

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1999

CONGRATULATIONS WARREN:

Warren studied Chinese here at FCS, then with Tim B after hours for Yrs 7 & 8, then entered Melbourne Grammar for Year 9 (this year) and has won their Chinese Certificate of Academic Achievement. Well done, Warren!

ANOTHER CHINESE STUDENT

Hamish K (1995) now at Wesley, has just returned from a Chinese exchange to Kunming in the People's Republic.

NAN, MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Suddenly and unexpectedly, Nan fell to heart failure on the 31st May. She collapsed at home, was found by Faye, and died in St Vincent's an hour or so later. Faye and Helen were holding her hands at the time.

Nan has been a mainstay of FCS over many years. Her patient work hearing little children's reading has helped many of them over literacy hurdles. She also helped at the functions, the afternoon teas and concerts, and in lending moral support and practical support, especially to the Principal, her daughter Faye.

Faye, Philip, and family, extend to FCS people our heartfelt thanks for the wonderful support you have shown to us through this difficult time. The funeral, with such a large and sincere attendance, was very moving and sustaining. We have videos of the requiem mass for those who may have missed it or may wish to see it again.

We have not worked out how we will function without her yet, but we have faith that the FCS community will close ranks and carry on, inspired by Nan's example.

END OF TERM CONCERT

Thursday 17th June at 7pm.
Collingwood College.
Bring a plate for supper.

PAST PUPILS and FRIEND COME to FCS FOR WORK EXPERIENCE

Welcome to 3 Wesley students – Brodie (1995), Catherine (1995) and Hugh – here for the last week of term.

WAVE POOL STH MELBOURNE

All students this term have had a fun day at the Wave Pool. Thank you Helen Gardiner for organising this. Thank you too to the many drivers.

BOB & LESLEY'S NEW SCHOOL STILL GOING STRONG

Now called ALIA COLLEGE (Latin for *Another Way*), conducted mostly in the Scout Hall in Victoria Road near Auburn Station. There is an information night on the school July 29th, 7.30pm at Balwyn Library, Whitehorse Road.
Any enquiries Phone Joy on 9815 2397.

OPERA ON 2ND JUNE

Students Yr 4-6 went to the Atheneum Theatre to see Barber of Seville (Oz Opera – a branch of Australian Opera.)

THANK YOU JOHN BISHOP

(father David '97) for Biggies science for several years. John is now too busy to continue, but we thank him for his wonderful work over the years.

MODERN LEGENDS

Tim, Sean and the Biggies went to see Star Wars (#1 Phantom Menace) on Wed 9th June.

JAPANESE INTERN

Isao has now shifted to the home of Helen, Simon, Eric and Astrid. We thank the family for this service which helps to enrich school life. And we thank Kathleen, Iain, Calum and Emily for having had Isao for the first half.

CAMPS

All children Yr 2-6 have had a camp this term. Thank you Tim for all your efforts in giving the children this growthful experience. Weather has been kind to us.

Camps have been held early this year because Tim leaves us in Sept until the middle of next year to take up the Melb Uni Travelling Scholarship in Toronto where he will be doing a Masters in Education. Yr 1 & Tinies camp will take place in November.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

We have given the Dept of Environment permission to inspect the Land property at will to keep track of the *Powerful Owl*, up to 600mm tall, an endangered species, which feeds on possums, parrots and other game. You may not sight one roosting high during the day, but you can hear its deep double hoot at night time.

NETBALL

Middlies and Biggies have been involved in inter-school netball at Royal Park. Gold team has made the finals to be played on Thurs 10th June. Thankyou to all drivers, Sam for coaching and umpiring, Sean for assisting, Rachel for Draw and Jeannette for organising.

CONGRATS to our Inter-school Cross Country Runners earlier this term. Thank you Sean and Mary. Special congrats to Sarah who qualified for the Zone Championships and then went on to run a fabulous 9th at this event.

FINISHING TIME

School finishes at **3pm**. Please collect your children for the homeward journey by **3:20pm**. (Except when they have a late optional extra class, or are waiting for parents at Wednesday afternoon tea.)

ITALIAN

Josepina left us suddenly on account of ill health. We have benefited from Josepina's input and we are sorry to lose her. Thank you and best wishes for the rest of your pregnancy. Margharita Ferraro (class mate of Jeremy) has stepped in to cover Italian until Jeremy returns in Term 4. Thank you and welcome Margharita.

ABSENCE OF PRINCIPAL

Faye will leave for 6 weeks in France at the beginning of Term 3. Tim will cover Faye's English. Tim's Chinese goes to Janet (Jianping) who has taught Chinese at FCS before. Janet will teach until Tim returns mid 2000. Sean will work more hours too.

GOODBYE ALVIRA (VIOLIN)

Alvira and Philippe have made the major decision to return to France with beautiful new baby Lucien. We wish you all well. You will be missed. Alvira has organised Jenny as a replacement. Violin lessons will be on Thursdays next term. But still bring violins and all instruments for orchestra on Mondays.

APPRECIATION FROM CHRIS TANTI

To those who completed the research questionnaires.

.WELCOME

Welcome to Ruby (Middlie), Sam (Little), Mary and David who have just joined FCS.

