Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *How Can We Stop Land From Washing Away?* The unit leads up to a design challenge. Your child will identify and solve a problem caused by wind and water changing the land at a beach. Your child's at-home and out-of-school experiences can play an essential role in supporting the development of their own and their classmates' understanding of how the world works. As I work on planning the lessons, I would appreciate some ideas about how your child may have already experienced our new topic. Your feedback will help me incorporate their experiences into the unit.

If you can, please respond to as many of the following questions as you are comfortable answering. Rest assured that your child does not have to have relevant previous experiences to be successful with the unit.

1. Do you or your child have any experiences observing a change in the land, caused for example by a heavy rain, a flowing stream, an earthquake, or strong wind? Please share a summary of how the land changed and how long it took the land to change.

2. Would you share an example of something your child has learned outside of school and how they learned it? For example, perhaps your child learned how to draw a cat by watching his grandpa draw one.

In addition to sharing your child's experiences with me, I encourage you to discuss topics related to this science unit with your child. This can help them make sense of what they are doing in school. Here are some examples of questions to ask at home:

1. I hear you modeled what happens to sand when wind blows or rain falls on it. What happened to the sand? What do you think would happen if it was windy and rainy around here?

2. Can you help me understand the problem you are going to solve? Where do you think something like that could happen around here?

You can learn more about this science unit at ScienceEducation.si.edu/erosion-phenomenon. Please feel free to ask me questions. I want to work with you to make sure your child gets the most out of this unit.

Thank you.