

MAY 2006

NEWSLETTER

ENCL:

FCS Student Family List (white)
Social Learning circular (green)
Flier for Trivia night (cream)
FCS Classifieds updated (mauve)
Mongolian Adventures Viktor & Mary flyer

WELCOME to the WORLD

Sean and Miranda proudly announce the coming of their baby in September this year. Congratulations to the young family from all at FCS.

WELCOME

Welcome to our five student teachers - Sue from Victoria University and Emma, Paul, Yasmin and Dan from La Trobe University. Our student teachers will be practising their teaching skills and will be a great contribution to our community. Emma, Paul, Yasmin and Dan will be with us for three weeks, and Sue for one day each week for the whole year.

DEBATING

We are very privileged to have Brian

Bourke, father of Judy (mother of Estelle, Conor and Finn), an expert in the field of debating, back at FCS. He will be teaching the Biggies debating in a series of four sessions, the first of which was held



Samantha and James (Biggies) at the Tree Farm

on Tuesday the 2nd of May. The Biggies were enthused by this first class and are thoroughly looking forward to their next three lessons. Parents will be invited to attend an event where the Biggies will practise their newly learned debating skills in front of the school community. Date to be announced.

EXCURSION TO RICKETTS POINT

Geoff Wescott, marine biologist and the father of Alex who graduated last year, led an excursion with the help of Judy Bourke, Kaye Perkins, (James' mum) and Leeanne Creese (Katie and Nicholas' mum). These parents took all the Middlies to Ricketts Point to examine intertidal marine creatures such as sea anemone, jelly fish, crabs and starfish. Everyone had a fantastic time. Thanks to Geoff, Judy, Kaye and Leeanne.



Sunny (Tinie)

INTERSCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

The Middlies and Biggies participated in the Carlton District Sports Association Interschool Cross Country Running Competition. Well done to all those who participated and a huge congratulations to Leah who ran particularly well and qualified for the Zone finals, and Lucas G and James Walsh who also ran very well and earned their place as reserves for the Tullamarine Zone finals. (The Zone is a cluster of districts. The next level of competition is at State level).

THE AGE STORY on FCS

Parents may have noticed a feature article in the Education section of *The Age* on Monday the 1st of May 2006, on FCS called 'Fitzroy School's Extended Family'. It is an interesting read worth searching out! There was a particularly good photograph of Faye, Philip and many of the school children published with this

article – and Tim when he was a Biggie in '82. Jeannette has free photocopies of this article for anyone who would like them for relatives, friends, scrapbook, etc.

This photograph (and other photographs taken of the school with John Marsden on other occasions) are available for purchase from *The Age*. Those interested in looking at the published photos can find them displayed on the internet at: www.fairfaxphotos.com. Those interested in purchasing the published photographs, and possibly other photographs that were taken that day that were not published, can call *The Age* on 1300 136 466 or 9601 2301 for more information.

SCULPTURE EXCURSION

Nikki, Mary and Rozzie took the Biggies to the Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Awards, at the Werribee

Mansion, on Friday the 5th of May. This is the richest annual prize for sculptors in Australia (\$95,000) and attracts entries from the best Australian sculptors. The sculptures are exhibited in the plush parkland surrounding the Werribee Mansion, and the Biggies enjoyed walking through this parkland from one fanciful and interesting sculpture to the next. The Biggies were also lucky enough to explore the highly refined Mansion.

DRAWING EXCURSION

The Biggies will catch the tram to the State Library of Victoria on Wednesday the 17th May for the art excursion called *Becoming an Illustrator*. The Biggies will learn skills in the art of illustration.

THEATRE EXCURSION

The Year 6s went to see a play called *My Girragundji*, based on the multi-award winning novel of the same name. The play grappled with the awkwardness and challenges of growing up, told through the eyes of a young Aboriginal boy.

ATTENTION TINIES PARENTS

A nurse is visiting FCS on Tuesday the 23rd of May to check the sight and hearing of all the Tinies. Parents of Tinies, please remember to return the questionnaires by Thursday the 18th of May.



