

Fitzroy Community School

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NEWSLETTER

**January
2001**

ENCL: CALENDAR 2001 all
LAND MAP new families
OPTIONAL ARTS FORM parents only
FEES for 2001 parents only

***Welcome to new families, and
welcome back to the old!***

FIRST DAY FOR NEW FAMILIES
is Monday 29th Jan at 10am for morning tea
and informal assembly. (approx 1 hour).

FIRST DAY FOR EVERYONE ELSE
is Tuesday 30th Jan at 8.45am. Please come
to FCS first. When we've all gathered here,
we'll move across (because of numbers) to
the community rooms in the park for the
first meeting of the year

CALENDAR FOR 2001

Everyone should have one. There are extra
copies beside the pantry in the common
room. Put key dates in your diary.

Education Maintenance ALLOWANCE
Any parents in receipt of a Health Benefits
Card qualify for this. Talk to Leslie.

**Teachers, Parents, Former Parents &
Friends** - Opportunity to say hello from
7:30 to 9pm on Friday 2nd Feb at school.
We encourage old parents to come and
meet new members of the FCS community.

at the beginning for some. Parents use your
discretion.

ARRIVAL TIMES and BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

Official arrival time is 8.45 am.
Staff are on duty as from 8am.

FIRST DAY ACTIVITIES

8.45am arrive at School.

9am Leave FCS for meeting in
Community Rooms at oval opposite
(parents welcome)

10.00am Fruit and drink

10.15am classes according to first day
timetable, during which new people will be
welcomed, sort out drawers, boxes, books.
There is no need to bring any stationery
unless you want to.

1.00pm picnic at Edinburgh Gardens near
the swings - all welcome. Children may be
collected from the Park (advise Faye or
Jeannette) or from school after **2.30pm**.

FEES for 2001

School fees for each term are to be paid by
the last day of the preceding term. Please
pay on the invoice you receive. Post your
payments to the school accountant or place
it in the bursar's box in the school kitchen.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Parents please give your optional extras
form to Jeannette on day one or by Friday if
you need to discuss them — unless you
have already done so. Any adjustments
will show in the next invoice.

THANK YOU to KATHLEEN

For your several years of great service to this school in your work in Science and Computers with our children. We are sorry to lose you and we wish you the very best of luck in your new position.

WELCOME BACK to GABBY

Who will be doing drama weekly and will be producing the play for 2001.

Gabby will also take over Science – except in Term 1 when Mary will take responsibility in consultation with Gabby.

WELCOME NEW VIOLIN TEACHER

Jenny Dixon, will be presenting *The Violin* to the school meeting on Friday 2nd Feb.

Interested parents are welcome to attend.

BEST WISHES to our SECONDARY BEGINNERS

Becky (Ivanhoe Girls Grammar),
Ella, Guy, Sarah, Liam, Tilly (Princes Hill),
Katherine, Tess (Melbourne Girls College)
and Nic (Wesley Prahran).

Our thoughts go with you, our graduates of last year. We have every confidence that you will do well at your big secondary schools.

All past pupils, remember, we love to see you and to hear how you are going.

CONGRATULATIONS to LAURA

(Grad FCS 1999) upon being invited into the Year 8 Accelerated Maths Program at Wesley Prahran. This was based on your performance throughout your Year 7 as well as your teacher's opinion and your test.

CONGRATULATIONS IMOGEN

On completing VCE Year 12 Latin in your Year 11 year (2000) at Uni High AND getting the 3rd highest mark in Victoria!

CONGRATULATIONS CLARE MYERS

On graduating in Medicine from Monash with Honours.

CONGRATULATIONS FERI

on your forthcoming Bar Mitzvah.

CONGRATULATIONS MILENA

On your Wesley Music Scholarship (French Horn), and also on best and fairest award for netball.

CONGRATULATIONS GIANCARLO

On your Special Achievement Award and prize for the highest standardised score in Wesley College in the National Westpac Maths Competition. Also for your A in grade 5 piano.

CONGRATULATIONS PHILIP R

On your Wesley Middle school Honours Colours for Gymnastics.

CONGRATULATIONS GINA

Upon completing your 3rd Year in Bachelor of Education at Melb Uni with an average H1 (as in your years 1 & 2).

CONGRATULATIONS MARGARET

Upon completing your Bachelor of Education at Melb Uni with an average H1, also on your gaining a position at Strathmore High, and also on obtaining your new house!

LOLLY DAY for new families

On WEDNESDAY afternoons (only) children may go to the corner shop. (Tinies and Littlies must wait to be escorted by teachers, Middlies in groups). Small children typically bring \$1 - \$1.50 on this day. There are to be no lollies or soft drinks at school at any other time. No chewing or bubble gum EVER.

SWIMMING

First swim will be on the second day of term, the 31st of January, and every Wednesday. Bring bathers and towel. Make sure 8-hour sunscreen is applied before school. While weather is hot, swimming is at Fitzroy Pool (Alexander Parade). Later in the year we go to Brunswick Baths (Dawson Street).

N.B. For the Carlton District Primary Schools Sports Competition, years 4, 5 and 6 will also train each Thursday in term 1.

ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION

Parents please see that all children have sunscreen on their face and arms when they come to school. All children should have a hat at school or in their bag every day. There are always outings, scheduled and unscheduled. Children without their own hat have to wear a school-issued hat.