CONGRATULATIONS

CAITLIN F AND GIANCARLO

These two students sat and gained entrance to the highly competitive Uni High Accelerated Program. Well done. Caitlin will take the place. Giancarlo is planning to attend at Wesley.

ELLY'S AFTERNOON TEA

for Cancer research 26th May. Thank you Merrilyn and Wells for the generous contribution of snowballs.

ZOO

All students have had a day at the zoo this term. Thank you once again drivers.

FCS SINGS

at the Old People's Home (Harold McCracken) on Wednesday 16th June.

SWIMMING

Swimming has continued each Wednesday. Thank you drivers. There are a few children who are missing frequently and will fall behind. Absence should only occur for serious reasons.

MS READ-A-THON

Many FCS children have participated. Have money in by Friday the 11th.

TOURNAMENT OF THE MINDS

Pam Salamanca has been working with the Biggies for Social Science in Term 2. Team selection will occur by start of Term 3. Thank you Pam. Seven students must be chosen from two year levels, max four from each. Participants must be available for the Regional Final on Sat/Sun 28/29 August.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Event involved Yrs 3-6 for health, co-ordination and fund-raising. Thank you Mary. Please bring money in by Friday 11th June.

BIBLE STORIES

Some families have expressed a desire for Philip to restart the Bible Stories classes. Philip has almost completed his degree at the United Faculty of Theology, but is not a fundamentalist, and takes a great interest in working out what the Bible stories are actually about.

However, Philip discovered last year that most of his very young Bible scholars relate to the ancient stories in a very literal way. So Philip has had to do some thinking about this and has decided he is willing to have a go at telling the Bible stories as a straight storyteller for say 20 minutes, then for those (usually older) students who want to probe for an interpretation of the stories, follow up with another 20 minute discussion.

Any parents who would like their child to attend these sessions, please tell Jeannette. If there is enough interest, Philip will resume the Bible stories.

BELATED THANK YOU

To Cathy (mother of Feri and Joli) for her introductory sessions with the Biggies on debating.

TRIVIA NIGHT

There will be a trivia night for parents staff PAST PUPILS and adult friends at 7pm on the 23rd of July. Margaret is asking for inspiration on the questions – write your question ideas and hand in to Margaret or Jeannette. Margaret may or may not use your questions, and she may alter them for obvious reasons! Should be a fun night.

SCHOOL CAMPS REPORT BY TIMOTHY

I am often asked by parents what I do, and what the children do, on camp. My part is really easy, I cook, and clean, and if it is wet, I dry clothes. Pasta, soup, jaffles, 2-minute noodles, lots of cups of tea, dumplings, and the occasional sandwich. And I sit, constantly interrupted by a stream of tales of wonder, of water bugs, walks, games, swings and the million wonders of the bush. Over the course of the camp, there will be perhaps one organised activity, and that is nearly always wood collecting. At night, I may organise a game of spotto, or a quiz after dinner.

So what do the children do? They learn – in the true sense of learn. They discover themselves, what they like, what they want to do. This opportunity is rare in modern schooling and child-raising, leaving them alone, without hints, prompts and organised activities, to discover for themselves what they like and are capable of.

There is a value judgement here, that it is good for a child to discover for themselves what appeals to them.

Another aspect of camps is that the freedom is empowering. Without the monitoring and guidance, without the adult provision of entertainment, the children learn how to relate to each

other, something not entirely possible in a school situation (or really anywhere where an adult is constantly supervising and actively involved, particularly a parent).

Without parents children find other ways to deal with life as it unfolds. Participating in play on the swing, for instance, parents seem unable to participate without getting a queue organised, insisting either explicitly or implicitly, that the children have 'equal' and 'fair' turns. While the children may accept the decision or idea of the adult as fair and meeting of their demands without argument, where they have previously spent hours discussing the arrangement, this is not the point. The discussion and negotiation are real and valuable skills, skills that they can and will take with them in life and use in many settings outside of the playground. Clothing, eating, washing and dirt are similar examples, where many parents find it difficult to let go.

Tight supervision is however opposed to what I believe camps are about. The object, for me, is that the children learn/discover that they can, successfully and happily, organise turns on the swing and the trampoline, that they are able to take care of their eating - make a sandwich or a jaffle, eat a piece of fruit, and that going without shoes in this environment is really a non-issue.

In this mostly uncontrolled atmosphere, where relationships are those of the 'free' child, and all achievements are those of the 'free' child, the child is master or mistress of his or her fate. Accomplishments are those of the child. The child owns these achievements, is proud of them and empowered by them. They walk taller (if dirtier) at the end of camp, empowered by the realisation of their own inner strengths, strength hitherto hidden or underestimated, strength drowned in the constant flow of *having things done for them*.

In this, I do have a part, and that is to affirm the children's achievements, and to let them know that I am there for them, supportive of them. This does not take patience, but it does take time. As I said before, they (especially the younger ones) constantly present me with their discoveries, questions, achievements, creations, stories. These are not an annoyance, or an interruption, or the cause of any frustration since I consider this to be *my* role. The elaborate story of the capture of a water-bug may take ten minutes... which would be annoying if I had to 'work' or organise something...if I was BUSY. But I am not. Camp is for the children and I am there for them, interested in their achievements, but neither directing nor motivating them. I share in their achievements and acknowledge their strengths. TLB 6/99

