Dear Parent/Guardian,

Field trips to the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) are a high point in the school year for fourth grade students. Your child will join our ELC Educators on an exploration of our mangrove-island campus. Students will learn about nature by exploring the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem. Hands-on learning is emphasized, and activities take place outside. The goal is to provide a positive, outdoor experience that promotes awareness about the Indian River Lagoon and inspires your child to be an environmental steward. Your child’s adventure will be on ______________________________________________.

Exploration and learning outside can get a little messy and require lots of energy. To make sure your child is ready for their day of adventure please:

- Dress your child in closed-toe, closed-heel shoes that lace. We recommend old tennis shoes. Students will get wet and dirty, which is part of the fun! A quick wash after your trip will easily clean your child’s shoes.
- Dress according to the weather, especially on cold or rainy days. We will stay outside during the rain and will move inside only for safety.
- Apply sunscreen and bug repellent at home on the day of your excursion.
- Help your child pack a waste-free lunch if possible.

Suggestions for reducing waste:

- Bring food in a reusable container that can be washed and reused.
- Pack naturally packaged foods like bananas, apples, and oranges.
- Use silicon or waxed food wraps instead of ziplock bags.
- Pack utensils you can wash and reuse instead of plastic utensils.
- Pack drinks in re-purposed plastic bottles with screw-on lids - these can be reused.

Thank you for your help in this wonderful learning adventure! We encourage you to come back to the ELC with your child and allow them to be your nature guide! There are lots of great opportunities for you and your family to connect in nature! Head to Discoverelc.org to learn more.

Sincerely,
The ELC Education Team