Dear Families,

Parents often ask how they can support the development of spelling skills at home. Research has shown that memorization of word lists often does not transfer to a student’s everyday writing, so it can be challenging to create meaningful spelling “homework”. We are providing these materials to assist you with supporting your child’s spelling and vocabulary development at home. Our goal is for students to learn skills and strategies that will help them spell, read, and understand any word, rather than memorizing words in isolation. Students who study morphology (meaning units of words) can make connections among words in many ways. We hope that you find these materials to be helpful when working with your child at home!

How to use these activities to help your child at home:

1. Choose a root, base, prefix, or suffix from one of the provided lists.
2. With your child, discuss the root (base, prefix or suffix), its definition, and some examples.
3. Reinforce with any of the following activities. Templates for graphic organizers and other games listed below can be located at the website cited below.
   1. Root Tree: This activity is pretty straightforward and easy to implement. Choose a root or affix to write at the base of the tree (roots); include the meaning of the root. With your child, fill in the spaces on the branches with words derived from the root. You may need to reference outside sources (dictionary, Internet, prepared list of root words, etc,) to find words. This is a great way to introduce a new root and it presents a great visual of how the words are connected in meaning to the particular root of the tree.
   2. Root Word Graphic Organizer: This activity is similar to the Root Tree, except you will include definitions for the words on this page.
   3. Concentration: Prepare pairs of concentration cards so that one card has the word written on it and the other has the definition.  A set of cards should contain at least 8 words and their definitions, for a total of 16 cards.  Shuffle the cards and place them face down.  They will take turns to flip over two cards, trying to find a match between word and definition.  Once a match has been made, that player gets to keep those cards.  The player with the most cards wins.
   4. Word Charades: Have a list of 10 words displayed.  Review all 10 words and then select 1 to act out.  Give 2-3 minutes to plan how they will act out their word.  The other players will then try to guess the word, while looking over the list of 10 words.

Focusing on just one root, base, prefix, or suffix per week will make a positive impact on your child’s spelling, reading, and writing. Please let us know if you have any questions. Happy spelling!

Mrs. Atilho and Mrs. Moreno