

# *Fitzroy Community School*

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**NEWSLETTER**

**October  
2001**

ENCL: Year 2002 School Calendar  
AISV Yr 2000 School Statistics

## **FCS ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

Parents are welcome to see all the children participate for their team on Wednesday, 31st October at 10am on the oval across the road. Join us for a post Carnival BBQ. Thanks Penny for your organizational effort.

## **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

Thursday, 13th December in Curtain Square, Carlton. Although this is after FCS finishes, our choir and orchestra will be performing so come along to this delightful Community event.

## **CONGRATULATIONS CARMELA & DANIEL**

Congratulations on the birth of Emma, a sister for Carla.

## **BIKE TRIP - 28-30 OCTOBER**

Tim and Sean will be taking a group of Year 4's on a bike trip to the Tree Farm. Lucci, Anna, Nisha, Conrad, Oscar, Jojo, and Dom Walker should meet Tim at Spencer Street Station on Sunday, 28 Oct 9-10am. Pick up at Spencer Street Station Tues 30 October 6:43pm.

## **Family Day & Wood Day At The Land**

At the Family Day picnic, October 14 we noticed that we have almost no wood for the camps so we are asking for adult and past

## **CAMPS**

Drivers needed up and back. Driving up to camp involves some adventures along the way. Parents are welcome to accompany Tinies. Other Camps are just students and teachers.

**Littlies** - Mon 12 Nov -Wed 14 Nov.

**Year 3's** - Wed 14 Nov -Fri 16 Nov.

**Year 4's** - Mon 19 Nov -Thu 22 Nov.

**Biggies** - Mon 26 Nov -Fri 30 Nov.

**Tinies** - Mon 3 Dec - Tue 4 Dec.

## **THANKS TO ALL**

Our 25th Celebrations were wonderful. Thanks to all the people behind the scenes who helped make the festivities fabulous.

## **MUSICAL SOIREE**

Monday, 29th October in the Community Room, Edinburgh Gardens. This is an opportunity for students learning a solo instrument to perform. If you wish to perform, put a note in the folder above the phone in the kitchen. Please bring a plate to share for supper. Everyone is welcome.

## **MAGIC PUDDING**

Many thanks to Gabby and all the crew for a magical and entertaining evening. It is gratifying to see so much talent.

**70'S PARTY FOR ADULTS & Past Students (Yr11 & up)– 20th October**  
8pm Community Room Edinburgh Gardens. Come dressed in 70's gear (or not), BYO, bring a plate and join the fun.

## **CONGRATULATIONS OLIVIA**

Olivia (Yr. 1) has won the National Cheez TV Friendship Day Award for her idea to donate specially loved toys to children at a Women's refuge. Thank you to all at FCS who donated toys. On Friday, 19th Oct., Jade

and Ryan from Cheez TV will visit FCS to present Olivia with her award.

## **TINIES OUTING - ZOO**

The Tinies will be going to the zoo on the 14th of November. (They'll need lunch, drink, hats and sunscreen) Speak with Jeannette if you can drive.

## **ROUNDERS**

Biggies and some Middlies play Inter-school Rounders each Thursday. Bring hat & drink. Wear sunscreen. If weather looks threatening, bring a jacket. Please speak with Jeannette or Tim if you can assist with driving.

## **MELBOURNE CUP - LONG WEEKEND**

There will be no school on November 5th and 6th. Happy Racing!

## **TERM 4 CLEAN-UP DAY**

10am –3pm on Saturday the 1st of December. 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.

## **THANK YOU ALEX**

Thank you Alex for spending your internship with us during Term 3. Thanks also for your continuing efforts in the pool this term.

**WELCOME Peter & Jenni from RMIT** who will be with us now for 5 weeks.

## **FITZROY POOL**

Beginning Nov 7th (1st day back after Cup Day weekend), Wednesday swimming will be at the Fitzroy Pool. Biggies, Middlies and Littlies will walk to the pool. Tinies will be carpooled there and back. Thank you to our dedicated Brunswick Pool Drivers who keep everyone swimming throughout the year.

