

AUGUST 2006

NEWSLETTER

ENCL: Selected children's poems from amongst our Dorothea MacKellar submissions for this year.

ADIEU BEN, THE SCHOOL CAT

Ben, our stalwart school cat of many years, quietly crept into a box in Helen's laundry and died, probably late on the night of 20 August. Ben was the ideal school cat: he enjoyed being in amongst the human activity of the school, but did not need protecting. He allowed countless children the pleasure of cat company, but defended himself against any mistreatment. He also accompanied any inspections of the premises after hours, and felt he played a central part at special school gatherings. Ben, we will miss you.

CAMPS' DATES CHANGE

Parents, Middlies and Littlies take note! The Term 4 Middlies camp date is changing from 16th – 18th of October to 23rd – 25th of October. The Term 4 Littlies camp is changing from 23rd–25th of October to 16th – 18th of October. The two camps have been swapped.

COMING TO AND FRO

Many parents drive their children to school and drop them off on Brunswick St. This sometimes causes frustrating traffic congestion. To alleviate this problem, parents of older children might consider dropping them off in one of the (much quieter) side streets – Freeman Street or Church Street. Also the voice-box in the back lane is about to be replaced, which makes a very convenient and safe means of entry to school.



Adieu Ben, The School Cat

ISLAMIC COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Adeeba Nabulsi and 4 students from her Islamic Community School called the Naseema Enrichment Centre are visiting FCS one day every fortnight. This is a wonderful inter-cultural opportunity for all students and staff involved.

Writing of the Month

CONGRATULATIONS LEAH

Congratulations to Leah who represented FCS at the Victorian Cross Country Running Finals held at Bundoora Park. To get to the State finals, Leah finished in the top 6 at the District and Zone levels. Leah finished the 2km race in the top third. Well done Leah! You are a fine athlete.

BIKE LOCKS

Please do not park bikes in our little school back yard. Please have a bike lock and lock your bike to one of the bike bars on the footpath – or onto any of the three iron fences.

WELCOME STUDENTS

We extend a warm welcome to Milan, a student teacher from Australian Catholic University, who will be visiting FCS every Monday until November.

We also welcome Carly and Kate, student teachers from the University of Melbourne. Also Sharlene, a student social worker from Homes Glen College, is spending 6 weeks at FCS. Our student teachers make a great contribution to the richness of our school.

FAMILY RETURN

We are happy to announce that Nick Berryman and wife Amy, daughter Elentari and son Sebastian will be returning from Taiwan in 2007 to live in Melbourne. Nick has had many years of experience teaching Littlies in Taiwan. We look forward to seeing the family at FCS.

BASKETBALL UNIFORMS

A huge thank-you to Chris Tanti and Chris Frith for their sterling job of sewing on Basketball tops.

My Backyard

Dorothea MacKellar Poetry Competition 2006

*Angry ants dig through the dirt
Bouncing bunny is always happy
Cuddly creatures are so cute
Dancing darling Jazzy dances
everywhere*

*Exciting everyone with laughter
Farting fish alone in the tank
Great Guinea pig cuddling my bunny
Happy hip hop sounds throughout the
house*

*Icy insects in winter
Jumping Jazzy jumps up and down
Kicking kids is what Nikos loves to do
Lovely Lily is one of my best friends*

*Mad Mimi too, don't forget Cety's and
Sam*

*Naughty Nikos is my neighbour
Ongoing Omi never stops playing, she
is 73
Perfect pink flowers bloom in spring*

*Quick quacks from down at the creek
Red roses in my house
Shining sun as it rises
Troubled tulips in a drought*

*Unstable umbrella might fall down
Vicious vermin's running places
Wet water drops everywhere
X ray xylophones none in sight*

*Yellow yarn keeping plants up
Zesty and zealous lemon tree grows.*

Jaslyn

NETBALL VALOUR

Congratulations to the Biggies who played Round 3 of Zone Netball at Deer Park West Primary. Although FCS lost 15 to 10, this was the highest level FCS has ever achieved in Netball. The team exhibited great persistence and determination (much like the Socceroos) despite being behind from the first goal. Well done to all who participated and practised these winning ways!

TAIWANESE VISITORS

We are pleased to announce that our Taiwanese visitors are keen to visit FCS again at the beginning of the 2007 school year. If anyone in the school community would be interested to have a Taiwanese female year 5 student (Judy and/or Angela) stay with them, please contact Tim B.



CONDOLENCES to EILEEN

On the death of Tiffany, Eileen's feline companion of 20+ years. Eileen, approaching 90, is a long-standing friend of the school, and has visited FCS weekly for many years to conduct personal reading sessions.

WELCOME to NEW FAMILY

Welcome to Eleanor, Fionnbarr, Greer and Atticus and their parents Elisa and Greg Russell to the FCS community.

THANKS IGGS

Thankyou to Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School and their principal Dr. Heather Schnagel and her leadership team for hosting Tim B for a day and for sharing so much time and experience with him. Tim spent the day observing how their school was run and was impressed with the leadership team's dedication to the school and their support of each other.

