

LETTER TO FAMILY

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Cut here and paste onto school letterhead before making copies.

SCIENCE NEWS

Dear Family,

Our class is beginning a scientific study of insects and plants. We will be caring for and investigating several different insects, and growing a plant from seed, to find out about their lives. Some of the insects that will be visiting our class undergo complete metamorphosis, as in the classic case of the butterfly—egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. Other insects reach maturity by growing through a less dramatic sequence of stages in a process known as simple metamorphosis. The plant we will grow will go through its full life cycle—seed to plant to flower to seed—in just one month. Your child may demonstrate a heightened interest in insects and plants over the next several weeks.

One goal of our work with insects is to help the children develop a deeper appreciation for the diversity of life and to cultivate a sense of respect for all living things. If your child wants to catch an insect in a jar, please invite your child's insect friend into your home for a short time, and encourage him or her to return the insect to the wild after a short captivity. If you are interested in seeing what we have going on, as usual you are invited to visit and take part in the excitement. We're looking forward to lots of fun and lots of learning as we explore a world full of insects! You can get more information on this module by going to www.FOSSweb.com.

Sincerely,



HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Investigation 1: Mealworms

NEWS FLASH!

Today we received a new insect. It is a _____.

Here are three facts about it.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Investigation 2: Brassica Seeds

Dear Family,

In class, we are observing special fast-growing brassica plants. The family of brassica plants includes many plants that we enjoy at our table and see in the market.

Next time you go shopping with your child, please take this checklist and a pencil with you. Ask your child to check off any of the following brassica plants that he or she can find.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> mustard greens | <input type="checkbox"/> green cabbage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> brussels sprouts | <input type="checkbox"/> red cabbage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> kohlrabi | <input type="checkbox"/> collard greens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bok choy | <input type="checkbox"/> kale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> turnips | <input type="checkbox"/> cauliflower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> broccoli | <input type="checkbox"/> chard |

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Investigation 3: Milkweed Bugs

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

A boy wants to attract milkweed bugs to his garden. He knows that milkweed bugs eat milkweed seeds. He decides to grow milkweed plants. Then his garden will have food for the bugs.

He plants the seeds in the summer. It is very hot and dry. Many milkweed seeds do not sprout. If they do sprout, the plants get yellow and die. The boy wonders why the plants aren't growing.

1. What is the problem?

2. How can the boy solve the problem?

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

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Investigation 4: Silkworms

Insects (and their relatives, like spiders) sometimes leave evidence that they have been at work around your home and neighborhood. Take a field trip to look for evidence, such as holes in leaves, cocoons, webs, and the like. Make a list of your discoveries.

Evidence of insects	Evidence of other animals

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Investigation 5: Butterflies

Round up a collection of craft materials, such as sticks, wire, paper cups, rubber bands, foam packing material, and foam rubber if you have some. Use the craft materials to make a model insect. You can choose to make a real insect or make up an insect of your own.

Remember to include all the parts that make an insect an insect. Will your insect fly or just crawl around?