FIRST BIGGIES CAMP

From Sunday 11th Feb at 12 noon Kyneton Bushland Resort till Friday 18th. Parents who want to make the trip are welcome to join us for a picnic 12 noon-3pm at the site. Or let us know if your child needs a lift.

FINISHING TIME

School finishes 3pm. Please collect children for the homeward journey by 3:20pm. When your child has after-school gym or clay please be at school by 3:55pm to pick them up. (Supervision) We ask parents to heed this: last year was somewhat chaotic, with kitchen cleanup being somewhat undone.

AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

At 3.15pm any remaining children will be assembled and by 3.20pm will be chauffeured to the Organ Factory - PH 9486 2675. Please contact Jeannette to arrange this.

LUNCH

The children do not bring lunch to school. They make it here. Sometimes there is a hot meal. This sharing of common food is a key feature of this school. It contributes to the development of living skills and to a family atmosphere.

We ask parents to support this practice with their children because of the community spirit it helps create.

Both vegetarians and omnivores are routinely catered for. If your child has special dietary or medical requirements please speak to Jeannette..

Staff and parents, please understand that you too are invited to partake of school food and drink in the school common room (kitchen) at any time.

School adults *please* tidy up after yourself when using the Common Room. Any adults who tidy up after the children are appreciated. Coaching of children in domestic skills is also appreciated.

HEADLICE ALERT

They are circulating at this time. Please ensure that your child is free of headlice for the start of first term. (Last year, some parents were not careful about this and we had an early outbreak.)

YEAR 5 FINAL CAMP OF YEAR

We are seriously considering making the final camp of each year for year 5 “The Great Victorian Bike Ride”. We are fortunate to have Cecilia’s father Harry who is Managing Director of *Bike Vic*. There will be a meeting with Harry in Term 1. Faye has a video now which you can borrow.

FCS BOOKKEEPING INFO

The Sunday Age of 14/01/2001 showed FCS tuition fees as \$3240 for the year of 2000, increased by 12.5% (one-eighth) for the 2001. This is correct. Other amounts paid are extra to tuition fees – as they are in other schools.

The *Lunch Fund* is a parents’ kitty — for eating activities. There is no canteen enterprise. This is a domestic spending item shared between parents. Being a non-profit enterprise, turning over (much) less than \$100,000 per annum, it does not require to be GST registered. We buy mainly from Vic Market and Piedimontes.

Building Fund donations for school premises costs do not attract GST.

Changing the subject across to the question of *tax deductibility*, donations to a school building fund are always tax deductible. Parents should always receive a tax deductibility receipt from FCS for these donations. Alert our accountant if you don’t get yours. These receipts can then be used with one’s tax return.

We again express our gratitude to donors. We calculate that, were it not for the generosity of our donors, and if it were necessary to introduce a compulsory *levy* (which is not tax deductible), the parent body would be paying about \$30,000 per annum more than now!

As regards *Optional Arts* extras, such as Violin, Dance, etc, we must actually *employ* all such teachers (unless they have a company with public liability cover).

We have to cover Super and Workcare. Also some admin costs and premises costs (eg Community Rooms) are partly carried by the school as an encouragement to a broadened education.

Supply Fund covers items consumed as personal property in studies such as stationery, textbooks, etc. This attracts 10% GST. 📖

SECRETS OF SUCCESS OF FCS

FCS has become very popular, with a growing waiting list. We believe that if we advertised, we could fill another campus right away.

FCS’ unique lifestyle and glowing outcomes are of course due to the way it is conducted. There are many traps for alternative schools. The hard-won success of FCS is built on the trial-and-error of perhaps 20 failed alternative schools that opened with us in the 70s.

We expect that parents joining us have, in fact, read and clearly understood the Prospectus and Enrolment Forms.

To help keep the ship on course, Philip & Faye are writing a FOUNDERS MANUAL for everyone to read, one page of which will appear with each newsletter (sent to parents, staff and friends approximately monthly). The next newsletter will include the Chapter 4 on *The Hidden Curriculum*.

NEW PARENTS please NOTE

Road sense is essential in our school. We are an inner urban school and we front onto a busy street. We have many outings. Please ensure your children understand that the road is dangerous and that they are not to cross any street without an adult.

BOOTS and SHOES

There tends to be a bit of an agonised search for footwear at the end of the school day, especially for small people and especially on hot days.

To avoid the necessity for a distressing end to the school day, we recommend good quality shoes from the opportunity shop, several pairs of. Most do tend to resurface eventually. Same with socks.

Also, socks do not need to match!

N.B. Please collect last year's shoes and Katmandu tops from the lost property room.

PARENTS, KEEP IN TOUCH!

Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time on any day - 100% access.

Parents who are not able to visit regularly are urged to take at least a couple of hours per term to spend time at the school.

If teachers have any concerns, they will contact parents. Similarly, parents are encouraged to initiate a chat with teachers or to make an appointment if desired — even if only for an update.

On two occasions, once in Term 1 and once in Term 4, there is a Family Day at the land - the school campsite - to which families and friends are invited. Dates on Calendar. Map available for new families.

Also, every Wednesday afternoon, there is an adults' afternoon tea 3pm-4pm in the school kitchen - for any parents and/or friends who may wish to stay and chat.

Dads too!

**Looking forward to Tuesday the 30th.
[Monday the 29th 10am new families.]**

*Philip, Faye,
Jeannette, Tim
& all the Staff*



