

## **DECEMBER 2006**

*ENCL: School calendar 2007*

### **BIGGIES' FINAL CAMP**

The Biggies' final camp will be held from Wednesday to Friday, 6th to 8th December. This is an unusually short final camp for the Biggies. This is because four out of the five year 6 students have a school orientation on Tuesday the 5th of December, and we want the camp to start with all the Biggies present. This camp will include formal dinner with Faye at the Senate (the upper house) for the 5 graduating students, supported by their Year 5 companions.

### **SMIMMING DRIVERS NEEDED**

We are in need of some parents who are willing to regularly drive our children to swimming on Wednesdays. Anyone who is available and interested in being a regular driver, please contact Jeannette.

### **OFF TO NORTH AMERICA**

Congratulations to our past students, Miriam Hamel Green and Catherine O'Carroll who have both accepted university exchange positions in the USA.

Miriam has accepted her place studying film at the University of California, Berkeley campus (UCB), and Catherine has accepted her place in Islamic Studies at University of California, Los Angeles campus (UCLA). Well done, Miriam and Catherine!



*Nick E and Catherine O*

### **FCS BASKETBALL**

Congratulations to all the Littlies who played basketball with Gold Street Primary on 7th September. The team played exceptionally well and won the game 8-0. It is unusual for Grade 2 students to play inter-school competitive sports. Our Littlies are particularly enthusiastic to play basketball and have been practicing very well. Thanks to Gold

St Primary School for hosting the match. And thanks to Chris for the post-game Chupa-Chups. Finally, congratulations to the Littlies for being such competent basketball players at such a young age.

### COOKBOOKS WANTED

Pauline would be very grateful for donations of old cookbooks and cooking magazines to contribute to making kids' recipe books.

### MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY SUMMER SCHOOL

The Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) is conducting week-long courses in January 2007. There are courses offered for those aged 5 to 8 years, 9 to 12 years, 13 to 15 years and prospective VCE students.

Each course is presented by teaching artists who have outstanding expertise in the theatre industry and arts education. A course costs \$295 per student. For further information, contact MTC Education:  
Phone: (03) 9648 508  
Email: [education@mtc.com.au](mailto:education@mtc.com.au)  
Web: [www.mtc.com.au](http://www.mtc.com.au)

### INTER-SCHOOL ROUNDERS

Littlies, Middlies and Biggies are all playing rounders to a particularly high level this year. Thanks to our coaches and skills assistants, Sam, Scott, Catherine and Cameron. It is a delight to watch the rounders skills of the FCS kids consistently and continually developing.

### COUCH FOR LIBRARY

We are very excited about the creation of a new library to house all the well-loved books that are spilling out of the Green Room. To make this a really cosy reading space, we would really appreciate the donation of a 2 or 3 seater couch. If you have a couch to donate, please contact Tim.

### THE FCS ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

FCS extends a grateful and huge thank-

you to Penny and Chris (parents of Josh and Tom) for establishing the FCS Sports Day and for their 8 years of dedicated work to keep this thoroughly enjoyable event running.

The FCS Sports Day is now an integral date on the school calendar. This

is an example of a parental initiative becoming school practice.

Thank you to Hayden (Sunny's dad) and James (Marlon's dad) for taking up the Sports Day baton and committing to ensure that this great event continues next year.

This year a fantastic time was had by all staff, parents and students contributing to their various teams: The Orange Sunnies, The Blue Hippy Pigs, The Purple Pigmies and The Yellow Lamas. Thanks to Chris (Penny's husband) and Sharon and Greg (parents of Dominic, Rory and



Meg

Hannah) for playing the vital role of being Penny's assistants. Thanks to all those parents who participated as team leaders by organizing all the children in the various teams.

### BOYS' ROUNDERS

Well done to the boys who played amazing rounders this season. They won all their rounders at District and Zone level but lost the semi-final at the Regional level. Thanks to the boys for showing great sportsmanship throughout the season. You have proved to be excellent at rounders and great team-players.

### THANKS FROM CHRIS

Chris the cleaner would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to all the mums and student teachers who have recently cleaned the kitchen so thoroughly and frequently.

