

Fitzroy Community School

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NEWSLETTER

March 2001

ENCL: School Philosophy - Statement 2000
by the founders, Philip and Faye

Celebrating our 25th Anniversary

End of 3rd term will be 25 years after we started. We are still gathering ideas as to how we can celebrate this milestone.

CHESS TOURNAMENT

FCS is hosting an Interschool Chess Tournament for Primary Girls on April 3 in the Community Rooms 9am – 1:30.

Intra-school Chess Tournament for all Chess Students on Friday, 30th March.

TERM 2 STARTS 26 APRIL

Term 2 begins on a Thursday 26 April due to Anzac Day falling on Wednesday. Normally we start each Term on a Tuesday.

TINIES OUTING

FIRST DAY TERM TWO

April 26th drivers are needed to drive the Tinies to Lygon Street where we will catch the tram to the Arts Centre. Please see Jeannette if you can help. Leave school 12:30pm. Return 3pm.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Please do not bring electronic games to school. Chewing gum is never to be brought to school, even on lolly day.

CLEANUP DAY 31 MARCH

10am – 3pm on Saturday parents please come and lend a hand tidying up and tackling those extra jobs that need a bit of attention. Also we try to make this a kid-free day so that we can really move through the jobs.

CARNEVALE

Many, many thanks to Dora for initiating this wonderful colourful event. Dora was supported by, Leonie, Gabby, Lisa, Sam, and many others.

Thank you to all parents for your care and thought with costumes and food. It was a great night for all.

TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING

Almost all of the good news we report in this newsletter concerning the extra curriculum educational progress of our students, or the progress of our past students, staff, and parents is acquired "by accident".

We do not systematically enquire into what is going on. We ask therefore that people remember to report to us any interesting and encouraging news.

CALENDAR DATE CHANGE

Please Change your Diaries. The Fund Raising Function has been moved from 27 July to Friday 3 August. It is still planned for 7:30pm.

CROSS COUNTRY TRAINING

For practice program over holidays ask Faye/Sean.

THANK YOU DRIVERS

Thank you to all our stalwart perennials and thank you to those who answered the call for more cars for swimming. We are now comfortably covered.

END OF TERM CONCERT

The Term 1 Concert will be held, as usual, at 7pm on the last day of Term, April 5th at the Collingwood College Theatre on Vere Street in Collingwood. Please bring a plate to share after the concert. All Concert items need to be in the folder in the kitchen by Mar. 30th.

BIKE RIDE

Tim and Mary are escorting some of the Biggies and Year 4's on a bike trip from Ballarat Station to Tim's Tree farm in Dereel on March 27 to 29. Meet with your bike and camping gear at Spencer Street station at 9am.

Several Year 4's missed out this time because of a definite maximum number. Tim will organize a Year 4 camp to the Tree Farm in 4th Term.

ANIMAL BALL

Past students are invited to bring their friends along to Animal Ball with Sean on the oval on Wednesdays at 5:30pm.

CROSS COUNTRY TRAINING

Years 3-6 please be sure to have runners at school everyday for cross country. The Interschool Cross Country Meet will be held early in Term 2 on May 3rd.

INTER-SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to the following children who represented FCS at the Interschool Swimming Carnival: Rory, Ruby, Caitlin, Ben, Justin, Casey, Dom, Jojo, Nisha, Lucci, Samuel, and John.

Participating Schools were: Princes Hill, Gold Street, Lee Street, Spensley Street, North Fitzroy and FCS.

Special Congratulations to Rory and Jojo who qualified to represent the Carlton District at the Zone Championships in Werribee.

INTRA-SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to all our swimmers. Thank you to our swimming teachers who put such love and expertise into the program: Oscar, Lisa, Kate, Sam and Sean. Particular thanks to Sean for initiating and executing this event so smoothly.

JUNIOR TOWN CRIER COMPETITION

All the Biggies prepared a Proclamation about FCS and presented it at the Fairfield Amphitheatre in front of Parents and David Bond, Yarra's Town Crier.

Casey and Hannah were chosen to represent the school at the Yarra Community Day Junior Town Crier Competition and they both represented FCS proudly.

BIGGIES CAMP

This was our first camp of the school year at Kyneton Bushland Resort. A great time was had by all. Thank you, Harry barber for the loan of the tandem for Marina. And thank you Tim and Mary for your leadership.

