**Words Their Way**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Our school district implements a program entitled “Words Their Way”. This is a word study program. This program encourages exploration and examination of word features that are within their stage of literacy development. Students have taken a placement spelling assessment to determine their developmental stage. Students will be given different word groups based on their readiness level. They will then actively participate in our word studies by making judgments about words and sorting words according to similar features. Students will also construct their own understandings about how word features and patterns work. They will also learn some irregularities of spelling (we call “oddball words”). Engaging instruction and thoughtful practice will help students internalize word features and become automatic in using what they have learned.

Your child will be bringing home a collection of spelling words weekly that have been introduced in class. Each night of the week your child is expected to do a different activity to ensure that these words, and the spelling principals they represent are mastered. These activities have been modeled and practiced in school, so your child can teach you how to do them. The activities involve practice but do not require a physical page to be completed. This is where your support is essential, to show your child has completed the task as the practice is very important for success on Friday’s spelling test. Please follow the weekly routine, check off that each activity was completed, and sign the Word Study Homework sheet each week. **PLEASE HAVE SCISSORS AND GLUE STICKS AT HOME** to cut the sorts and glue them in a notebook weekly.

This is a new routine and will take some time for your child to feel comfortable with it. Your support is necessary and greatly appreciated. Remember, we have practiced and will continue to practice these same activities in class. Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have ANY questions or concerns on these changes.

Mrs. Maloney