

# July 2007

## **SCHOOL GRANT**

*A thank you* to the Federal Government for a much appreciated grant.

In May, we received a phone call and letter from The Hon. Pat Farmer MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Science and Training, informing us that our application for the *Investing in Our Schools Programme* had been successful. In this grant, we had applied for the removal of all network cabling, installation of new power points and upgraded cabling, interactive white boards and data projectors, and replacement of rotted out school window frames. This work will be carried out in the September school holidays. When this work has been done, we would encourage all school families to write to the Minister to express their thanks.

## **CONGRATULATIONS, NETBALLERS**

We had three teams this year, and they have done very well. Our first team won the inter-school competition overall,



*Kate, Estelle and Audrey*

being undefeated. Members of this team included: Scott, Lucas H, James W, Mimi, Lily, Sasha, Emmett, Jeremy, Rudi, Christopher & Anthony.

The second and third teams also did very well, with some less experienced players making huge jumps in skills and netball ability. Also pleasing was the sportsmanship displayed by all students. An umpire commented to Tim at the end of the season that she always liked umpiring our students as they were so polite and such good sports.

Speaking of which, with Middlies netballers away on camp, five Littlies filled in, making their netball debut: Nic L, Jack M, Josh S, Arun and Saul. They all played really well, and this meant that we did not have to forfeit through lack of players. Tim also wishes to pass on a thank you to the Princes Hill netballers for looking after our Littlies so well, giving them netball tips and encouragement.



*Emma and Sam*

And finally, a big thank you to Warren who umpired for us every week, and to Judy, Kathleen, Chris F, Tony, Maria, Viktor and Scott, for driving, cheering and the occasional lolly.

Good luck Biggies of Team 1 for Zone and perhaps State level competition.

P.S. Thanks to our coaches, Sam, Tim, Bec and Cam!

### **CONGRATULATIONS MARIA and ALLAN,**

Upon both being awarded AO in this years Australian Honours for diverse philanthropic services to the community. We have experienced their philanthropy ourselves. Maria and Allan, as early parents of FCS, provided support to our fledgling school in many ways: from providing their place at Dunkeld as a camping ground, to supporting various

school personnel in various ways, and Maria conducting a forensic-style Nature Study class (2 girls went on to become archaeologists!) The Myers' have gone on to provide many other kinds of support, including to aboriginal and musical groups. Well-deserved!

### **HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY**

Marlon and his family are on the road for third term. We wish them all the best, and look forward to welcoming them back and hearing their stories in October.

### **BIKE CAMP 1**

This camp was accompanied by Scott and Clotilde, and cycled by James W, Anthony, Jeremy, Emmett, Sasha and Chris, a group that proved very good cyclists, setting a new record of just under 4 hours for the Dereel-Meredith return leg. Clotilde commented on the way there, when it started to rain, that not only did no-one whinge or ask to get in the car, no-one even mentioned the rain. Great FCS spirit. She also commented on how polite and helpful all the boys were, and how much she enjoyed her first camp. Thanks Clotilde and Scott for your efforts. Photos are in the front hallway



*Alessia*

### **CONGRATULATIONS, ATLANTA**

Bravo to our school photographer Atlanta, who recently won an award for her photography.

*“The award that I won was best inkjet print which I entered as part of the CCP's "Kodak Salon" – Australia's largest open-entry, photo-based exhibition and competition. The work was a photo of a jumper arranged to look like a mountain scape, it was called "mountains" It's really exciting and encouraging to win an award like that, especially considering how many great photos were in the competition. The artwork was on display at CCP, 404 George St, Fitzroy.”*

Thank you, Atlanta, for the wonderful work in photography with the Biggies.

