

*"People
before
things"*

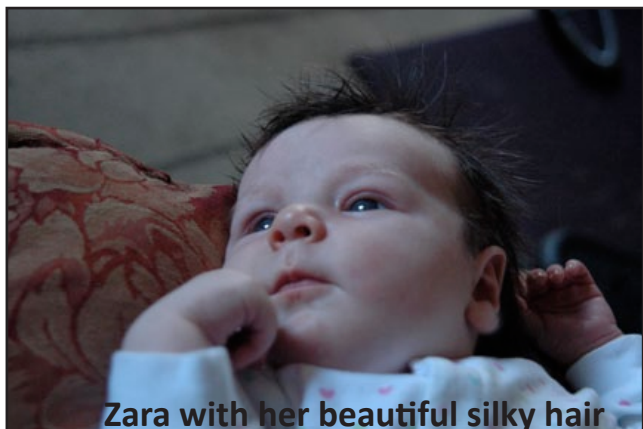
April 2010

Ed. Clotilde Bersac

Fitzroy Community School NEWSLETTER

First baby of the year

Pauline, Ben and Sage happily expanded their family to four on the 5th of February with the arrival of Zara, who weighed a hearty 4.8kgs.



Zara with her beautiful silky hair

Welcome to all new Tinies

Hector, Xaviere, Julia, Taiga, William, Blake, Edie and Oliver have all happily settled into school and are a particularly focused bunch. And all are good at dressing themselves – thanks parents!

Welcome Claire

Claire has joined our staff, having been a student teacher with us last year. It has been great having her around, with her solid,

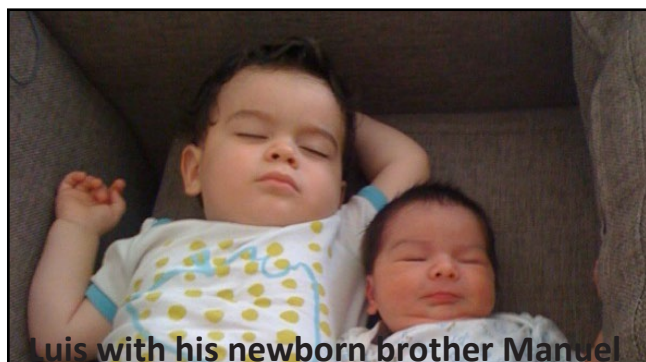
positive, calm approach to children.

Welcome Calum and Miriam

Calum (2003) and Miriam (1998) have joined us this year as classroom assistants and tutors. In the case of Miriam, she is returning to our school after a five-year break, and Calum joins us having completed year 12 last year. We love it that our past students come back and help around the school.

Our newest arrival...

Sarah (2000) and Luis welcomed Manuel Inti Poblete into the world on the 16th of March. Sarah, we look forward to seeing you soon.



Luis with his newborn brother Manuel

Welcome Tegan, Andrea and Katie

Tegan joins our school from Victoria University, Andrea from RMIT and Katie from Melbourne University. Their time with us is the practical part of their teacher training.

Violin

A warm welcome to Linda Priebbenow, our new violin teacher. Her students have really enjoyed themselves this term and have made good progress, as shown by their performance at the soiree. If any other children would like to take up the violin, please let Jeanette know.

Poetry Coach wins Poetry Award

Philip Harvey (father of Bridie) was awarded first prize in the annual Jaguers Literary Competition. The award honours Morgan Jaguers, a fine orator, and promoter of Irish culture in Australia, and is made by the Celtic Club. Philip's poem concerned some of his 19th century ancestors on the Irish side of the family, written in response to the subject, 'The Irish Diaspora'. Congratulations Philip, and thanks for your work over many years in helping our own little budding poets.

Evelyn Hamilton (2003)

Evelyn completed year 12 at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School last year where she was Dux of the School. Congratulation Evelyn!

Visit to Enling School

Over the summer holidays, Tim, Clotilde and Charlotte handed over last year's fete money to Enling School in China. The vice-principal commented that our visits were a bit like Christmas as we always arrived with a present. Enling Primary School appreciates our ongoing contributions to the school, and the sponsorships make a huge difference to the families whose children would not otherwise be able to access education.

