Dear Families,

We have begun word study! Students will bring home a collection of words that have been introduced in class. Remember, the word study program is based on a developmental aspect of word knowledge. Your child will be analyzing words each week.

Every week we meet in our groups according to the student’s word stage, and receive the word study words. Each night of the week your child is expected to do word study homework. By assisting your child with homework, you will help

ensure that these words and spelling principles they represent are mastered. Following what we do in the classroom, here are some activities you can do with your child at home:

Activity 1: Observe and support your child as he/she sorts the words under the header words Listen as your child reads each word aloud during this sort. Avoid pointing out rules, instead ask your child to explain to you why he/she sorted the words in that particular way. You may want to ask your child to sort them again as fast as possible.

Activity 2: Ask your child to complete a buddy sort with you. You may use the same header words or pick new ones. Read the rest of the words aloud and have your child indicate where to place it. Do not correct your child if he/she places it incorrectly. Instead guide your child to discover his/her error

and self-correct.

Activity 3: Pick a favorite book and complete a word hunt by searching for words with the same feature. Try to find several examples for both categories.

Activity 4: In order to prepare for the word study test, help your child complete a writing sort. Encourage your child to sort the words as you call them out in random order. Any mistakes can be attempted at second or third time.

All of these activities have been modeled and practiced in school. In fact, you can let your child be the “teacher” and let him/her teach you how to participate in word study!

Please don’t hesitate to call or e-mail with any questions about our classroom word study cycle or anything else!

Sincerely,