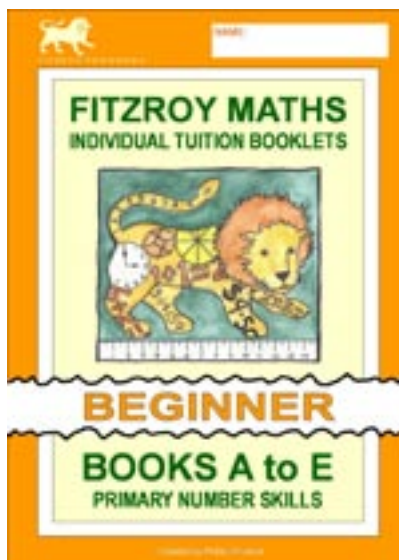
### **FRENCH CLASS**

The French class is on Wednesdays at 3pm for 45 mins. All welcome.

Also thanks to Clotilde for running a French lesson for Biggies on Tuesdays at 3.15pm to 4.15pm.

### **MATHS BOOKS**

After 32 years, the first *Fitzroy Maths Books* have finally gone to the printer. This is a really exciting step for us. These books have proven very popular with our students, and so successful over a long period, it is really good to be able to offer them to a wider audience. Congratulations to Clotilde for her work on them, following



in the steps of Philip, who came up with the original ideas, to Sean who did the first rationalisation two years ago, to Tim for many suggestions and ideas, and to the kids for finding bugs in the typesetting here at school.

P.S. We think it's great that our students are involved in the proof-reading: they will have the great advantage of knowing from early on that not everything that is printed is correct.

### **WELL DONE, LEAH**

Leah won both the *Carlton District Cross Country* and the *Tullamarine Zone Cross Country* competitions this year – the first time anyone from our school has ever won both. Mary O'Carroll held the previous record, having won district and come second in zone (having been re-directed by a marshal when she was leading by a long stretch, an upset immortalised in the Fitzroy Reader, *Lost and Won*).



*Leah*

Congratulations also to Lucas G and Coco who also made it to Zone level. Tim was really impressed with all the kids efforts in cross country. Everyone who entered gave it a really good shot. Photos taken at the finish show the determination and effort made by all on the day. Thanks also to Nick B,

Viktor and Scott for training our kids.

One of the parents commented on cross country, saying that the training was not so bad as the teachers ran too. Only at FCS! Thanks Nick B and Viktor for setting such a good example, following strongly in the steps of Catherine over the last few years.



### **TWIN SISTERS FOR JOSH S**

Naomi, mother of Josh S, has given birth to twin girls, Daisy and Grace. Congratulations, Naomi and Dad. We look forward to seeing you and the girls around school soon.

### **NOTE FROM MARY & VIKTOR**

Mary and Viktor (Andrew) would love to thank everyone who was at their wedding. *“Everything went just right, and we had the time of our lives – Thanks!”*

### **MIDWIFERY**

Thanks all for helping Mary find pregnant mums to track for her course. She has now followed enough people, so does not need to find any more. Mary really appreciated the support the FCS community gave in helping her find people to follow.

### **CONGRATULATIONS, CELESTE**

Our past student, Celeste Garro,

completed primary at FCS last year and has just started at the *Academy of Mary Immaculate*. She has been awarded *Year 7 Student of the Term* from 250 students. This was based on academic performance, good manners, and as a role model to others. That’s wonderful, Celeste. We are proud of you!

### **DOROTHEA MACKELLAR POETRY COMPETITION**

All children have written poems for the *Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Competition*. Thanks to Philip Harvey for launching the theme – colour – this year. We await results.

### **VISIT TO THE WHISPERING SEED SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE IN THAILAND**

During the Easter School holidays, Tim and Clotilde visited this project, linking up with Jim and Nao, the founders, through a connection made by Faye and Catherine at the July 2006 *International Democratic Education Conference*. At the Whispering Seed they met the kids, all Burmese refugee children, orphaned by the Burmese government’s persecution of its hill people. Jim and Nao have literally built their school out of the dirt, and are truly inspirational people. At the school, Tim and Clotilde donated the proceeds of last year’s Art Show. Thanks Nikki for organising this.



