SENATOR GEORGE J. MITCHELL CENTER

for Environmental and Watershed Research

***GET WET!***

**G**roundwater **E**ducation **T**hrough **W**ater **E**valuation & **T**esting

Dear Parents:

Your child has been selected to participate in a school science project: ***GET WET!*** (Groundwater Education Through Water Evaluation & Testing). This project was designed by the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environment and Watershed Research at the University of Maine and works in cooperation with local universities, schools, and your community to offer students a hands-on learning experience for testing drinking water quality. This amazing opportunity allows students to understand scientific procedures while providing citizens and policy-makers with unbiased and credible information that can enhance efforts to achieve healthy ecosystems, strong communities, and robust economies. The data collected will be used to examine the groundwater chemistry in your community. This is the 10th year that we have been conducting this study in the US. For more information regarding the program visit the ***GET WET!*** website at:

<http://umaine.edu/mitchellcenter/home/educateengage/sustainability-education/k-12/get-wet-3/>

We encourage parental participation, especially if you have a specific expertise relating to drinking water wells, laboratory procedures, or GIS capabilities! The program begins this winterwhereby your child will be provided with a bottle and a questionnaire about your well. By returning the provided bottle full, and completing the paperwork, you are permitting your child to participate in this exciting event. Students will learn the standard safety procedures used by scientists to avoid contamination of samples and each student will be provided with safety goggles and gloves to ensure their safety. To further ensure safety of your child, we ask that you

provide your child’s known allergies.

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Later in the semester you will be notified of a presentation students will give of their **GET WET!** drinking water results to the community. All are welcome and invited to this event. In order to make this information available to other classrooms and the community at large, both photos and testing information will be available on the **GET WET!** website and in professional publications.

Please sign below to allow your child’s image and results to be used.

I give permission for my child, (name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to have his/her photo published in all ***GET WET!*** relatedpublications including web sites. All photos will be generic pictures of children participating in ***GET WET!*** activities. No names, addresses or other information which would make your child individually identifiable will be included.

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

At no time will names, addresses, or specific locations be divulged. An information database in GIS form will be used without a photo image and mapped at a distance far enough away that it would be impossible to determine the exact location of any sample. Any specific information provided will be kept strictly confidential. This agreement may be terminated at any time through written request.

Thank you very much for your support! If you have questions about ***GET WET!****,*please do not hesitate to contact me at: [Teresa.Thornton@maine.edu](mailto:Teresa.Thornton@maine.edu) or (207) 266-3682.

I look forward to meeting you!

Teresa E. Thornton, M.S., Ph.D.

***GET WET!*** Executive Director,

The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environment and Watershed Research

University of Maine