

## **Dear parents and caregivers,**

We are about to start an interesting new unit in science where we will be investigating soils.

Through a variety of hands-on explorations and investigations, your child will be learning about the differences and similarities between types of soils, the various components of soil, the way water changes the properties of soil, how soil affects and is affected by living things, and the numerous ways in which people use soil. Your child will also be challenged to think of ways to protect and improve the quality of soil.

You can talk to your child at home about how your family uses soil and benefits from soil. You may be able to explain the ways in which soil enriches your life, perhaps through growing a flower or vegetable garden, visiting the beach, or by pointing out the products you use that come from soil (i.e., fruits, vegetables, and grains) that nourish your family. You can also help your child to conduct a survey of your family's many uses of soil.

To ensure a wide range of experiences and make connections between this topic and your child's world, he/she may choose to bring one or more personal items to school for exploration during in-class activities. These items will be returned home once explorations are completed. To determine whether the item(s) is appropriate please contact me, your child's teacher.

Sincerely,