*Whispering Seed School (+above)*

## **GREETINGS FROM TASSIE - SUE HEART**

*"Hello FCS, I feel a bit strange emailing "info". Perhaps the person receiving this doesn't even know who I am. I tried Tim, and he sends news from China. My intention is simply to say hello to the FCS family and let you know that I have thought of you often since our time there. I visited your website a few days ago and was delighted to see so many familiar faces on the staff page. You all look so happy! It is with a great deal of warmth in my heart that I send greetings, especially to Jeannette (and family), Nikky, Scott, Faye and Philip, Mary and Catherine and my "old" housemate, Tim.*

*I hope you are all growing and learning, living and loving lots. Sue Heart*

## **FCS QUIZ NIGHT – PIANO FUNDRAISER**

*Another successful fundraising event was held on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> of May, raising \$1,660 to go towards a new school piano. Peter Morrissey did another fabulous job entertaining and taunting participants with his musical and general trivia questions. Thanks to Tim Berryman for running around to gather a handful of donations from cafes and hardware stores – we've*



*Meg*



*Lucas*

*gathered a list of possible donors for a future event. A big thank you goes to Susie Lewis, Karina Davis, John Carta, Haydn Chiron, Susan Sheehan and Arthur Cottom for their generous auction and raffle prize donations. Thanks also to Maria Bongiovanni, Chris Frith and Kathleen Feeney for helping with setting up the night. Thanks to Philip O'Carroll for helping fine tune non-music questions, and last but not least – a big thank you to all those who participated in the event. Cheers, Toni*

P.S. Erika, our piano teacher, advises that our new piano will arrive within a fortnight. We thank Erica for all her research, checking out so many pianos.

## **STUDENT TEACHERS**

Thank you to Emma and Nick, our two student teachers. Both got involved in school life, and made many positive contributions to FCS in their three weeks here.

## **HOOP TIME - BIGGIES BASKETBALL**

Re our Future All Stars, *The Grizzlies* and our Rookies, *The Rangers*: both teams played well, executing their fast break offences and zone defenses in an outstanding manner. In fact, our teams recorded the best results of any

FCS squad for years as they won all 9 matches played (by 10 points or more). The *Future All Stars* will now progress to Regional Finals later this year. (Rookies do not have Regional Finals.)

### **NITS**

Doing the rounds in Melbourne. Please check REGULARLY. Nits do not discriminate, so yes, they will like your kid's hair too! (Some schools send kids home on the spot. If we get overwhelmed, we might have to do that too.)



*Emma and Alessia*

### **WORKING BEE AT THE LAND**

Thanks all who have helped in the construction of our new camp *Fountain* (note improved name) – kitchen, pantry and shower utility block. Next working Bee is on the 4th of August. All parents and friends welcome – whether handy person, labourer or tea-maker. Any questions, contact Philip 0419209818

### **WITHDRAWING AN FROM ELECTIVE SUBJECT?**

Please give at least half a term's notice.

### **HAVE FUN LEARNING TO PLAY VIOLIN**

Bronwyn Cumbo has been playing and teaching violin for many years. She will be offering violin lessons from term 3.

To arrange or talk about lessons, please call Bronwyn on 0403 698 446.

### **SPELLING AND MATHS COMPETITIONS**

The Biggies and Middlies recently entered both the University of New South Wales Maths and Spelling Competitions. Overall, the students felt that they did very well. Tim and Jeannette both felt that the spelling competition was extremely hard, and were very impressed with how boldly the children tackled it.

Copies of the Spelling and Maths Paper are in the Hallway on the way to the Art Room.

### **PUZZLES, PARADOXES, ILLUSIONS AND GAMES**

Kaye, James P's mother, was invited by Tim and Faye to introduce a new teaching module for the Year 6 Biggies this year on maths games and puzzles.