Meg, Emma and Estelle (Middles)

Writing of the Month

“SUNSET” by Estelle (middlies, FCS)

The leaves of the herbs are silver with dew

The apples are ripe and peaches too

The fruit in the basket is softly glowing

The water from the stream is quietly flowing

From inside the house I see the cat

Chasing after a little rat

The tulips, orchids and daffodils sway

And the sunset gives a golden ray

The moon is rising, the stars are shining

The light of day is slowly winding

The silence is shattered by the screech of an owl

And the cat gives a long low growl.

CONGRATULATIONS LUCCI

Congratulations to our past student, Lucci Meagher (2003), now a student at M.L.C., who has been voted the *Junior Oarswoman of the Year* by her rowing peers. It is wonderful to know that you continue to be such a physically and socially strong person, Lucci!

THANKS DRIVERS

A very warm and heartfelt *thank-you* to all parents who have helped out with driving our children to swimming, interschool netball and camps this year. It is wonderful that these events can go ahead, which would not be possible without all these drivers. THANKS!!

CONGRATULATIONS SARAH

Congratulations to our past student, Sarah Cooney, who has been elected to represent and lead Genazzano as a Year 12 Prefect. Congratulations on becoming the fine young leader that you are, Sarah!



Emmett (Biggie)

THANKS

In early April we were honoured to be visited by Adeeba Nabulsi and 7 students from her Islamic Community School called the Naseema Enrichment Centre.

These students are being collectively home schooled in 2006 and the group is hoping to have their own school in operation for 2007. This was a wonderful inter-cultural opportunity for all students and staff involved.

BASKETBALL

Well done to all the Year 5s, who, back in early March, played Basketball in very hot conditions at Curtain Square. They all tried hard, followed instructions well and played the match in a good spirit. Thanks also to Tim Brewin and Warren Howden for coaching and Maria Bongiovanni and Chris Faith for help with scoring and team management . The Middlies will be playing against Fitzroy Primary on Friday the 12th of May.

ANOTHER MIDLIES' CAMP

Hoorays all round!! Another camp has been organised for the Middlies in Term 3, from Tuesday the 25th of July until Thursday the 27th of July.

TELEVISION SHOW

Coco, Grace, David & Jan went to the Botanic Gardens with Julie (Coco's mum) to film a segment for *The Garden Circus* – on Channel 9 at 5pm on Saturdays (date to be announced).

ANOTHER LITTLIES' CAMP

Oorrrright!! Another camp has been organised for the Littlies in Term 3, from Tuesday the 1st August until Wednesday the 2nd of August.

WELCOME PAUL & STEVE

Welcome to Paul and Steve from *Sonsee Freeform*, a martial arts and physical education group working with our kids on Wednesdays.



Lucas G (Middlie)

THANKS JONO

Many thanks to Jono (formel drama teacher), for writing the hilarious school play, *The Pirates of North Fitzroy*. We are very lucky to have such a comic genius writing specifically for the children of FCS.

CONGRATULATIONS, JOSH

Bravo Joshua Bloom, our former singing teacher, who has now gained a role (2008) at the New York Met (Metropolitan Opera) as Masetto in *Don Giovanni* (Mozart).

OZ BALL

The Collingwood Junior Basketball Association organises an entry level program for basketball called OzBall. Any interested parents wanting further information contact Russell Visser on 0419 330 629 or staiosvisser@bigpond.com.au

WHEN: Saturday mornings 9:30 – 10:30 am

WHERE: Collingwood College, McCutcheon Way, Collingwood, Melway 2C G10

COST: \$50 per participant, which includes: coaching plus a basketball & t-shirt

REGISTRATION: by registering on the day (from 9:15 am) prior to the commencement of the program at 9:30 am

COMMENCES: 9:35 am on Saturday, April 1st, 2006 (Still possible to join)

SOME FACTS ABOUT SCHOOL FUNDING

Research from the 2006 Review of Government Services, printed in the Australian Parents Council *APC Review* February 2006, reports that “non-government school students **do not** receive more government funding for their school education than government school students” (as is sometimes reported in election years) as the following figures show.

Australian, State and Territory governments spent \$28.6 billion on school education in 2003-2004, of which \$22.6 billion (79.0%) was spent on government schools (21% on non-government schools).

