Dear Parents,

This week we will begin second grade word study. Each week your student will receive a list of words to learn to read and spell. Words are grouped by spelling patterns … for example, your child may be practicing some of the many spellings for **long** and **short** **“a”**, or different spellings for vowels followed by the letter **“r”**, such as **ar, are**, and **air**.

In our second grade class, students are in one of two word study groups. The groups and patterns that each group will be studying were determined by Mrs. Miller, our reading support teacher. Groups can be fluid, and students may move from one group to the other based on the need to study different spelling patterns. **Students have not been grouped by reading level … there is no easy or hard group!**

Words are assigned on **Mondays**. Students practice reading their words, discussing their meanings, and learning the spelling patterns. Each child will sort her/his words by pattern and write them in the **spelling journal**. Words are written in spelling pattern categories. Spelling journals are sent home Monday afternoons so your student can practice sorting with a grown-up**. Please return your child’s spelling journal to school on Tuesday** because s/he will need it to complete various word study games and activities during the week. Some families find it helpful to have a second spelling notebook at home so all spelling practice is in one place.

Attached you will find a list of suggested word study activities for you to do at home with your student. This is **word study homework** that your child should complete **every day**. This homework does not have to be returned to school unless there is something that you or your child would like the teacher or the class to see.

**Your child will have a spelling test each Friday**. If there is no school on a Friday, we may or may not have word study that week … it depends on the time of year, and how many other things our class is doing. The test will be graded. The purpose of the grade is to help you and your student know which spelling patterns to continue to practice. **If your child misses more than two words with the same pattern, please continue to review that pattern at home**.

This is the third year that second grade has been practicing word study in this way. We have found this practice to be most effective, helping students more easily identify word patterns when reading and writing. **If you have any questions about second grade word study, please let me know.**

Thanks so much for helping your student with word study practice!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Susan D’Aprix