

Dear Family:

I have a lot to share this week. The students are becoming good readers and quite good spellers, and thank you for your help.

Once again, in Unit 10 a new syllable type is introduced. This new syllable type is called the “D” *syllable* because it contains a double vowel combination, two vowels next to one another such as **ai** in the word **bait**. This syllable is marked:

bait  
d

There are several of these vowel combinations in the “D” syllable, but in this Unit we will be working on the **ai** and **ay** combination.

**ai** - **bait** - /ā/      **ay** - **play** - /ā/

These sounds were introduced earlier in the year, but now we will focus on them in more detail for both reading and spelling.

Reading this new syllable type will not be as difficult as the spelling. Spelling will be a challenge for this syllable type just as it was in the r-controlled syllable. The long sound /ā/ is found in three types of syllables: the vowel-consonant-e, the open, and the “D” syllable. Therefore, your child will need to make decisions as to what option to select when spelling a word. Some parents have asked about electronic spell checkers. These can be used as well as a dictionary in order to determine the correct spelling whenever a word has options. With either, you may help your child determine the correct option.

Please let me know if your child is having difficulty with this work.

Sincerely,

