**Dear Kindergarten Family,**

This week, your child will start a new Elementary Literacy Unit in the classroom. We’d like to share more information and explain what they will be learning, how they will be learning, and provide ideas for how you can support their learning at home.

During Unit 1 of this module, your student will look at how different people enjoy trees. By the end of the module, students will be able to participate in a discussion about the module guiding question: “How and why are trees important to us and our communities?”

**What will your student be learning?**

Students will begin to study the topic of how and why trees are important to us and our communities with a focus on the different ways people enjoy trees. The learning will be focused on these ideas:

* There are different ways that people can enjoy trees.
* We can learn about different ways people enjoy trees through comparing and contrasting characters in books.

Students will also practice these reading foundation skills:

* Identify and write the sound for most consonants and vowels
* Segment (break apart) the individual sounds of spoken, one-syllable words, and blend them back together
* Decode (read) and encode (write) regularly spelled, one-syllable words

**How will your student be learning?**

Throughout the unit, your student will read, think, listen, talk, write, and ask questions about the different ways people enjoy trees. Students will participate in these activities, among others, to build their literacy skills:

* Listening to read-alouds and comparing and contrasting how characters enjoy trees in a variety of texts. These include *A Tree for Emmy* and *Oliver’s Tree*.
* Reciting poems about trees
* Engaging in conversations with classmates
* Closely observing pictures of trees and/or trees in the community
* Writing and drawing in their Enjoying Trees journal, Part I

**What can you do to support your student’s learning at home?**

Here are a few activities that you can do at home with your student to support his or her learning:

* Ask your student to talk with you about these questions: How do people enjoy trees?  What do you enjoy about trees?
* Read books and sing songs that show how people can enjoy trees from home or the library.
* Create a list with pictures and words of different ways people enjoy trees. Then do those activities with your child.
* Encourage your student to read the weekly Decodable Student Reader or a letter book to you every night.
* Practice reading and spelling regularly spelled, one-syllable words with the middle vowel sound /a/. For example: “pat,” “chat,” and “tap.”

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like for me to connect you to your classroom teacher regarding this information. Thank you for partnering with us on your child’s learning!