Family Life – Theme Three Family Letter – Grade 4

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January 2019

Dear Family,

We will soon begin Theme Three of *Fully Alive*, our family life program. Because the partnership of home, church, and school is so important, this letter is written to let you know what we talk about in class, and to offer some ideas for your involvement. For more information for families, please go to **http://acbo.on.ca/fully-alive**

About Theme Three

Theme Three of *Fully Alive* is called "Created Sexual: Male and Female." God made us male and female, and all of God's creation is good. As in earlier grades, this theme is presented through a continuing story. The message of this story is that we begin life as a result of the love our mothers and fathers shared. No matter what happens later, nothing can change that. It is part of God's plan that we grow and are sheltered in our mother's body before birth. After we are born, it is our family that loves and cares for us.

In Theme Three we will:

- read a story about the Casey family, including the parents' celebration of 30 years of married life, the promises they made when they married, and their efforts to adjust to the changes in their lives after Mr. Casey's serious accident.
- learn that husbands and wives participate in God's power to create new life.
- explore some of the gifts we receive at conception; and the gift after birth of ongoing love and care from family, friends, and others.
- discover more about the development and birth of babies, and learn the difference between identical and fraternal twins.
- explore the stages of human development, including adolescence and adulthood.

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Child's name: ________________________________ Textbook # ______

I have reviewed Unit 3 "Created Sexual" in the student text, and am aware that more information is available online.

Parent Signature: ____________________________________

Looking Ahead

New terms introduced in Grade 4 are *amniotic sac*, *amniotic fluid*, *ova* (the plural of *ovum*), and *sexual intercourse*. The term *sexual intercourse* is used in the student book, but does not include a physical description. The Grade 4 teacher book has a simple explanation of sexual intercourse that may be presented by the teacher, depending on the readiness of the class. This information is not included in the student book until Grade 5. In Grade 5 the students will learn about the reproductive systems of males and females, the gift of fertility, and the changes of puberty.

Working together at school and at home

- Ask your child to tell you about the story of the Casey family. What did your child learn from the story? Does your child have any questions? You will find detailed information about the topics in this theme in the Online Family Edition of *Fully Alive* (www.occb.on.ca).
- Although the topic of puberty is not discussed until Grade 5, some Grade 4 girls may begin to show the first signs of development. It's important to talk to your daughter about this, and prepare her well in advance for the beginning of menstruation. Again, you will find helpful information in the Online Family Edition of *Fully Alive*.
- Your child will be bringing home a sheet about family stories. Children like to hear about older relatives (grandparents, great-grandparents, great-aunts and uncles), and how family traits and interests are often passed on in families. Be sure to tell your child about some of the people in your family.

Please return the textbook and the acknowledgement slip by

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Our hope is that together we can help the children to develop in all dimensions of their personhood including their understanding of sexuality.

Sincerely,

Miss M. Basten