

# Greetings, Family!

What does it mean for something to be alive? And what do living things need in order to live in their habitats? In this unit, "Living Things in Their Environment," our science class will be studying how living things interact with each other and how they adapt to their habitats. We will also be studying the ways different types of living things obtain energy. Finally, we'll explore the concept of a food chain.

You can make science come alive for your child in many ways. Point to objects around you and ask your child: "Is this a living thing? What does it need in order to stay alive? What living things does it compete with for resources? Does it have adaptations for living in its habitat?" At family meals, discuss where each of the foods on your plate came from. Ask: "Where did the ear of corn obtain its energy for life? What about the chicken? The potato?"

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

- soil
- water bottles
- tweezers
- salad tongs
- pliers
- strainer/slotted spoon
- large feathers
- baby oil
- aluminum pan

Finally, we could 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 activities? If so, please fill out the form below and have your child return it to the class.

Thank you very much for your help!

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## Family Newsletter

### Unit B, Living Things in Their Environment

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

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