(*Add your school letterhead here*)

Date (*Change to current date*)

Dear Families,

We are excited to start Lesson Three, **Respecting Our House**, from the Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty Early Learning Curriculum. Your child will be exploring the cause and effect of human impact on the environment through a traditional Coast Salish story, discussions, and a science experiment. Students will have the opportunity to examine the importance of place and where we live in relation to the role we all play in the health of our shared home with all living things.

The goal of this lesson is for your child to explore the many components of a healthy environment or “house” with a hands on watershed experiment. Students will be able to create a watershed in class and see how different chemicals and pollutants travel through the land, streams, and rivers. They will be asked to reflect on how these things might impact the salmon, animals, and people living in and dependent on the watershed.

We would like to invite you to help us with this learning experience. Here are some ways you can help:

* Commitment to the health of your watershed: Think about and discuss ways you and your child could help the health of your watershed and come up with an easy and doable commitment you can both do. There is a piece of brown paper attached with this letter to represent a cedar strip. Write your commitment with your child and then return it to your child’s class. Students will share their commitments and then weave them together with the rest of their class’ cedar strips to make a paper cedar mat.
* Find out what the name of your local watershed is and where some small streams or rivers are that your watershed is connected to and take your child for a walk and explore!
* Explore some websites with great information on watersheds:
	+ **US Environmental Protection Agency: Surf Your Watershed** – <http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>
	+ **What Is A Watershed?** – A short video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOrVotzBNto>
	+ **Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission: State of our Watersheds Report -** <http://nwifc.org/publications/sow/>
	+ **Washington Tribes: Environment.** Resources and a short video. <http://www.washingtontribes.org/default.aspx?ID=39>
* Check out some nonfiction books about watersheds, water runoff, or pollution from your library.

Thank you for your contribution to our classroom’s educational experience. If you have questions please contact me at *(add your contact information)*.

**Respecting**

**Our House**

Exploration of cause and effect of

human impact on environment through traditional story, discussions, and science experiment. Exploration of the importance of place and the role we

 play in the health of our shared

home with all living things