

Dear Parent,

Your son's or daughter's science class will soon begin exploring the chapter entitled "The Cell in Action." In this chapter, students will learn about how cells grow, reproduce, transport materials, and obtain energy. By the end of the chapter, students should demonstrate a clear understanding of the chapter's main ideas and be able to discuss the following topics:

1. what the process of diffusion is (Section 1)
2. how osmosis occurs (Section 1)
3. how passive and active transport compare (Section 1)
4. how large particles get into and out of cells (Section 1)
5. how photosynthesis and cellular respiration compare (Section 2)
6. how cellular respiration and fermentation compare (Section 2)
7. how cells produce more cells (Section 3)
8. why mitosis is important (Section 3)
9. how cell division differs in plants and animals (Section 3)

Questions to Ask Along the Way

You can help your child learn about these topics by asking interesting questions as he or she progresses through the chapter. For example, you may wish to ask your son or daughter the following questions:

- Sometimes you can smell someone's perfume or cologne when he or she enters the room. Why would that be an example of diffusion but not osmosis?
- How does sunlight become food for plants?
- How do cells reproduce?

The Internet at Home

If you have Internet service at home, you and your child can access information related to the chapter entitled “The Cell in Action.” The following resources are available for your use.

sciLINKS: At www.scilinks.org you will find links to Web sites that have been selected by the staff at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). The staff at NSTA regularly scans the Internet to find sites that are current, engaging, and appropriate for middle school students. Check out the latest links by typing in the *sciLINKS* numbers listed below.

GO TO: www.scilinks.org

TOPIC: Diffusion **sciLINKS NUMBER:** HSM0406

TOPIC: Osmosis **sciLINKS NUMBER:** HSM1090

TOPIC: Cell Energy **sciLINKS NUMBER:** HSM0237

TOPIC: Photosynthesis **sciLINKS NUMBER:** HSM1140

TOPIC: Cell Cycle **sciLINKS NUMBER:** HSM0235

go.hrw.com: The resources at this Web site come to you directly from the publisher of your child’s textbook. Here you will find resources to help your son or daughter better understand the chapter entitled “The Cell in Action.” For example, *Science Puzzlers, Twisters & Teasers* worksheets use the chapter’s vocabulary terms and concepts as a basis for lighthearted yet challenging science fun. For help in generating ideas for science projects, you may refer to *Long-Term Projects & Research Ideas*. You can also turn to the Resources for Parents section of the *Science Fair Guide* for information on planning, preparing, and presenting a science fair project. You can access these materials and other information by entering the keyword below.

GO TO: go.hrw.com

KEYWORD: HL5ACT

Thank you for your time and interest. Your participation in your child’s education is a sure way to encourage learning!

Sincerely,