

Chapter**20****Parent Letter and Activities**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child's health class is currently studying environmental health. This is a fascinating topic that is particularly timely. The news is filled with reports of hazardous wastes, chemicals, and pollution that threaten our well-being. By studying the connection between the environment and health, your child is preparing to deal with critical issues in an informed manner.

Some questions your child will answer as we study this topic are: *What contributes to pollution of the air, water, and soil? How does pollution affect the environment? How can air and water pollution be reduced? What actions can I take to protect the environment?*

To support and extend our classroom work, please set aside some time during the next few weeks to complete one or more of the following activities with your teen:

- Working together, conduct a home waste inventory. Identify the types of wastes your household produces, and try to find ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle materials you would normally throw out.
- Assist your teen in conducting an energy audit of your home. Locate and correct sources of energy loss, such as cracks around windows.
- Enjoy an outdoor activity together, from a walk in the park to a camping trip. Spending time with nature is the best way to appreciate the need to protect it.
- Together, research a local success story, such as a river or lake that has been cleaned up or a recycling campaign that has reduced the amount of solid waste collected in the community. What people or groups were involved in the project? How did they win support?

As always, feel free to engage in any other activities you think will help your teen develop an appreciation and respect for the environment. Thank you for supporting our classroom work. Please contact me if you want further information.

Sincerely,

Health Teacher