***Words Their Way***

*Dear Families, January 2015*

*Words Their Way* is phonics, spelling, and vocabulary instruction through daily word study. This program will provide skill instruction that will cover spelling patterns and focus on examining and manipulating words, not memorizing them. Students will be thinking more critically about words and work on transferring their skills to reading and writing. *Words Their Way* will focus on teaching students how to spell, decode new words, and to improve word recognition speed in general.

To accomplish this goal, I will teach the students how to examine words to learn the regularities that exist in the spelling system. I will also teach them some irregularities of spelling (we call “oddball words”). The simple process of sorting words into categories is the heart of our word study program. When students sort words, they are engaged in the active process of searching, comparing, contrasting, and analyzing. Word sorts help students organize what they know about words and to form generalizations that they can then apply to new words they encounter in their reading.

Below are descriptions of the word activities to be done at home and school each week (activities are also described on the HW Contract sheet in your child’s binder.)

Word Sort: Sort the words using picture and/or word cards. Remind your child to sort the words into categories like the ones we did in school. Your child should read each word aloud during this activity. Ask your child to explain to you why the words are sorted in a particular way. What does the sort reveal about spelling in general? Ask your child to sort them a second time as fast as possible. You may want to time them.

Word Hunt: Assist your child in doing a word hunt, looking for words in a book they have already read. Look for words that have the same sound, pattern, or both. Try to find two or three for each category.

Blind Sort: Lay down a word from each category as a header and then read the rest of the words aloud. Your child must indicate where the word goes without seeing the word. Lay it down and let your child move it if he or she is wrong. Repeat if your child makes more than one error.

Writing Sort: Do a writing sort to prepare for the Friday test. As you call out the words from their list in random order, your child should write the words in categories. Call out any word your child misspells a second or even third time.

Please return the word baggies by Monday in your child’s binder so that I can replace the words with new words.

\*\*\*\*​Word lists: In 2nd-3rd grade, we have 4 different word work groups. I will attach each word sort (word card sheet) for each group. Our groups are Stars, Galaxies, Comets, and Rockets.   
\*The students are expected to bring their set of weekly word cards home and back to school each day. If your child misplaces or forgets their words, you can open the document below and print a copy for them. In the case that your child needs a copy of their words and you are unable to print, just let me know and I'll print another copy. I have explained to the children that I will not be able to print multiple copies at their request, but if I receive a parent request (via. email, Remind, note in agenda or call), I will be glad to send additional copies. Thank you!!

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Mrs. Carsner