

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

Deciding which restaurant to eat at the other night was quite a challenge! There were Vietnamese, Chinese, Thai, Lebanese, Italian, Greek, Mexican, Indian, African and fish and chips to choose from! We certainly live in a multicultural society and can be thankful for the wonderful richness and variety we have in our country.

In our Christian Studies unit *Friends to all people*, we will be looking at the Christian belief that God wants people to love and respect all peoples of the world. The students will be investigating various cultures and looking at the difficulties people can face when living in a new country. They will be hearing how Jesus showed love for all people, even those who were enemies to people from his home. They will also look at what the Bible tells about love. The students will be challenged to identify ways they can demonstrate love for others, and will conclude the unit with a celebration of the uniqueness of cultures throughout the world.

You can support your child by sending to school any information you may have about various cultures. Also discuss ways your family can show love and respect towards all peoples of the world.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

The Bible is full of stories about families. The families described in the Bible are quite diverse, such as single-parent families, broken families, families who for many years did not have any children, families made up of single people, and large families. The amazing thing about these stories is how they describe situations which happen so often in our own families.

In our current Christian Studies unit *Families* the students will explore the Christian belief about the purpose and benefits of the family. They will investigate the Bible story about Joseph and his family. They will explore the problems in relationships in this family and how forgiveness brought about a restoration of the relationships. The students will also see how God was with Joseph and his family and how in situations which were extremely difficult and at times dangerous, 'God made it turn out for the best' (Genesis 50:20). The students will also explore directions the Bible provides for all families.

You can support your child by discussing strategies to use when difficulties arise in family relationships.

LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

'Neighbours, everybody needs good neighbours, with a little understanding . . .' and the theme song for the television soapie *Neighbours* continues stating the importance of good neighbours.

In our current Christian Studies unit *Who is my neighbour?* the students will be discovering that neighbours are not just the people who live next door or down the road. We have neighbours in our family, in our school and in fact throughout the world. The students will explore the story Jesus told: *The Good Samaritan*, which was in answer to the question *Who is my neighbour?* The students will explore ways they can be a loving neighbour to people in their family, at school and the world, even in difficult situations.

You can support your child by identifying ways of showing love in your family, particularly in difficult times or times of conflict.