

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This year our spelling program will have a focus on sounds and letter patterns and using phonic concepts to spell and read words.

Each week your child will bring home a piece of paper that has the week's phonics concept(s) that are being covered. It will also have some activities you can do with your child to help them practice those phonic concepts at home.

**Please keep their spelling binders at home. I will send home new phonics concept sheets on Friday (or on Thursday if there is no school on Friday). Could you please add these sheets to the binder. The new sheets will also be posted on the classroom website under phonics.**

Every Friday or Thursday (if there is no school on Friday) we will have a concept check-in. The students will not know the words or sentences that they will be checked on. This is to help me see if they understand and can transfer their knowledge of the phonic lesson(s) to the new words. The check-ins will be sent home on Friday or sometimes on Monday.

On the phonics concept sheet (called Home Practice), you will see different ways to practice the phonics concept. There are videos posted on the classroom website under Phonics.

<https://sites.google.com/eips.ca/mrdsgrade1page/home>

These videos will help show you how to practice the different ways listed on the home practice sheet. Also, the students are practicing these ways in class every day! If you make a mistake practicing do not panic! This is meant to be a fun way to practice phonic concepts at home to help your child become a stronger reader and writer! Practice should be 5-10 minutes a night. There will be 2 home practice sheets a week! I will also be sending home roll and reads and quick reading passages that practice the concept(s) being taught. Storing all the papers in the binder would be ideal and lets your child review previous concepts if needed.

Like always if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know!

Thank you for your support!

M. Da Costa