



November 16, 2011

Dear Students and Parents,

We are getting ready to kick off the spelling bee season! We will have a written preliminary spelling bee in early January. The top spellers will then go on to our Montclair Elementary Spelling Bee, which will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2011. Each 3rd, 4th, and 5th grader is eligible to participate. After our school wide bee, the Oakland Unified School District is holding its spelling bee on February 9, 2012 for 4th and 5th graders. The top 4th or 5th grade speller from our school bee will be participating. Our school champion will go on to the San Francisco Chronicle Spelling Bee.

The website www.spellingbee.com has great ideas for students. Also, check out the study resources on the free, interactive Web site, www.myspellit.com. Myspellit is the official study guide for the Scripps National Spelling Bee program. We are asking students to study the words on their own free time. In addition, we will be holding practice spelling bees during December and January. They will be held on selected dates. These practice bees are offered as a service to the students wishing to participate in unofficial competitions and not as a required activity.

Every year the best speller from ten Bay Area counties is sent to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. The National Spelling Bee assembles more than 240 of the country's finest young spellers for the annual event. Aired nationally on ESPN, the Bee has become a well-known and highly acclaimed event.

Dates to Remember

- Early January: Written spelling bee in each 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classroom (**words will be taken from the study guide to be given out soon to interested students**)
- January 10: Montclair Elementary Spelling Bee
- January 20: Deadline to register Champion Speller with the San Francisco Chronicle
- February 9: Oakland Unified School District Spelling Bee
- February 18: Chronicle Preliminary Round written Spelling Bee
- March 17: San Francisco Chronicle Final Round Spelling Bee
- Late May: Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

We are looking forward to working with you. Best wishes from the Spelling Bee Committee!

Mrs. Karena Cruz, Mrs. Metoyer, and Ms. Lori-Jill Seltzer