

Greetings, Family!

Like all living things, we humans depend on the environment for everything we need to stay alive. To stay healthy and to keep our planet healthy, we have to learn how to protect the environment and keep it in balance. In our next unit, “The Changing Environment,” students will be learning about the environment and different ecosystems. Students also will explore how essential materials cycle through the ecosystems and how ecosystems change in healthy and unhealthy ways.

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

For this unit, we will be doing several hands-on activities related to cycles and changes in the environment. To do these activities, we will need the materials listed below. Can you donate any of these items? If so, we need to receive your donated materials by _____.

- drinking straws
- twist ties
- wooden skewers
- construction paper
- houseplants (no cacti)
- posterboard
- yellow sheet or tablecloth
- small plastic bags
- graph paper

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 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 B, The Changing Environment

Parent: _____ Student: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____