

Dear Families,

Our class is beginning the Science Companion® *Communications Project*. We communicate with each other in various ways through the day, but children may not think much about it. Some communication uses no technology, such as talking, shifts in body language, and changes in our tone of voice. Other communication relies on technology such as cell phones and email. In this design project, your child will develop their own communication technology to communicate information to a partner.

During the *Communications Project*, the students will:

- Discover that people have used sound and light to communicate information since ancient times.
- Recognize that people can create devices that use sound or light to communicate information. (For example, a simple code of flashing colored lights can communicate math problems across a room.)
- Send and receive messages using methods presented by the teacher.
- Work with a partner to design and test ways to send and receive messages.
- Demonstrate their communication device to the class.
- Describe how the device works, why they settled on their communication device, and the problems they solved along the way.

You and your child can explore this topic together at home by:

- Reading books together about communication technology. These might include science books, mystery stories, or historical accounts where people use technology to communicate over time or distance.
- Visiting the web site at **www.ScienceCompanion.com** to find a list of recommended web sites about communication.

The *Communications Project* encourages students to develop a new understanding of the ways that we can communicate over a distance. We hope the children will bring their discoveries and enthusiasm home, inviting you to learn alongside them—asking questions, discussing their work, and sharing their adventures in science and engineering.

Sincerely,