



Dear Parent or Guardian,

Our class just finished the second unit of the *Making Meaning*<sup>®</sup> program. The children love the stories we are reading! During this unit, the students continued to practice the comprehension strategy *making connections* by hearing and discussing stories and finding connections between the stories and their own lives. They also answered questions to help them understand the stories they heard.

During this unit, the children also practiced the social skill of talking and listening to one another. Listening well and talking to others are skills that help students learn and become active members of the reading community. One powerful way to build your child's ability to listen and talk is to pay attention to your child when the two of you talk about stories.

You can help your child make personal connections to stories. Before reading, ask your child to listen and think about what in the story is like his or her own life. While reading, stop every so often to ask questions such as:

- How do you think this person or animal feels?
- Have you ever felt that way? Tell me about it.

Another way to help your child think about a story more deeply is to ask questions while reading aloud, such as:

- What has happened in the story so far?
- What do you think will happen next?

Have fun reading, talking, and listening to each other!

Sincerely,