

# Greetings, Family!

Energy drives the world in which we live. All movement, light, heat and sound come from some form of energy. Our science class will be exploring different kinds of energy and will take a close look at examining light in our next unit, "Energy." We'll explore different forms of energy and the means by which they change forms. We will look at how light is perceived by the eye and the way in which it affects how we see the things around us.

How can you bring science from the classroom to the home? Encourage your child to look in magazines and newspapers and to watch the news for stories about the use of energy in its different forms: electrical, mechanical, sound, light, thermal, and chemical. You can also help your child by pointing out the ways in which all of these forms of energy interact in daily life. For example, when using a blender, note that electrical energy is converted to mechanical energy to move the blades. Then, turn the blender off and touch it. Note that some of this mechanical energy has been converted to thermal energy due to friction. You feel the thermal energy in the form of heat. In discussing light with your student, ask him or her to explain how objects and people look different as the light changes (morning/evening, candlelight, lightbulb). Talk about how this happens.

For this unit, we'll also be doing some hands-on activities concerning energy using the materials listed below. Can you donate or loan any of these items? If so, we need to receive your items by \_\_\_\_\_.

- heavy duty plastic wrap
- cork
- flashlight
- block of wood
- spring bottle (washed out, if used for cleaners, etc.)
- pizza box
- thin dowel
- plastic foam ball
- aluminum foil
- spring
- D-battery
- shallow bowl

Finally, we could also use your help in the classroom. Do you or other family members have any particular interest or special experience with this topic? Would you be able to help with the activities? If so, please fill out the form below and have your student return it to class.

Thank you very much for your help!

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## Family Newsletter

### Unit D, Energy

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_