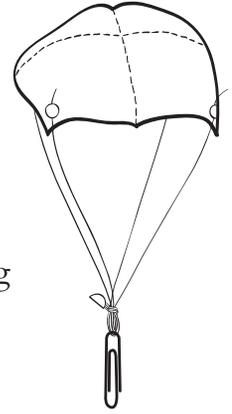# LETTER TO FAMILY

Cut here and paste onto school letterhead before making copies.

Science News

Dear Family,

Our class is beginning a study of air and weather that involves observing patterns in the day and night sky. Students will be looking for evidence that air is matter—that it is something real. Students will explore the properties of air using parachutes that they engineer to deliver cargo safely to the ground. Students will work with plastic syringes and tubing and observe how air can be captured, how air can be compressed, and how air under pressure can move things around. Students will observe daily weather conditions such as temperature, cloud cover, and wind conditions, and will analyze the number of hours of daylight over the year. They will be recording all this information on a class calendar and in a science notebook. Students will also observe and record daily changes in the appearance of the Moon over a month. They will be observing the Moon during the daylight hours and at home during the evening.

You can help your child learn more about patterns in the day and night sky. Share with your child the time of sunrise and sunset each day and try to observe these outdoors at least once during each month. Look at the night sky several times during the night and observe the movement of the stars and the Moon in the sky. You might discuss weather reports in the newspaper, on the Internet, or on television. If you have an indoor or outdoor thermometer, read and record the temperature at about the same time each day and look for patterns. Or, you may want to watch the temperature change over the course of one day. Does it happen that way every day? Weather is an ever-changing story. You can guide your child's scientific inquiry by helping him or her make observations and by nurturing his or her natural ability to ask questions based on those observations. Don't be surprised if you end up with a list of questions much longer than the initial observations.

You can get more information on this module by going to www.FOSSweb.com.

Sincerely,