

*“People  
before  
things”*

# December 2009

Ed. Clotilde Berryman

## Fitzroy Community School NEWSLETTER

### **Sorry no new babies for this newsletter!**

But, we have quite a few expectant mothers on staff, one of whom is our dear Pauline. She is due as school goes back, so please excuse us if we are a bit slow on admin things at the start of the year.



Miranda, Sean, Moses, Elijah, Paul and Hamish on the love boat

### **Sean and Miranda: Just married**

The backdrop to this was the Gippsland Hills, lush with lots of Spring rain. Rufus Black (of Antonia and Christiania fame) acted as celebrant, Pauline catered, Paul and Hamish (1991) were groomsmen and many past school families attended. Fun was had by all, and the 75mm of rain that fell that night and all of the next day graciously waited until after the official business was over before beginning.

### **Lindsay Tanner**

The federal government, under the capital grants program, funded 45% of our maths room extension, our new toilets and the third storey, usually known as the Eyrie. Thanks Feds! Lindsay Tanner visited to open this room, and check that the money was well spent.

Thanks Lindsay for taking the time out of your busy schedule and for making this funding available.



Lindsay Tanner and Tim

### **New Library**

The school library has been a work in progress for some time now, moving rooms and changing styles and shapes. Thanks to Kevin and Julia's Education Revolution, we hope that this has now stopped, as it has been fully upgraded with new shelving and seating. A big thankyou to Carol, Myf and Kylie for helping out with filing, contacting and general organisation of the books. If anyone has a large wooden 'reading table' that is not being used, we would love it for the library.

### Middlies Trips to Bendigo

The Middlies went to Bendigo with Nick and Warren in November. While in Bendigo they visited the Golden Dragon Chinese Museum, where they learnt about Chinese immigration to Australia, particularly to the goldfields, and about Chinese culture and history. They also made either lanterns or dragons with the staff there. The highlight of the trip for many was the over 2 hours they spent down a mine, reaching a depth of 85m, the last of this reached on ladders. They also visited the Atisha Buddhist Meditation Centre where they meditated, learnt a little about Buddhism and took a walk around. The Middlies were complimented on their behaviour by all they encountered. They also impressed Nick and Warren with their adventurous spirits: be it descending into the depths or trying new foods (with chopsticks). A big thanks to Warren for organising the trip.

### Middlies Outing to Thomastown Fire Station

The Middlies enjoyed an outing to Thomastown Fire Station. The firefighters impressed them by using the “jaws of life” to take the roof off a car before dousing it in petrol, setting it alight and calling for the fire engine - which arrived with sirens blaring - from which a fireman in full gear and using his breathing apparatus alighted to put out the blaze. The Middlies then raced each other to put on fire-fighting gear and run around a short course. Nic L was the clear winner. Thanks to Susie, mother of Jordon and Hunter, for arranging the outing and to Maggie, one of the firefighters, who organised our visit.

### New Principal Blog on line

Go to our website <http://www.fcs.vic.edu.au/>

### 2003 Re-Run

Thanks for Eric, Calum and Samuel for a updated version of their year six graduation skit. Heaps of laughs.

### Fabulous!

The play was a beautiful success! Thank you to all the crew and specially to Sharon Willmott who added so much magic with her beautiful costumes.



### Basketball: Finals this year by Keith

*As many readers will know, our Biggies – coached by Jono and myself – won their way through to the Regional Finals this year! The Regionals were held on the 9th of November at Keysborough, and our team performed admirably, winning 2 of the 5 matches. In very hot outdoor conditions, the highlight was our defensive effort in all games. Thanks to Tim and Jeannette for their continued support of basketball in 2009 and congrats to all team members (all year 5/6s, as well as Jordon and Lexie).*



### AFL at FCS

A big thank you to Kevin Walsh (father of Elisabeth) who took the biggies and middlies for a footy clinic. Many will remember Kevin as a former Essendon champion. All enjoyed it and gained a greater understanding of the skills required to play footy. Unfortunately this wasn't enough to overcome a strong St John's football team in a friendly match. However, all Biggies and Middlies are to be congratulated for their endeavours. We hope to do better next time with a bit more practice and another clinic or two from Kevin (time and work allowing).

### Visit by Senator Steven Fieldings

(Victoria Family First)

David from Senator Fieldings office came to speak with Tim about student central funding during the first week of the Summer Holidays. Thanks Senator for taking up this issue.



### Past FCS student champions

Congratulations to **Sarajini Brennan-Maxwell** (2003) for winning the Year 12 Literature prize at Kardinia International College in Geelong.

Congratulations to **Dominic Walker** (2003) who won both the the Year 12 History of Revolutions prize and the Literature prize at Xavier College.

Congratulations to **Greta Tanti-Brewin** (2004) who won the Year 11 Award for Academic Excellence in Design and Technology at Melbourne Girls' College.

