

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 at which parents have the opportunity to hear and ask about what students are doing in Christian Studies.
 - 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.

Families may have a variety of resources which could assist in the teaching of this unit. Ask if students could bring any of the following to school:

- books on environmental issues
- tapes of environmental music
- collections of natural objects, eg shells, gemstones
- scenic photographs from holidays.

LEVEL 1 NEWSLETTER

Our world is an amazing creation, and in Christian Studies students explore the world God made. The story of creation found in the Bible in Genesis forms the basis of this unit. Students hear the story of creation and develop a display of natural objects. These are used for a variety of activities, eg examining their detail, sorting into groups, using natural objects for art/craft activities. Students also begin to identify ways that they can care for the environment. We develop a special project that all students can participate in.

You may like to share in this learning with your child by looking together at the detail and beauty of natural objects at home, perhaps something in your own garden or things you have collected on holidays.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

God cares for us in so many ways through his creation and the many things he provides for us. In Christian Studies students participate in activities based on the story of creation and together identify some of the many things that God gives people every day. Students look at both the natural resources and manufactured products. God did not create the world and then leave it; he sustains creation through cycles within nature. Students learn about the cycle of . . . as part of God's on-going care for his creation.

You may like to help your child explore some of these concepts further by raising your child's awareness of the many items you use everyday and where they come from, eg timber objects from wood, clothes from wool or cotton.

LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

The theme of our Christian Studies unit is 'Caring for creation'. Within this unit students learn that natural resources are a gift of God, identifying how people use natural resources, and why and how we need to care for them. Students hear selected verses from the Bible which acknowledge God as Creator and give praise for his creation. Students write their own words of praise in response.

You may like to help your child explore some of these concepts further by reading and sharing non-fiction books about the environment. These could be obtained from either the school or the local library.