Government expenditure per government school student for the 2003-2004 year average government expenditure per government school student was: **\$8,515 per primary student** and **\$11, 053 per secondary student**; that is, **\$10, 003 on average per student** (incl \$500 in out-of-school costs).

Government expenditure per non-government school student in 2003-04 was \$5,595 – just under 56% of government per student expenditure on government school students. This includes the Catholic sector (20% of all students). (FCS received 43%). Parents contributed the balance for non-government school students out of their after-tax income in fees and fund-raising.

It is interesting to read in the papers recently that a Labor MP, Warren Mundine, is advocating school funding based upon family income regardless of school chosen

– rather than upon who runs a school.

CONGRATULATIONS, ASTRID

Our past pupil Astrid Gardiner, now a Melbourne Girls Grammar student, has been appointed the director of her year level production of *Grease*. Bravo, Astrid!

PHILOSOPHY CLASSES

Philip is half way through his series of 8 philosophy sessions in Term 2. The theme this term is *Human Values – Ethics, Religion and Politics*. The presentation is suitable for beginners. No prior knowledge is assumed. The



Harry (Biggie)

The main aim is to familiarise participants with common philosophical terminology. We have about 9 regulars, including several parents, 2 uni students, and a Year 10 (FCS graduate) gearing up for a Philosophy option in her International Baccalaureate. Wednesdays, 8pm-9.30pm, running till started 24th May. Interested persons are welcome to join in at any time.

CONGRATULATIONS, ERIC

Our past pupil Eric Gardiner has been given the role of Brutus in the Melbourne Grammar Production of

Julius Ceasar. May the Force be with you, Eric!

HELPING ASYLUM SEEKERS

Brigid, mother of Sam and Rudi, has been working 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.



Rudi (Biggie)

Brigid is hoping to donate a box of food a week and she needs our help! Many people have donated a lot of food in the past, and this is greatly appreciated. Please keep the food coming! 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.

FRIENDS

Toni Mercuri and Kathleen Feeny are organising a trivia night for a very worthy cause – a new stove in the school kitchen! The whole school community would greatly appreciate any friend of the school who would like to donate a prize, or donations for prizes, for this event. Held on the 26th May in the Community Rooms. Please see enclosed flier for more details.

DATE CHANGE

– TERM 2 CONCERT IS ON TUESDAY 6TH JUNE.

The school calendar received by parents and staff at the beginning of the year notes that the Term 2 concert is on the Thursday 8th of June. Unfortunately, the theatre could not be booked for this date, so the Term 2 concert will now be on Tuesday the 6th of June. Apologies



Lucas H (Biggie)

for any inconvenience this may cause. If children are tired, they are welcome to come to school a bit late on the Wednesday.

WOOD FOR WOODWORK

Thanks to all those who have contributed small, soft bits of wood (pine) for the children of FCS to use for woodwork. More wood is always very much appreciated. Please speak to Jeanette if you can help us out. Or just bring your short pieces of wood to school.

ELECTRONICS WITH ARTHUR

Arthur is running a very popular electronic class on Wednesday mornings with the Biggies and Middlies. The kids are enjoying learning the practical skills of making simple electronic devices.

SOUP ON THURSDAYS

Many generous mothers have been cooking delicious soups that have been greatly appreciated by all staff and students, and the occasional visitor. Thanks to all those who have contributed to our Thursday soup days, or are going to contribute on a Thursday in the near future: Claire, Leeanne, Julie E, Sue S, Leisa, Maria B, Toni M, Chris T and Myfanwy.

FILM

Alix Jackson, our past pupil and media teacher, and his brother Luke Jackson, have worked tirelessly for six years on the horror film *When Evil Reigns*.

The film is finally set for DVD release through US based distributors *Day By Day Entertainment*.



Alessia (Middlie) at the Tree Farm

Past pupils, parents and any other interested mature audience friends are invited to attend the Melbourne premiere.

When: Saturday 13th May, 8pm sharp
Where: McKinnon Secondary College Cinema. Melways Ref: MAP 68, G10.
How Much: \$10, with profits contributing towards burning a 'master' DVD for distribution.

Bookings are essential. Call Alix on 03 9482 6505 or email him at whenevilreigns@optusnet.com.au