

January 26, 2009

Can you believe it's already the end of January? The new year is already almost one month gone--how quickly time goes by. We are also one month closer to our MAP testing in April, which is very important to our school. We will really be working hard to polish our skills as the tests come nearer.

#### Spelling and Vocabulary Words

We will be taking end-of-unit tests in Reading this week and will not have a spelling word list or vocabulary words. This would be a great week to devote some extra time to math facts and practice of math skills such as long multiplication and division instead. Extra AR reading practice is also a great idea on a cold winter evening!

#### Math Update

We will be finishing a Math unit this week and testing in it as well. One of the harder skills in this unit for students has been making equivalent fractions. Another skill (which uses equivalent fractions) is adding and subtracting fractions, which requires the fractions to have a common denominator. We have worked on several ways to find a common denominator and will continue to work on that this week. Both of these are MAP-tested skills.

This unit also focused on several ways to organize data, such as a circle/pie graph, line plot, and stem and leaf plot. Were you as confused with the stem and leaf plot as I was the first time Ross brought one home? I hope your fifth-grader was able to explain it to you!

Thanks so much for your help on math homework. That little bit of extra practice on skills each day is important.

#### Spelling Bee

The Intermediate School Spelling Bee is this Friday, January 30. Good luck to Tea Duga and Kiley Wolf, as well as to alternate Derek Shore. Happy practicing!

January 19, 2009

There was a lot of spelling going on in our classroom last week as we held our daily spelling bees. Your child probably participated in at least a few of them! Congratulations to Tea Duga and Kiley Wolf, who will be representing our class in the Intermediate School Spelling Bee. Our class alternate is Derek Shore. Other great spellers and daily winners who participated in Friday's final classroom bee were Ryann Stewart and Drew Hare.

Spelling Words

uncover

disadvantage

discomfort

disbelief

unpleasant

Prefixes un-, de-, dis-

defrost

unfortunate

deodorant

unpredictable

dehydrated

uncomfortable

unfamiliar

unemployed

disapprove

disqualify

discourage

disability

deflate

disappoint

undecided

Challenge Words

unnecessary

disobedient

dehumidifier

disinfectant

disenchanted

Vocabulary Words

background

reassembled

*from "Special Effects in Film and Television"*

landscape

miniature

prehistoric

\*boundaries

\*prototype

\*spectacular

PE, Science, and Social Studies Grades

You may have noticed that grades were not filled in on your fifth-grader's report card in PE, Science, and Social Studies. Those spaces should have a P for Pass filled in. I'm sorry if that has caused any confusion!

Dixie Stampede Field Trip Notes

Notes were sent home last week concerning our fifth-grade field trip to the Dixie Stampede in Branson at the end of April. Although the trip is a few months away, the higher cost of the trip prompted us to let you know ahead of time so that you could be saving up those pennies. This is a great chance to see a very memorable show, and we want all students to be able to attend. Feel free to send all or part of your child's payment at any time, or wait until closer to the April 1 deadline. If you know that you'll need help with the \$21. cost, please be letting me know as soon as possible so we can secure other funds.

January 12, 2009

### Spelling Bee

Calling all good spellers! Your fifth-grader has received a copy of the word list to study for the school spelling bee, which will be held January 30. Students in fourth and fifth grades compete in a good old-fashioned spelling bee each year to earn the school title and move on to the Joplin Globe Spelling Bee to represent Cassville Intermediate.

We will choose two class winners and an alternate by holding daily spelling bees this week, with the big classroom spell-off on Friday. If your child is interested, please be practicing at home throughout the week.

#### Spelling

#### One Consonant or Two

address	college	mirror	recess	committee
collect	Mississippi	immediate	command	appreciate
announce	possess	Tennessee	gallop	opponent
barricade	broccoli	accomplish	allowance	zucchini

#### Challenge Words:

silhouette	millionaire	dilemma
embarrassment	compassionate	

#### Vocabulary Words

*from "Mahalia Jackson"*

appreciate	barber	choir	released
religious	slavery	teenager	*gospel
*posthumously	*spirituals		

### Math Tutoring

We will resume our weekly math tutoring next Wednesday, January 21 after school until 4:15. Your child is welcome to bring a bag of microwave popcorn and/or \$.50 for pop. Please remember that if weather should be at all threatening on tutoring days, students will be sent home on the bus.