### THANKS PAULINE

Thank you Pauline for cooking such delicious food for the FCS community on Mondays and Fridays. We have thoroughly enjoyed the pizza, cookies, pasta, nori rolls, fish cakes, juices and salads you have been cooking for us (and with us) all.

### WELCOME WEENIES

A very warm welcome to all the new, delightful Weenies who have recently been visiting FCS. We thoroughly look forward to having you, Anna, Elentari (Ella), Erica, Greer, Jack, Jackson, Kate, Kiana, Lexi, Silas, Zak A and Zoe as Tinies next year.

### DEREEL BIKE CAMP

Anthony, Emmett, Lily, Lucas H, Rudy and Scott all put in the hard yards at

bike camp and rode the 90 kilometres in great spirits. Thanks to Viktor (of Viktor, Mary and Solomon) and Nat (our current student teacher) for their enthusiastic support throughout this exciting and demanding adventure. To catch a glimpse of this event, see the poster-size photograph hanging in the hallway



*Solomon with Celeste*

outside the music room.

### THANKS, NAT from RMIT

Thanks to Nat, our very competent student teacher from RMIT University who has made a wonderful contribution to our school community over the past few weeks. We all wish you the best of luck with your first year of teaching at The Maharishi School – a small independent primary school – in Reservoir.

### GIRLS' ROUNDERS

A huge congratulations to the girls who played rounders in the State Finals on the 28th of November and came third in the state! This is the first ever FCS rounders team to make it into the State Finals. The girls played their Regional Level semi-final with Monmia in Keilor Downs, winning 15–14. They then won their Regional Final against Killara school in Sunbury winning 22–14 to qualify for the State Finals.

The girls all had fabulous pink and sparkly uniforms to wear, thanks to the amazing work of Leonie (once again). FCS were given the award for the best-dressed team.

#### CHINESE CULTURAL EVENTS

FCS students have been enjoying various enriching Chinese cultural events thanks to a generous grant from the Association of Independent Schools in Victoria (AISV). These events have included cooking Chinese cuisine, kung fu, kite-making, two trips to the Shanghai dumpling house in China Town and a day at the Chinese Australia Museum doing various workshops.

#### BASKETBALL WITH PRINCES HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Middlies recently played a nail-biting basketball game with Princes Hill Primary School. FCS eventually triumphed 30–29. In great competitive spirit, Princes Hill have asked for a rematch. GO FCS!!

#### HISTORY with BRIAN BOURKE

Biggies have enjoyed discussion of historical characters – such as Hitler and Kennedy and Henry Lawson – with Brian (grandfather of Estelle and Conor). For this year, Brian’s course will end on the 12th Dec when he will bring his friend, retired judge Peter Gebhardt, to talk about Mark Twain and Huckleberry Finn. This is timely because the Biggies have just completed a literature assignment on Tom Sawyer.

#### CONGRATULATIONS, PIRATES

The Pirates of North Fitzroy was a roaring success. Thanks to Jono for writing a hilarious script. (We are very pleased to announce that he has accepted a commission to write the script for next year’s school play!)

Harry channelled great comedic actors with his subtle depiction of Captain Blackbeard. Rory, Tom and Celeste worked magnificently as the heroic trio



*Harry with Tom*

of the piece. Jaslyn proved adept at mastering many roles, playing Kyle’s Mum, Vice-Principal Sherman and the double-crossing queen of the mermaids. Mimi was hilarious as Smee, and Samantha was incandescent as a “mean girls” mermaid.

Sam, who directed and choreographed Pirates, would like to extend her very warm thanks to Chris Tanti (Lily’s mum) for being a hugely competent stage manager, Arthur for making excellent props and sets, and Leonie (Celeste’s mum) for making amazing costumes. Sam also thanks our art teacher Nikki for doing make-up and our past students Anna, Astrid May, Greta, Lucci and Nisha for being fantastic back-stage and make-up assistants.

Sam would also like to thank all the mums who helped Leonie out with making costumes – Sharon Willmot in particular. Finally, thanks our past student Giancarlo for doing a brilliant job on lighting and Tim for sound.

#### BASKETBALL WITH MAHARISHI

Middlies will be playing basketball with The Maharishi School in Reservoir – on

Wed the 6th December at 11.30. We still need two parents to drive students to this event. Please speak to Jeannette if you are able to offer your assistance.

