

Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our next unit of study, “The Power of Electricity.”

We are ready to kick off our tenth and final unit of study in the Benchmark Advance program! You have been such a help with extending your child’s learning out of the school classroom and bringing it into the home and world classrooms. Thank you so much for your efforts. As with the previous units, I am providing suggested activities you and your child can do together at home to build on the work we’re doing in class.

In this unit, we will read and compare selections about electricity to understand how scientific discoveries change the world. We will be reading a variety of genres, including informational texts, a journalistic article, fiction and poetry.

This unit will help you and your child appreciate how the power of electricity helps us live in such a fascinating and fast-paced world today.

As always, should you have any questions about our reading program or about your child’s progress, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

The Power of Electricity

In this unit, we read about how electricity has affected our lives for over a century. We will do this by thinking in depth about the question “Where do scientific discoveries lead us?” Here are some activities you can do at home to continue the conversation we started at school about the power of electricity in our everyday lives.

Topic Connection

Masters of Electricity History

To help students focus on the work of the inventors and innovators in electricity, have your child choose one of the following people they read about in the unit: Benjamin Franklin, Nikola Tesla, Hertha Marks Ayrton, and Thomas Edison. Help your child do research about that person online in books. Invite your child to make a short illustrated pamphlet about that innovator and his or her work in the field of electricity.

Vocabulary Connection

Sentence Starters

In school, your child is learning new words related to electricity and its usage. Help your child put these words to use. Choose five of the following words and use them in sentence starters that your child can complete: **charge, spark, complex, produces, renewable, developing, generator, particles, network, and transmission.** To make it into a game with a maximum of 10 possible points, give your child one point for every sentence that uses the word correctly, and two points for every sentence about electricity that uses the word correctly.

Comprehension Connection

Imagine a World

In this unit, students are learning where scientific discoveries lead us and how they help us to make our everyday tasks easier in many ways. Provide your child with a different perspective on this idea by having him or her imagine what her everyday life would be like if electricity were never invented. Invite your child to summarize his ideas in a short paragraph or in an illustrated story.

Word Study Connections

Transmission Loud and Clear!

For our final unit, help your child focus on the use of the word *transmission* as it relates to electricity. Have your child divide a piece of notebook paper or construction paper into four sections. In each section, ask your child to draw a different depiction of the *transmission* of electrical energy. Have him or her write a short caption for each picture to explain what is happening in the picture.