

Dear Families,

This year will be an exciting time for the students in my classroom. They will be learning social studies concepts in a highly engaging way.

Our school is using *Geography Alive! Regions and People*. This program truly engages students in learning. Your student will be an active participant instead of a passive observer by experiencing geography through imaginative teaching practices that include dramatic role playing, dynamic group projects, and writing from a geographic lens. Your student's program contains exciting online resources, including biographies, lesson games, and reading support. In addition, they will have an Interactive Student Notebook to help them organize ideas.

Curious about what your child will be learning this year? This year, students will be immersed in a powerful journey through the regions of the world. The curriculum will cover the physical and human geography in seven regions: Canada and the United States, Latin America, Europe and Russia, Africa, Southwest and Central Asia, Monsoon Asia, and Oceania and Antarctica. We will explore questions about the impact of urban sprawl, extreme weather, population density, and land use.

As we move through these exciting topics in geography, you can support your child's academic progress by following these tips:

- Discuss geography and current events with your child, and listen to what your child has to say.
- Ask to see your child's work on a regular basis so that you can see for yourself what your child is learning.
- Finally, extend learning beyond the walls of the classroom by encouraging your child to notice civics, economics, geography, and history in their own community. This can take many forms including visiting a historic monument in your community, taking your child with you when you vote, or discussing how your local climate impacts choices you make.

I want to thank you in advance for your support. I am looking forward to an exciting, enjoyable, and enriching year working with you and your child.

Sincerely,

Your child's teacher