#### BEST WISHES & SUPPORT

Our multi-talented teacher of dance, drama, gym and sport over 15 years, Sam, and husband Mikey, are expecting a bambino.

#### WELCOME WARREN

A warm welcome to Warren (son of Jeannette and Keith) who will be the new chess teacher at FCS. Warren was part of the FCS team that came 2nd at a State Level. Warren and Jeremy are very keen to have students compete at inter-school chess with a bit more coaching. Warren will be running after-school chess classes on Tuesday. Any interested chess players please contact Warren or Jeannette.

#### REMINDER ONE

Don't be late for the school concert which will be held at Collingwood College on Vere St, Collingwood on the 14th of Dec at 7:00 pm. Please bring a plate of food for after concert nibbles and end-of-year celebrations.

#### REMINDER TWO

The start of the school day is 8.50 a.m. sharp. Please do not be late for the vital school meetings or stories which are held every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

#### SBS VISIT

SBS will be coming to school on Thursday the 30th of November to make a documentary on children's ideas and perceptions of peace. The SBS television crew will be coming to FCS to play songs of peace to the Middlies and to

document their responses to these songs. We look forward to this documentary with eager anticipation.

#### TINIES CAMP

Tinies Camp at the Land with Philip and Jeannette was a great success. Thanks to all the parents who helped vigorously with a number of maintenance jobs around the campsite. This is not expected but much appreciated. There were many positive reports about what a great time all the Tinies had. Go Tinies!



*a bunch of Year 4s*

#### MATHS

On Thursday the 30th of November, Doctor Wood will be visiting the Biggies and the Middlies to present them with the Kaleidoscope Classic Maths Challenge. This should be an enjoyable brain-teasing day.

#### THANKS, ARTHUR

A big thank-you to Arthur for building circuit testers, sirens, small robots and various other Dick Smith electronic gadgets with the Biggies and Middlies on Wednesday mornings. This year's program was supported by the Resiliency Program, with funding coming through the Association of Independent Schools in Victoria (AISV). We are very pleased that Arthur will be continuing this inspiring program next year.

## MUSEUM EXCURSION

Thanks to Judy Bourke (mother of Estelle and Connor) who has yet again organized an elevating school excursion for FCS students. Recently the Middlies had a brilliant time at the museum investigating the life of bugs and insects. The Littlies are very excited about visiting the museum on Tuesday the 5th of December. Please remember to bring lunch and a hat.

## WISHING YOU WELL, EILEEN

Recently Eileen, our dear old friend of FCS who does one-on-one reading with the FCS students, had an unfortunate accident and broke her leg. She is staying in a rehabilitation centre for the next few weeks as she learns to manage her cast properly. Some of the Little girls really brightened up Eileen's day by visiting her at the rehabilitation centre. Best wishes to you Eileen, we are all wishing you well.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO YEAR 6

Congratulations to our totally awesome and very cool Year 6s, Celeste, Harry, Jaslyne, Rory and Tom. All of these fine students have attended FCS for their entire primary education. We are so proud of you for being such fine leaders and for everything that you have achieved during your time at FCS. We wish you all the best of luck for the future and extend a very warm invitation to visit FCS as often as you can.



*Biggies Jaslyn and Lily*

## CONGRATULATIONS PAST PUPILS

We have been sending good wishes to all past FCS students who have recently been completing year 12: Becky Sheahan, Ella Gauci-Seddon, Katherine Schachte, Liam Furlong, Nic Gardiner, Sarah Cooney, Tess Wilkinson, and Tilly Nuttall. We hope you will all be able to attend the FCS end of year concert.

## ACOMMODATION FOR TAIWANESE VISITORS

Last year we were very pleased to host many Taiwanese primary school students and their parents at FCS. We are eagerly anticipating the visit of another group of Taiwanese students who will be

attending FCS classes early in the 2007 school year. This will be a wonderfully enriching cultural experience for all involved.

Some of our Taiwanese students are eager to participate in a home-stay accommodation arrangement. Two girls and two boys are looking for a place to stay from the beginning of February for approximately three weeks. Thanks to Mimi and family, Emma and family and Arun and family for already agreeing to host some students. Anyone interested in hosting the remaining Year 6 boy (a 12 year-old), please contact Tim.

