

# 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

*Not what you get but what you give  
measures the worth of the life you live.*

Many people agree with this in principle but are reluctant to put it into practice. 'What's in it for me?' is our instinctive question. It is more natural for us to want to be served than to serve others.

Our Christian Studies unit *Hand, head and heart* focuses on the Christian belief that 'God calls people to serve'. Jesus Christ said that he came 'not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many'.

The unit begins with a hands-on experience of serving. After being involved in planning and carrying out a service project, students reflect on the experience and on their own motivation. They then look at Jesus' radical teaching and modelling of the life of service to which he calls all people.

If you have any comments or questions, I would be happy to hear from you.

## LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

We all act out different roles at various times in life. We can be a family member, teacher, student, business person, athlete, boy scout, politician, minister of religion etc. What we say and do affects the way other people see us and the organisations we represent. As an Australian community, we expect our Olympic athletes to represent our country favourably, to be good ambassadors. We expect that politicians will be effective ambassadors for their electorates, representing the needs and wishes of their people.

In the unit of study *Ambassadors for the King* students will examine what it means to represent Christ in a variety of contexts. Students will examine the life of one of Jesus' prominent followers, the apostle Paul, who believed that he (as all Christians are) was entrusted to bring God's message of love and forgiveness to all people, even the highest government officials of the day. Students will view the film *Romero*, the story of El Salvador's archbishop from 1977–1980. He lost his life because he challenged his government about the way in which it oppressed the common people. Romero was the voice of the people and the church as he proclaimed the need to make the love and justice of God a reality for all people. Students will research how local Christian churches and organisations serve the needs of people in the community in response to God's love and God's call to show our love for him by loving other people.

Should you have any comments or questions, please contact me.