

September 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Instead of using the traditional spelling program this year, all students in grades 2-8 will be using the *Vocabulary Workshop* from Sadlier-Oxford. This program focuses on vocabulary including the following: pronunciations, parts of speech, definitions, synonyms, antonyms, and word associations. Each spelling unit **contains 20 words**, will take approximately **two weeks** to complete, and tests will consist of a writing sample using a prompt. The journal style test will require students to use the words in sentences with context clues. This test method will show if the student knows the **meaning** of the words. In addition to working in class, Mr. Dunwoody will also be working with the students during computer lab times to increase student mastery of these words and integrate technology with the curriculum.

In addition to studying the words from the texts, students in grades 6-8 will also tackle "The Word of the Week." This assignment must be completed at home and requires students to select one word from one of the attached lists of words from their curriculum areas. (attached are the word lists for 6th 7th and 8th graders) The selected word will, hopefully, be studied in depth at home to help increase the child's vocabulary and provide support in that subject matter. Attached is a sample of the worksheet that the student must complete using the selected word, and you, the parent or guardian, must sign. Exact due dates will be given in class. We hope that you and your family enjoy increasing your vocabulary together!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Linda Hurley, Mrs. Ruth Otten, Mr. Ken Dunwoody

‘Word of the Week’ - 6th, 7th, 8th At Home Vocabulary Project

Name _____

Due Dates will be given in class so look in your child's assignment notebook.

Directions: *During each vocabulary lesson, choose one word from the attached subject word lists. *Find the Word of the Week assignment in Mrs. Otten’s or Mrs. Hurley’s classroom section of the school website and follow the directions, or *use this form and follow the instructions. *Write the word you chose on the paper, spelling it correctly. *Write what part of speech it is and *write the dictionary spelling of the word. *Write the definition of the word and *write a sentence using the word correctly. Then *write a short sentence or two telling why you chose the word. Please *have a parent or guardian sign the paper and *return it to school on the due dates shown in the student's assignment book. *Please pick a new word for each due date.

Thank you for your help with this assignment. We are hoping that family participation in your child’s vocabulary program will spark greater enthusiasm in your child for learning and using new words in his/her everyday vocabulary.

Mrs. Ruth Otten & Mrs. Linda Hurley

Word _____

Part of Speech _____

Dictionary Spelling with the diacritical markings _____

Definition _____

Sentence (grade appropriate) _____

Reason why we chose this word _____

Parent’s Signature _____

**WORD BANK FOR 6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH GRADE 'WORD OF THE WEEK'
LITERATURE/ENGLISH/VOCABULARY**

caprice	impetus	sustenance	foreshadowing	taunt	ultimate
betterment	endure	rendezvous	meddlesome	feat	abetting
merely	lanky	romp	adjoining	gallant	relay
tends	reference	standards	passages	contrary	abyss
reasonable	safeguarded	audacity	burly	compensate	derision
appendix	antecedent	ambiguous	modifier	bias	impel
italics	elaboration	ajar	coordinating	stringy	premier
mingled	morsel	dutiful	unfurl	endeavor	tract
trifle	appraise	scanty	commute	feverish	imply
poignant	pivotal	insignia	dingy	copious	capricious
preening	pungent	verdancy	traumatic	smolder	tentatively
spindly	repertoire	rapture	impeccable	judicious	inconsequential
anecdote	allusion	clarify	imagery	memoir	slang
stereotype	folklore	prose	appositive	journal	thesaurus
imagery	idioms	personal	experience	consistently	option

**WORD BANK FOR 6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH GRADE 'WORD OF THE WEEK'
MATHEMATICS**

quadrant	algebra	measure of central tendency	outlier	transformation	
reflection	translation	variable	volume	ratio	absolute value
coefficient	hypotenuse	inequality	permutation		

**WORD BANK FOR 7TH GRADE 'WORD OF THE WEEK'
RELIGION**

preternatural	existence	stewardship	dignity	revelation
inerrant	canticle	rational	maternal	infallible
covenant	reconciled	providence	prefigure	idol
ark	prophecy	spokesman	salvation	parable
worship	ambo	incarnation	arianism	mediator
sanctified	anointing	laity	mediatrix	indefectibility
prudence	justice	temperance	fortitude	theological
virtue	efficacious	minister	lacking	diligence
fulfilled	imposition	sacrifice	foster	merciful

7th/8th grade Science Vocabulary

genetics
diversity
classification
bacteria
ecosystem
conservation
visceral
biotechnology
tropism
ethnobotanist
pasteurization
streptococcus
hypothesis
virus
inquiry
fission

Grade 7 Word of the Week

Geography

apartheid	aquifer	archipelago	atoll
autonomy	bedouins	bilingual	bog
caliph	caste	civil war	civilization
clan	consumer	cuneiform	czar
deforestation	democracy	desalination	desertification
drought	dynasty	embargo	enclave
ergs	ethnic cleansing	ethnocentric	exile
famine	federal republic	fellahin	fjord
free enterprise	free market economy	genocide	geothermal
glasnost	hajj	harmattan	holocaust
industrial	kibbutz	marsupial	megalopolis
migrate	monsoon	moshav	mosque
nomad	nuclear	oasis	outback
pagoda	papyrus	parallel	perestroika
permafrost	pharaoh	poaching	potash
privatize	refugee	reincarnation	samurai
secular	serf	shah	shogun
silt	sisal	socialism	steppe
subcontinent	taiga	tributary	tsunami
wadi	watershed	yurt	

Grade 8 Word of the Week

History

abolition	abstain	accumulate	alien
alliance	amendment	amnesty	armistice
arsenal	bicameral	blockade	boycott
capitalism	carpetbagger	caucus	census
circumnavigation	civilization	classical	commission
compromise	consequence	depreciate	diminish
discrimination	dissent	draft	effigy
embargo	emigrant	federalism	fugitive
guerrilla	hieroglyphics	impeach	impressment
indentured	literacy	majority	manumission
martyr	mercantilism	mercenary	militia
mosque	nativist	neutrality	nullify
ordinance	override	pacifist	partisan
patroon	plurality	popular sovereignty	preamble
propaganda	proprietary colony	ratify	recruit
rendezvous	repeal	revenue	revival
scalawags	secession	segregation	separatists
sharecropping	siege	speculate	subsistence
successor	suffrage	tariff	temperance
theocracy	tributary	turnpike	unconstitutional
utopia	veto	vigilantes	yeoman

Religion

agnostic	animism	apostolate	atheist
virtues	clergy	communion of saints	
conscience	contemplative	curia	diocese
ecclesiastical	ecumenism	fiat	heresy
hierarchy	icon	infallibility	intercede
laity	magisterium	monstrance	polytheism
renaissance	revelation	rite	stewardship
synod	theologian	venerate	vicar