Also, a mother and two girls are looking to rent a granny flat. Any information about suitable accommodation for these people would be greatly appreciated.

#### THANKS TO LACHLAN

Thank you Lachlan for creating fantastic outdoor wooden blocks for the children to play with. The FCS children (and those still young at heart) have been thoroughly enjoying making all sorts of structures and cubbies with these blocks. There have been a number of inquiries regarding supply of these blocks. Please call Lachlan on 0402 418 652.

#### LOST PROPERTY

Please collect all your lost property by the end of the school year. Any clothing still on school property after the final day of school will be donated to the Whispering Seeds, a community school for the stateless (those people not recognized as Thai by Thailand or Burmese by Burma) on in the Thai-Burma border.

#### KANGA CRICKET SQUAD

On Wednesday the 29th of November, the Biggies and Middlies played cricket against various local schools. James P got a hat trick. Roland got our first out for the day. Good on the girls team too, who didn't know they were playing cricket until the day started!

#### POETRY PRIZE

On 27th October, Christopher went to Sydney with his dad Ian to collect his Taronga Foundation Poetry prizes (incl. books and tickets to Zoo Victoria) along with other young people from around Australia. The books included an anthology *Poems by Young Australians Volume 4* which includes Christopher's poem.

Christopher: I was surprised to find that I was one of the winners. For 2 days in English class, I couldn't think of a thing to write. Then I said "There is really no place that is quiet!" and Faye said, "Put *that* down." and that is how it started.

Faye thanks Carol O'Connor who actually began the poetry sessions and introduced the theme of quietness.

#### LOST QUIET PLACE

by Christopher Mercuri

*There is really no place that  
Is quiet  
That I can think of  
That exists.  
I can search for as long as  
I want  
But  
I will never find even  
One single quiet place.  
It is such a pain  
To search for such  
A simple thing  
And never ever succeed.*

#### THANKS PHOTOGRAPHER AJ

Thank-you AJ (dad of Sam, Meg and Jack) for giving us your lovely photographs of various FCS students for display at

school. The Photoshop enhancements are captivating!

### THE AMPHITHEATRE

Another literary tradition has quietly grown over the years to add to the colour and depth of our curriculum. Every year, Faye takes the Biggies to the Amphitheatre on the Yarra near the Boathouse. Each student presents their account of a book they have read, commenting on its theme, its author, the historical context, the style, and many other aspects. Faye is very proud of the standard reached and many parents attend this event. The day finishes with a delicious treat at the Boathouse Tearoom. In future, we will put this on the school calendar. Naturally, all are invited.



*Rory the great*

### MODEL TRAINS at SCHOOL CAMP

Until recent years, the kiddies have been able to play trains at the school campsite. We still have wagons. It's the engines that haven't lasted. We have, over time, used perhaps 10 different engines. Every so often you find an inexpensive, plastic, battery-operated train set in a toy shop which suits our 45mm gauge (the inner gap between the rails).

But in recent years, we haven't found such a train set in a toy shop. If anyone should see such a train set for sale (usually less than \$100) please buy two sets and Philip will reimburse. If we do get a new engine, we will in future have supervised play so the engine survives.

For train buffs, the track is LGB (serious German brand). We do have a proper LGB engine. We could use it if we fixed the track, which would require say two amateur-handyperson assistants spending a day with Philip at the land making wire connections at every join of the rails. Then we would supply power through the rails. Then we could play serious trains!

### THE BACK YARD

Many people have commented on how wonderful the FCS back yard is at the moment. Thanks are due to Pauline (mother of Sage) for growing an array of beautiful flowers and delicious looking vegetables – we can't wait to harvest them. Thanks also to Ben (friend of our assistant cleaner Hugh) for painting a captivating mural, and to Andrea and Sankar (parents of Alex) who helped the Year 6s and other Biggies in designing and building a fantastic mosaic of a sumo wrestler.

### HAPPY HOLIDAY

We thank you all very much for an inspirational and productive school year. This year FCS seems to have a particularly strong community spirit. It has been lovely to experience this strong support throughout the year. We wish you all a very happy Christmas holiday.

*Tim, Faye, Jeannette and staff of FCS.*