### **SUNSCREEN & HATS EVERYDAY**

Remember to come to school daily with sunscreen applied and a hat handy, for outings to the park and or oval.

### **Thank You Rab at Carlton Audio Visual**

The meeting room now has an in-built sound system for use in dance, drama and other occasions. Thanks Rab for your generosity.

### **SCHOOL ROOF NEEDS REPLACING**

There are serious leaks and masonry damage in the old school house. The slate has many breaks and the troughs leak. We need a new iron roof. Can anyone recommend a reliable roofing specialist. Tell Philip or Tim.

### **FEDERATION SCARED OUTING**

Wednesday, 24 Oct, Year 4's & Biggies will see the Scared Weird Little Guys at the Concert Hall. Bring Packed Lunch. (Tae Kwon Do will be earlier this day.)

### **LITERARY OUTING**

Wed 14 Nov, Yr 4's & Biggies will go to hear author Geoffrey McSkimming talk about his 'Cairo Jim' series. Bring packed lunch

### **GALLERY TRIPS - PATRICIA PICCINI EXHIBITION**

All students from Year 2 –6 visited Patricia Piccinini's current exhibition, called "One Night Cove". The exhibition features her car nuggets, one of which was photographed with FCS students for the cover of "People Before Things". Year's 2 and 3 were lucky enough to meet Patricia who showed them around the exhibition and talked about the ideas and techniques used in the work.

Patricia was art teacher at FCS in the mid-90's and was delighted to continue sharing her art with the young minds from FCS.

### **SCHOOL GOING SOLAR**

It is feasible in our low consumption establishment, and with our large hot roof space to generate power. A project both ecological and educational. Does anybody

know where to send us for advice and/or government subsidies? Advise Tim.

### **BIGGIES TO GREASE**

The Biggies attended the Alia College performance of Grease. It was great to see familiar faces up on stage. Congratulations to Alia for an excellent production. Great choreography too by "our" Sam.

### **MAD HOUSE: FCS Video Art from 1994**

We now have 20 more copies of this 10-minute skit from the hey-day of full-on FCS video creation. Only \$10 from Leslie.

### **POOL CAFÉ PRIVILEGES**

Only Middlies and Biggies are allowed to purchase food at the Café at the Pool on Wednesdays. Drivers, please respect this rite of passage of the older students by returning the younger children to school where they can go to the corner shop for lollies. This is particularly important as most Tinies and Littlies don't have money at the pool (and nor do most parents wish it.)

### **NO LOLLY or CHOC FUNDRAISING**

Children are drawn to sugar (as if you didn't know). We try to keep a lid on it. We do have Lolly Day. We don't want to reject kind gestures. But just to reduce the overall consumption which has been creeping up one way and another, we have decided to ask people not to bring lolly or chocolate FUNDRAISING into the school.

### **TIM, MARY with the Yr 7's IN CHINA**

Welcome to Tim's first china email. I write from Dali, where we arrived yesterday, after 4 days in Kunming. We have just had Mary's birthday, actually had it twice in a way, as we first had dinner in a Hui Minority restaurant, one of China's two muslim groups, and then chocolate cake in the Yunnan Cafe, one of my old favourites. The man who runs and owns it, Xiao Feng, I first met in 1997 when I was heading to Tiger Leaping Gorge with Joy, but he then had a cafe in Lijiang. I had ordered a chocolate cake with candles, so we all had a

slice, with home-made ice cream, and sang Happy Birthday.

