Dear Parents, September 6, 2012

Your child is will continue to use the Sitton Spelling program that was used in third grade. In place of memorized weekly lists, this program emphasizes learning important words for a lifetime of spelling – that is, spelling correctly in writing. This ability to become a lifelong speller evolves over time. It grows through skills instruction (phonics, word origins, spelling rules, usage, etc.), everyday writing, and word study of specific words.

To help your child learn and use essential skills, TAKE-HOME TASKS will be sent home regularly. They are skill-building activity sheets for **children and their parents to do together.** These tasks will compliment the skills we are working on at school. They must be completed and brought back to school the following day.

To help your child spell and use essential words, he/she will record misspelled words in a spelling notebook at school and in the assignment notebook. These are high-frequency words your child needs to study.

Please help your child study these words every day. By the end of fourth grade, your children are expected to have mastered all of these words. The expectation is that they will be spelled correctly 100% of the time in their everyday writing. When helping your child study, simply focus on the words they have recorded in their spelling notebook and assignment notebook. Each unit typically ranges from 5 – 7 days and includes 2 assessments.

To help your child learn spelling words at home, guide your child through these five word-study steps recommended by spelling research. Have your child:

\* Read the word

\* Spell the word – touch each letter and say its name

\* Cover the word

\* Print the word

\* Proofread the word – touch each letter and say its name

Make your study sessions brief, be positive, and praise your child for the effort that is made. Then, during the next several days, have your child write the words studied.

Over time, your child will master these words. Your at-home word study with your child will make it easier for your child to reach this goal.

Thank you for your help,

The fourth grade team