

Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our next unit of study, “States of Matter.”

In “States of Matter,” your child will be introduced to concepts in physical science like the fact that everything in the world is made up of matter and takes the form of liquid, solid, or gas. Furthermore, matter has properties such as shape and size and those properties can change. Your child will be looking at the world not just as a scientist, but as an artist. We’ll read about a sand sculpture contest and about the man who carved a huge memorial of the 19th Century Native American leader Crazy Horse into a mountainside in South Dakota. Your child will read a procedural text and have a chance to practice origami, the Japanese art of paper folding.

I hope you’ll agree that this cross-disciplinary unit is an exciting way to end the year. Should you have any questions about our reading program or about your child’s progress, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for partnering with me this year!

States of Matter

In this unit, we learn a lot about different kinds of matter and think in depth about the question “How can matter change?” Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation about physical science and to build on the skills and concepts your child has learned in school. Hopefully you’ll even have some fun, too, as you work together!

Topic Connection

Change It Up!

As your child learned, matter changes state all the time—especially in the kitchen. So next time you boil water for pasta, bake a cake or watch ice cubes melt, stop and talk with your child. What do you see happening? How has the water—or the cake batter or the ice—changed? Why?

Vocabulary Connection

Talk All About It

In school, students are learning new words to add to their knowledge and everyday use. Some of these words are **battle, carve, crumble, divided, elder, exposed, honor, permission, pumped, spread, stunning, and undergoes.**

You can support students’ word knowledge by using these words in meaningful contexts as you talk about your day, play sports and games, or do activities together.

Comprehension Connection

Fast Facts

Some of the selections we’ll be reading in class are informational science texts, and one important skill we’re working on is finding facts. To help reinforce this skill, you can read a nonfiction book or an article, or watch a news program with your child. Then ask your child to tell the facts he or she has learned.

Phonics Connections

Suffix Opposites: “Ful” and “Less”

In our phonics instruction, students are learning about adding the suffixes “ful” (which means “filled with”) and “less” (which means “without”) to words. To help your child with this skill, try the following activity. Make index cards of the words below from the unit, and also of the suffixes. Take turns picking a word and adding both suffixes. Discuss the meaning of each new word formed.

hope	fruit	use
ful	less	