

*“People  
before  
things”*

## Fitzroy Community School NEWSLETTER

# April 2011

Ed. Paul Likhaitzky

### WELL READ

Many of the children at FCS have taken up the Premier's Reading Challenge again. We have everything from sprinters to endurance participants, and many have already crossed the Required Number Of Books Finish Line. Some have relapped the circuit, doubling their Required Number! However, we're a little concerned that someone might have a speed reading accident, skid off the page or hit a book mark! A big thank you to Jackie and Carol and all the parents that have helped.

To keep the reading momentum going, FCS children may also want to enter the MS Readathon ([www.msreadathon.org.au](http://www.msreadathon.org.au)). This challenge is raising money for multiple sclerosis research and care. To participate, children are sponsored to read as many books as they can over 30 days between June and July. It's a great cause, and there are school incentives too, so get involved!

### CHEEKY

Nettie took the Biggies to see James Morrison, one of the greatest virtuoso trumpet players in the world. The kids now know what brilliant trumpet playing sounds like, and just how much the human cheek can stretch! This educational entertainment was followed by a lovely picnic in the Arts Centre forecourt.

### PRINCIPAL'S BLOG

Tim's most recent blog is included as an insert with this newsletter. For those who do not know, these can be viewed from a link on the homepage of the school website.



### SPIT

**By Zoe (Biggie):** A recent addiction at FCS is Spit. Spit is a very fast card game. It started at Kyneton Camp. Now everybody is playing it: on the stairs, on top of the table, even under the table! It is a very fierce game. Once you start you just can't stop. Even the quietest and gentlest of people will start yelling and screaming and getting very



*competitive. I think nearly all the Biggies are playing at least 3 games a day! It is soooooo much fun. Hopefully the Biggies will teach everybody to play so the whole school can have a huge Spit tournament!*

### **WORK AT THE LAND**

Work has been progressing well at The Land. The first sleep in cabin has been completed, a lovely wooden structure containing 9 bunk beds. Another (more eccentric) cabin is already in progress. Great work Luke and Lachlan!

### **FETE**

As usual, the Fete in Term 1 was a hoot, a toot, a honk and a howl! Hairspray, pancakes, dart games, trash and treasure, nail painting, treats and prizes. Thank you to all who contributed to this FUNdraiser!



### **BIGGIE BUDDY**

**By Jack M (Biggie):** *My Tiny is Sebby. Unfortunately, he often seems to run away from me. Being a Biggie Buddy is fun but it also takes a certain amount of responsibility. You have to make sure not only your Tiny, but every Tiny, is ok and doesn't get hurt. I often give Sebby a 'Wizzy Dizzy' because he likes it and sometimes he likes to sneak up on me and give me a fright.*

### **BBQ AND SOUP**

Big thank you to the sizzling parents that placate our post-swim appetites with the traditional Wednesday BBQ. Good on you Gabbi for organizing it and everyone that lends a hand (especially our

BBQ queen, Sophie). The Thursday soup roster has nearly filled as we go to print, so if you want to warm the bellies of our kids on these ever more Wintry Thursdays, please put your name on the roster on the fridge. Thanks to all the parents who help to provide these meals.

### **RUNNING: THE SHOW**

**By Claire:** *I had the boys from Monkeys and Kittens for sport in Term 1, and what sportsmen they are! The focus has been on running with some five-a-side football as well (expertly coached by Llew). The boys have shown themselves to be adept in both sprints and distance running, with some impressive times for completing laps and personal bests being broken each week. Ashley, Blake, Daniel, Finn C and Llew all easily completing 3 laps in under 8 ½ minutes. In fact, it is often difficult to stop Blake from running endless laps. Well done team!*

### **ETHICS CLASSES WITH TIM**

**By Lexie (Biggie):** *About three weeks ago we started a class with Tim called Ethics. Recently we watched a movie called Gattaca. We didn't quite get to finish the movie in class, but Tim had bought a few copies for us to watch the ending at home. Following the movie we had to do things like make up questions for the class, write a paragraph on fairness and even had to ask our parents to think of a question for the class. Jordon posed the question, "Do you think it is fair to have children made?" I think Ethics is a fun and interesting class. I also think watching movies in class is a really fun and is very different to a lot of other schools!*



### **PYJAMA DAY**

Tuesday the 5th of April was declared Pyjama Day, and what a flannel-filled day it was. Well done to those who braved public transport and rode their

bikes in their PJs, risking undue sympathy. They were rewarded with the chance to participate in a PJ fashion parade, sleep-walking to the beat of hypnotic tunes. Chocolate Easter Egg prizes were awarded by Nettie, who was sporting smart blue PJs and wildly woolly socks. As Tim failed to turn up in his PJs, saying he did not own any, Nettie and the kids took pity on him and have decided they will buy him a nice fairy pyjama suit that he can wear at the next FCS Pyjama Day.