Biggies Camp at Kyneton with Tim, Clotilde, Philip, Charlotte, Claire and Jess

The highlight of the camp was the Kyneton Olympics, conducted on the small lake, which involved lots of running, swimming and shouting. Philip conducted 6 maths classes on Data, during breaks from tennis, swims and boating activities. Meals were a feast. Charlotte taught all the girls how to play Ring-



a-Rosie! John Marsden and Candlebark welcomed us for a day, which included a cross-country run, horse ride, some electronics and a roast.

School Fete

Our fete (Wednesday 24th of March) was another fun day and a great success. Lots of cakes eaten, toys swapped around, hair coloured, jewellery bought and balloons burst. Thanks Biggies for once again organising and running this event. A special thank you to Susie for supplying her own creations, Sofie for her help with Trash 'n' Treasure, Jack for the balloons, Helen for her scones, Karen for keeping up a clean supply of cups for the spider stall and Chris and Hugh for cleaning up after all the fun was over. Money will again go to Enling Primary School in Kunming, to pay the fees of our sponsored children and support general school programs.

Sam Menzies – Making Music

Sam will be working on musical creations with our biggies on Wednesday for terms two and three. Sam comes to us via the State Government's Artists in Schools Program. Sam is often seen around the area with his guitar and band – especially at CERES and Bebida. Thanks to the State Government through Arts Victoria for making funding available for this project.

Art Exhibition

Nikki and Sue (mum of Sunny and Rafi) will be organizing an art exhibition for the kids in second term. It will be on Friday the 18th of June from 5.30-7.30 at the school. Each child will have at least one work in the show (no doubt some will be happy to do more!)

She writes: 'We will provide tea and nibbles after but we thought that if parents wanted they could byo wine to make it feel like a real opening. Sue would really like the assistance of at least two more parents to help hang the works in the afternoon, so if you would like to help please contact her on 0430 030 004.'

Soup Thursdays

We have a long-standing tradition of soup on Thursdays in the winter months, so please put your name down in the kitchen if you are happy to prepare a soup next term.



School Library

Our new library is all set up and running. It looks and feels great. It's wonderful at the beginning or end of each day to go into the space and see kids sitting on the cushions



reading Tintin, or writing their name in the borrowing book. One day we'll find a large table to replace the little ones so people can sit around it for discussions.

We have introduced a Wish List for the library. Teachers and parents, of course, are always invited to contribute to the titles on this list. These are books that we would love to be included in the library but don't yet have. We are asking if anybody would like to contribute to the growth of the library by donating old copies of these books from home, or by financing the purchase of these books. The list is in the noticeboard outside of the library.

Athletics Day

Our school athletics carnival is on Friday the 30th of April, kicking off at 1pm. Helpers needed. Please speak to Tim if you can give a hand on the day, either from 1pm, or an hour or two earlier for the set up.

Swimming Drivers and Car Seats

Swimming drivers are needed to go to Brunswick starting the first week of 2nd term, departing school at about 11.40am. Parents with children under 7, please leave car seats with us for use on the drive to swimming. If you are able to help, please see Jeannette.

Family Days at the Land

Dates for the calendar – Sunday the 2nd of May and Saturday the 19th of June from 11am

Joseph (Jojo) Gauci-Seddon

Joseph (2003) is in Osaka Japan, where he will spend the rest of the year improving his Japanese and teaching English. Jojo plans to return to Melbourne and start university next year.

My School - from the Herald Sun on 29th of January

“Other primary schools with the strongest performance by their year 5 students included Fitzroy Community School, Birregurra primary, Strathcona Baptist Girls’ Grammar, Lauriston Girls’, Fintona Girls’ and Macedon Primary.”



Zoe and Jordon at bike camp

Tea Parties

Tea Parties have been a tradition at school for as long as the school has been running, but are the item on the timetable most often commented on by prospective parents. Tea parties teach manners, taking turns, consideration and etiquette in a happy, friendly and fun way – all essential life skills.



Jess LeBlanc at Kyneton camp

A Reflection – Jess LeBlanc

One thing that I think is pretty special about FCS are our weekly meetings. I really enjoy gathering together, learning and listening to one another’s thoughts and ideas. Although I am very far away from my home in Canada, these meetings make me feel like I am part of a community here in Australia. Thank you students, parents and staff for making me feel so welcome in your school community!

Jess has joined our school as a volunteer all the way from Ontario, Canada.

