

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1999

ENCL: Year 2000 School Calendar - altered
ENCL: Dorothea Mackellar award news article.
ENCL: A red brick Building Fund donation form
ENCL: LAP results for Yr3 and Yr 5 families

LAP Tests

The results (Year 3 and 5 students) are in. Individual reports are included with this newsletter. Any parent that wishes to discuss the results with Faye please do so.

FETE for the upcoming DISCO

The fete raised \$556 and donated \$192 to East Timor. The disco itself will be held Nov 27th — 7pm start.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Six children, Calum, Dominic, Eric, Evelyn, Rebecca and Sarah, were received into this Sacrament at St Carthage's church in Parkville on Sunday 24th October. Their extended families and many friends attended for the big occasion.

Over a hundred people gathered at the school premises afterwards and shared a wonderful feast of home cooking. There was a wide mix of beliefs and philosophies present.

The whole event, all the way from coaching to catering was organised by the parents of the communicants. Philip and Faye expressed their delight at the gathering to see the school facilities used for such a school community event.

If parents have other community events for which they would like to use the school premises, please advise Philip or Faye.

THE LORD MAYOR

Steve Watson Mayor of Yarra, came to school on Thursday 14th October to present the Dorothea Mackellar award to Josh for his prize-winning poem, the Victorian under-8 award.

Steve will come again to address the school meeting on the subject of trams and tramways, the subject of a book he has published on Melbourne's rail history.

PHILIP HARVEY on LIMERICKS

Philip is coming to do Limericks with the children. It is the generous support of capable members of the community like Philip and many others that gives FCS its rich curriculum.

BUY a BRICK

There are still quite a few spaces for honorary bricks (\$100 each) on the presentation wall of new schoolhouse. If anyone else would like to buy a brick (tax deductible), check enclosed red form.

OFF THE SCALE

Catholic University of East Melbourne approached our school seeking our co-operation in a study of literacy teaching methods — to compare phonic and whole-language methods.

They wanted to assess our Year 1s, but found that all our students were achieving in the extreme zone, above the permissible range for test subjects.

We then offered 3 under-age Tinies for their test, but they found that they too, were beyond the expected performance range for 6.4-7.2 year-olds. Sorry we couldn't help!

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)

WELL DONE, IMOGEN

Imogen (grad FCS 1996) is doing Year 9 at Uni High, and has been rated by her teachers as operating at Year 11 level. Imo's average is A in all subjects except Phys Ed (B+). We are delighted to see in her reports "thoughtfulness, keenly interested, fully participates, literary appreciation, analysis, asset to the class". And it's a great idea to be involved in the debating activities.

What stands out is the love of learning.

FAMILY DAY AT THE LAND

Faye and Philip arrived the night before, but weren't sure anyone would show up in the rain that poured down on the morning of the day.

As it turned out, about 20 people enjoyed a day of picnic, drizzle, exploring huts and bush and the usual solving of the world's problems around the campfire. A pleasurable day.

THANKS to PARENT DRIVERS

Getting our three teams to the inter-school Rounders games at Princes Park

CONGRATS, WARREN

Finishing FCS in 1997, now at Melbourne Grammar, on your High Distinction in the Bank of Melbourne Maths Exam (formerly the Westpac)

OUR I.T. OFFICER TIM^R offers

his services as home and small business computer consultant. Good Luck, Tim.

SCIENCEWORKS

For Tinies and Littlies Mon 8th Nov.

ART SHOW. Bravo GINA!

Gina, teacher of Biggies & Middlies Art, organised a show of the children's art at Melb Uni. Susan's Littlies & Tinies showed their work too. Many parents brought supper and enjoyed the evening.

MIDDLEIES Parent-Teacher Night

Monday 8th November 7.30pm in the School Common Room. Middlies recently painted windows of Brunswick Street shops for the Fringe Festival.

WELCOME, Simon, Student Teacher

4th-year, with us for 5 wks from RMIT.

TRANSITION BRIEFING

Year 6s and their parents are invited to meet past students to discuss the experience of transition to secondary schooling. Here at school, Thursday 11th November at 7.30pm.

THE SECRET GARDEN

Biggies need to practice their lines at home. There will be 2 performances — afternoon and evening — on FRI 19 November.

SPRING CAMPS

MIDDLEIES Mon 22 - Wed 24 Nov.

YEAR ONE's Wed 24 - Fri 26 Nov.

BIGGIES Mon 29 Nov - Fri 3 Dec.

TINIES Mon 6 Dec - Tue 7 Dec.

SINGING to the OLD FOLKS

At the Harold McCracken Home at the corner of Church St and Nicholson St Wed 1st December at 2pm.

YEAR 6s PHILOSOPHY NIGHT

Will be presented at the Retro restaurant on Tuesday 7th December, the occasion of a valedictory dinner for graduates, their parents and their teachers.

Thanks to Barts the Philosophy Tutor.
And thanks to Merrilyn & Wells for
thinking of and organising the evening at
Retro.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Wednesday 8th December. Our school
and others will be performing on stage.

FINAL VALEDICTORY CONCERT

Thursday 9th December. All welcome
including extended family and friends.

CONGRATS, GIANCARLO

On your A pass in Grade 4 piano.

LIT at the AMPHITHEATRE

Faye is thrilled with the turnout of
parents of Biggies who came to the
Biggies Book Report & Picnic near the
Fairfield Boat House. It went so well, it
will now be an annual event, and all
parents will be invited.

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Where Angels Fear to Tread

A THOUGHT FROM THE CO-FOUNDER

Would you believe? Philip has had a new
thought. This time on the subject of marriage.
(Philip and Faye have just returned from a
married couples' weekend at Palotti College,
Millgrove, Warburton Highway).

Perhaps you have already thought these
thoughts, but they're new for Philip.
They may be of some interest to others.
So here goes.

*Marriage used to be compulsory, now
it's voluntary, and one day it might be
prohibited. Just joking. I think.*

Marriage used to be supported by
societal expectations. Divorce was a
hard option. Pressure from OUTSIDE
kept many a lacklustre marriage
together.

Today there is no such pressure. Most
marriages collapse. Now the
determination must come from
WITHIN.

Marriage is no longer something that
takes care of itself. Just being
NORMAL won't crack it. Copying
typical behaviour means your marriage
will probably fail.

It follows then that marriage has become
a CHOSEN PROFESSION —
requiring maintenance, a code of ethics,
professional development, instructional
weekends, regular honeymoons, non-
hysterical responses to conflicting
expectations, non-blaming, counselling.

Counselling is no longer a mark of
failure, but a mark of commitment —
a professional approach to problems that
used to be thought private. In fact,
regarding marital problems, there is
nothing new under the sun.

Letting yourself be overwhelmed by
issues which have been sorted out
countless times before, when there are
experienced counsellors out there who
can bring the wisdom of past experience
to your aid, is as silly as re-inventing the
wheel.

Just check that you're engaging the sort
of counsellor that tries to keep a family
together (if possible), not the sort that
likes to break them up. Some believe in
the concept of the family and some do
not.

If marriage is important to you, become
a professional spouse!

P.S. No responsibility taken if I have said anything
wrong! This is the blind leading the blind. Everyone has
to think for themselves in this profession. POC