

Greetings, Family!

Like all living things, people depend on the environment for everything they need to stay alive. The living and nonliving things around us have many effects on our everyday lives. In our next unit, "Ecology," students will be learning about the environment and ecosystems. Students will also explore how ecosystems change in both positive and negative ways.

You can make science come alive for your student by spending time together outside observing nature. Even if you live in the city, you can observe many different types of living things and natural cycles in gardens, parks, and vacant lots. The banks of ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers are also good places for spotting different types of ecosystems. Encourage your student to keep a journal of his or her observations. This might include written descriptions, drawings, charts, or photographs. Discuss your student's observations together.

For this unit, we will also be doing some hands-on activities related to cycles and changes in the environment. Can you donate or loan any of these items? If so, we need to receive your items by _____.

- leafy, potted plants
- clear plastic bags
- twist ties
- shallow plastic containers
- small plastic cups

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!

Family Newsletter

Unit D, Ecology

Parent: _____ Student: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____