

Fitzroy Community School

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NEWSLETTER

March 2002

ENCL: Wedding Invitation - Nick and Amy
Our 9th Commandment - Faye & Philip

CONGRATULATIONS, IVAN

Son of Peter Clarke and Vicki Volkoff (FCS 80s/90s), brother of Kira, on getting 99.05 in your VCE (2001). This included 50/50 in Media Studies and a 45/50 in English. (A bit of inspiration from Dad there.) Well done, Ivan.

THANK YOU JOEL

Thank you and adieu to Joel who was Chess teacher for some years and also for your joyful contribution to so much of school life, including the fund-raising sacrifice of your long locks!

And welcome to Julian, our new chess teacher, Joel's brother.

And welcome back to Iby (Ibrahim) also our chess teacher (we have 22 chess scholars this year!)

There is an inter-school chess tournament coming up Monday the 25th of March. More details later.

WELCOME TO EDUCATORS

A school principal from New Zealand, Sheona Beverstock, will be spending the day with us on Tuesday the 26th of March.

WALK AGAINST WANT

FRIDAY 22nd March

From FCS to Ceres in Brunswick. We will leave school at 3.30 and have a picnic/BBQ at Ceres upon completion. Sponsor books are available from Jeannette.

Tinies and Littlies wishing to participate need their own adult supervisor. FCS staff will walk with Biggies and Middlies. (For children not with their own parents, we will need a parent-permission slip to be signed and returned.)

6-8 parents will be needed as marshals along the route. Talk to Jeannette.

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.

END OF TERM CONCERT

The Term 1 Concert will be held, as usual, at 7pm on the last day of Term, March 28th 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 Thursday, March 21st.

ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

There will be rehearsals every Thursday from 8.45am to 9.30am in preparation for performance at the end-of-term concert.

SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to all our swimmers. And thank you to our swimming teachers, helpers and drivers who put such time and effort into the program: Oscar, Alex, Arthur, Paul, Cheryl, Andrew, Kate, Alison, Penny & Chris, Elly and others. Particular thanks to Sean for initiating and executing this event.

We do need more drivers for the trip to Brunswick Pool (from now on). New drivers, please talk to Jeannette.

JUNIOR TOWN CRIER Competition

With Mary's help, all the Biggies prepared a Proclamation about FCS and presented it at the Fairfield Amphitheatre in front of Parents, and judges Elaine Kininmonth and Melissa Eastman. Thank you, Elaine and Mel. A good standard of "cry" was presented by all participants.

The five finalists were Anna, Frankie, Hannah, Oscar and Rory, who represented the school at the Junior Town Crier Competition at the Collingwood Town Hall. Extra congratulations to Anna who was then chosen to represent FCS at the Yarra Community Day.

BIGGIES CAMP

This was our first camp of the school year at Kyneton Bushland Resort. A great time was had by all. Thank you Tim and Sean and Mary for your leadership.

FIXED POLES New Schoolhouse

Three tree trunks support the verandah outside the school kitchen. Our naughty builders plonked these right into the ground, and the bottom few inches have rotted. Thanks to engineer James Fleming, father of Lachlan and Cameron (Class of '96), for installing the new galvanised "stirrups".

FETE WED MARCH 27th

A fundraising Fete for Project Compassion will be held after swimming on Wednesday the 27th of March. Bring any donations to Mary.

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

YEAR FIVE CAMP

Our very first Year Five Camp was conducted at the Land (thanks to moist conditions) 4th -8th March. This has come about because of the unusually large Biggies Group of 2002. (Year 6s went to Kyneton).

THANKS to ALISON

Alison has given of her time during first term helping with lunches and sports and anything else asked of her. Good luck, Alison with your Uni studies. Alison will still help us on Fridays.

Alison is also available for baby-sitting. PH 9380 5821, Mob 0405 482 987

ALIA COLLEGE INFORMATION

An information evening concerning new alternative secondary school ALIA, run by Bob and Lesley, parents of Andrew, Ginevra and Ben (Yr 6), will be held for any interested parents and friends.

This will be held at 7.30 pm in the FCS Common Room on Tuesday the 26th of March. (For those who didn't know, ALIA currently enjoys splendid accommodation at the former Preshil Middle School in Kew.)

THANKS to ANN DON

Thank you Ann, for helping out on Thursdays and Fridays with lunch preparation and generally. Ann will be busy this year with a university course in Psychoanalysis.

CROSS-COUNTRY APPROACHES

Training begins Wed 13th March. Middlies & Biggies must have suitable running shoes at school each day. Leaving runners at school may be the best option. Sean.

MOUTHGUARDS OPTION

Children have been known to chip teeth in vigorous sports like football, animal ball, etc. Some parents may wish to obtain mouth guards for their child.

LOST PROPERTY

As usual we have quite a collection of clothes by the end of term. Please claim anything you still want. The rest will (of necessity) go to the Brotherhood.

THANK YOU and ADIEU, CHERYL

Cheryl has helped out voluntarily from the start of the year and is leaving us on the 24th. Tim met Cheryl in Peace Studies in Spain. Cheryl has proved to be very versatile and helpful. Very best wishes with your future studies and projects, Cheryl.

Here is an exact reprint of item 9 which has been in place for some years:

Our 9th Commandment

Parents who have joined us in recent years will confirm that when they first enquired into this school, we put them through the "green sheet": a list of reasons why they might possibly not be happy here.

This list is not our positive school philosophy, which is expressed in the school prospectus. It is simply a collection, based on actual experience, of features of our school to which one or more parents have in the past objected on principle. (We just happened to have green paper when we started this list, but green seems the right colour, somehow.)

This may not be a regular form of salesmanship. But it benefits nobody to let a family join the school, only to find that school practices clash with strongly-held family beliefs and attitudes. Such clashes naturally upset parents, put staff under stress, and confuse children. We try to avoid this outcome.

The title (above) of this particular policy statement may sound a little grandiose. But, at this time, the issue we feel the need to air just happens to be the *ninth* item from the green sheet which currently has *ten* points in all.

"The raison d'être of this school is personal development – the confidence to speak up for oneself, to display caring and considerate behaviour, to grow in initiative and responsibility. A high academic standard has resulted from our attention to whole child development.

But for the sake of harmony between family and school, parents must only consider enrolling their child here if they do in fact support these developmental values."

This item was included on the green sheet in response to a father who said he didn't want to be bothered with his son's social problems – he just wanted **good marks**.

A precise consequence of this whole-child principle is our policy regarding

The Timetable

Parents please note that our daily timetable is neither made by God nor set in concrete. (For the convenience and sanity of visiting staff, wherever possible we keep their timetable in place, but...)

FCS is strongly of the philosophy that school is life and that it is not merely a preparation for life.

Thus it is a truly regular feature of our school that teachers may depart from the printed timetable to pursue something they believe to be, at that moment, relevant and inspirational – or sometimes, just timely fun.

Our school is founded on the premise that this wholistic approach is more beneficial to children – both for now and for their future.

Tim, Jeannette, Faye and Philip