

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' work.
- Inform parents about the topic through a newsletter. The following examples are related specifically to the model units.

LEVEL 1 NEWSLETTER

Being part of a family is very important to children of this age. Christians believe that they belong to another family, the family of God.

In our Christian Studies lessons students will be hearing about people in God's family, the church. Students at this level are learning that

- God's family is made up of all the people who believe in Jesus;
- people in God's family may not always agree, but they care for each other and want others to learn about Jesus;
- God wants all people in his family.

You can help your child think about families by looking together at photographs of your extended family (uncles, aunts, cousins). If you are a member of a church, remind your children that the people they see at church on Sunday are also their 'family'.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

What is the church? Usually the first response to this question is that it is a building. Our Christian Studies unit will begin with an investigation of church buildings.

However, the church is more than a building. Christians believe that the church is people. In Christian Studies students will be learning what people in the church do. During the storytelling sessions students will imagine what it was like for people in the early Christian church and will then hear about the activities of Christians in the church today. Students will learn that

- Christians meet together, not only on Sundays but also on other occasions;
- Christians learn together and provide activities especially for children;
- Christians care for and help each other.

At the end of this unit students will plan their own presentation to show what they have learnt. Ask your child to share the assessment of this presentation with you.

Other ways that you can help your child think about the work of the Christian church is by pointing out church buildings in the community. When you next attend a church service, take time to talk with your child about the features of the building and the service.

LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

As parents you have made a decision to send your child to a Lutheran school. In our Christian Studies unit students will be looking at the special nature of a Lutheran school.

Our school is part of the Lutheran church and exists because people believe it is important to teach children about God's love for them. Students will be identifying what is special about their school, especially that the school is a place of care and a place to learn about God's love.

At the end of the unit students will design a new sign for the school which shows what they think is important about their school. Look for some of these signs on display or included in further newsletters.

You can help your child think about their attendance at this school by sharing with them the reasons you chose this school for them.