THANKS TO HARRY BARBER

Harry (Cecilia's Dad) came to talk with Biggies' Parents about the Great Victorian Bike Ride and biking around the area Bike trails.

As discussed, on Sunday April 1st, Harry is happy to conduct a Family Bike Ride. Meet at the school at 10am with water bottles and lunch/snacks.

We will ride to the city via zoo/freeway path/Pollywoodside/ Collingwood Children's Farm/ Rushall station and back to school. Children must be supervised by an adult. Speak to Faye if you have any queries.

THANKS FROM HELEN

Many, many thanks to all the FCS families for helping Helen recover from the theft of her purse. Your kindness was greatly appreciated.

Congratulations NICK & AMY

Congratulation from all the FCS Community on your forthcoming marriage in Taipei in 13th April.

WELCOME MIRIAM

Miram is our Chinese Teacher while Tim B is away. She will also be filling in as Bookkeeper.

WELCOME ROS

Ros King will be teaching some craft classes to the Tinies and Littlies.

CONGRATULATIONS GINA

Again, Gina, our Art teacher, has gained a place on the Faculty of Education's Dean's list for 3rd Year Bachelor of Education. Well done.

THANK YOU SUSAN

Thanks to Susan (Magnus's mum) for your wonderful work with Junior Art last year. Although Susan has not been able to continue this year, due to time commitments, she is working with the Biggies in Photography.

THANK YOU REBECCA

Rebecca spoke to the Middlies and Biggies after meeting on Monday about life from the perspective of someone who is vision impaired.

MIDDLIE YEAR 3 DRAMA SKITS

All are welcome to meeting at 9am Monday 2 April to see the Year 3's Drama performances. N.B. Faye likes children to arrive on time for Monday meetings.

THANK YOU PHIL AND JOHN

Thanks to Phil and John (parents of Brittany and Scott) for your donation of wood for carpentry.

WOOD DAY AT THE LAND

Thanks to James Fleming, Paul and Jackie (Jaslyn's parents), Sean and Philip for all your hard work..

FREE BEGINNING GUITAR

Cameron Fleming (Class of '96) is offering free guitar lessons to Beginners on Thursday afternoons.

GOOD LUCK LUKE

Luke Arnold our bookkeeper is leaving us for a research post in the Indonesian Department at Melbourne Uni.

MOVE to re-establish FITZROY HIGH SCHOOL

There is a campaign to re-open FITZROY HIGH SCHOOL in North Fitzroy. An open day is being conducted 1st of April probably 11am to 1pm – displays, speeches and tours.

Contact at fitzroyhigh@yahoo.com.au

They would like to hear from interested parents of primary schools. Website is

www.fitzroyhigh.esmartstudent.com/

FETE WED APRIL 4

A fundraising Fete for Project Compassion will be held after swimming on the 4th of April. Bring any donations to Mary.

There will be Afternoon Tea, Trash and Treasure, Cake stall and a Raffle. Come Join the fun.

Proceeds will benefit projects such as, Education in PNG, Health Clinic in El Salvador, War Relief in East Timor, Flood Recovery in Mozambique, and Counteracting Political Oppression in Burma.

Our Curriculum Philosophy

One of the most damaging faults an adult can have is a habit of making children feel stupid.

If you make a child constantly feel stupid, chances are they will come to believe they are stupid and lose faith in themselves.

Good teachers want their students to grow in confidence. That's why they present children with tasks they can generally do – perhaps with a little effort.

When you have to teach a class of 27, personalised curriculum is difficult. Alas, in some classes, some children are out of their depth and on a downward path.

Others are chronically understimulated, and sometimes also develop a negative attitude to learning.

We at FCS aim to use teaching materials that match the progress of the individual student.

That's why if we should happen to give (perhaps a new student) a task that is badly matched to their ability level, we do not want the student or their parents to panic, but merely to bring the matter to the attention of the teacher.

We have no set standard for a given age of student. We leave that comparative measure to the occasional external assessment.

There is no merit in inflicting on a child material that is beyond them or far beneath them.

Our only standard as far as today's lesson is concerned is what the child is ready to learn next.

In some cases, a regime of extra lessons may be indicated. But stressing over material that is beyond the imminent step is fruitless and counter-productive.

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

