**KB Literacy Update**

**Friday January 23, 2015**

At the beginning of January we began learning sight words. Sight words are high frequency words that are often hard to read and spell because they do not follow phonetic rules and therefore need to be recognized or memorized by “sight”. They are also referred to as “high frequency” words because they appear in most sentences. This means learning these basic words is an important first step in beginning reading.

Each day at school, we focus on a new sight word. We practice finding sight words in our poem and morning message; we sing songs to learn how to spell and read them; we use play dough to make the words; we practice printing the letters in sand, salt, or paint; we print the words on the school wall with snow; we make words in the snow with coloured water; we use magnet and rock letters to build words; and we practice words using iPad apps and web-based programs.

Today we are sending home a list of JK/SK sight words for your child to practice at home. There are 36 Kindergarten sight words that your child needs to know before grade 1. This list has 42 words – the italicized words are extras that come up often and would be beneficial for your child to learn. You can cut the words into strips or individual cards and keep them in a shoe box or Ziploc bag. Or you can keep the list intact and make your own flash cards. Whatever you choose, please keep the list somewhere safe and use it daily. Regular practice is the key for long term retention.

Next week, your child will bring home their own sight word ring with the first group of words we have learned in class. Once they have learned all the words on the ring, they will bring it back to school to read to us and we will add the next group of words. We wanted to provide a list of all 36 words for you to keep as a reference before we send home the word rings.

Thank you for your support in helping your child with this important step in literacy development.

Happy Reading!

☺ Ms. Ferren and Ms. Hewitt