

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1999

ENCL: Year 2000 School Calendar
ENCL: Monograph on REBEL BOYS

Congratulations, JOSH (Year 2)!

Josh is the Winner of the under 8 category of the Dorothea MacKellar Poetry Competition for his poem "JJ". We are very proud of Josh's effort, as we are of all the children who submitted poems. Also, another big Thank You to Faye, Philip the poet, and Philip's friend Carol for their work in getting the creative poetic juices flowing.

JJ by Josh

JJ thought he was a hero,
He was only four.
He'd go outside and play
And save animals he saw.
He saved slugs and snails and spiders
From under heavy rocks
And take them inside & make them a home
In a little cardboard box.
Now you and I know this isn't
The right thing to do
But four year olds like having fun
Just like me and you.

Congratulations, PHILIP & CAROL
Who will be getting married in November.

WELCOME BACK FAYE

Faye has just returned from 7 weeks spent mostly in France. She is glad to be back, is looking forward to linking up with everybody again, and is recognised by the unmistakable Mediterranean tan.

LAP Tests

All the Year 3 and 5 students did Maths/English LAP tests. We expect the results early in Term 4.

COBBERS

Good Luck Philip, who has founded COBBERS, Citizens Opposed to Bureaucratic Bullying & Excessive Regulation to fight the war against excessive red tape and mounting controls. We appreciate your efforts in making the world a more human-friendly place.

Thank You, READING HELPERS!

Carmela, Jeanette, and Gabby (Mums of Nisha, Cecilia, and Sarojini & Yolanda, respectively) have generously spent time listening to students read this term. This gift of time and patience is much appreciated.

NEW ENTRANCE

Double Parking out the front is dangerous. It blocks trams and traffic. The back gate into the back lane now has an electric TALK BOX which can communicate with the Common Room. People can arrive by the back lane. Someone will be available to open the gate as from 8am daily.

BICYCLE RIDERS

are urged to lock their bikes to the front iron fence. This will avoid having to bring the bike through the indoor passages and clutter up the back yard.

MELBOURNE SYMPHONY

Tinies will go to see the MSO present "Classic Kids" on Monday 6th of Sept. Middlies will see "Meet the Orchestra" on Thursday 9th of Sept.

CHINESE MUSEUM

In Melbourne's Chinatown. Excursion for Mids and Bigs Friday 3rd September.

LITTLIES' SCIENCE

Fantastic models of our Solar System are decorating the ceiling from the Art Room through the hallway and into the kitchen. Well Done to everyone involved.

FETE for the upcoming DISCO

There will be a fete on Oct 20th after swimming until 3:30. There will be a Devonshire Tea for adults, a book stall, trash & treasure stall, cake stall and a raffle. Please contact Giancarlo if you would like to make a saleable or raffleable donation.

Victorian Girl's CHESS Tournament

FCS sent two teams to the Tournament held at Fintona Girls School in Balwyn. (Ella, Katherine, Sarah and Cassie, Hannah, Perri, Evelyn and Greta) Thanks to Nick, our chess teacher for preparation, Warren for on the spot coaching and support and Jan, Margaret and Leslie for transport. It was a great day for gaining experience and meeting other girls who like to play chess.

TRIVIA NIGHT THANK YOU

For all the good work and generosity of several parents and for the new school kitchen items which resulted from the funds raised and donations received.

ANTARCTICA on IMAX

In August, Tim B. took the Biggies to see a film about Antarctica. It was fun and enlightening. Recommended viewing!

TOURNAMENT OF THE MINDS

On August 28th the TOM team (Laura, Giancarlo, Caitlyn F., Ginevra, Nic, Katherine, and Tilly) presented their play about road safety at Latrobe Uni. They were fabulous! A Big Thank You to Pam Salamanca for all her hard work in coordinating the team this year.

END OF TERM CONCERT

Thursday 16th Sept. at 7pm. Collingwood College. Bring a plate for supper.

HIGH SCHOOL INTERVIEWS

are in full swing. Good Luck to all the year 6's as they prepare for next year and beyond.

Welcome back, Faye & Catherine!

Faye, Catherine and Mary immensely enjoyed their trip to France and we all enjoyed the receiving the lovely postcards. We're glad to have you back amongst us. Catherine is taking time off from Wesley and will be helping at FCS until mid 4th Term. Then she leaves to be an exchange student in Marseilles.

SCHOOL PLAY

Everyone is encouraged to learn their lines early so that we can avoid stress in 4th Term.

CONGRATULATIONS, SEAN O

(FCS 1990) On coming top of the class in Descartes at Melbourne Uni (Philosophy Dept) this year.

BASKETBALL

Most enjoyable being in the Mc Donalds Cup. Just missed out on the finals. Thanks Tim R. Thanks too to Ruby's dad for help. And thanks to Rachel for coaching Mids.

JAPANESE INTERN

The school has greatly benefited from contact with Japan through our interns like Isao. Japanese organisations have again requested places for their interns but this depends upon our having families to host them. Please contact Jeannette as soon as possible if you have space for next year.