Congratulations to **Leah Polycarpou** (2008) who won two silver medals in both the 1500m and 2000m Steeple Chase events at the VSSA track and field State Championships and in the process broke a zone record in the competition. She also picked up a silver medal in the 2000m Steeple Chase at the All Schools Track and Field State Championships. Next month Leah will be heading to Hobart to represent Victoria in the Nationals.

Congratulations to **Sean O'Carroll** (1990) for winning the Portrait Prize in photography at the New North Gallery. To see a rather small version of the image, go to [www.newnorth.com.au](http://www.newnorth.com.au)

**Emma Lightfoot** (2008) topped her class at the Academy of Mary Immaculate in both French and Italian, and sends a thankyou to Clotilde for the effort in French, as she had a head start on everyone else. Emma was also elected house captain and topped other subjects...actually, pretty much everything.

**Astrid Gardiner** (2004) has been elected by her peers at Melbourne Girls Grammar as House Captain in year 12, 2010 and as such is part of the School Executive. She is already planning her assault on the house music competition.

**Alessia Castello** (2008) has won many sports awards at the Academy.

### Congratulation to **Eric Gardiner** – (2003)

In 2009 at Melbourne Grammar Eric was Creese House Captain, Drama Captain, and a School Prefect. He appeared as Oberon in the school's Quad Play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, wrote and directed an adaptation of Barry Hines' novel *Kes* with a Year 9 cast, and performed as the Pirate King in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*. At the end of the year Eric won a Headmaster's Service Prize, the Richard Penrose Franklin Prize for English, and the Doug Salek QC Drama Bursary, a cash prize awarded to a student at the end of Year 12 with the understanding that they will use it to further their interest in theatre.

Congratulations to **Tim Berryman** (1982) for being awarded his MA. His topic of study – *Bioengineering: Salvation or Subjugation?* The Biggies had a small taste of this subject with Tim this year when he took them for Philosophy for a couple weeks and linked this into the issues raised in the film *Gattaca*. Tim's degree was awarded by the UNESCO Chair for Philosophy for Peace. Peace out dude!

We thank parents of VCE students for their generous recognition of the years spent at FCS contributing to outstanding VCE results.



### Off to Canada

Samantha Neesham (2007) and Anthony O'Brien (2007) are off to Canada with the Ivanhoe Ski Team. Have fun!

### Lyon – France

Ilaria O'Brien (2004) is in Lyon for a six week French exchange. Ilaria hosted a French exchange students earlier this year as part of her exchange program.

### Shanghaied

Warren, who stated Chinese here in Prep in 1990 and was our Chinese tutor and language assistant for many years is off now to Shanghai as an

employee of the Australian Government, where he will represent Australia as a host and guide at the Australian Pavilion at the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai. The Expo promotes international tourism and trade, runs from May to October and expects thousands of people to visit the Australian Pavilion each day.



### **Grand Travels**

Paul and Amy have returned to Paul's homeland of South Africa and will then head to Europe where Paul hopes to work in Granada, Spain, as a scientific researcher. Thanks Paul for all of your input over the year, and enjoy your time away.

### **Goodbye Jono**

Jono is leaving us to write. While this is sad, it should be remembered that this is the 4th time that Jono has left, so there is a good chance that we will see him again. Jono feels that he needs more time to write and perform. We wish him well with this, and to him returning sometime in the future, inspired by this break.

### **Alice and Casey - Student teachers**

Thanks for so much help and positive input this year. Casey, good luck with the rest of your study and Alice, good luck with the baby and teaching next year.

### **Camps Cameo**

Camp Queen Catherine lent her enthusiasm and spirit to three camps this term. Thanks Cath.

### **Ol' School Fish 'N' Chips**

This term saw a fish and chip shop open opposite school, and we visited it a number of times, extending "lolly day" to "lolly and chip day". The boys there not only make a great chip, but were super lovely to our kids, helping tinies out with 50c bags of chips when that was all their financial situation allowed.

### **Welcome to our new guitar teacher**

Adam Ferguson is teaching guitar this year because Paul Liknaitzky is going on a world trip.

### **Summer swimming program**

AQUASAFE is a one week intensive program that gives children the opportunity to develop vital life skills such as water safety, stroke development and increased confidence. Commencing 11th January to 18th January, Monday to Friday. Carlton Baths Community Centre, 248 Rathdowne Street, Carlton. Call 9347 3677 or visit [www.carltonbaths.ymca.org.au](http://www.carltonbaths.ymca.org.au)

### **Getting Dressed**

Tinies need to be able to dress themselves. Can all parents of new children please make sure that those starting school next year are able to do this. Swimming at the start of the year will be much easier on the staff if they do not have to dress a giggle of children.

### **Road Sense**

Can all parents please remind their children that they are not to leave the school during the day, and that pick-up is inside, not on the footpath. Also, please remind them that crossing roads is only when the teacher in charge gives to go-ahead.



Good luck to Lucas, Paul and Zac for their secondary schooling.

