

# Greetings, Family!

Everything we touch is made of atoms, from the chairs we sit on to the air we breathe. In our next unit, “Elements and Their Combinations,” our science class will be learning about what composes the world around us. We will be looking at the essential components, atoms, as well as their many combinations, known as compounds. We will also examine the states in which these forms of matter exist (solid, liquid, gas) and how they interact.

You can help make science come alive for your student by helping him or her observe the forms of matter that are all around us. Ask your student to note elements in your home environment. For example, pennies are composed of zinc covered with copper. Help your student distinguish these elements from compounds, such as the water you drink, and from mixtures, such as the soup or salad you eat for dinner. What state of matter are these objects in—solid, liquid, or gas?

For this unit, we will also be doing some hands-on activities to study matter and its properties, using the materials listed below. Can you donate or loan any of these items? If so, we need to receive your materials by \_\_\_\_\_.

- |               |                 |                         |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| • string      | • sticky notes  | • low-voltage batteries |
| • clear tape  | • baking soda   | • masking tape          |
| • plastic cup | • salt          | • paper clips           |
| • sand        | • tape measures | • balloons              |
|               |                 | • plastic wrap          |

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, Elements and Their Combinations

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

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