

NEWSLETTER

MAY 1998

ENCL: The Alternative School
The Origins of FCS

DISCO Take Two

We are postponing this a little. At this stage we are looking for any items – even smallish items – that could go together to make up a prize for a raffle. The proceeds are for hiring lighting for the event. Please give to Giancarlo. Also any suggestions re lighting.

CONGRATULATIONS, CORA

On coming first in both the girls Freestyle and the girls Breaststroke in the inter-school swimming sports at the Fitzroy Pool on Thursday the 26th Feb.

CONGRATULATIONS, AVROM

On coming first in the Boys Breaststroke in the inter-school swimming sports.

Both Cora and Avrom went on to represent Carlton District Primary Schools at the Zone Finals at Werribee Olympic Pool.

THE FOUNDERS' MANUAL

Accompanying this newsletter is Chapter 2 *The Origins of FCS*. This is a draft edition. We do welcome any suggestions from friends of FCS for alterations or additions to this document.

PARENTS of WEENIES

(Weenies are pre-schoolers.) Please advise your little ones that it is not okay to write or draw on walls, cupboards floors, etc – only on the paper provided.

OUR NEW JAPANESE INTERN

Welcome to Haruhiko Oshiumi. For the present, Haruhiko is staying with Philip and Faye. Haruhiko is popular with the kids and easy to have around.

We would appreciate it if school families could invite Haruhiko out on one occasion in the coming months.

Congratulations, CAMERON

(FCS grad year 96) on becoming Captain of your Yr 8 class at Wesley.

Congratulations, WARREN

(FCS grad year 96) On winning an academic scholarship to Melbourne Grammar School, to start 1999.

Warren has maintained his Chinese this year working with Tim after hours. Imogen (FCS grad year 1996) also continues her Chinese studies here.

Congratulations, CATHERINE

(FCS grad year 95) on becoming Captain of your Yr 9 class at Wesley.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Would you believe? For the first 12-15 years of FCS, we used to say to people, “Oh, no we don’t have a teaching philosophy – we just follow common sense.” We weren’t joking.

We weren’t wedded to any particular teaching method, but have simply experimented and adopt what works best for us. This freedom has given us an advantage (Phonics, Conceptual Maths, etc).

We have not had to toe an official line. It seems a bit of an exaggeration to call our teaching methods a “philosophy” – we are not “loyal” to them. If we find better ones, we change to them!

Our philosophy has to do with the human spirit, social skills, attitudes & values.

CONGRATULATIONS, ROMANY

(FCS grad year 1992) Romany and family moved to Gippsland after leaving town. We are delighted to hear that Romany has topped her year 11 in 1997 and has taken out the prizes in English, English Lit, Italian, Art and Maths! What a swag!

Romany's family (the Manuells) is one of several past families who continue to receive school newsletters. Romany, we look forward to having you come and visit your old school when you come to Melbourne.

Romany and Mary (same year) have met up by chance this year. Both are in Year 12 and both are doing an enhanced VCE subject at Monash, the Philosophy 1 course.

CONGRATULATIONS, JEREMY

(FCS grad year 86) on again being placed on the Dean's List at Melbourne University for academic excellence (the top 100 out of 5000 senior students).

INTER-SCHOOL NETBALL

Now on! Every Thursday at Royal Park. Parents, drivers and other supporters are welcome at these events.

CONGRATULATIONS, NICK

(FCS grad year 1983) on graduating BA and LL.B. at Melb Uni and starting articles with Norton Smith & Co of Collins Street.

Mature Age Conversational Chinese

Philip wants to start lessons with Tim. Are there any other mature beginners who would like to join a Tuesday 7.30pm termtime class.

CONGRATULATIONS, SARAH

Our Karate Teacher upon winning the Australian Open Karate Championships!

CONGRATULATIONS, JOY

Our drama teacher on your performance in *What do You Think you are Looking at?* currently running at St. Martins Theatre, South Yarra. Many FCS people have been to see Joy. Ticket bookings: 9867 2551.

CONGRATULATIONS MAGGIE

Our Italian teacher on your major art exhibition. Several of your works have gone to FCS people.

CONGRATULATIONS, GINA

Past school mother and our Art teacher, on getting a high distinction for your first Art assignment in your Bachelor of Education course at Melbourne Uni.

OPERA

The whole school minus the Middlies (on camp), saw Australian Opera perform *Sid the Serpent Who Wanted to Sing* in our local Fitzroy Community Room – just for FCS! Pam played the piano. It was great.

