Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *How Can We Protect and Clean Earth's Water?* The unit leads up to a design challenge. Your child will solve a problem of a water supply that became polluted during heavy rains and flooding. 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. Are there places in your community where your child may see loose trash; for example, along a road? Please share the type of location (park, road, etc.) and, if you are able, some pictures.
2. Is your child familiar with lawn or garden watering, irrigation, or plumbing materials, such as hoses, tubes, and connectors? Please share some examples of their experiences.

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. Did you watch a video of plastic pollution in the ocean? In what ways is our community connected to that problem?
2. Did you use a computer simulation about weather? How does the landscape here affect our weather?
3. Are you designing a way to get water to crops in a field? What are the different parts of the system you are designing? How do they work together to move water?

You can learn more about this science unit at ScienceEducation.si.edu/water-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.