

Fitzroy Community School

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NEWSLETTER

**January
2002**

ENCL: CALENDAR 2002 new parents
LAND MAP new families
OPTIONAL ARTS FORM parents only

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

FIRST DAY FOR NEW FAMILIES
is Monday the 4th of Feb at 10am for morning
tea and informal assembly. (approx 1 hour).

FIRST DAY FOR EVERYONE ELSE
is Tuesday 5th Feb at 8.45am. Please come to
FCS first. When we've gathered here, we'll
move (because of numbers) to the community
room in the park for our 1st meeting of 2002.

CALENDAR FOR 2002
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 8th Feb at school. We
encourage "old" parents to come and meet
new members of the FCS community.

Tinies Finish Time
Tinies finish school at 2pm for the first week.
Tinies may also leave at 2pm during first term
according to parental discretion.

**ARRIVAL TIMES and
BEFORE SCHOOL CARE**
Official arrival time is 8.45 am.
Staff are on duty as from 8am.

\$1282.85 for UNICEF donkeys
Our last fete in 2001 raised this sum to help
bring food to remote areas of Afghanistan.

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 Tim or
Jeannette) or from school after **2.30pm**.

FEES for 2002
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 (new)
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. A term's notice is needed for a change.
(It's assumed that all optional extras are the same

as Term 4 last year unless change already notified).

Well Earned REST – Faye

Good luck in France, and later in Australia, having your first term off since 1975. Last year was very symbolic in terms of school and family for Faye, with Catherine, her youngest finishing school, and 25 years being completed at FCS.

THANK YOU to Gabby for your work

at FCS in 2001. The play was excellent, and was the 25th Birthday Journal. We hope that you and the family have fun down the beach, and we look forward to visits.

WELCOME back Imogen

Imogen joins the staff as Tim's assistant in the maths room, two days a week. Imogen was a star student at FCS and later at University High School. She has just been awarded an ENTER score of 99.65!

STUDENT EXCHANGE

Tim visited Malvern Community School in the last week of term 4 for an afternoon, to look at how their school runs, and had a wonderful day there. Many things were seen and discussed, one of them was exchanging students for a day. Should be good fun. Anyone willing to help out with driving would be greatly appreciated.

VISIT BY PHIL HONEYWOOD

Phil Honeywood (Shadow Minister for Education, State Govt) visited our school on the last Wednesday of term, arriving as the fete was being set up! He talked to Philip and Tim with regard to government interference in the running of 'independent' schools. We thank him for making the trip to see us, and his wish to gain an understanding of non-standard independent schools.

LATIN OPTION

Imogen is studying Latin at Melbourne University, having originally begun it here at FCS, and is offering latin as an Arts Option. Classes will most likely be after school, and are offered for interested biggies.

Swimming – Drivers Needed

Swimming drivers are needed from 13 March when swimming returns to the Brunswick Pool. Please let Jeannette know if you will be able to do this.

Marita's After School Classes

Marita will again be offering clay after school, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and a Project Class on Monday. Please speak to her about these classes.

.WELCOME to Cheryl

Cheryl is a friend of Tim's from his masters program in Peace and Development at Universitat Jaume 1 in Castellon, Spain. Cheryl is joining us for first term 2002 as a volunteer.

WELCOME back Sean

Sean has not been at FCS for a while, apart from helping Tim with his bike camp in Term 4. Sean has advised that he will be playing Animal Ball with those (adults) who are keen, and has said that those who wish to should feel free to buy mouth guards.

BEST WISHES to our secondary beginner, Marina at Melbourne Girls Grammar

Our thoughts go with you, Marina, and we know that you will do well at secondary.

ZIPTALES Story Competition

Emily Smith volunteer teacher in 2001 had grades 3,4 & 5 writes stories for this competition. Finalists Jojo & Calum, Eric, and Oscar received a signed copy of a book *The Little People* by Pip Carter

CONGRATULATIONS GINA

Upon completing your Bachelor of Education at Melb Uni with an average H1, and on your being offered a teaching position at Gold Street. Thanks for all your work over your years at FCS, and we hope to still see you around school from time to time.

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 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, 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.

ie bathers needed Wednesday and Thursday.

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.

SCHOOL LUNCHESES

On Tuesdays, Arthur kindly goes to the Vic Market to buy a whole stack of goodies: ham, olives, cheeses, dips, vegies and fruits.

We would like to offer soup once a week, but need a volunteer to either make it at home, or at school with the kids. This job would be daunting if it were the same person each week, so if possible, we would like a dad or mum to offer this once or twice a year, or if they are really into this activity, once a term.

The cost of all ingredients will be met by the lunch fund, so any cooks will be reimbursed. If this idea appeals, please speak to Tim.

Any other lunch ideas appreciated, especially if the shopping and enacting of them comes with the inspiration!

New Tennis Coach

The Fitzroy Tennis Club will supply our tennis coach for 2002, and as of writing, we believe it will be Linda. A reminder that boots and heels are not allowed on the court.

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.

YEAR 6 BIGGIES CAMP

From Sunday 10th Feb at 1pm, Kyneton Bushland Resort till Friday 15th. Parents who want to make the trip are welcome to join us for a picnic 1-3pm 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 3:55/4.55pm to pick them up. We ask parents to heed this: last year was somewhat chaotic, with kitchen cleanup being somewhat undone.

Children may not wait unsupervised to go home with others in after school classes

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, parents and friends, please understand that you too are invited to partake of school food and drink in the school kitchen at any time.

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

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. Please also tell your child not to wait outside the front door.

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 Kathmandu tops from the lost property room.

Biomedical Ethics and Gene Technology

Tim is writing his Masters Thesis in this area for his course in Spain, and would appreciate any articles, internet addresses or ideas on this. See him around school.

FCS BOOKKEEPING INFO

ANALYSING THE FEES

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.

School Tuition Fees do not attract GST.

Building Fund donations for school premises costs also 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!

The cost of the school buildings is spread across decades, and parents of each year must contribute. There are also maintenance and recurrent building costs. Just this year we are looking at \$20,000 for roof replacement of Old Schoolhouse at 597. (see wall and ceiling damage due to "lost cause" slate roof, visible from 597 stairs) Also a report from Federal DETYA, itemising \$40,000 worth of other building work required.

Scholarship Fund is small "social security tax" which is used to bail out compassionate cases and enable a student to complete their school year here where a family has had a viable financial plan, but has undergone an unexpected financial trauma during the course of a school year.

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. 

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.

Welcome Rhys Graham

Rhys will be our new drama teacher for 2002. He has a background in both drama and film which I am sure we will see put to good use this year.

Interactive Solar for FCS

This year we hope a grid-interactive solar system will be installed at FCS, which should hopefully meet about 25% of the school electricity usage. This project has been subsidised through the Australian Greenhouse Office, who offer a rebate to solar installations to schools and community groups, and also Citipower, who offer a small subsidy to the cost of the panels to their customers.

We would like, however, to increase the system, and so would greatly appreciate donations with this purpose in mind. Please speak to Tim with regard to this. Also, if you know of any organisation or philanthropist who would be interested in donating to such a cause, please send them our way. Again, thanks to all those who offered help and advice in this.

**Looking forward to Tuesday the 5th.
[Monday the 4th 10am for new families.]**

Dads to



*Philip,
Jeannette, Tim & all
the Staff*