

# STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

To involve students' families in this unit, teachers can choose from the following:

- Students share work samples with their families.
- Invite parents to see presentations or displays developed by the students.
- Present the students' investigations in a school worship or assembly.
- Students produce their own class newsletter to share with their families, which includes samples of students' reflections, psalms, prayers, art, research etc.
- Inform parents about the topic through a newsletter. The following provide examples related specifically to the model units.

## LEVEL 1 NEWSLETTER

For Christians, the Bible is the book that tells the story of God's love — a story for all people, young and old, to hear. Yet, to many people the Bible can be a puzzling book. The stories are about people with strange names, and the illustrations may be quite foreign to students of this age.

Our Christian Studies unit is called 'Learning about the Bible'. To do this, we are making a class big book about the Bible. As the book is constructed, students will hear a basic summary of the Bible's message: *The Bible tells that God made the world; the Bible tells about people God loved; and the Bible tells about Jesus.*

In order to help students understand the illustrations they see in the Bible, we will also be learning a little about the culture of Bible times.

Please feel free to have a look at the big book when you are next in the classroom.

## LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

Christian Studies is an important part of the curriculum of this school. The text used as the basis of these lessons is the Bible. In order to help students become familiar with the Bible, we are making a collection of children's Bibles and Bible story books in the classroom. If you have appropriate books that you could lend for this unit, it would be appreciated. Be aware, though, that students will be encouraged to use these for reading and browsing, so keep any special books (eg baptism gifts) at home.

Students will be investigating the Bible as a collection of stories and identifying different styles of writing in the Bible. They will learn that the Bible contains stories about children (Naaman and the slave girl), adventure stories (Gideon), instructions (the commandments), songs and poems (the psalms), stories about Jesus (gospels) and letters. At the end of the unit students will collate their work into their own book about the Bible. This will be sent home at the end of the unit.

Please feel free to see the collection of Bibles that we have at school. I would be happy to recommend an appropriate Bible for students of this age, if you wish to purchase one.

## LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

For Christians, the Bible is not just a book of stories about people of another time and place, but an amazing record filled with the details and dramas of how God acted in the lives of his people. Our Christian Studies unit is called 'Who's Who in the Bible' and is aimed at helping students get to know some of the characters in the Bible and to begin to appreciate the excitement of their stories. Students will be learning about characters like Abraham, Moses, Joshua and the Israelites, Elijah, Esther, Jesus and John.

Students of this age are beginning to develop skills in using the Bible themselves. In this unit the students will be using children's Bibles for their own reading and research. Your child may bring home Bible story books about the characters we have studied. Ask them to share these stories with you.