



BEYOND PESTICIDES

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Today your student's classroom teacher teamed up with the organization Beyond Pesticides to facilitate a fun and exciting lesson all about pollinators. Beyond Pesticides is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Washington, DC that represents community interests and actions to improve protections from pesticides and promote alternative pest management strategies. Through your child's participation in our *Pollinator Curriculum*, he/she learned about the important role pollinators play in our food system, and what would happen if bees and other pollinators were to disappear.

Honey bees and other pollinators in the U.S. and throughout the world are experiencing ongoing and rapid population declines. The continuation of this crisis threatens the stability of ecosystems, the economy, and our food supply, as one in three bites of food are dependent on pollinator services. To combat this, Beyond Pesticides launched a national public education effort known as the BEE Protective campaign, aimed at protecting honey bees and other pollinator populations from harmful pesticides, and supporting the creation of pesticide-free habitat. As part of this work, Beyond Pesticides set out to educate and engage society's youngest members, children in K-12 education, about the importance of bees and other pollinators and practices that protect these organisms.

We encourage you to take the time to talk with your child about what he/she learned today while participating in Beyond Pesticides' *Pollinator Curriculum*. Questions you may want to ask your child include:

- **What is pollination and why is it important?**
 - Pollination is the transfer of pollen from one flower to another. It is how plants reproduce/grow food.
 - Pollination is important because it produces food for people and animals- one out of every three bites of food we eat depends on pollinators.
- **Who are the pollinators?**
 - Pollinators include bees, birds, butterflies, bats and several other insects/animals
- **Why are pollinators disappearing? What are some reasons for the decline?**
 - Lack of forage or food (flowers)
 - Use of harmful chemicals on flowers and crops (eg., pesticides, including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides)
- **What can we as a family do to keep pollinators healthy?**
 - Buying organic food, which does not use pesticides in production is on big way to help pollinators. Making sure your yard is pesticide free and creating pollinator habitat, such as planting flowers that pollinators like or building a bee house, are all ways you can help!

To find out more and to see what you can do to get involved in saving our nation's pollinators, we encourage you and your family to visit our website, www.beeprotective.org or call our office at 202-543-5450. We thank you for taking the time to speak with your child about this important issue.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Feldman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jay Feldman
Executive Director