

## Dear Third Grade Families,

Your child will soon be taking a half-day field trip to a local natural area as part of our life science study. Environmental Education Program staff will assist us on this trip.

The trip is designed to reinforce concepts from our classroom science units. In particular, it will give students a chance to experience and study local habitats in a natural setting. We will examine different places where plants, animals, and fungi meet their survival needs. Our mission is to stimulate children to move beyond their own viewpoint to understand how other organisms make a living and meet their survival needs. We will explore the physical and behavioral characteristics of organisms and how these features help them survive in their habitat.

An Environmental Education teacher and several volunteer naturalist guides will be present to accompany the class on the field trip. This will allow us to work in small groups in the field.

**Clothing:** please make sure that your child is dressed adequately for the field trip in terms of the weather and other conditions. This is an outdoor field trip and your child will be walking on trails for about one hour.

- **Shoes** (that Velcro or tie - no sandals or flip flops, no party or dress shoes) and **socks**
- **Boots** if conditions are muddy or cold
- **Long pants** for leg protection (even on hot days, to protect against poison ivy, thorns, etc.)  
Long sleeves are also recommended during mosquito season.
- **Hats/hoods & gloves/mittens** if windy or cold; hats are useful on sunny days, too
- **Raincoats** if raining (no umbrellas, they are a nuisance on the trail)
- **Insect repellent** – if necessary, please apply it at home or provide the roll-on or stick type – no sprays!

**Equipment:** extra equipment such as binoculars, cameras, etc. is not necessary on this trip. Items can get damaged, wet, lost, etc. Students also tire of carrying extra items in the field.

In the event of severe weather, high winds or other hazardous conditions, the trip will be canceled. However, a cancellation decision will not be made until the day of the trip. Therefore, we ask that you send your child fully prepared on the day the trip is planned. We will generally conduct trips even in light rain.

We look forward to facilitating this meaningful outdoor learning opportunity for your child! Thank you!