Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our next unit of study, “Government at Work.”

In our third unit, we’ll be learning about the role that government plays in our lives. For example, police officers and firefighters help keep us safe, and local workers help keep parks beautiful and clean. Your child will also be learning about laws—what they are, why they matter, and what happens when we break them. The selections include a variety of genres, such as poetry, historical fiction, and an interview along with informational social studies texts.

It’s an interesting and informative unit. I hope it will generate some engaging discussions at home as you and your child work on some of the following activities together.

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

Government at Work

In this unit, we will read fictional and nonfictional selections about the government and think in depth about the question "Why do we need a government?" Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation about government and to build on the skills and concepts your child will learn in school. Hopefully, you'll even have some fun, too, as you work together!

Topic Connection

Walk the Talk

As you and your child walk or drive around your community, point out examples of local government in action. You can show your child the courthouse or police station; you can stop in at the fire station or stroll through a neighborhood park. Talk about how your local government fixes potholes, provides crossing guards, keep parks clean, and helps keep us all safe.

Vocabulary Connection

Colorful Words

As we read this unit, students will learn many new words, including: **allowed, decisions, demanded, displayed, eager, example, order, rule, sketch, snip, spotted,** and **urgent.**

To support your child's word knowledge, consider the following activity. Make a small booklet of 10–12 pages. On each page, write one of the vocabulary words. Brainstorm together about how to represent each word. Then draw pictures—or cut them out of magazines or print them from the Internet.

Comprehension Connection

What Comes First?

One of the selections we'll be reading in class explains what happens when a driver gets a speeding ticket from a police officer. Reading such a text and then putting the steps in order is an important skill. To review this skill, read simple recipes or directions with your child. Ask your child to retell the steps in order.

Phonics Connections

U Can Do This

In our phonics instruction, students are reading words that have the *long u* sound, including constructions that have *u, ew, oo, and ue*. To help your child gain fluency reading this letter and letter combinations, try the following activity. See how many words with a long "u" sound you can come up with by brainstorming together. Look around the house, open up a book. Below is a list of some words from the unit to help you get started.

interview, few, menu, music, rescue, use, fuse, cube, cupid, value, huge