

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

If I were to say: 'Draw what you think prayer is', what would you draw? Would you draw a person on bended knees at the foot of a bed, or would you show a wide range of experiences?

In Christian Studies the students are about to explore prayer and the diversity of prayer experiences available to people. Students will first investigate the Bible's teaching about prayer and then have the opportunity to participate in and consider the features and benefits of different prayer experiences. The prayer experiences include praying in natural settings, reflecting on music and on Bible passages and praying in a prayer circle. They will use the information they gather to create a prayer kit that could be used by Christians. If you have any books about Christian prayer that you think might be useful please send them to school.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

The other night I went surfing. You may think it unusual to surf at night, but this surfing was done in the comfort of our study at home. I went surfing on the Internet. Have you got access to the Internet? It is amazing to think we have such a wealth of information available at the push of a button. It will be interesting to see the impact the Internet has in the long term. We know all too well about the problems of the Internet, but how can we respond in a positive way and use the Internet for good?

In Christian Studies the students will be investigating Christian prayer. They will be reading and studying prayers from the Bible, the prayer Jesus taught, traditional and contemporary prayers. They will use the information they gain to design a home page about prayer. Students will be encouraged to make the home page as interesting as they can and to use it to teach others about prayer. If you have any useful information about home pages or prayer that we could use in the classroom, please contact me. You are most welcome to view the home pages when they are complete.

LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

Your life's experiences — the great ones, the terrible ones, the humorous ones, the ordinary ones — whom do you talk to about them? Whom do you share your thoughts, feelings and worries with?

Christians believe that they can talk over their life experiences with God. In our Christian Studies unit we are about to explore what it means to live in a relationship with God and talk about things with God. Students will be studying the Bible story of David and reading what he talked to God about. David talked with God about his good times and bad, and his thoughts and emotions are recorded in the psalms. Psalms is sometimes called the Bible's prayer book, as it contains so many prayers for so many different situations. You may find they relate to your life experiences, too. Interesting psalms include Psalm 46, 139, 100.

Students will also be reading psalms from books with contemporary translations of the psalms. If you have any such psalm books, we would appreciate being able to use them.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.