FINISHING TIME

School finishes at 3pm. Please collect your children for the homeward journey by 3:20pm. When your child has after-school gym please be at school by 3:55pm to pick them up. (Supervision issues)

WELCOME JENNY (VIOLIN)

Jenny Thomas has been teaching violin to all our budding violin virtuosi. We're happy you're with us.

WELCOME NICK (CHESS)

Who is standing in for Jeremy teaching chess this term.

WELCOME JANET (CHINESE)

Jianping (Janet) Zheng has replaced Tim B. as our Chinese teacher. She did a teaching round with us last year and the children are enjoying working with her again.

Welcome Back LUKE (FCS 1992)

Luke Arnold, now doing Law-Arts at Melb Uni has taken over as school bookkeeper, replacing Jon who has gained a full-time position as a school bookkeeper at Richmond West. Welcome back to FCS in your new role, Luke.

Congratulations, JON & SARA

on your baby due on the 1/1/00, perhaps the first of the new millenium! Jon being a sensitive new-age guy, is of course eagerly looking forward to sharing in nappy-changing duties, etc.

BON VOYAGE, TIM B.

Good Luck in Toronto. Keep warm in the snow. Hope the study goes well for your MA in Phil of Ed.

LITTLIES' Parent/Teacher night

On Wednesday, 8th of Sept. Teachers will be available to talk about the Littlies' general curriculum. (Adults only)

REBEL BOYS

MORE THOUGHTS ON CHILD-RAISING BY PHILIP & FAYE

"we do love the bold little boys and we want to see them blossom into fine men" - faye

Children rely on their elders for guidance as to how to survive in the particular society they have entered. Generally, children will co-operate with adults who seriously and clearly communicate what behaviour is required.

But some parents find that they have ended up with a rebel - usually a boy. This is often a dilemma for modern parents. Should I discipline my child? When? How? What for? What, if any, behaviours should be strictly disallowed?

Questions like this are troubling for many parents at this point in our history. Parents of previous generations would dispense discipline without anywhere near as much agonising and self-doubt. No doubt, some too freely. But have parents gone too far the other way when they let the little people run riot all over the social space?

Why the change? Well, for one thing, families are much smaller, and there is less opportunity for parents to learn from experience how to handle socialisation. And as a result there is also less cross-family example.

Secondly, as part of the rise of popular psychology, there has been a lot of theorising about "enlightened" child-raising practices. But what is a passing fad, and what is true progress?

Well, let's just talk about the two outer limits on children's behaviour - the parental and the societal. Yes, parents who lose their temper and strike out at children without self-control are traumatising those children. (Adults should never wield objects when reacting to children). Regular losing of temper is bad child-raising. Even

when a parent is being strict, they should still show respect for the child as a person.

If a parent is getting stressed by a child's annoying behaviour, the parent must do something about it before they reach the point where their pent-up frustration explodes in a manner that shocks both parent and child - or worse, decays slowly into dislike.

So one outer limit is what the parent can cope with. Now, isn't that interesting? That's not based directly on the child's needs at all! But it is very important - because the child needs his or her parents, needs them to be sane, to be functioning.

Yes, it is perfectly appropriate that the child modify his behaviour in accordance with the limits of others' tolerance. Can this be overdone? Yes, if a parent becomes ridiculously intolerant. How intolerant is that? If you're always saying no, you know you are going too far.

But what if I don't mind what the child does? Now if the child is already a very cooperative type, this is believable. But some parents have trained themselves not to react even when their child tramples all over social protocol. This is not doing the child any good. If children show no respect for others, they are progressively more excluded from social life - and both they and we lose from this. By mid-secondary, not having found a way, they may be chronically depressed.

Every society has behaviour limitations. There are no exceptions. Even our society, which prides itself on its rights of self-expression, locks up many thousands of (usually young male) citizens who are too unrestrained in their behaviour. And in the penal system, there are no rights at all. Indeed, the handlers go out of their way to be unpleasant.

Little boys become grown men in only 15 or so years. Civilised behaviour does not come automatically with age, but only through acculturation, that is social feedback, 90% of which is normally parental.

Spirited boys fare much better in this regard if their father (or father figure) gives clear and distinct personal responses in respect of particular behaviours.

What about explaining things to children? Yes, this does work with most children. But there is in every generation a hard core of infants who, although they understand the words perfectly, need to actually know first hand what they can and can't get away with. There is not something wrong with these children. They have a biologically-determined need to find out for themselves what the physical (not the verbal) restraints are on various behaviours.

If these limits are not presented to them by a clear system of warning-followed-by-physical-restraint-if-ignored, these children will become confused, unhappy, and socially dysfunctional. If boys like this enter politically correct primary schools, there is also a risk that they will be (erroneously but harmfully) doped or branded as psychologically unsound.

Sheer permissiveness is poor child-raising. So the second outer limit is that there must be some limits! But what if I can't be sure exactly which behaviours should be disallowed? This is not the most important issue. Yes, what seems important today may be overlooked in thirty years time.

What does not change is that every member of society must cope with the fact of behavioural limits. The tragedy is that some children do not realise that society has some brick wall limits until too late in their development. Some limits must be set and enforced. □