



Use the different sections of this letter to begin conversations with your child about what he or she is learning.

## Big Idea: Why are cycles important in nature?

Ask your child how this week's reading selection helps him or her answer this question.

### This week's reading selection: *Making Waves*

**Summary:** Ocean currents are the circular movement of water across Earth. Created by wind, changes in temperature and salinity, and even the gravity of the moon, currents have had an extraordinary impact on life around the globe.

► **DISCUSS** with your child different cycles and the impact these cycles have on the environment.

**Vocabulary** Have your child make flashcards to practice reading and defining these words.

lap	<i>verb</i>	to wash gently against
integral	<i>adjective</i>	an important and necessary part of
axis	<i>noun</i>	a real or imaginary line through the center of an object around which that object turns
gyre	<i>noun</i>	a moving spiral
clockwise	<i>adjective</i>	characterized by a circular movement that moves in the same direction as a clock's hands
kicks up	<i>verb phrase</i>	to cause a disturbance
fences	<i>verb</i>	encloses
teeming	<i>verb</i>	filled with
velocity	<i>noun</i>	the speed at which something moves
sustain	<i>verb</i>	to support
sediment	<i>noun</i>	small pieces of matter that have been carried into place by moving water
conversely	<i>adverb</i>	in opposition to a previous statement

### Spelling Practice these words with your child.

- |                  |                   |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. absent-minded | 8. historical     | 15. patriotic     |
| 2. athletic      | 9. left-handed    | 16. practical     |
| 3. clinical      | 10. life-size     | 17. self-respect  |
| 4. energetic     | 11. long-distance | 18. well-being    |
| 5. frantic       | 12. mythical      | 19. word-of-mouth |
| 6. get-together  | 13. numerical     | 20. year-round    |
| 7. high-tech     | 14. optimistic    |                   |

### Challenge

1. antiseptic    2. commander-in-chief    3. symmetrical

### Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will use checklists to revise, edit, and publish an informational text. Your child will have the opportunity to present his or her writing to the class.

**Grammar:** Your child will learn about different sentence types and end punctuation.

► **ASK** your child to generate a declarative sentence, an exclamatory sentence, an interrogative sentence, and an imperative sentence.