*The visual puzzles which I use in class help to develop mathematical imagination and challenge the commonly accepted view that there is one "right" answer to all mathematical problems. Much of the material I use is deceptively simple, though you often have to think outside of the box to solve the puzzle. My aim is to encourage a creative approach to problem solving through games play. If we learn to approach abstract and difficult concepts as "games", we can develop better thinking skills, which improve insight and intuition.*





and reconfigured, "This-a-way" which is a series of tiles with arrows pointing in different direction which you have to form into set patterns, "Reflection" which involves placing patterned tiles in front of a mirror).

*By the end of this year, I hope the Year 6's will have discovered that lurking within a good puzzle is a general message about how to think when you are confronted with a problem. Even if the puzzle itself is simplified and unrealistic, the way you have to think to solve it is likely to be useful in other ways. Visual puzzles and mental games allow the slate to be wiped clean in the sense you don't have to be the best maths student in the class to master them. Maths is within everyone's reach when you realise that the goal of most mathematicians is to find the simplest explanation for the most complex problems.*

### **A REFLECTION ON SCHOOL CAMPS by Philip**

*Faye and I travelled to Tiger Leaping Gorge mountain retreat in Yunnan province at the edge of the Himalayas. The occasion was the engagement of Timothy and Clotilde. Accommodation*

*Early in the year, I gave the class a handout on getting around mental blocks. The year 6's pointed out a quote in the handout from the poet G.K. Chesterton, whose poem "Donkey" they recited at the first concert this year. The poet had this to say about mathematical problems: "It isn't they can't see the solution. It is they can't see the problem." The direct head-on approach to problem solving often leads nowhere, while a lengthy detour can sometimes be the fastest route to a solution.*

*In the first two terms of this year, we've had an introduction to robotics programming, solved many "playthinks", puzzled over Sudokus and Tai-chi Towers, calculated how much water is used to make common things (such as t-shirts, shoes, hamburgers, rice and dairy products) and talked about everyday statistics (what percentage of our brain is water, what percentage is fat, how long can we survive without water as opposed to food, how to read food labels, what intake of fibre do we need daily and how much fibre is in different foods). For the last half of each class, I allow the year 6's free time to play strategy games (eg. Stratego, Goblet, Five in a Row) and work with other visual or manipulative puzzles (eg. "Cube-It" which is a magnetic cube of triangular prisms to be pulled apart*



*and food was provided by tribal natives. Friends from Australia, England, France and (urban) Kunming combined to make a jolly multi-lingual party of 30+. The “washroom” was under the sky, the toilet rural Chinese, the bedrooms very rudimentary. The atmosphere was exotic and just right for 21<sup>st</sup> century global citizens. It was obvious however that some relaxed and enjoyed the “inn” more readily than others. I could only think that anyone who had been to FCS and its school camps would not bat an eyelid. I thought what an advantage our students have. My faith in our diversity of camps is all the more affirmed.*



### **SISTER SCHOOL in KUNMING**

Faye and Philip, while in China recently, addressed 30 teachers in the Fitzroy Method at Grace School, a “private” school catering for the children of rural “migrants” (who provide the labour for the huge construction boom that is happening in China’s cities today). These children are not provided for in city state-run schools. The principal, Tony Luo, has been Tim’s friend for 17



years. Fitzroy Programs donates materials. Tim calls in on his frequent visits to Kunming to keep the staff up to date. Children at FCS are planning a fundraising fête this term to help support Grace School.

### **STUDENT TRIP TO CHINA**

Year 6s Sam, Emmett and Lily are travelling to China with Tim and Clotilde this coming September, along with past students Tom, Harry, Cecilia and Alex. We hope to send with them the funds we have raised at FCS.

### **CONGRATULATIONS, PATRICIA & PETER**

Patricia Piccinnini, our former art teacher, and husband Peter Hennessey have had a baby daughter, Roxy. Big brother, Hector, is happy about the new arrival.