

*K-1 Thematic Curriculum - Year 1  
Communities*

*Theme/Essential Questions*

*Content knowledge*

*Our families*

*What makes a family?*

*What do families do together?*

*How is my family special?*

*How am I special to my family?*

*There are many kinds of families; my physical characteristics come from my family; families are alike and different in many ways; families vary in size; families grow through birth and adoption and are reduced by death; groups of nuclear families form an extended family, which grows generationally; each family member has unique roles; different families have different cultural traditions (music, food, customs, dance, crafts, and costumes); home architecture varies around the world depending on climate, geography, available materials and other factors.*

*Our school*

*How did PCS start?*

*What is unique about PCS?*

*Where do others go to school?*

*Our school grew from a grassroots effort; our school is like other schools in many ways and different in some ways; schools may be public, independent, or parochial; some children are schooled at home; children in some parts of the world do not attend school; people may attend preschool, elementary school, middle and high school, college and graduate or professional school; many people continue their education throughout life.*

*St. Barnabas Church*

*Why is PCs at St. Barnabas?*

*Who comes to St. Barnabas?*

*How was St. Barnabas built?*

*St. Barnabas is our school's home; it has an important history as a church and community center; many different community groups use St. Barnabas for meetings and events; it has a structure of professionals, volunteers, and families; the church was built in phases.*

## *Our neighborhood*

*Who first settled in Hillsdale?*

*What was the land used for?*

*How did Hillsdale grow?*

*Where can the bus take us?*

*Communities form around natural, cultural, transportation and economic resources; maps*

*Historically, Hillsdale was an important farming community; Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway was a farm road; Gabriel Park is our local park; the SW Community Center was designed with community input and was controversial for environmental, class and social reasons; the Hillsdale Library was designed to blend with neighborhood architecture; the library was built as part of a "town center" concept; several TriMet bus lines serve our neighborhood; on Sundays there is a farmer's market near our school; the number 1 bus line runs in front of our school and goes from SW to N Portland and connects with other bus and Max lines in downtown Portland.*

## *Our neighbors*

*Our neighbors have their own cultures and customs; seniors in our community have unique histories (cultural traditions, storytelling, holidays, calendars); the Alpenrose family settled in Hillsdale and established a large dairy farm.*

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*Our animal neighbors*

*meal worms, crickets, walking sticks, bees, and woolly bears*

*How are animals the same?*

*How are animals different?*

*How do animals reproduce?*

*What do animals eat?*

*What is adaptation?*

*Different animals have different life cycles (involving change and transformation over time) and varied body parts; each species has its own optimal environment; each animal has a unique home (architecture); animals adapt to changes in their environment in different ways.*

*Our area is home to diverse native and non-native flora and fauna; PCS is in the Fanno Creek watershed; there are many different plants and animals living in a small area (one meter<sup>2</sup> study); pollution degrades water and soil; pollution can be lessened and habitat remediated; I can do things to help preserve and improve the environment.*