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.

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 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**
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 LUNCHES
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, especially for small people and especially on hot days.

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.
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 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.]
Philip,
Jeannette, Tim & all
the Staff