

# 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

When students use an adult Bible (rather than a Bible story book or children's Bible) for the first time it can be a very exciting, but also daunting, experience. Our current Christian Studies unit **What's in the Bible?** will assist the students to become more familiar with the Bible and to investigate questions such as: What does the Bible contain? What is the Bible about? and How do you use the Bible?

Students will be identifying various parts of the Bible, such as the text, contents, index and maps. They will investigate the books of the Bible, some of the writers, how to read Bible references and find Bible passages. They will also explore stories in the Bible which focus on the actions of God in the life of people from the Old and New Testaments. We will be compiling a 'Bible information pack', which can be used as a class reference and resource for other classes.

You can support your children by asking them to discuss with you what they have learnt about the Bible, and to share the stories they have researched.

## LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

We all have favourite stories we love to hear over and over again. They may be stories we have read, stories about an event we have witnessed or something about our family history.

In the current Christian Studies unit **God's Stories** the students will be investigating stories from the Bible. They will be investigating and retelling Old Testament stories which tell of God's loving relationship with the people through whom he promised to bless all people. They will also be investigating New Testament stories about Jesus and what Christians believe about the way he fulfilled God's promises. The students will explore the message about God which comes through these stories. Christians believe that this message makes the stories important not only for the people who told and heard them in biblical times, but also for people today.

You can support your children by sharing a favourite Bible story with them or asking them to share some of the stories they have been investigating.

## LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

Throughout history people have communicated important messages in a variety of ways, such as songs, dances, pictures and of course, storytelling and writing.

In our current Christian Studies unit **Communicating God's Word**, the students will be investigating Old Testament Bible stories which describe the messages God communicated to his people and the important promises he gave to them. They will explore New Testament Bible passages which describe the message God communicated to the world through Jesus. The Bible describes how Jesus came to make things right between God and people forever. The students will be identifying the different types of writing in the Bible such as letters, poems, proverbs, historical writing, laws, and the people who contributed to the writing of books of the Bible. They will also research ways Christians continue to communicate God's word through the work of Bible translators. The students will identify ways to support this work.

You can support your children by asking them to show you some of the different forms of writing found in the Bible and the message of these writings. It will also be helpful if you send to school any translations of the Bible you may have access to.