

Fitzroy Community School

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NEWSLETTER

May 2002

ENCL: Wedding homily by Jeremy

WEDDING REFLECTIONS

Thank you to the many parents, children staff and friends who came to Nick and Amy's wedding at Saint Patrick's Cathedral and/or to the reception at St Mary's College. It was a great occasion. We forgot to hand out copies of Jeremy's homily (sent from Thailand). Rather than throw them out, we include a copy with this newsletter.

TINIES' POETRY

The Tinies have been given two poems to commit to memory for presentation as a group in the Term 2 Concert. If you haven't received a copy of *Someone* and *Daffodowndilly*, Please see Faye.

FIRE BRIGADE

Thursday, 16th of May the Fire Brigade will visit with the Tinies and Year 6s.

BELATED THANK YOU

A big thank you to Leonie (Mother of Conrad & Celeste) for sewing plastic name holders on all the new pockets.

WELCOME ANDREW (Samantha and Meg's Dad)

Andrew is teaching Middlies' Science. Thanks also to Phil (Mum of Brittany & Scott) who is the official Middlies' Science Baby Cuddler.

ELECTIVES - Optional Subjects

please give a Term's notice to discontinue an elective. At this stage it is assumed that all children will have the same electives in Term 3 unless Jeannette has been informed otherwise.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

There is a Newsletter Folder above the phone in the kitchen for items to be included in the upcoming newsletter. Should anyone know of anything good or important to add, please put it into this folder.

TWILIGHT SOIREE Tuesday May 20th

From 6 to 7:30pm there will be a musical evening. If you would like to play, sign up in the concert folder by Thursday May 16th.

The new electronic piano for Manny's will be getting its inaugural performance. Thank you to Gail and Manny for your help getting such a wonderful instrument.

Bring something yummy to eat.

TINIES ARTS CENTRE TRIP

On Wednesday June 5th the Tinies will drive to Lygon Street and catch the tram to the Arts centre. Let Jeannette know if you can drive. We're leaving school at 12 noon.

TINIES & LITTLIES TO SEE THE WARBLERS

Thursday May 23 the Tinies and Littlies will be collected by bus at 1:30 from FCS to hear the Warbles perform at Sacred Heart Primary in Fitzroy. Return to school at 3:15 – 3:30pm.

WALK AGAINST WANT

More than \$262 dollars was raised for Walk Against Want. The exact figure can not be calculated since several families returned their money directly to Oxfam. Thank you to the organizers and participants for a great effort.

SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday 21st of May at 8:55am there will be a special meeting with friend and poet, Philip Harvey. Philip will introduce the theme of the Dorothea Mackellar National Poetry Competition for this year – "The Outback." Final versions of the poems are due on Friday, June 7th.

ADULTS DINNER

The Adults dinner on May 3rd was a fun occasion. The food was truly fabulous!

INTERSCHOOL NETBALL

Middlies & Biggies will play netball every Thurs from May 16 – June 20. Please be sure to have runners, a drink and healthy snack each Thursday. This year, we will only have two teams so some people who played last year will not play this year. Please talk to Jeannette if you can help drive.

AFTERSCHOOL GYM THURSDAYS

Due to Thursday netball training between 16 May and 20 June, Thursday's afterschool gym will run from 3:30 – 4:30pm.

END OF TERM CONCERT - DATE CHANGE!

Change Your Diaries! The Term 2 Concert will be on WEDNESDAY JUNE 19th at Collingwood College Theatre Vere Street Colingwood at 7pm. (Not the usual Thursday, last day of Term.)

FCS T-SHIRTS

Leslie has FCS T-shirts available in the office for \$10.00.

CONGRATULATIONS AMY

Amy Prendergast (GRAD 1991) is currently at Melbourne Uni. majoring in Archaeology. She has been named Student of the Year for 2002 in her Department. We're lucky to have her teaching with us.

NEWS FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Marina (our only Grad of last year) is very happy at Merton (Melbourne Girls Grammar) and continues to display her remarkable abilities. She is also Captain of the Year 7 Debating Team.

Ella Gauci-Seddon (Grad 2000) won second prize as a Year 7 in a Writing Competition for Year 7 – 9 students. She was also co-winner of the Math/Science Award in Year 7 at Princes Hill. Ella is now happily settled in year 8 at Lauriston.

Sarah Cooney (Grad 2000) won an award for General Excellence in Year 7 at Princes Hill and she was the co-winner of the Math/Science Award with Ella. Sarah is continuing her dancing with 3 Ballet Classes per week at the Dance Precinct in Nth Melbourne and has recently graduated into pointe shoes.

Guy Brewin (Grad 2000)

Guy recently competed in the Victorian Trampoline Championships. He came 4th in Individual Trampoline and 8th in double Mini Tramp.

Katherine Schachte (Grad 2000) received a Year 7 award for academic achievement at Melbourne Girls' Secondary College.

Nick Gardner (Grad 2000) has been to China twice in nine months. He went last year with Tim and the other Year 2000 grads, and he just returned from a Wesley exchange.

Tilly Nuttall (Grad 2000)

is doing well at Princes Hill Secondary and enjoys going bush as often as possible to indulge in her passion for horseback riding and all things equestrian.

Feri Price (Grad 1999) has transferred from Wesley to Bialik College in Hawthorn. Feri is doing well at his new school.

Joli Price (FCS till 1999) has transferred from Wesley to Melbourne Girls' Grammar. Joli and Marina were good friends in the same class at FCS and are now reunited at MGG.

Warren Howden (GRAD 1996)

in Yr 12 at Melbourne Grammar has scored A in 8th grade flute. Well done, Warren.

SAMPLING SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A number of past pupils have enrolled at one secondary school, and after a few months or a year or two, changed to a more suitable school. We do not encourage change for trivial reasons (like colour of uniform), but we do support the principle of "Horses for Courses", and urge parents not to be shy of changing schools if that's what it takes to get it right for the young learner.

OTHER RECENT GRADUATES

We haven't told of all our recent graduates here, just because we haven't collected all the information yet. But that gives us some more good news to include in the next new letter.

OLD SCHOOL ROOF

At last the re-roofing is coming to completion (a \$20K job). This should put an end to the leaks and masonry damage in Treasury House. Extra heavy gauge iron has been used to avoid the need for further roof repairs in the foreseeable future. (Labour and scaffolding cost so much more than materials, we recommend heavy-gauge for roofing jobs).

CONGRATULATIONS SEAN

Sean (GRAD 1990) has just finished his BA majoring in Philosophy at Melbourne University. Sean has just heard too that he is on the Dean's List (for high academic achievement). Well done, Sean.

CONGRATULATIONS LUKE

Luke Cottom (GRAD 1994) has transferred from IT at RMIT to Agricultural Science at La Trobe.

WELCOME MIRIANA

Miriana will be with us for several months helping out as required. Her kitchen concoctions have already proven very popular with the children.

WELCOME ALISTAIR

Alistair Theman (GRAD 1982) has joined the staff to do admin work and take a few classes in sport.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEACHERS

Maria-Antonia Monesano will be teaching Tinies and Littlies Italian. Jono Burns is teaching Drama. Elise Grosser is teaching music. Gretchen Anderson is teaching violin. Jo Dawson is teaching singing. Katie Black is teaching cello.

CHINA TRIP 2002

Tim has asked that parents of year 6s going to China next year please confirm this with him by the 21st of May.

GOOD LUCK TIM

Vice Principal Tim will return to Spain in June to finish the last term of his MA in Peace & Development Studies at the University of Castellon. (This should not be confused with his M.Litt in Peace Studies – completed with Distinction in 2000).

WELCOME BEN & MIKI

Student teachers Ben and Mikki from Victoria Uni are with us on Tuesdays for the entire year.

THANKS PAUL, DARREN, & JOHN

(Ilaria & Anthony's Dad & Uncle, and Brittany & Scott's Dad)

Thanks guys, for getting the computer room operational. This room can only be used under supervision. Anyone who would like to give an hour to supervise the computer room, please talk to Jeannette.

