

NEWSLETTER

JULY 1998

ENCL: MATHS CHAPTER

PAST STUDENT WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations & Best Wishes to Corin (FCS grad year 1983) and his bride Raquel (Turner), who married at Monsalvat on Sunday 12th July. Brother Jason (grad year 1981) was best man, Nick B (grad yr 1983) was groomsman, Tim B (grad 1982) was usher.

Philip, Faye, Elsie and family were there, as was Alistair (1982) and many other friends and relatives. And where did the newlyweds choose for their honeymoon? The LAND, the beloved school campsite. We are delighted with their choice.

PAST STUDENTS & THE FUTURE

Indeed, in recent times we have had many experiences of past student re-connection with the school. It is heartwarming to us as teachers, to receive this vote of confidence and affection. Furthermore, it is reassuring to us as regards the future of the school. We are concerned not for the mere survival of FCS but for its continued inspirational and life-embracing quality.

We believe that our past students are our best hope for maintaining this spirit – because they know about it from the inside. This newsletter seems to have collected many examples of past student involvement.

CONGRATULATIONS EMMA (yr 6)

On being a finalist in the huge Nestlé creative writing competition. Emma has won a backpack of Nestlé products and entry to a creative writing workshop to do more work on her story “On the Run” for submission to the finals.

THE FOUNDERS’ MANUAL

With this newsletter please find Chapter M, all about “Fitzroy Maths”.

INDESTRUCTIBLE MUSIC STANDS

We have at last obtained the sort of music stands that children cannot (?) mangle. If any school family or friend would like to own one of these for their home, please let Jeannette or Philip or Leslie know, and we will supply. \$60. Pay cash or have it put on fee invoice.

PAST STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Noticed: seven old boys (from 4 different years) getting together in the Green Room during the July holidays, playing D&D, a tradition which started here in 1980. Also heard about a recent bowling expedition involving all our 1996 students.

BON VOYAGE JEANNETTE & KEITH

Who are off on the 2nd of August to the US for the World Masters Games. Keith will be sprinting and Jeannette will be badmintoning. Good luck guys. Young teacher Royce will be standing in during Jeannette’s absence for the remainder of term 3.

TRIVIA NIGHT Friday 24th July 7.30pm

Form a party of ten and take a table, or come anyway and join a table on the night. All welcome. A 100 questions on diverse topics. Bring a plate and BYO. Tea and Coffee provided. \$10 per head. Funds for school science. Prizes still needed. See end of newsletter for booking slip.

PAST STUDENTS welcome to perform

We invite past students to join in our concerts and perform or present something. By the way, Zoe and Katie’s violin & cello concert in St Kilda is postponed. Date will be advised.

MEASLES VACCINATION

Please collect measles forms from pockets and read and fill in – whether saying yes or no. Return to box in kitchen by July 30.

TINIES and LITTLIES

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

A very big thank you to Penny, Sharon, and all who helped out with the Tinies and Littlies Athletics Day on May 27th.

This was a great idea, a great occasion, was very well organised, and was greatly enjoyed by the children. We look forward to a repetition of this excellent event.

CONGRATULATIONS FREDERICK

Upon your arrival into the big wide world. A new baby for Charlotte, Gavin, Tim and Andrew. Born 12/6/98 at Masada Hospital.

THANK YOU LUKE C(1994)

For planting the polyanthus in the bare tree plot in front of the school. Good luck to the flowers and thank you to Luke.

WELCOME BACK JIMI (1991) (brother of Brodie(1995))

Jimi returns to his old primary school to teach Australian History to Biggies on Thursday afternoons. Marvellous.

LUKE J (1989) (bro of Emma)

Has started creative writing workshops with Biggies on Thursday mornings. This class is going very well. Thank you Luke.

C.S.I.R.O.'S LABORATORY ON LEGS

is coming for the Middlies at 9.30-10.30am and the Biggies at 10.40-11.40am on Tuesday 28 July for a demonstration on electricity and magnetism. Adults welcome!

VARIETY MEANS RICHNESS

There is no doubt whatever that the richness of the curriculum of this school is due to the involvement of many talented part-time people, each contributing in an area that is exciting for them.

The use of only one teacher for all subjects for a large class in mainstream schools is an educational poverty. This is not a question of the amount of money spent. It is a question of management style.

The secret is for a primary school to be small, and to involve parents, friends, and part-time specialists – oh, and not to be controlled by a remote central bureaucracy or industrial overlords.

WELCOME BACK KERRYIN

Who is replacing Sarah for 3 weeks as violin teacher while Sarah does her teacher training rounds.

CARMELA offering SPECIAL CHOIR

Any parents wanting their child to be in Carmela's special training choir please contact Faye or Carmela. Cost \$40 per term.

CHILDREN'S DISCO

Thanks to Giancarlo, Pam, John and DJ Sean, for organising and conducting this event. Also to Faye as staff dancer!

CONGRATS to CAITLYN G (1997)

Upon having her story "Magenta" published in *Fantasy and Beyond* magazine (Queensland).

CHRISTIAN LITURGY

is being offered by Mary Pace and friends as an option of interest to Christians generally, and, separately, a Preparation for Sacraments (Catholic). Please ring Mary if you are interested in either or both. (No charge).

THE CULINARY ARTS

Lester (Gabe's dad) is coming Thursday 30th July to take Biggies to the market to buy supplies and then to prepare a meal together – and then consume it!. What fun! Thanks to Lester.

BIGGIES CAMP at WOODLEIGH

timeshare resort in Kyneton will run from Friday 7th to Friday 14th or Monday 10th to Friday 14th. \$70 per head either way. Take your pick. Please let us know by the end of July which period you will choose - so we can plan transport.