Garden Chaos

Dorothea MacKellar Poetry Competition 2006

Not many herbs

The barbeque takes care of that

For those of which are visible

Parsley takes over the rosemary...sage

I don't know of any others

Parsley appears to be king

But the barbeque conquers the herbs.

By Emma L

My Colourful Backyard

Dorothea MacKellar Poetry Competition 2006

Yellow apples

Blue pears

Green trees

Silver plums

Gold oranges

Red grass

Orange weeds

That's all in my colourful backyard

By Nikolai

SOIREE REMINDER

A reminder to all parents and friends and students that there is a Soiree on Wednesday the 23rd of August at 7.00 p.m. in the meeting room. All are very welcome to attend and/or perform. We like having some adult items too.

WELCOME BACK ROLAND

A warm welcome is extended to Roland Philips, who has returned to FCS after time in Castlemaine. It is good to have you back, Roland.

CONGRATULATIONS SIMON

Congratulations to Simon West, our Italian teacher, whose book of poetry First Names is being launched at La Mama Theatre in the Carlton Courthouse on Saturday the 26th August at 3.30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



FCS ART EXHIBITION

The students of FCS are holding an art exhibition called Art with Style on Friday the 1st of September, from 6.00 pm – 7:30 pm in the meeting room. Some work will be up for auction, so bring your purses/wallets. This is a fancy dress event for all – kids and adults. All welcome.

FCS FETE

FCS will be holding a school Fete on Wednesday the 11th of October during the school day. The money raised will be donated to a worthy cause (to be advised).

FAMILY DAY REMINDER

Don't forget that Family Day at the land will be held on Sunday 15th of October, 11am-3pm. All parents, students, grandparents, friends, etc are warmly encouraged to come.

LITTLIES TO GO TO THE FITZROY LIBRARY

The Littlies are going on an excursion to the Fitzroy Library on Wednesday the 23rd of August to celebrate Book Week. As part of Book Week, the Australian Literature Council will be presenting to the Littlies the children's Books of the Year.

C'ARN TH' MISFITZ!

The women of FCS have been thoroughly enjoying playing Netball as a team called the Misfitz. The team has included staff members Sam, Mary and Catherine, and FCS mothers Maria (captain), Sharon, Chris, Toni, Judy, Noreena and friends of the mothers' Julie, Jennifer and Robyn. The women have been playing at the Carlton Baths netball court. Any interested women please contact Maria Bongiovanni. A very warm thank-you to all fathers, partners, friends and children who have turned up to support their important women playing netball.

FAREWELL, CATHERINE and NICK

Farewell to Catherine and Nick who will be departing in early October for an extended trip to New York. You will certainly both be missed from the life

of the school. We hope you have an exciting and productive adventure and look forward to your return.

HOORAY for the STOVE

What a success all the fundraising was! Thank you to all those involved in raising funds for our brand-shining-new school stove. It is an enhancement of the school nerve centre – the school kitchen – and it is a pleasure to cook with!

My special garden

Dorothea MacKellar Poetry Competition

An imaginary garden

A worry tree

Where you put all your worries

A big grandfather tree

Very old

*It can move its branches without the wind
blowing*

I walk down my fairy path

I take out my amber key

A key that opens my special golden gate

And when I walk into my garden

Magically I am transformed into a bird

Fly, fly

A magic garden.

Amber

HOOP TIME BASKETBALL

FCS entered two Biggie basketball teams into Division One of the Hoop Time basketball competition. These two teams were called the FCS Comets and the FCS Crocodiles. They both played very well against very good opposition. The FCS Comets lost their semi final by one point (and drew with the eventual winners



in a preliminary round!) Thanks to our support staff for scoring and cheering our teams on.

LOCAL ATHLETICS

Parents or students interested in using the brand new athletics track near the Clifton Hill overpass are in luck! People of all ages, shapes, sizes and abilities are catered for. Little Athletics for children aged 6 – 14 years starts on Saturday mornings in September. Masters Athletics for adults aged 30 years and over is held on Tuesday nights from 6:00 p.m. (You will see Keith Howden, who works in the FCS upstairs Front Office, there most Tuesday nights!)

CONGRATULATIONS TIM

We are delighted and proud that Tim has been appointed to the board of the AISV (Association of Independent Schools in Victoria) which is the premier group representing independent schools in Victoria. This board influences policy for independent schools and defends their independence.

SMIMMING DRIVERS NEEDED

Occasionally, the wonderful parents who regularly drive our children to swimming on Wednesdays cannot do so. In these circumstances, we need back-up drivers. Anyone who is available and interested in being a back-up driver, please contact Jeannette.

THANKS CAMP HEROES

A special thank-you from Tim B, extended to Catherine, Nick, Tim R and Jeannette for all their enthusiastic and generous contributions to camps this term.

GOURMET FOOD ON BIGGIES CAMP

Tim B enjoyed the “most gourmet camp menu ever” on the Biggies first Term 3 camp. Tim wants to let you know how gourmet camp menus can be:

Breakfast:

Bacon, eggs, mushrooms and tomatoes on toast.