THANKS TO ALL THE SOUP CHEFS

Thanks to all our Term 1 Soup Chefs. Anyone who would like to make soup in Term 2 please sign up on the fridge in the school kitchen.

CONGRATULATIONS PHILIP

After 10 years of part-time study at Melbourne University, Philip at the age of 56 has graduated with a new degree, Bachelor of Theology.

CIRCUS OZ TICKETS

Chris Tanti (mother of Greta and Lily) has 12 Tickets to Circus Oz, 11am on Wednesday 24 June (during the holidays). The first 12 Biggies to ring Chris can go. You will need to meet about ½ hour before the performance.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Congrats to all our runners especially. All children really put in on the day, with some running over a minute better than their personal best.

Genevieve qualified for Zone, the next stage, running a year out of age, which really is amazing. Great effort Genna!...

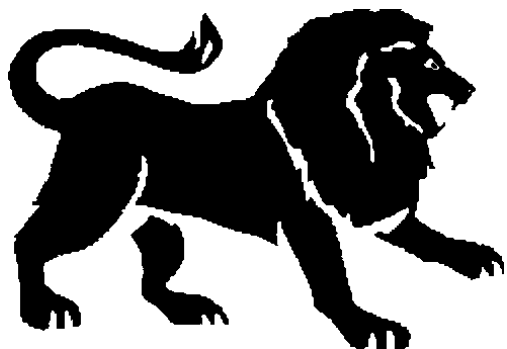
A hi from Luke Jackson(GRAD 1989) and Alex Jackson (GRAD 1992)

For the last few years, when not at university, both of us have been following creative pursuits of some sort. I have been writing, while my brother Alex has been acting or working behind the scenes on theatrical productions. About two years ago, we came up with an idea for a feature film, and decided to hold auditions and shoot it properly – as if it was a professional film – despite the fact that we had no real budget. We’ve learned a lot, and we have sixty-one minutes of the finished product. At the moment, we’re waiting for editing equipment, provided by a school at which I worked for a few months. We expect the editing to be complete around January next year.

The reason that we decided to write about this experience was because when we talked about it we realised that, a little more than ten years ago, we were doing pretty much the same thing as kids at FCS! I was writing short stories and my brother was winning ATOM awards with his class for their video work.

At school, we were encouraged to trust our creativity, a trust that is often never encouraged in students and, even if it is, is only encouraged at a much later stage in their schooling. We had a large number of positive role models to guide us. Without these positive factors, we wouldn’t be doing what we are doing today.

A very interesting situation arose a couple of weeks ago, when we were asked to speak to a group of high school students about low-budget filmmaking. Suddenly, we were the film makers... the role models. So the cycle continues.



CHILDREN'S TALES of WOE to PARENTS

There is a long tradition of children taking stories home to parents – not just in our school or our era – in which *dramatic injustices* are alleged to have been perpetrated, usually by other children. On rare occasions, the story is literally true.

If you feel the story is credible, check it out by all means. But be prepared for the fact that in most cases, you have been given (a) an exaggerated account, and (b) only one side of the story.

Often the "trouble" has in fact been initiated by the complainant themselves, who has subsequently got out of their depth, and is bringing in the oldies as artillery.

A related phenomenon is the *instant state of distress*, designed to elicit parental sympathy and succour. We have seen on countless occasions, a jolly kiddie romping around all day, and then as soon as parent arrives, a timely little accident, or else an instant long face and a grim account of the events of the day. Some parents may be excessively bothered by this, not realising how much exaggeration is involved.

If you as a parent feel you are copping an overdose of exaggerated misery tales, and would like to change the record to a different tune, the solution is generally to give more emotional reward for positive reports than negatives ones. It's amazing how quickly whingeing can evaporate if there's no mileage in it. Even better, kids who get a positive response to their successes will engage in more successful behaviour!

* * *

POSTSCRIPT to “TALES of WOE”

Often, reports of “trouble” indicate a sensitive area for the individual (rather than something the world is going out of its way to do TO them). It generally helps if teacher knows about this. Sometimes teacher can alter or influence things for the better.