

DECEMBER 2005

**CONGRATULATIONS JASON
(FCS 1977-1980) AND RENÉE**

Congratulations to Jason and Renée who have recently married. Jason is our oldest past-student, two years ahead of our principal Tim. The wedding was a fantastic event with all the guests dressed in white, creating a glamorous atmosphere reminiscent of The Great Gatsby.

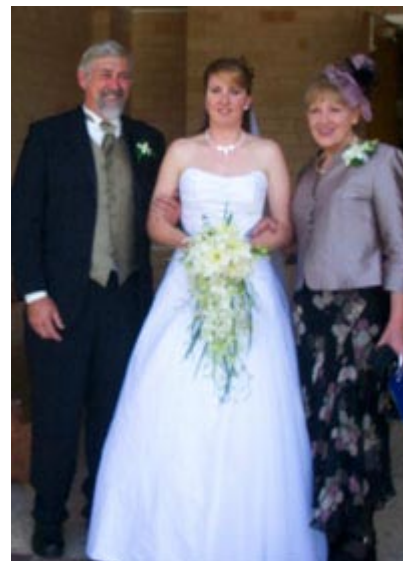


*The five lads in the picture,
Tim, Corin, Jason, Alistair and Nick
are still friends since their time as kids
in the early days of the school.*

**CONGRATULATIONS NAOMI (FCS 1978-1983)
AND NATHAN**

Congratulations to Naomi and Nathan who have recently married in Wagga Wagga. Naomi, daughter of Arthur and Josephine, was one of our very first students to graduate from FCS.

Faye attended the wedding, which was beautifully traditional with the throwing of the bouquet and the guests creating an archway with their arms through which the newlyweds departed for their honeymoon.



Arthur, Naomi & Josephine

CONGRATULATIONS NIKKI AND DAN

Congratulations to our wonderful art teacher, Nikki, and her fiancé, Dan, who recently celebrated their engagement at Fairfield Boathouse with family & friends.

WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS

We have three delightful new additions Welcome to Audrey (Middle Red) who joined us at the beginning

MIDDLE PAGE : Year Six Poetry and
The Taiwan Tour for early 2006

of Term 4 and her parents, Lisa and James. Welcome also to Grace (Little and part-time Tinie to meet a few more people) and her parents Donna and Stuart, and to Nigel Creese's grandson Nicholas (Little), and Nick's mother Lee-Ann.

WELCOME WEENIES

It has been a pleasure to have next year's Weenies visit our school for one day a week this term. We look forward to seeing you as FCS Tinies next year.

THANKS JOHN MARSDEN

John Marsden has been an inspirational English teacher at FCS. Students and staff have thoroughly enjoyed his contributions to the school community. He will be sadly missed at FCS. We wish him the best of luck starting his own new school in 2006. Thanks John!

CONGRATULATIONS BIGGIES

The Biggies organised a very successful fete which raised \$568! This money will be donated to TEAR (Transformation, Empowerment, Advocacy, Relief) a charity which supports sustainable projects – such as building schools, constructing wells and donating goats and heifers – to help the poorest communities in the world help themselves.

Congratulations Biggies!

CONGRATS to JASPER (Coffee)

Jasper (yr 12) got best Folio in Visual Communication as well as Multimedia at Swinburne SC and is short-listed for TOPS (a best Vic folios public display)

CONGRATULATIONS CALUM AND OSCAR (2003)

Calum and Oscar are two of 45 students who have been selected from Vic schools to participate in The Alpine School. The Alpine School is based at Dinner Plain in the Victorian Alps, and is a government run school for leadership. Well done boys and enjoy the adventure!

MIDDLE Blues TRIP to BENDIGO

The Middle Blues had a lively two day trip to Bendigo with Tim and Sean. They visited Joss House (a Chinese Temple), the Bendigo Chinese Dragon Museum, had a calligraphy class, did the "Chinese People in Bendigo" tour, and visited the Central Deborah Mine.

The Blues descended 90 metres into the pitch-black depths of the disused gold mine and spent 2½ hours exploring down there. It was very dark when all the lights were turned off! Thanks to Judy Oaks and AISV for providing the funding to make the trip possible.

CONGRATULATIONS, YR 12s

Congratulations to Avrom, Feri, Giancarlo, Jasper, Laura, Mardi and Milena, FCS grads of 1999, who have recently completed year 12. Have a great summer break and all the best for the beginning of the rest of your journey.

THANKS NIKKI for DRAMA

Thanks Nikki who stepped in at the last minute to run the after school drama on Tuesday afternoons. Good luck to Jono who had to leave unexpectedly to pursue his acting career in Sydney.

