



January 13, 2011

Dear Grade Two Parents,

Our current PYP Unit of Inquiry is called "Gizmos and Gadgets" and our Central Idea is: Simple machines are developed to overcome forces in order to make work easier.

The students are inquiring into:

1. The relationship between forces and movement.
2. The types of simple machines that assist in movement and how they work.
3. How simple machines have been incorporated into present day technology.

The students will have an opportunity to explore the following simple machines: gear, ramp, wedge, screw, lever, pulley and wheel and axle through classroom learning centres. After experimenting with these simple machines, the students will be asked to choose one of the simple machines and bring an example from home for a "Show and Share." Students will be asked to answer questions about their chosen object to assist them during the "Show and Share" activity in class. Please look for this homework assignment in your child's PYP folder later in the month.

Following these activities, the students will be given a task and asked to design a method, incorporating two or more simple machines, to make the task easier. This activity will be completed in class during the week of January 24, 2011. To prepare for this activity, I ask that the students begin collecting items at home from this materials list:

- paper towel rolls
- toilet paper rolls
- Kleenex boxes
- cereal boxes
- cardboard (different thicknesses)
- styrofoam meat trays
- wire coat hangers
- wine corks

Any help parents can give to collecting these items would be appreciated. The students should bring the materials to school on Wednesday, January 19, 2011. We will pool all the materials for students to use.

Thank you for your support of our program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me through the agenda, or email at [bhuggins@elmwood.ca](mailto:bhuggins@elmwood.ca).

Sincerely,

Brenda Huggins  
Grade Two Teacher