Morning Tea:

Honey and Soy Chicken.

Lunch:

Sausages with a garden salad and home made chips with herb seasoning.

Dinner: An entrée of pumpkin soup, followed by a Thai Green Chicken Curry for main course, and a piping hot freshly baked chocolate cake for dessert.

Yum.

BIGGIES CAMP PROJECTS

Tim B and the Biggies had a great time doing manual labour at the land. They put the ceiling in the club and dug the ground to prepare it for laying some more train line for the toy train. The FCS children love to sit on the train and be pushed along by their friends.

PLEASE GIVE NOTICE

As a courtesy to our arts teachers, please give Jeannette a terms notice if withdrawing from an elective.

WELCOME MIRIAM

Welcome back to Miriam Hamel-Green, a past student and now a member of staff. Miriam is helping our children with Maths and Sport.

THANKS PHOTOGRAPHER AJ

Thank-you AJ for giving us your lovely photographs of various FCS students for display at school. The Photoshop enhancements are captivating!



WEDDING BELLS

Here ye! Here ye! Nikki (our art teacher) and her fiancé Dan (brother of Miranda, Sean’s partner) are getting married on the 16th of September at 3pm in the Darling

Gardens. They extend a warm invitation to you all to attend.

PSSST! WANT TO START A NEW SCHOOL?

Do you want to start a democratic school or home-school resource centre? Often it is hard to know where to start and how to go about it. The goal of the Start a School online course is to help you think through the crucial steps, resolve the major issues and overcome practical barriers in starting a school or resource centre.

There is no one way to lead to a successful school start up, but there are common pitfalls to avoid, and best practice and case studies that can help you pave your personal, intellectual

and emotional way through the start-up process. For more information, contact Jerry Mintz of the Alternative Education Resource Organisation in New York on jerryaero@aol.com

FITZROY TENNIS CLUB

Tennis coaching has begun at the Fitzroy Tennis Club in the Edinburgh Gardens. Classes are available for children of 5 years of age and older, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school (call Asaf to arrange a convenient time). Adult groups are available in the evening and women's groups with child care during the day. For more information call the club coach Asaf Nagar on 0417 301 357.



Sunny's Backyard

Dorothea MacKellar Poetry Competition 2006

*Cubby - greeting spiders that come up
from the sand pit below
Not all of them friendly
None of them slow
I have a chalkboard and a little stove
Swing - no swinging yet though
It's still in a box.*

*Trees, you ask ?
None in my backyard
But there's one in the front
I climb a fence instead
- holding the cubby roof*

So I don't fall through the little gap.

*Middle sized dog
- she's been known to yap
Some visitors don't like her,
there's one little chap
Alex - he can't stand her licks.*

*In my backyard I sometimes play tricks
Once I was Tarzan
- I jumped to the ground
In my backyard I'll often be found.*

By Sunny.





NEW TRIBE CAMPS

This is a new initiative for camps, involving mixed ages: the tribes are going on camp. The Platypus tribe went on an overnight camp Wed-Thur, the 16th-17th of August. Led by Jaslyn, it went very well. The only complaint: it wasn't long enough.

The Kangaroo tribe is going on an overnight camp Tuesday-Wednesday the 29th-30th of August.

LEONARDO DA VINCI EXHIBITION

The Biggies and Middlies were introduced to the genius that was Leonardo Da Vinci at the Da Vinci Exhibition. We all marvelled at the exhibit of 64 models of his various inventions and machines, including the helicopter and a scuba diving set. What a guy! Thanks to Judy (Conor and Estelle's mum) and Kay (James P's mum) and Tim R for taking the FCS kids. This highly recommended exhibition runs until October the 1st if any one is interested. For more information see the website at www.waterfrontcity.com.au/email/email1.htm

THURSDAY SOUPS

The FCS community has been thoroughly enjoying the delicious and nutritious soups provided for us on Thursdays. These soups are very much appreciated. Thank you to all those who have been slaving over a hot stove for our benefit! There are some Thursdays in the future, for which no one has volunteered. If you feel inclined to do so, please do! Please sign your name on the soup roster on the school fridge.

GARDENING AND COOKING WITH PAULINE

Pauline has received a grant from the government to promote healthy eating. This has led to a very popular, regular Thursday morning activity of either gardening or cooking. The gardening takes place at 'Luscious Lane', a community garden in North Fitzroy, where the FCS students are growing strawberries, bok choy, cauliflower, rocket and lettuces. The produce will soon be ready to harvest and eat! The students have been cooking healthy food such as tuna patties and making fresh juices (a very popular one is blood orange and lemon juice). Lots of fun is had by all.

CONGRATULATIONS MATHS WHIZZES

Congratulations to the Biggies and Middlies for doing so well in the University of New South Wales Maths Competition. This competition is not state-wide, but involves selected students from selected schools. Our students overall performed very well, many achieving credits and distinctions.