Today was a really fun day, with amazing weather. It was pouring when we woke, and rained all morning, and then went perfectly sunny. This can happen very fast in the mountains, and we are now getting into the Himalayas. When the sun came out, so did we. We hired horses to take us down to Erhai ( a huge lake, actually, hai means sea - the biggest lakes in china are called seas) and followed our ride with a boat ride across the lake, and back. both were thoroughly enjoyed by all! The views are spectacular as we were on such a huge lake, where the shores disappear into the distance, surrounded by huge mountains. Before our time here in Dali, we had a more scheduled time in Kunming, with Chinese lessons part of everyday. These went very well, Ding Laoshi (my old teacher) is excellent, and both she and the kids loved them. It really helped their Chinese.

Before or after the lessons, we made a few excursions, to Yuantong Temple, my favourite temple in China, and were lucky to come across a ceremony with hundreds of nuns singing and chanting. We bought incense to add to the already huge pile of smoke, and soaked up the chanting, drums and bells.

Another trip was to Cuihu (green lake park) where we wandered around, and joined some dancers who were accompanying a group of old people playing as a traditional Chinese orchestra. This was great fun, and we were given a huge clap. They even managed to play click go the shears and jingle bells. Apart from the dancing, we were entertained by the kites. Kite flying is an old and special hobby in China, with great pride taken in the construction and flying of kites. Some were so far away they were mere specks, and we were told that they were on strings over 1/2 a km long. This would have put them over the next suburb. Really amazing. The winding in of such birds of the sky takes considerable time.

The final highlight of Kunming was the bird and fish market. They really took to it, and got right into the bargaining. Good practice for

here in Dali, where the locals are much more seasoned, with regard to travellers.

The trip has been ace, and they are a great bunch to travel with. I thank Mary for being such a great help, and to you kids, for being such good sports and so positive, and to all those parents who have lent me their children for the adventure. Love, Tim

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dear everyone,  
Hi from very wet, and very civilised Dali. Back from three days of great fun and travels in Tiger Leaping Gorge.

The trek was amazing for a number of reasons, the scenery being the first think to confront you. the mountains, snow capped, are enormous, and are just there the whole time. Down below, sometimes not so far away, sometimes miles below, is the river, its rumble heard when all is quiet. Brown through the mud being churned in its rush.

The walk takes you through all types of landscape, a few small villages, all built by mud. Fields planted with corn, rice and other crops. Also, forests of pine and bamboo, and then rock faces with sheer drops. It really is amazing.

The places that we stayed are also an experience. Half-way guest house, and the Naxi family farmhouse. Both offered friendly, kind and generous hospitality. especially the Naxi family, the newest place to stay on the walk, only opened this year to tourists, and still more of a farm than a hostel.

The Li family who own it were so amazing, and loved our staying there. We introduced ourselves to them by having a huge mud fight in the central courtyard, which they found so funny.

Dinner was also an event, being first chased all around the yard, and then slaughtered in front of us, and then served as the best chicken soup

I have ever eaten. all, to the backdrop of huge peaks and the rush of the river.

Being a new place, they did not have enough beds, so planks were sawn for us, to prepare a couple more. and when Nic and Liam asked for another blanket, it came from their own bed. We really were made welcome in the most generous way.

I should also comment on the trek itself... We did not do all of Tiger Leaping Gorge, but the first half, and most spectacular half twice, due to a landslide at the other end, that I was not prepared to cross... Although the locals were wandering across it...While it was only 2 days old. It fell the day we arrived in Qiaotou, the other end of the gorge. The trek was thus in two, half-way, and back. Still, this included the physically most challenging part, the 28 bends, which is a really steep climb. Still, we all got up, with a few groans. And the mood of the gang as we finished was so charged, despite the rain and mud, and not having anything either clean nor dry to wear, was amazing. I really think they grew in their own understanding of their strength.

Alongside this, they gained an insight into a part of China not often seen, the life of country people, only really appreciated when china is walked, and when you stay in their homes. An understanding of a different culture and way of life, and a different perspective on the world. Tonight, we get the train to Kunming, for our final days there. I have only one more thing planned, that is the stone forest on Saturday.

Signing out from China, Tim

**FCS**  
  
**Oct 2001**

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