RECITATION

All Biggies and Littlies have a poem to learn by heart for presentation at the term concert. Biggies have *The Forsaken Mermaid* by Matthew Arnold and Littlies have *My Shadow* by Robert Louis Stevenson.

M.S. READATHON

We had a guest speaker last Friday to get the ball rolling. It is a win-win situation – a boost to reading and a boost to medical science.

ADULTS DINNER

Last Friday night was well attended and a most enjoyable evening.

WRITER IN RESIDENCE

We are happy to have past student Luke Jackson (grad year 1989), now studying writing at Melbourne Uni, helping us with the Biggies on Thursdays.

BEE LADY ROCK BAND

Lata (FCS grad 85) and James (FCS grad 87) have a rock band which will perform at the Art House Pub, Upper Elizabeth Street at 10.15pm, tonight Wednesday 13th May.

CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

To be held Thursday 14th May at Yarra Bend Park. Some Biggies. Most Middlies, Some Littlies are involved. (Participants have a separate notice). Bring a thermos and snacks. Children incl. All B's & M's depart FCS at noon. Starts at 1pm sharp. Thanks to trainers Sean, Paola and Renee (state cross-country runner who works in our office).

FCS POETRY

On Thursday the 21st May, Philip Harvey – a poet will introduce the Dorothy MacKellar Competition. Everyone must be on time to meeting – 8:50am (no late entries). A poem will be set for homework that weekend and will be due on Monday the 25th May.

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET 1

Biggies and Middlies – Introduction to Ballet. Depart 10:30am on Friday 22nd May.

STORY TIME at FITZROY LIBRARY

Monday 25th May 1pm for Education Week. Parents welcome.

PRINCES HILL SECONDARY

Information evening Monday May 25th at 7.30pm-9pm College Library Arnold Street North Carlton and an Open Morning Tuesday May 26th 9am-Noon. Queries ring Jeremy Ludowyke Principal 9387 9877.

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET 2

Tuesday 26th May With Colin Peasley. Biggies and Middlies – *Discover Dance* at the Australian Ballet Centre. Depart 9:15am

TINIES and LITTLIES

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Juniors now know which teams they are in, in preparation for their Athletics on May 27th. This is organised by Penny mother of Josh and Sharon mother of Dominic.

The Biggies will attend *I'll Put A Spell On You* at St.Martins Theatre, on Thursday the 28th May. Depart from school at 9am sharp!

WRITERS WORKSHOP

With children's author Chris Milne for Biggies and Middlies on Friday 29th May. Depart 12:30pm and return 3pm.

FUND RAISING World Vision

We are having another fund raising event for World Vision. It will be in the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd June. There will be all types of stalls so please contribute in any way you can. Bring your friends. Devonshire Tea will be served. Jaspers coffee, Twinings tea, Helen's scones. All you can eat \$4.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

On Wednesday June 10th all students will have the benefit of a workshop with Angela Brennan, whose works are currently showing at Niagara Gallery, run by Bill and Annette, parents of Tilly and Jim. Angela has an exhibition running at Niagara May12 –June 13. Opening drinks May 19 at 6pm-8pm. See our noticeboard for invite & sample.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLAY

The Litter Show for all students in the Community Room 10am 11th June put on by the Merri Creek Management Committee.

Philip and Faye

The New Schoolhouse

Thank you Becky for this drawing

Bell Shakespeare Company Workshop

An Exciting New Adventure In Schooling!

The Alternative School - founded by Bob Morgan and Lesley Donelan

Bob Morgan and Lesley Donelan, parents of Andrew (FCS grad year 1997), and present students Ginevra and Ben, are planning to open a NEW SCHOOL in 1999 catering for Years 7 and 8.

There is no doubt that Bob is a very capable teacher, and that he and Lesley have some good people supporting them.

Bob has put together a flyer explaining his plans. Copy included with this newsletter. If you are interested for your child, ring Bob and talk to him. Concerns expressed by parents will guide Bob as to what he needs to add or alter in his brochure.

The early days of a new alternative school are especially eventful and interesting. The students will gain experiences above and beyond what regular schooling would give them.

Good luck, Bob and Lesley.

* * * * *

AN OLDIE BUT A GOODIE

Kahlil Gibran's statement on children

from "The Prophet"

And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said,
"Speak to us of Children." And he said:
"Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.
You may give them your love but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit,
not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows may go swift and far.
Let your bending in the Archer's hand be for gladness;
For even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable."