(*Add your school letterhead here*)

Date (*Change to current date*)

Dear Families,

We are excited to start Lesson Two, **House of Salmon**, from the *Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty Early Learning Curriculum*. Your child will be exploring the historical and contemporary role of salmon and their habitat in relation to the indigenous peoples of Washington. The lesson is based on the Native-authored storybook, *A River Lost,* written by Lynn Bragg, which shares a Colville Tribal experience. Your child will learn how the health of the “house of salmon” might impact the characters in the story. The goal of this lesson is for your child to explore the many components of a healthy home for salmon in a river habitat, how the relationships between living things, and the environment impact each other and the effect of pollution on those relationships. The lesson involves classroom discussions, family participation, and an ecological play activity.

We would like to invite you to help us with this learning experience. Here are some ways you can help:

* Take your child on a nature walk in your community, at a park, in the forest, near a stream or river, or in your own backyard. Ask your child what they think might help make a healthy and happy home for salmon. Things like rocks, fallen trees/ logs (sticks), native grasses, moss, flowers, leaves, and other organic materials help to make a diverse and healthy house for salmon. We have attached a plastic bag for your child to collect items to bring into the classroom. We will include the items you find on your walk into our lesson or display them in the Science Area in our classroom! We will begin this lesson the week of (*add date*), so please send your nature walk items by then.
* Explore some websites with great information on Pacific Northwest salmon with your child:
	+ **Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission** – [www.nwifc.org](http://www.nwifc.org)
	+ **Through Salmon Eyes** (13 minutes long) - A short video of a traditional story about Salmon Woman and the promises made to get salmon to return to their rivers of origin. <http://nwifc.org/publications/video/>
	+ **Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission** – [www.critfc.org](http://www.critfc.org)
	+ **Tribal Salmon Culture** - <http://www.critfc.org/salmon-culture/tribal-salmon-culture/>
	+ **Salmon Homecoming** - <http://salmonhomecoming.org/education/>
* Check out some nonfiction books about salmon and rivers from your local library.
* Pollution items! Another layer to this lesson includes adding pollution materials such as: plastics, paper, wrappers, rubber etc. (recyclables) to the healthy salmon habitat and exploring its effects. If you have any small items in your recycling that you wish to donate for this part of the activity, please send those in with your child as well! Please make sure items are washed and safe for children to handle.

Thank you for your contribution to our classroom’s educational experience. If you have questions please contact me at *(add your contact information)*.

**House of Salmon**

Exploration of the historic & contemporary significance of salmon and our shared ecosystem through a storybook, discussions, & ecological play