

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.
- In consultation with the local pastor, arrange an information evening about baptism. At this time the pastor could summarise Lutheran teachings about baptism and teachers could share the way this is taught to students at each band level.
- 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

Our Christian Studies unit, called 'God helps', is part of the larger topic titled 'God helps people by the work of the Holy Spirit'. Rather than learn about the Holy Spirit (an abstract concept), students will learn about God as a helper. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit helped the disciples at Pentecost. He also helps people today to learn about God, to believe in Jesus and to live as his children, displaying such characteristics as joy, patience, faithfulness, kindness and gentleness. Students will be learning what these words mean and what they look like in their lives.

You can support your child by encouraging and praising their positive behaviour. And, just as we all fall short in our behaviour, your model of love and forgiveness is a model of God's love when your child needs forgiveness.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

Students will be learning about baptism in Christian Studies. This unit of work begins by identifying the importance of water in our everyday life, and then revisits Bible stories in which God used water to help his people. The stories of baptism in the Bible indicate a special way in which water is used.

The most important Christian message for students at this age is that God loves all people. Baptism is a special way in which God says 'I love you. You are my child.' At the end of the unit students will make baptism cards. It is planned that these will be given to families who celebrate baptism in the future.

To remind students of God's love for them, we will be having a special *God loves you* day for each student. This can be on their baptismal birthday or another day that they choose.

If your child has been baptised, you may like to send along a memento of this occasion to share with the class, eg a photo, card, baptism gown. If your child is asking questions about baptism and you would like more information, please do not hesitate to see me.

LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

The topic for our Christian Studies lessons is *The mystery of the Holy Spirit*. In order to investigate this abstract concept, students will be taking the role of detectives looking for 'clues' about the Holy Spirit. They will be gathering information from other people (perhaps parents) and listening to stories from Peter, one of Jesus' disciples. These stories dramatically illustrate the power of the Holy Spirit at work.

Students will discuss baptism — a way in which people receive the Holy Spirit in their lives — and learn that the Holy Spirit is also at work as people hear and learn from the Bible.

Finally, students will investigate the way the Holy Spirit wants to help God's people live: with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. Even though, when people fail to do this in their lives, God continues to love and forgive them.

You can help your child by encouraging them to ask questions about God and by taking these questions seriously, for it is through their questions that children continue to learn. Please do not hesitate to see me if you need support in answering any questions that your child may have.