**A poem by Claire Collings (Student teacher, La Trobe)**

An arts day of fun and surprises lay ahead of us  
As we set off to Melbourne Uni on the big bus.  
Greeted warmly and the scene was set  
A darkened room and giant puppets.  
*Mimis and the Hunter Boy* was the Aboriginal story  
Taken from ABC's Dustechoes animated glory.  
As a school to music we started to dance  
A possible precursor to the beats of trance?  
Then off in four groups with activities to start  
With everybody keenly taking a part.  
Guided by the students we toiled away  
Stopping only for a picnic at mid day.  
Five hours seemed hardly enough  
Having fun can really be tough!  
Engaged and excitable the creativity flowed  
In the final performance it really showed.  
One was for costume and interpretive play  
Urban representation of things we throw away.  
Back in the dark room we got to see  
The group who had mastered shadow puppetry.  
Thirdly a showcase for a story of sound  
Played on instruments made from things found.  
The finale was an impressive stop animation  
Camera clicks worthy of a standing ovation.  
Then we made our thank yous and went on our way  
Feeling blessed for yet another great day.  
Another day of which I loved taking part  
For FCS has a piece of my heart.



**Prayer for the 21st Century, by John Marsden**

May the road be free for the journey,  
May it lead where it promised it would,  
May the stars that gave ancient bearings  
Be seen, still be understood  
May every aircraft fly safely,  
May every traveller be found,  
May sailors in crossing the ocean  
Not hear the cries of the drowned  
May gardens be wild, like jungles,  
May nature never be tamed,  
May dangers create of us heroes,  
May fears always have names,  
May the mountains stand to remind us,  
Of what it mean to be young  
May we be outlived by our daughters,  
May we be outlived by our sons  
May the bombs rust away in the bunkers,  
And the doomsday clock not be rewound  
May the solitary scientists, working  
Remember the holes in the ground  
May the knife remain in the holder,  
May the bullet stay in the gun,  
May those who live in the shadows  
Be seen by those in the sun.

**Prayer for the 21st century**

Inspired by John Marsden's poem (below FCS poem), FCS Biggies wrote their own Prayer for the 21st Century.

May we protect mother nature's wonders  
May the effects of global warming be minimised  
May there be no natural disasters  
May there be no poverty in our world  
May all find love and good fortune  
May people never throw away opportunities  
May parents and children be understanding  
May everyone live their life to the full  
May the word kindness still have meaning.



## **FCS students writing**

### ***Profile of a Father, By David (Biggie)***

My dad is tall. He has glasses because he is short-sighted. He has grey hair and is 61.

Dad is a business manager, although he does not like it. He likes reading. He drinks alcohol and coffee. He listens to music. He watches racing on television but he doesn't bet.

Dad was born in England and lived there for 4 years. He had 2 brothers but one of them fell off a ladder and died. His parents are dead. he has 4 children including me.

Dad is a wise guy. He often says "If you are going to do a job you should do it well". He tells a lot of jokes which makes him fun to be around.

### ***Profile of a Grandmother, By Coco (Biggie)***

My granny is 83. She has curly grey hair and she is as tall as me. She loves tea and roses and whenever we go round to her house she makes a big effort to have the table covered in snacks. She always has at least 5 vases of flowers around the house.

She is a little tubby and has soft facial features. Granny usually wears a coloured frilly shirt with a little cardigan over it and black pants with nurses shoes.

I think the things she says to me most are, "Hello love!" and "Oh love!". My grandfather is dead so granny lives alone. She once had a cat called Lucy, but as granny got older Lucy became a hassle, so she gave her to my auntie. Granny keeps my grandfather's ashes next to her bed.

### **Letter to the editor by Philip O'Carroll**

(Published in the AGE 14th September 2009)

**FAKE MATHS FIGURES!**

Dear Editor,

I support the push for better standards of literacy and numeracy in Australia. So I must comment on the report in Saturday's AGE stating that 1 in 10 students is below basic standards. The real figure is much worse. This is a classic example of how misleading stats can be.

The report says that 5.1% of Year 9 students failed the basic standard in numeracy. What a

joke! This actually implies that 19 out of 20 are up to standard in Maths. If only.

To add a decimal place to such a fake percentage figure may seem to add an air of scientific precision. But these figures have no basis in reality, except what some education-industry window-dresser thought they could get away with. The whole point is: the so-called "benchmark" has been set ridiculously low.

Many countries have a more numerate population than we do. The vast majority of Australians would just swallow this report without realising that there was no real-world floor to the figures at all.

First step is to spend a lot more of the time wasted in teacher training actually teaching trainee teachers what they are supposed to teach – especially Maths and English.

Philip O'Carroll

Co-founder, Fitzroy Community School

### **Thank you Martin Dixon**

Martin Dixon (Victorian Shadow Minister for Education) visited early in the term. Topics of conversation included funding and compliance. Thanks Martin for taking the time to come and visit, and good luck with moving these issues forward.

**Following the French tradition,  
we send you our best wishes for  
2010.**

**Happy New Year!  
Bonne annee!**

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