Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our next unit of study, "Wind and Water Change Earth."

In this unit, we'll be studying earth science and forces of nature. Through informational texts, opinion texts, and newspaper articles we will learn new concepts like erosion and weathering. We'll be reading about tornadoes, mudslides and hurricanes as we learn about the effects wind and water have on mountains, shorelines, and the world around us. As we read and look at pictures of the Grand Canyon, we'll see "a sculpture that has been carved over five million years by the mighty forces of nature."

In addition to learning new concepts, we will also be thinking critically about different issues. Our selections include opinion texts (Letters to the Editor of a newspaper) with suggestions on how to rebuild a town in Florida that was flooded during a hurricane.

"Wind and Water Change Earth" is an informative and interesting unit, and I hope you'll find time to continue our discussions at home. As always, should you have any questions about our reading program or about your child's progress, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Wind and Water Change Earth

In this unit, we read about forces of nature, and we think in depth about the question "How do we react to changes in nature?" Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation about the concepts in earth science your child is learning and to build on the reading skills we are working on in class. Hopefully you'll even have some fun, too, as you work together!

Topic Connection

Water, Wind and Water

It's not just the Grand Canyon that has been affected by water and wind. Look around your home and community. What effects of water and wind can you find? Has the shoreline changed? Is a river overflowing its banks? What about the buildings or signs you see? How many examples of erosion or weathering can you find?

Vocabulary Connection

Words That Go Together Tell a Story

As we read about earth science, we will learn several vocabulary words, including a bunch that can be grouped together depending on how they are used. Discuss the meaning of each of these words. Then discuss how, and why, they can be thematically related (such as during, and after, a flood). Bonus: the word *bunch* is also a new vocabulary word in this unit.

flowed **rushing** **results**

drain **absorb**

Comprehension Connection

One, Two, Three!

The ability to summarize the key ideas or facts of a text is a very important skill, and it's one that we will work on in this unit. To help your child practice this skill, read a text or view a movie together. Take turns summing up the most important facts or events of different chapters or scenes.

Phonics Connections

Men, NOT "Mans"

In our phonics and word study instruction, students are learning to recognize nouns that have unusual or irregular plurals. Some of these irregular plural words from the unit are listed in bold below, along with their singular noun. To help your child become more familiar with these nouns, make index cards of the plural nouns and take turns picking a card and calling out the singular noun.

people	**children**	**teeth**	**fish**	**deer**	**women**
person	child	tooth	fish	deer	woman