

Dear Families,

Our class is beginning the Science Companion® Weather Unit. This yearlong unit builds on the natural curiosity children have about the world around them and encourages them to investigate the weather that permeates their everyday lives.

During the Weather Unit, the children will:

- Practice using tools that measure temperature and precipitation.
- Act as meteorologists to observe the weather and record a variety of details about it, both individually and as a group.
- Compile and analyze weather data to draw conclusions about weather patterns over the month and between seasons.
- Discover the role of sunlight as the primary cause of weather conditions on Earth.
- Explore water's different states and its various roles in weather.
- Learn how moving air creates wind and experience this invisible substance that surrounds us.

In addition to the work your child will do in class, you and your child can explore this rich topic together at home in the following ways:

- Talk routinely about the current weather. Use the Internet, newspaper, or television reports and stories to enrich your discussions about weather. If you'd like, you can use a home weather calendar and record data over weekends and vacations.
- Visit the library and search for books about weather to read together and share with the class. Book suggestions and recommended web sites about weather are listed on our web site at **www.sciencecompanion.com**. Click on Recommended Reading for book references and Lesson Web Links for web sites.
- Work together on the Family Link activities that are sent home from time to time. Your child may also want to repeat and vary some of the activities we do in class, as well as explain what they discovered and learned. Try to encourage their independent experimentation at home.

Throughout the school year, your child will learn that weather is a dynamic and sometimes unpredictable part of nature. Weather lends itself to a wealth of environmental experiences and provides a connection to a child's own world. Hopefully, you will share some of your child's enthusiasm, thereby learning with them while helping them explore.

Sincerely,