Please be sure that your child knows basic math facts well. We do not have classtime to spend on mastery of these facts, but I have many students who would have to count on fingers to solve even simple addition and subtraction facts. These facts need to be practiced at home until your child has reached mastery and can instantly give you an answer to a question such as "What is 15 minus 8?"

### Book Orders

I am sending home two book order forms today which are due this Friday, January 16. These are a great opportunity to purchase books at considerably less cost than in a bookstore. If you are interested in ordering, please send back the completed form and cash or check (made out to the book company) in an envelope with your child's name on it. These may be brought back any time throughout the week.

January 5, 2009

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful time during the holidays and are ready for a busy second half of the school year. Can you believe that the first semester is already over? Report cards for the second quarter/first semester will be sent home in sealed envelopes this Friday, January 9, unless your child has a missing book or textbook or an unpaid lunch or milk money balance.

Thanks again for your help and contributions with our classroom Christmas party and production of The Nutcracker Suite. Wasn't it great?!

#### Watching the Weather

We had to finish our Land & Water science kit very quickly before Christmas. We had grown grass in our stream table boxes and had to do our last science activity after the Christmas party—that grass would have been waist-high by now! Your fifth-grader should be able to tell you the different effects of water running on bare soil versus on soil with grass growing—it was pretty noticeable.

We will now be completing a quick study of the weather, including how different kinds of weather are caused, measured, forecast, and reported.

#### Second-Quarter Perfect Attendance Activity

Because of the days missed before Christmas due to bad weather, the Perfect Attendance Activity was moved to this Wednesday, January 7. Congratulations to these students who had perfect (or at least 96%) attendance during the second quarter: Kelly Aldaba, Memory Barber, Kendal Burbridge, Colton Dilbeck, Tea Duga, Dustin Griffis, Chad Howerton, Madison Jamieson, Kody Long, Jeremiah Pendleton, Valeria Perez, Jessica Roberts, Taylor Sanders, Chance Shepherd, Derek Shore, and Ryann Stewart. Students will be enjoying refreshments and playing board games brought from home.

#### Spelling                      Consonant Sounds /j/, /ks/, /sk/ and /s/

excuse	scene	muscle	explore	pledge
journal	science	schedule	gigantic	scheme
Japan	excellent	exclaim	fascinate	ginger
scholar	scent	dodge	smudge	schooner

#### Challenge Words:

extraordinary	reminisce	acknowledge
prejudice	allergic	

#### Vocabulary                      *from "The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins"*

erected	foundations	mold	occasion
proportion	tidied	workshop	*anatomy
*dignitaries	*monumental		

December 16, 2008

The frightful winter weather has caused us to postpone our holiday production of The Nutcracker Suite for a few days. We will be performing our matinee Thursday at 1:30 and our evening performance at 7 p.m. Students will need to be in my room Thursday evening at 6:30 to put on costumes.

Thanks so much for your help in purchasing and/or finding costumes, and to the mothers who helped us get other play preparations completed. We think you'll enjoy our performance!

#### Perfect Attendance

Students with perfect attendance for the second quarter will celebrate tomorrow, December 17. Your child may bring a favorite game from home if participating in this activity. I know many of our class will be participating since we have such awesome attendance this year. I appreciate your help in having your child in class whenever possible!

#### Christmas Party

We will be having our class Christmas party Friday at 10 a.m., and you are welcome to attend. I sent a list of snacks and drinks home Friday that students suggested, and we'll welcome any contributions.

On the party note, I gave an incorrect dismissal time for Friday. We will dismiss at 1:00 Friday for Christmas vacation and will not return to school until Monday, January 5. Please be sure your child knows what to do Friday if plans are changed due to the early dismissal.

*I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy and safe New Year!*

December 8, 2008

We're busy with Nutcracker preparations and practice as our performance on December 16 grows closer. Please send a note or email me if you are having any problems coming up with pastel tights and leotards for girls or red turtlenecks and black pants for boys. I have two red turtlenecks that I loan to boys most years, and remember, they can probably get away with wearing Mom's or older sister's turtleneck and no one will know!

