



## The Fifth Grade Ecology Field Trip

Dear Fifth Grader,

Soon, you will be taking a trip to Peace Valley Nature Center. Even though you may have been there before, we would like you to visit this time with the “eyes and mind” of a young scientist. Some scientists study and care for the environment, they are called ecologists or environmental scientists. These scientists use their powers of observation to find out many things about the nature and health of the places they study. We invite you to use your powers of observation to help the naturalist who will be assisting you. You will be using *your* powers of observation to learn about different areas of the nature center, collect and record data, and come up with some answers about these places. You will be using tools and equipment that real scientists use when they study different places.

You will be examining three different ideas that are related to our environment: **Wetlands and Watersheds**, **Fields and Forests**, and you will be **Analyzing Water**.

Some people think that science is a collection of facts. Science is really about the way we discover how the world works. Figuring out how the world works really starts with asking good questions and making good observations. Use all your powers of observation and the tools you will have available to learn about how this part of our world works.

A famous scientist who studied the environment was Rachel Carson. She wrote one of the first books about how humans are affecting the environment it is called *The Silent Spring*. She has some advice for how we can look at things in a new way, “One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, ‘What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?’”

We hope you enjoy the day and learn some new things about our environment!

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers**

**Parents Note** - Please keep in mind that we will be walking in some areas that will be muddy, so we recommend you wear old shoes and long pants.