



October 2019

Dear Parents,

Fall greetings! I just wanted to send home some information about a specific program that your children will be learning this year during our weekly phonemic awareness lessons called *Sounds in Motion*. This is a very unique program in that it pairs kinesthetic gross motor movements with phonemes (speech sounds) to teach articulation, phonemic awareness and sound/symbol association. Speech/language therapists and teachers have found that *Sounds in Motion* seems to be particularly beneficial as it emphasizes the development of listening skills, uses body movements that correspond to the linguistic aspects of the articulation of each phoneme (sound), and it is FUN! Most notably, it focuses on strengthening their awareness and discrimination of the short vowel sounds, such as the 'e' in the word "egg", which can be somewhat challenging for young children. According to Frances Santore, the program's creator, *Sounds in Motion* is a dynamic approach that can help children "at risk" take the first crucial steps in closing the literacy achievement gap.

The picture cues chart (which provides visual cues to help children recall the specific movements) is attached to this letter and can also be found under the 'curriculum resources' section on the Miller Avenue homepage @ www.swrschools.org. Consider printing it out and keeping this chart handy during reading and writing assignments to reinforce your child's utilization of the strategies (they will be able to demonstrate the ones they've learned so far). Recently, we explored the 'b' and 'm' sounds – ask your child to show you how they look! As always, thank you for your support!!!

Sincerely,

☺ Mrs. Amy Schuchman

 ch	 sh	 v	 u	 t	 s	 y
 f	 e	 p	 c	 b	 g	 d
 l	 i	 p	 i	 n	 m	 y
 r	 q	 p	 o	 n	 y	 y
 x	 w	 v	 u	 t	 s	 y
 ch	 sh	 v	 u	 t	 s	 y