

# 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.
- Encourage parents — particularly those with expertise related to environmental concerns — to act as resource people for classroom and/or extension activities.
- Inform parents about the topic through a newsletter. The following are examples of newsletter items related specifically to the model units.

## MODEL FOR A LEVEL 1 NEWSLETTER

The universe is an amazing place! Just stand outside on a clear night and observe the night sky or spend some time in a rainforest or on quiet beach. Did this all happen by 'accident'?

In our Christian Studies sessions, we investigate the topic *God creates and cares*. The students explore the diversity of the natural environment. They investigate passages from the Bible to see what it says about the creation of the natural environment and about the Creator. The students explore ways God cares for creation, including what God provides for creation; the ways God protects people, especially through angels; and the important role God gives people of caring for the environment. Finally, the students identify ways they can use their abilities to care for creation.

You can support your child by spending time with him or her exploring nature at a national park, beach, river, zoo, or even in your own back yard!

## MODEL FOR A LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

People throughout history have marvelled at the beauty and awesome nature of the universe. In our Christian Studies sessions, the students explore 'reflections of creation'. We examine the ways biblical writers, contemporary Christian writers, artists, songwriters and musicians have reflected on creation and God's role in creation. The students also investigate the ways God continues to be involved in creation, in particular through laws of nature, such as ecosystems and life cycles. The students plan and prepare a presentation which describes their personal response to God's creation.

You can support your child by sharing personal reflections about your favourite places in the natural environment.

## MODEL FOR A LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

What is our relationship with the natural environment? We all enjoy its beauty, but what is our responsibility towards it? In our Christian Studies unit *Managers of creation*, the students explore the responsibilities people have to care for the environment. They identify what the Bible says about the universe and the answers it provides to questions such as: Who made the universe? What was made? Who owns it? What is the place and role of people in it?

We look at the way God cares for the needs of people through creation, as well as dealing with issues such as famine. The students investigate the important role God has given people to be responsible managers of creation. We also investigate environmental concerns and possible solutions. The students also become aware of the positive attitude Christians can have to the future of the world, as they grow in their understanding that God loves and cares for all people and has power over all things in nature.

In order to support your child, you could discuss and implement ways your family can be responsible managers of God's creation in your home.