a test, the original will be kept in the students' cumulative classroom folders and a copy will be sent home for your information. Words that students struggle with are called "Words to Learn" and they will practice them and study them for the next test. As you can see this program is tailor made to each student's strengths and weaknesses. Our goal is to have our students become better writers. Thank you!

Mrs. Pierce