### Parent Night

We hope you'll join us tomorrow, Tuesday, December 9, for our quarterly Parent Night. Come and enjoy some holiday activities with your fifth-grader.

### Canned Food Drive

Students who enjoy wearing caps or antlers, here is some news you'll enjoy! Students can wear "head gear" each day at school that they bring a food item for a local canned food drive.

Students are also welcome to join the staff in dressing for the holidays this week (and probably next week too):

Tuesday	wear Christmas socks and jingle bells
Wednesday	wear Christmas hats and headgear
Thursday	wear anything Christmas-y—all at once
Friday	wear Christmas jewelry

### Spelling Words

waterproof   teaspoon  
courthouse   earthquake  
lightweight   fishhook  
tablespoon   greenhouse

### Compound Words

grasshopper   homesick   barefoot  
rowboat   scrapbook   countryside  
spotlight   blindfold   whirlpool  
postcard   hummingbird   thumbtack

### Challenge Words

sledgehammer   brokenhearted   chalkboard  
straightforward   granddaughter

### Vocabulary Words

achieved	architect	"Leonardo's Horse"	bronze	<i>skill: Main Idea and Details</i>
depressed	fashioned	midst	cannon	philosopher
rival	*rebirth	*Renaissance	*togas	

December 1, 2008

## How about those Cassville Wildcats?!

We're very excited that our Cassville Wildcat football team defeated Cardinal-Ritter in the state playoffs last Friday to earn the first-place State 3A Championship! We had an exciting send-off for the team last Tuesday as the entire school met together at the football field for a pep rally, and I think it worked! Congratulations to all of the Wildcats, especially our Big Cat Dustin Tucker, as well as their families and our school family.

### Spelling Words

jewel	kingdom	gasoline	factory	garage
tropical	pajamas	estimate	tomorrow	humidity
Chicago	bulletin	carnival	illustrate	elegant
census	terrific	celebrate	operate	celery

### Challenge Words:

rehearsal	salamander	prominent	significant	parakeet
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### Schwa

### Vocabulary Words

admiringly	from "Wings for the King"	permit	scoundrel	subject
worthless	*parapet	*reproachfully		
		*not a tested vocabulary word		

### Looking Ahead

December 9	Parent/Child Activity Night	4:00-6:00
December 16	Nutcracker Performance!	matinee + 7 p.m.
December 19	Christmas Parties	
	End of 2nd Quarter	
	Holiday Break Begins	

November 24, 2008

For blue of stream, for blue of sky;  
For pleasant shade of branches high;  
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;  
For beauty of the blowing trees;  
For each new morning with its light;  
For rest and shelter of the night;  
For health and food, for love and friend . . .

We give thanks.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

I hope that you and your family have a wonderful, restful Thanksgiving. Please remember that there is no school on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be back on Monday, December 1.

We're thankful for our outstanding football team! The Wildcats play in the state finals Friday in St. Louis. Go, Wildcats!

#### Nutcracker Suite

The fifth grade will really be working hard now rehearsing for The Nutcracker Suite, which we will perform on Tuesday, December 16. Be sure to invite your family and friends—this will be a great holiday event to enjoy together. We will have a matinee that day at 1:30, with the performance that evening at 7.

Please begin borrowing or purchasing clothing for your child's costume. Children's resale shops would be a great place to find many of these items, or borrow from a relative or neighbor. Girls in our class will be flowers, and they will need pastel-colored leotards and tights. These items will not be altered in any way, so girls could safely borrow them if careful. Boys in our class will be soldiers, and will need a red long-sleeved turtleneck shirt and black pants. The pants will be tucked into tall red "boots," so black dress pants or even those football pants would work for this.

Please let me know if you cannot find these items, and I will help you look for someone to loan them to you.



November 17, 2008

I hope your child enjoyed our busy day today at the Barry County Watershed Festival. Hopefully he or she can tell you much about watersheds and our local ones in particular. I'm excited that this festival fit in so well with our current science kit, Land and Water.

