

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

Who are we? Are we ourselves, or a patchwork of other people's views, ways of behaving and expectations of life? As adults we have gone through, and are still going through, the process of selecting which of the influences around us we will weave into the fabric of our lives. Feeling secure about who we are contributes significantly to personal health and stability. Students in lower secondary can be confused by the many labels placed on them by the significant people and experiences in their lives: parents, school, peer group, media and so on.

The focus of the LIFE unit *Wearing new clothes* is the work of the Holy Spirit in baptism. Baptism is often seen as a formality. However, the strong message of the Bible is that baptism brings the reality of God's love and forgiveness to the person being baptised. The baptised person can be secure in the knowledge that he/she is loved unconditionally. The gift of the Holy Spirit creates faith and empowers the baptised person to live as God's child. Knowing who one is in God gives a person confidence to make the right choices when struggling with the varied and conflicting influences in daily life.

It is hoped that this unit will give baptised students renewed confidence in who they are and allow students who have not been baptised to understand the significance of this experience for all people.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

The Holy Ghost . . . The Holy Spirit. These titles stir up all sorts of strange images. The images may not be particularly helpful for our understanding of what God the Holy Spirit is like.

In the current Christian Studies unit *The Spirit at work* students will be demystifying the Spirit to some extent. They will begin by making a display of the various meanings of the word 'spirit'. They will see how the Holy Spirit was with Jesus, giving him power for his ministry on earth. They will then investigate how the Holy Spirit helps and supports the spiritual life of Jesus' followers, in particular by means of baptism, holy communion and God's word.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.