Dear Pre-K Purple Families,

We hope you enjoyed our last unit of study, Water! We are excited to begin Unit 8: Plants. The children will move from exploring the properties and uses of water to observing and learning about different kinds of plants. This unit provides children with opportunities to observe objects in their environment with increasing complexity, and allow children to use the knowledge they gained in previous units. As we teach remotely, and together, you will have discussions in your own home. Together, we will help children understand how and why plants change over time. For example, you can discuss weather changes, what plants need to grow and observe different plants, trees and flowers in your own home and neighborhood.

The questions the children will be focusing on during this unit are: “What are plants?” “What do plants need and where do we find them?” “What are some different kinds of plants?” and “Why are plants important?” The children will engage in activities that relate to plants, trees and flowers. They will incorporate previous units such as the Five senses, when exploring fruits and vegetables and how they grow, and the light and water units when discussing what plants need in order to grow. If possible for you to complete at home, the children will participate in planting seeds and performing experiments to see which type of environment seeds and plants grow best in. I will provide alternative activities for those who may not have seeds or plants in your home. They will also be exploring the different parts of plants, trees and flowers. The children will incorporate plants when creating artwork, such as painting or drawing still life pictures. By the end of the unit, the children should understand that:

- Plants are living things
- Plants need water, light and nutrients to live
- Plants are all around us
- Plants are important for different reasons and name the reasons
- There are different types of plants

The children will continue to work on literacy skills as well. They will be exposed to various texts about trees, plants and flowers, and will be discussing fiction and non fiction. They will also be drawing and labeling pictures of their observations during experiments.

Below are a list of vocabulary words we will be learning during this unit:

botanist, bouquet, branch, crown, bud, bulb, bush, cactus, compost, dirt, edible, environment, evergreen, floral, arrangement, florist, flower, forester, fruit, garden, gardener, greenhouse, ground, grow, habitat, harvest, herbs, landscape, lawn, leaves, medicine, nature, nursery, nutrients, petals, plant, pollen, roots, sap, sapling, seed, seedling, shade, soil, sprinkler, sprout, stem, succulent, sunlight, terrarium, tree, trunk, vegetables, vegetarian, vine, water lily, watering can, weeds, woods, yard

We hope you enjoyed the weekend! Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Please feel free to email me with any questions about this new unit. I will provide as many resources and attachments as I can, to help make teaching this unit at home a little easier!

Sincerely,

Ms. Schoeps and Ms. Isabel