SPORTS DAY

Great thanks are due to Penny and her team for yet another exciting sports day. It was a fantastic day with the Zucchini's triumphing (although according to Lily the Cats should have won).

Thanks to Penny & Chris also for the donation of the BBQ – an essential piece of equipment for a successful sports day.

And a reminder: to return sports day t-shirts to Jeanette.

A POT for PASTA

The school kitchen needs a new addition – a pot that holds at least 20 litres (for pasta, so all can have seconds – thanks Pauline for making us a hot lunch every Monday). If any one would like to donate this, it would be most welcome.

HELPING ASYLUM SEEKERS

Brigid, mother of Sam and Rudi, has been doing important work with the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre collecting food for Australian Asylum seekers, who are allowed to live in Australia but are reduced to poverty due to laws which prevent them from working or receiving government welfare.

Brigid is hoping to donate a box of food a week and she needs our help! There is a box on top of the kitchen fridge where we can put useful items such as non-

perishable groceries including bathroom and laundry items.

INTERSCHOOL ROUNDERS

This term our Biggies, Middlies and the occasional Little have played rounders with the Carlton District Primary School Sports Association (all the local schools). They have been very successful – they have won lots of games, drew a few, and lost a couple – and most importantly, have had lots of fun. The boys played “Zone” (one level below state level) and won one game and lost the next. The girls also played Zone. Thanks to all parents that have helped each week and congratulations to all children involved.

DEBATING

Thanks to Brian Bourke, father of Judy (mother of Estelle, Conor & Finn), who has held several debating sessions with our children.

Brian is an expert in the field of debating and we are privileged to have someone of his calibre working with our children. Thanks Brian!

Brian has organised a debate for the Biggies entitled Children Should Be Allowed to Watch as Much Television as They Like on Wednesday the 14th of December at 2:00 p. m. in the Meeting Room. All welcome.

END OF YEAR GRADUATION CONCERT

Congratulations to our wonderful group of year 6s of whom we are very proud: Alex, Cecilia, Magnus and Sam.

The final concert for the year will include the graduation of our grade 6s.

It will be held on Thursday the 15th of December at 7:00pm in the Collingwood College Theatre on Vere St, Collingwood.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

The Biggies, Lily and Tim enjoyed a warm welcome from the Village School, a vibrant community school of 56 children in Croydon. All children and staff had a lovely day together, going on pony rides and playing soccer and animal ball.

INTERSCHOOL BASKETBALL

The whole school has enjoyed Keith’s weekly basketball coaching this year. Congratulations to Emma, James P, James W, Leah, Lucas G, Meg, Nikolai, Paul, Sasha, Roland and Zac whose training payed off when they represented F.C.S. in a game against St Ambrose on 25th November. The final score was 16–14 in our favour. This team also drew in a game against a team

of adults - the parents who came, Rachel, Keith and John M. Congratulations to all!

COMPUTERS

A big thank-you to all those parents who donated new computer monitors and computer parts. It is fantastic to have replaced our old machines for new shiny ones. Any one who has spare computer parts at home please contact our lovely computer technician, Tim Richards, about donations.

LETTERS FROM THE OUTSIDE

Two recent emails are typical of enquiries FCS gets from scholars and teachers.

A student from the USA wanted to “deepen [his] understanding of the educational system as well as educational philosophy”. He asked Philip to answer two questions:

1. Please briefly state your philosophy of education (how to best educate students) and
2. How would you like to see that philosophy applied in your school?

Philip replied that the FCS philosophy of education was, to keep alive the spirit of the child while preparing them for adulthood.

“For us, the purpose of education is not primarily so that society can use the new individual. It is so that the individual can be fulfilled. Humans are of course social animals – and thus personal fulfilment naturally involves learning how to get along with one’s fellow humans.

As to how this is achieved in a school:

1. The school is small enough so that everybody knows everybody.
2. Classes are small enough so that conversation is possible.
3. Teachers want children to blossom and take personal interest in them.
4. The school is run by the principal, not by a remote department.
5. The school does not automatically accept every family as a customer. We cater for parents who are not overwhelmed by the current trend of fear-mongering and support their child’s participation in physical activities, camps, outings, artistic productions and social skills.
6. The child must prepare for adulthood, but the life of a child should be meaningful and rewarding, not just a holding pattern or sacrificed for an imagined

future life.”

The second email we received recently was from I.W, Principal of a regional primary school, who has visited FCS in the past. This time he brought his Vice Principal, his Curriculum Co-ordinator and a Canadian exchange teacher with him. He wants to return next year with some more teachers to see our “wonderful school”.

We are always happy to share whatever ideas we have, and hope to contribute something to progress in education.



Sam in the Hammock at the Tree Farm
August 2005