HOSPITALITY for HARUHIKO

Thank you to the families who so generously entertained Harry during the holidays. He has felt very welcome in Australia – and now has red hair!

CONGRATULATIONS to ZOEY (1992)
Of the Australian Ballet School who is being taken to London by the ABS for an International Dance Competition. Good luck, Zoey.

FUND RAISING World Vision
\$1000 was raised and has gone off to World Vision. It was a most pleasurable day, to which many small and big people contributed. Thank you to Catherine (1995) for again co-ordinating this event.

Catherine wishes to especially mention Jasper Coffee for their generous involvement in these events.

CONGRATULATIONS JOEL
on your 0th birthday. Offspring of Red and Elly, new brother to Samuel and Raphael. At St Vincent's Private on 4th July.

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT
A Reflection from the Founders
People must sometimes wonder at the dramatic saga which is FCS. On the one hand there are the ongoing blessings – the unusually happy children, the rescue stories, the great outcomes. And on the other, there are the occasional bunfights – initiated by sharp attacks on one point of philosophy or another by an anxious/angry parent.

The simple truth is that the one phenomenon is connected to the other. In order to be extraordinary, FCS must be different. But because it is different, it affronts some conventional thinking. Every so often, this affront gets to be too much for someone, they lose sight of the rational principle of judging by outcomes, and mount a campaign to enforce the negative, the rule of fear.

The silly thing is that if these attacks ever succeeded and the rule of fear prevailed, the

school would quickly lose the qualities for which the anxious ones sought the school in the first place!

To succumb to these pressures would not only be a tragedy for future potential student beneficiaries, but would also spell its demise – since a normal approach would inevitably lead to a normal school lifestyle and normal outcomes, removing any incentive for parents to seek out FCS. The school would die.

This is why the leaders of this school must always be fighters, people who are willing to defend, to keep the school philosophy on the straight and narrow, to put principle before pressure, and put children before business.

Philip and
Faye

P.S. If there is an item you would like to see in a future newsletter, please give it to Faye, Philip, Jeannette, Tim, or Leslie.

Trivia Night

7.30pm Friday 24th July

I have a party ofFor the trivia night.

NAME.....

PHONE.....

Tick if

I have a prize to offer.

PUT THIS SLIP IN THE "TRIVIA NIGHT" BOX
IN THE SCHOOL COMMON ROOM (KITCHEN)

SCHOOL ADMIN JOB LIST

There is an unusual division of labour at FCS. The FCS Administrator performs the non-teaching functions that in other schools are performed by the Principal. In mainstream schools, the Principal does little or no teaching, which is a shame because the Principal is often the best teacher.

In FCS, the Principal (Faye) has a genuinely educational portfolio. She is in overall charge of the curriculum, the selection and supervision of teaching staff and trainees, is the primary liaison with parents, and personally teaches the English curriculum. There is also off-the-premises professional development, curriculum & event planning and curriculum design.

The work of an Administrator in a school of 65 is not, alas, one tenth of that of a school of 650. Although the volume of *secretarial* activity is mostly proportional to the number of students, most *admin* operations are identical for any size school.

The Administrator's work is fairly invisible to the school population and the question is sometimes asked of Philip "What do you actually do as Administrator?" Philip has not been able to answer this question because he hasn't known where to start!

However during the July holidays, for the purpose of long-term staff training plans, Philip has had to list his chores. There could be some items missing from this list. Please advise Philip if you are aware of tasks he performs other than what are on this list:

Administrator's Tasks (1998):

*(*indicates task need not always in future be performed by this officer)*

curriculum

compiling and co-ordinating Maths curriculum*
co-ordinating & maintenance computer room*

buildings

co-ordinating projects/maintenance for buildings
co-ordinating projects/maintenance for campsite

overseeing office,

supervising office staff / assigning tasks
ordering school filing system
organising school archives,
creating school forms,
checking and signing all cheques,

authoring school publications

school newsletters, journals and circulars*
school prospectus*
founder's manual*
school calendar

staff administration

drafting employment arrangements,
setting pay and super rates,
drafting staff references
coping with mountainous documentation of industrial awards
engaging & training admin & mntnce staff

financial policy

overseeing recurrent budget
overseeing capital budget
calculating & setting client charges
supervising fee collection,
making buying decisions,
dealing with insurance services
dealing with banking services
supervising annual corp affairs financial returns

interfacing with wider education system

liaising with AISV and NCISA,*
liaising with VPC and APC,*
submissions to authorities,
submissions to media,*
attending educational conferences*

interfacing with state educational authorities

supervising annual state ed financial returns,
discussions with Rialto (Min of Ed Vic)
formulating the annual state census,
responding to Rialto correspondence,
dealing with state inspections,

interfacing with federal educational authorities

supervising annual federal ed financial returns,
discussions with DEET (Canberra),
formulating the annual federal census,
responding to DEET correspondence,

interfacing with the school community*

answering enquiries from educationists*
answering enquiries from prospective parents*
interviewing prospective parents,*
interviewing current parents, (usually with Pal)*
draft reporting on students,*
tutoring special groups of students,*
organising school functions,
attending school functions,
dealing with special needs and difficult cases*

school government

formulating policy on many aspects of operation,
responding to challenges to school philosophy*
drafting operations manuals
organising management meetings
attending management meetings,
reporting to management meetings,

dealing with legal matters,

dealing with corporate matters,
dealing with legalistic threats to the school.
and many one-off tasks and unpredictable aspects of school operation which are not covered by other personnel.*