### Testing Week

Welcome to a testing week in fifth grade! We will be taking end-of-unit tests in reading this week and will not have a spelling list or vocabulary words to work on. We are also finishing a unit in math and will be taking a Checking Progress test. Please encourage your fifth-grader to do his or her best on these assessments.

### Book Orders

I am sending home two book order forms today which are due this Friday, November 21. These are a great opportunity to purchase books at considerably less cost than in a bookstore. Books make such great Christmas gifts! If you are interested in ordering, please send back the completed form and cash or check (made out to the book company) in an envelope with your child's name on it. These may be brought back any time throughout the week.

### Go, Wildcats!

Our Wildcat football team just keeps pushing on in state football playoff action. We won our game against Rogersville last Saturday and will again play this Saturday against Chilicothe in the state semifinals. Our Big Cat Dustin Tucker will again visit our room this Friday, and students are welcome to bring an item for Dustin to autograph. They might choose to bring a football, notebook, or other "treasure" for Dustin to sign.

Students who attend Saturday's game will need to sit with parents and follow the MSHSAA stringent state-playoff guidelines such as staying off the track and out of the endzones. Wouldn't it be exciting for our team to go to the state finals?

### Photo Permission

As we discussed at conferences, I hope to update our class website soon with some of the photos we have been taking as we enjoy special events at school. No names will be printed with the photos. If you do not want your child's photos on the website, please send me a note stating this.

November 10, 2008

Mondays are Catitude Shirt days, so please help your child remember to wear this shirt each Monday. Don't the shirts have a great message?

Our football Wildcats will play at Monett tonight, and our Wildcat cheerleaders will head to state competition at the end of the week. Go, Cats!

### Spelling

### Final Syllables *er, ar, or*

danger	wander	tractor	dollar	harbor
eager	eraser	surrender	solar	sticker
locker	helicopter	pillar	refrigerator	caterpillar
rumor	glimmer	linger	sensor	alligator

### Challenge Words

numerator	collector	ancestor	counselor	denominator
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### Vocabulary Words

### *from "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere"*

fate	fearless	glimmer	lingers
magnified	somber	steed	*belfry
*grenadiers	*stealthy		

### Math Update

We have now practiced both the partial quotients and traditional (column) division methods, and I hope your child is gaining an understanding of at least one of them. Thanks for your help with homework as we practice these skills!

One problem that I have seen as I helped students with these methods is students not knowing basic addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts. Lack of knowledge of these facts slows students down and makes all math more difficult than needed. You can easily find out if your child knows the facts with instant recall by simply quizzing him or her in the car as you travel. If he has to count on fingers or in other ways, more practice is needed. Students should have all facts down to instant recall by now. It is easy to make flashcards or practice on a computer game to further master these facts.

### Looking Ahead

November 26-28	Thanksgiving Break
December 9	Parent Night
December 16	Nutcracker Performance
December 19	Second Quarter ends

November 4, 2008

Go, Cats! Because of our win over East Newton last Thursday, our Cassville Wildcats football team will head to the first round of state playoffs this Wednesday at Mt. Vernon. We will be having Black & Gold Day Wednesday to show our support. Our Big Cat, Dustin Tucker, will again be visiting our room.

I hope your fifth-grader enjoyed our Cattitude celebration Friday. Mrs. LeCompte has asked that students wear the Cattitude t-shirts on Mondays to get our week off to a great start. I'm proud of those students who listened Friday and remembered to wear those special shirts today.!

### Traditional Division

We have been practicing the Partial Quotients division algorithm in math, which is the division method suggested by the Everyday Math program. However, our middle-school teachers prefer that students know and use the traditional division method we learned as children. We will be introducing and practicing this method this week. Please help your child as needed with this important skill.

### Spelling Words

### Final Syllables -en, -an, -el, -le, -il

example	level	human	quarrel	scramble
evil	oxygen	wooden	double	travel
cancel	chuckle	fossil	toboggan	veteran
chisel	suburban	single	sudden	beagle

### Challenge Words

obstacle	kindergarten	abdomen	pummel	enlighten
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### Vocabulary Words

### *from "Jane Goodall's 10 Ways to Help Save Wildlife"*

conservation	contribute	enthusiastic	environment
investigation	*humane	*loggers	*tapeworms

### Science Notebooks

Your student will be bringing home his science notebook from the Living Things unit later this week. Students may keep the scoring sheet for the notebook, as well as the final test, at home but are asked to bring the notebook itself back after you have had a chance to see it. We will keep all notebooks at school and use them for review just prior to taking the Science MAP Tests in April.

October 27, 2008

It's Red Ribbon Week! We have so many activities this week, including:

- Monday: We wore our badges today to be Deputies Against Drugs. Students are encouraged to wear these badges the other days this week, also.
- Tuesday: Red Ribbon Parade We will be walking down to the square for the parade, so please be sure students have comfortable shoes and a coat and gloves with them at school tomorrow.
- Wednesday: Sock It to Drugs Silly socks are the dress code of the day. Mismatched socks are another possibility, if you don't have any silly ones.
- Thursday: Hats Off to Good Choices Students may wear hats throughout the day.
- Friday: Wildcats Against Drugs Students will wear our new Cattitude shirts for Black and Gold Day. We will also be having our PBS Pizza Party and students will be eating and doing activities outdoors, so please be sure your child is again dressed appropriately with warm clothes if the weather is cold again.

### Conference Update

Thanks so much for your great attendance at our Parent-Teacher Conferences. I enjoyed getting to discuss your child's fifth-grade year with you. Please do not hesitate to call or send a note if any questions or concerns arise.

### Spelling Words

snore	tornado	spare	appear	career
square	report	prepare	pioneer	chair
beware	smear	repair	sword	ignore
order	engineer	resort	volunteer	declare

### Challenge Words:

impair	directory	hardware	clearance	porpoise
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### Vocabulary Words

*from "The Ch'i-lin Purse"*

astonished	behavior	benefactor	distribution	
gratitude	procession	recommend	sacred	
traditions	*footmen	*matchmaker	*pavilion	

### Math Update

As we start into division, this would be a great week to review multiplication facts. Students who do not know these basic facts will have a much more difficult time with the related division facts.

October 20, 2008

Can you believe the first quarter of our year is already over? How time flies when you're having fun! We're flying toward our parent-teacher conferences Wednesday and Thursday, too. I'll see you on Wednesday/Thursday at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. for our conference concerning \_\_\_\_\_ progress this year. Please notify the office if you cannot attend and we will reschedule your conference.

Our Intermediate School Book Fair is going on in the library this week, and you are welcome to attend when you come to conferences. Our class previewed the fair today. Students will be allowed to go back any day this week that they have brought money.

#### Perfect Attendance Activity

Students with at least 96% attendance this quarter will be traveling to the outdoor classroom for a special hotdog roast Tuesday to recognize their great achievement. I am so proud of my class's attendance, possibly the best class I have ever had for being here every day. Thanks so much, parents, for recognizing how important it is to be here and having your child here whenever possible. These students will want to wear tennis shoes (it's a long walk to the outdoor classroom from here!) and probably a jacket or sweatshirt tomorrow: Memory Barber, Austin Black, Dailey Creason, Colton Dilbeck, Britany Fitzpatrick, Drew Hare, Chad Howerton, Madison Jamieson, Kody Long, Tawnie Nelson, Jeremiah Pendleton, Valeria Perez, Jessica Roberts, Taylor Sanders, Chance Shepherd, Derek Shore, Ryann Stewart, Paofue Vang, and Kiley Wolf. What a list!

#### No Spelling and Vocabulary Words

With the short week and Nutcracker speaking auditions this week, we will not be having a regular reading story or spelling word list. We will be trying to get our Missouri animal reports finished, among other activities, during this busy week. If your child does not have a rough draft of the animal report turned in, he needs to complete that tonight.

#### No School Friday

Remember that there is no school this Friday, October 24 for Fall Break, and that school dismisses Thursday at 1:00. Please be sure your child knows where to go if different than usual. There will be no tutoring Wednesday, but we will resume the next week as usual.

October 14, 2008

I hope you had an enjoyable day yesterday with your fifth-grader. Please remember that next week is also a four-day school week, with no student attendance on Friday, October 24. Students will be dismissed at 1:00 on Thursday, October 23 for parent-teacher conferences.

#### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Your child is bringing home a conference schedule today. Please fill it out with three possible conference times and return it tomorrow. If you will note other students in your family, we will try to schedule the conferences as close together as possible. I'll look forward to meeting with you next week to discuss your child's fifth-grade year so far.

#### Nutcracker Suite

The fifth grade's December presentation of the holiday classic The Nutcracker Suite will be here before we know it! We will be auditioning students for speaking parts next week. Having a speaking part requires a student to speak loudly, slowly, and clearly in front of very large crowds. Please talk to your child to see if he or she is interested. I will be sending home information about the costumes for all students soon.

#### Spelling Words

#### Irregular Plurals

stuffs	ourselves	pants	scissors	loaves
volcanoes	chiefs	buffaloes	flamingos	beliefs
echoes	shelves	quizzes	sheriffs	dominoes
thieves	measles	avocados	chefs	pianos

#### Challenge Words

bailiff	wharves	mosquitoes	armadillos	desperadoes
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#### Vocabulary Words *from "Passage to Freedom"*

agreement	cable	diplomat	issue
refugees	representatives	superiors	visa
*Hanukkah	*Nazis	*Soviets	

#### Make a Difference Week

The Intermediate School will be collecting change this week for a Penny War. The money raised (and canned food brought in) will benefit local families in need. In the Penny War, pennies brought in will count for fifth grade. Silver coins brought in will be used against the other grades. Thanks for your help!

#### Science Test

Your child is bringing home a science review sheet tonight for a test Friday. Please quiz your child on these facts and send back the review sheet daily.

October 6, 2008

You may have heard from your fifth-grader that he or she had a substitute today. I have been at an eMINTS training, which is a requirement so that we may have this wonderful technology in our classroom. When I am going to be gone, I spend a lot of time planning and preparing to make sure that students will work on meaningful assignments, just as they would if I were here. Our district hires highly qualified substitutes, often our own retired teachers. I hope your child had a busy and good day!

### Book It

I am sending home a Pizza Hut Book-It calendar today for your child to record at-home reading time and hopefully earn a Personal Pan Pizza each month. Each student in our class can use extra reading practice, especially those who attend Title I reading class. Our reading goal is 100 minutes per week. Please post this on your refrigerator and note the time read in each day's box. At the end of the month, just sign at the bottom and return. Students who achieve their goal each month, October through March, will receive a special All-Star Reader Award.

### Letters Home

I hope that you have been reading and enjoying your fifth-grader's letters home each weekend. On most Fridays, we write home in our composition notebooks about our activities that week. I appreciate those of you who write back to your child—I get to see students enjoying those letters in class (and sometimes even showing them to a friend!). You should be seeing improvement in your child's writing. At the end of the year, you should have a great record, in your child's own words (and yours), of the activities of his fifth-grade year. Please be sure that this notebook is returned each week—it is a language grade and requirement.

### Spelling

#### Digraphs *th, sh, ch, ph*

shovel	southern	northern	chapter	hyphen
chosen	establish	although	challenge	approach
astonish	python	shatter	ethnic	shiver
pharmacy	charity	china	attach	ostrich

### Challenge Words

emphasis	sophomore	athlete	phenomenal	chimpanzee
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### Vocabulary

#### *from "Inside Out" (2.1)*

caterpillar	cocoon	disrespect	emerge	
migrant	sketched	unscrewed	*gestured	*suspenders

September 29, 2008

We will not have a regular spelling list or vocabulary words this week, as we have finished a reading unit and will be taking the unit test. We will review these skills Monday, and you are welcome to practice them at home with a book you're reading with your fifth-grader or even with a television program you're watching together. The skills to be tested include:

- plot and character The plot of a story includes a problem, rising action as events build in the story, the climax of the story, falling action, and the resolution or ending. Characters in a story tell about themselves by their actions, the things they say, and the way they treat others.
- cause and effect Discuss things that cause something else to happen, or the effects of a happening. What if you changed something in the story? What would be the effects?
- theme and setting Theme is a difficult skill—finding the underlying meaning in a story. Setting is where and when the story takes place.
- sequence The order of events in a story is its sequence.

#### Website Updated

Our classroom website has been updated and now includes the spelling and vocabulary words for the entire school year. Just go to the school website at [cassville.k12.mo.us](http://cassville.k12.mo.us), click on "Faculty Web Pages," and click on "Mrs.Miekley" under the Intermediate School. Click on the "Current Studies" button to find links to the spelling and vocabulary word lists.

#### Math Unit 2 Checking Progress

We will be taking the Unit 2 Checking Progress test tomorrow, and your child should have brought home a study sheet tonight to practice these skills as needed. Included on the test will be:

- addition with carrying
- subtraction with borrowing
- place value
- multiplication including decimals
- probability (likely, very unlikely, etc.)
- landmarks for a set of numbers
- story problems

#### Homecoming Friday!

This Friday is the Homecoming football game, and students are encouraged to wear black and gold. Our class has a football-shaped piñata that we hope to break, so please send a bag of wrapped candy or small treats (erasers, etc.) to put in. Our Big Cat, Dustin Tucker, will join us for the excitement.



September 22, 2008

Happy fall! Can you believe summer is already over? How time flies!

#### Cattitude T-shirt Money Due

The \$2. for Cattitude t-shirts is due this Friday, September 26. I hope that each student will be able to purchase one of these very affordable t-shirts that remind us about our great behavior expectations. If your child's order blank has disappeared, just send \$2. in an envelope with his or her name and shirt size in children's or adults sizes.

#### After-school Tutoring

If your child stays after school on Wednesday for math tutoring, please remember that the outside doors are locked at 3:30. If you need to pick up your child early, you will need to send a note or call the office. I will walk students up to the door at the circle drive when we finish at 4:15. Thanks so much to those who have been attending and practicing needed skills!

#### Spelling

they're	you've	weren't	needn't	there'd
they've	mustn't	what'll	doesn't	hadn't
could've	would've	should've	might've	wouldn't
who've	shouldn't	who'd	this'll	couldn't

#### Challenge Words:

there've	mightn't	what've	needn't	there'll
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#### Contractions

#### Vocabulary

*from "Shutting Out the Sky"*

advice	advised	circumstances	elbow
hustled	immigrants	luxury	newcomer
peddler	*crannies	*greenhorn	*pushcarts

#### Math Update

We are reviewing methods of multiplication this week, and I will be introducing traditional multiplication this week. Although students really enjoy using the lattice method of multiplication, the sixth-grade teachers need for them to be skilled in traditional as well. This is the method we all learned in school! If you have time, please help your child practice this skill.

Homework tonight is rounding, another useful skill that students often struggle with. Feel free to help your child with this life skill as needed.

September 15, 2008

I would like to compliment my students and their families for our excellent class attendance these last few weeks! Last week, we had each of our 22 students here for at least part of each school day. That is awesome! Attendance is so important to success in school, so I hope we can keep this up. Thanks, parents, for helping get us all here every day!

Spelling Words

Adding -ed, -ing

supplied	denied	decided	included	admitted
supplying	denying	deciding	including	admitting
occurred	qualified	identified	delayed	satisfied
occurring	qualifying	identifying	delaying	satisfying

Challenge Words:

occupied	criticized	omitted
occupying	criticizing	omitting

*We will be writing these words in print and cursive on our final test Friday, and will soon be taking them only in cursive. If your child is having problems forming letters correctly in cursive, please work with him or her. This can seriously affect the spelling grade!*

Vocabulary Words

from "Satchel Paige"

confidence	fastball	mocking	outfield
unique	weakness	windup	*duo
*potholes	*semi-pro		

Subtraction

Some students are having problems with subtraction, both with knowing basic subtraction facts and with borrowing correctly when working harder subtraction problems. Please sit down with your child, have him do a few subtraction problems, and see if he is counting on fingers for basic facts or having problems with borrowing. If so, working with some flashcards will help, as will giving him one subtraction problem a day. One good idea is to get an inexpensive scratchpad (like a free one from your bank), fill it up with one subtraction problem per page, and have your child work one every day. He can check himself on a calculator and correct as needed. Subtraction is a skill that should be well-mastered by now!