March 8, 2016

Dear Second Grade Parents,

We are excited to announce the kickoff of our Expedition Unit! Our expedition is our biggest project and incorporates every subject area for the next five weeks. In the words of a wise second grade student, “an expedition takes it to the next level.” This letter is to inform you of several components to our expedition on Life Cycles.

Part of our expedition involves the students becoming experts, and to do so they will become experts in four animal’s life cycles. Every Wednesday each student will rotate through all four second grade classrooms. In Mrs. Anderson’s classroom, students will grow and dissect lima bean plants. In Mrs. Witcher’s class they will hatch larvae to ladybugs. With Mrs. Turpin, students will observe the life cycle of live tadpoles to frogs. In Mrs. Garner’s classroom students will candle chicken eggs and experience chicks hatching. Students will observe and record their observations in observation logs.

 We will also extend our expert lessons. Students will take the knowledge that they have learned on each animal or plant and apply it to their research to aid Cochran Mills Nature Preserve. We will research different animals that are indigenous to our region and that live in the sanctuary at Cochran Mills. Students will complete their research by creating a video that will have QR code access. Visitors to the Cochran Mill Nature Preserve will be able to scan the code by the designated animal and have our students videos appear! Their Videos will teach an array of things: that animal’s specific habitat, life cycle, and predator/prey connections to name a few. Cochran Mills has also discussed the possibility of linking our videos to their websites to assist all teachers in our region in teaching about animals in their classrooms.

To allow your child to appear in the video, please sign the permission slip on the back of this letter.

Our expedition will culminate with a Learning Celebration at Cochran Mills on March 31st. In addition to our field trip, our students will present the employees of Cochran Mills Nature Preserve with their expert work. Your child will be creating authentic work to be enjoyed by our community for years to come! How exciting! Please join us for our Learning Celebration if you are available. The cost will be $7, and you will play this at Cochran Mills.

Thank you for joining us on our expedition! Your support and encouragement are appreciated!

Mrs. Garner, Mrs. Witcher, Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Turpin

My child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, has permission to appear in the class video presentation that will be permanently housed on the QR codes and may be uploaded to Cochran Mills Nature Preserve’s website

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_NO- I do not want my child to appear on the expedition video.

Parent Signatute:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_