

Fitzroy Community School

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NEWSLETTER

January
2003

ENCL: LAND MAP new families
ELECTIVE SHEET new families

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

**FIRST DAY for NEW CHILDREN
& their parents** is Monday the 3rd of Feb
at 10am for morning tea and informal
assembly.
(approx 1 hour).

FIRST DAY FOR EVERYONE ELSE
is Tuesday 4th 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 2003.

CALENDAR FOR 2003

Updated Calendar will be available during
the 1st week.

CONGRATULATIONS BRIDGET

New daughter of Carol and Philip [our
FCS poet]. On New Year's Day, all well.
Well done, Mum, Dad & Bridie
[nickname].

Evening for TEACHERS, PARENTS, FORMER PARENTS & FRIENDS

Opportunity to say hello from 7:30 to 9pm
on Friday 7th Feb at school. We encourage
all parents to come and meet staff and 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.

ALL PAST PUPILS

Remember, we love to see you and to hear
how you are going.

ARRIVAL TIMES and BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

Official start 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 from 2pm
(advise Tim or Jeannette) or from school
after **2.30pm**.

ERROR ON LAND MAP

It says it's 4.9km from the highway to the
Land. In fact it's 4.9km from Whittlesea
to the Land. (Future copies will be
corrected)

WELCOME to new secretary KEITH

Keith is taking the place of Leslie on a part-time basis. Leslie will be coaching Keith for a while. Keith is the husband of Jeannette the Vice-Principal (curriculum).

Education Maintenance ALLOWANCE

Any parents in receipt of a Health Benefits Card qualify for this. Talk to Jeannette.

FEES for 2003

School fees for each term are to be paid by the last week 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 choices)

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).

CHANGING THE GUARD

Although there is no actual change of personnel in the school, we are now elevating Timothy to the position of Acting Principal, while retaining Faye as Consulting Principal.

WELCOME BACK WARREN AND CAMERON

Past pupils who have just completed their schooling and who are now joining the staff as Tim and Jeannette's assistants.

SWIMMING – DRIVERS NEEDED

Swimming drivers are needed from 12 March when swimming returns to the Brunswick Pool. Please let Jeannette know if you will be able to do this.

ROZ'S AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

Roz will again be offering clay after school, on Thursdays. (Feb. 6-April 10, no breaks) 10 weeks \$130. Please speak to her about these classes on 9882-6865 or rozzie989@hotmail.com

BEST WISHES TO OUR SECONDARY BEGINNERS

Ben, Caitlin, Casey, Frankie, Hannah, Jim, Perri, Rory and Ruby. Our thoughts go with you. We have great confidence in you.

LOLLY DAY info 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 \$1.50 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 thereafter. 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 on other days in Term 1. So please have bathers at school each day in readiness.

ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION

Parents please see that all children have sunscreen on their exposed skin 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, breads, 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 parent or friend 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!

DAILY FINISHING TIME

School finishes at 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.

There is no supervision outside of these times and activities.

AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

Is available at the Organ Factory in Clifton Hill. At 3.15pm any Organ Factory enrolled children will be assembled and by 3.20pm will be chauffeured to the Organ Factory - PH 9486 2675. Please contact Jeannette to arrange this.

FAMILY DAY at the LAND 2 March

All families are invited to a picnic at the land from 11-3pm. Talk to Jeannette or Tim for more information.

YEAR 6 ART CENTRE TRIP FEB 6

Yr 6s will see the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe on Thurs. Feb 6. They will return to school by 4pm. Bring a snack.

YEAR 6 CAMP

From Saturday 16th Feb at 1pm, Kyneton Bushland Resort till Friday 21st. 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.

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.

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!

ROAD SENSE IS ESSENTIAL

in our school – new parents please note. 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.

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. Dads too!

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

A QUOTE from the final concert of 2002:

Faye addressed each graduating pupil in turn, naming some of their evident gifts and enjoining upon each that they may

... use these gifts so that, as well as achieving fulfilment in your own life, you will contribute to the collective good of the world.

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 more tax per annum!

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. [A recent report from Federal DETYA, itemises \$40,000 worth of building work required at FCS.]

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 *Outside Tutors* subjects, 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. 