Goodbye Viktor

Viktor said goodbye to us at the end of last year to pursue a new path this year as a permaculturist. Good luck with this Viktor, and thanks for your help in our sports program in 2008 and 2009.

Class of 1998 – Where Are They Now?

(This group finished secondary school 6 years ago)
Flashback – Class of '98 – Where are they now?

Emma is completing Honours in Psychology at the University of Melbourne.

Cora is a kindergarten teacher around the corner from F.C.S and some of our future weenies have her as their teacher.

Gabe is establishing himself in the Melbourne theatre community, having completed Theatre Production at the University of Melbourne (V.C.A).

Miriam is co-women's officer in the University of Melbourne Student Union, helping out at F.C.S and volunteering at the Australian Film Institute Research Collection at RMIT University.

Reading

The Tinies have read their first book, *A Fat Cat*. The first set of readers should have now gone home, allowing them to show their parents just what they have learnt while

practising an essential skill and helping to build reading fluency. If any parents of Tinies have not received a set of readers, please let us know so the one can be supplied.

We ask that parents work with us to promote reading at home. The only way to develop reading fluency is to read, and read, and read some more. Modelling of this behaviour by parents helps when asking children to read. The school library is now up and running and has many great books. Faye, Nick and Carol are happy to provide recommendations. All Middlies have borrowed a book to read over the holidays.

Literature

This term the Middlies studied *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate Di Camillo. They really enjoyed this text, and their insights and thoughts on this inspiring book were amazing - and often very profound - with all contributing greatly to the class discussions and the enjoyment and understanding of it. The Juniors likewise enjoyed and contributed greatly to discussions on Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, while discovering that



Sam with some Biggies at Bike camp

they are capable of reading such books for themselves. The Littlies also enjoyed Roald Dahl's writings, having listened to *The Giraffe, The Pelly and Me* and *Fantastic Mr. Fox* and having started *The BFG*.

Stories by the Middlies

The Tiny Robot

Once, Bob, a mad inventor, invented a little robot called Bobbess. She was only two feet high. Although Bobbess was small, she was very destructive. Bobbess robbed banks, terrorised rich people and drove a jumbo jet into the twin towers with the mayor on board. Unfortunately for the world, she got a parachute and landed safely and disappeared into the towers' dust. Bob, who was found in China in a little house not far from Hong Kong, was put into jail. Bobbess was never seen again. By Josh M, Josh S and Stefan.

The Adventure of Emily

Twelve year old Emily lived on a farm with her mum and her horse, Crystal. One day Emily went on a picnic in the woods with her horse. But, on the way they heard a sound, something like a dog or a lion. Crystal got scared and tore off, bolting in a direction that Emily hadn't ever explored. She prayed she wouldn't fall off. The next morning she woke up with a jolt (because she was on a horse). All she could remember was seeing a tree branch in her way and then nothing else. She must have hit it because her head felt sore. Crystal had calmed down and was drinking from a dam. Emily realised how hungry and thirsty she was. Luckily, the picnic basket was still strapped on. She ate an apple, drank some orange juice and fed Crystal a carrot. Emily desired to get home. What was that? Footsteps. Then her mum stepped out. "Mum!" Emily yelled and ran to her. "I have missed you so much", she said.

"After three hours I came looking for you. I was so worried about you," her mum explained. "I

brought my mobile phone and compass so that we can get back."

"Phew!"

By Sage and Anna

The Amazing Trophy

Once, in a small town named Bolavia, there was a child whose name was Maxine. She was only two years old. Each and every month, Bolavia would hold a competition for toddlers (2-4 years). In the competition, the events were: the five-metre run, the seven-metre crawl, the two-metre hurdles and the ten-metre scooter. For first place you were given a trophy. Maxine always came second in all the events.

There was one girl who always beat Maxine. So this month Maxine told all her friends that she was going to win. Her friends replied, "I'm sorry Maxine, but we think Louisa (the girl who always beat Maxine) will win again this month." Maxine just snarled and walked away.

So Maxine got down to work straight away. She crawled around her house five times, ran around her backyard eight times, scootered around the nearby playground three times and jumped over any small item she could find.

Finally the big day came. She tried her hardest in all the events, and for the first time ever she lifted the trophy above her head and placed it on her empty trophy shelf. By Erica.



So much fun at Kyneton camp!

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