NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 1999

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 cooperation 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 interschool 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® 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 & Middles 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.

MIDDLES Parent-Teacher Night
Monday 8th November 7.30pm in the School Common Room. Middles 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

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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.

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