### THE MAGIC FLUTE

**From Nick:** *The Middlies, accompanied by Nick and Thomas (Celeste's father), went to see a special performance of Mozart's The Magic Flute. A condensed and interactive version of the show, it contained the essence of the story alongside audience participation. It was great to see all of the Middlies enthralled by the performance, particularly by the singing (which was excellent), but also by the theatrics, especially the comic element. All the kids expressed their enjoyment of the singing and talked excitedly about it during our picnic lunch afterwards. The Middlies' behaviour was excellent and they were a delight to take.*

### GOODBYE KENDRA

Kendra has taken a full time job across the park at North Fitzroy Primary School - we hope that this goes well, and look forward to seeing you, and your class, on the sporting field! Thanks for your inspiration and energy over the last two terms.



### BIKE CAMP

Some of the Biggies, Lachlan and Tim rode from Meredith to the Tree Farm in Dereel (44kms) and then rode back two days later. Everyone did really well keeping up the pace. A good dose of fun and fitness! The rest day was filled by the sound of sawing and hammering, as Tim, Lachlan, Lexie, Sage, Anna, Stefan, Josh M, Josh S and Sunny

worked on another small 'sleeping cubby' there.

### KYNETON CAMP MAKEOVERS

**By Hannah (Biggie):** *At Kyneton camp all the girls gave most of the boys a makeover. And then these boys who had a makeover returned the favour. I gave Nic and Stefan a makeover and then Nic gave me one. I had blue shadow and really bad eye make up, but it was so much fun. In the morning we all woke up with black under our eyes!*



### VISITING EILEEN

Clotilde continues to regularly take groups of children to visit Eileen (a long-time friend of FCS), which is always appreciated at the old folks home. It's a lovely opportunity for interaction across a wide ocean of years. In Term 2, a group of children will perform a small concert for Eileen and her friends at the home.

### LE' GO OF MY LEGO

**By Nettie:** *Tinies participated in a LEGO workshop at the LEGO Education Centre in Moonee Ponds. They constructed a jack-in-the-box and a spinning top together, and then created their own masterpieces individually. Silas came along to help (thanks Silas) and Clo, Scott and Nettie did the driving. Thankfully Hector had improved enough (from his bout of pneumonia) to join us. Lunch was had in Queen's Park with some very curious ducks. A fun day out!*

### INCREDIBUBBLE ALICE

Creative Class reached dizzying heights at the end of Term 1. Alice rolled in with a smoke machine, bubbles, tubes, a plastic bin, and next thing the backyard was filled with enormous smoke rings! As the rings continued to belch out, children made giant bubbles with tubes and smoke. A very fun and unforgetabubble time!



## HANGING ROCK

**By Jordon (Biggie):** *On the way back from the Kyneton camp we stopped off at Hanging Rock. We had watched Picnic at Hanging Rock on Thursday night and it was kind of creepy and really strange. When we went there we were a bit scared that we would see blood stains on the rock or find a body. It was really fun to climb through secret passageways and climb really high. We also saw a boy who looked like Calum from behind and we kept calling him Calum until eventually he got angry!*

## GREEN CITY

Mary and Clotilde have been taking different tribe groups on Friday Outings in Term 1. They have been visiting green and edible places in the city, such as the Collingwood Childrens Farm, CERES, the Botanical Gardens, and Luscious Lane community garden. The trips are a fun and lovely way to feel a touch of nature while learning about how to make beautiful and edible gardens. Thanks to the parents who have come along and helped out.



## MESOZOIC PARK

**By Judy Bourke:** *The Littlies have had a term-long approach to “think as scientists”. Therefore a trip to Dinosaurs Alive! was a perfect way to test our deductive skills. But first, we had to overcome our inclination to either pat them, or jump back in fright as Apatosaurus, Tyrannosaurus and others roared at us. Although not all life-sized, the construction and movement of the dinosaurs on*

*show aided curious minds to deduce how fast a dinosaur might have moved, and what it would have eaten. Then we had a scientific discussion on the benefits of horns, eyebrow ridges, spine plates, stomach stones, big claws, tail spikes, and more. But all this talking of dinosaurs made us very hungry, and we finished the excursion with lunch and a play in the sunny Docklands Park. As always, thanks to the accompanying parents, and Jeannette. – And thank you Judy!*



## YOU, SODIUM AND CHLORIDE

Deakin University are calling for volunteers to take part in the SONIC study, the first Australian study to accurately measure children’s salt intake. This information is needed to provide a benchmark, and help develop strategies to lower salt intake in children towards better health. They will measure participants’ blood pressure, body weight and examine the relationship between salt intake and these factors. Researchers will visit FCS in Term 2 to provide further information and an orange SONIC information pack for parents. Participants will receive a book token for their efforts!

## BOOKWORMS

**By Arun (Biggie):** *The library is making great progress. It started in 2010 and lots of parents and children have taken an interest. We sometimes have fundraisers to raise money to buy more books. We have library monitors, who change every term. The school has entered the Premier’s Reading Challenge, where children have to read 15 to 20 books, depending on their grade. Lots of kids are excited and are reading heaps, even when we have weeks to go!*

## ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Friday the 6th of May at 1pm, the FCS athletics day will once again colour the field in laughter, mayhem and vigorous competition. It’s a real hoot, so get down and cheer the athletes on. Also, we’re in need of helpers for the various events,

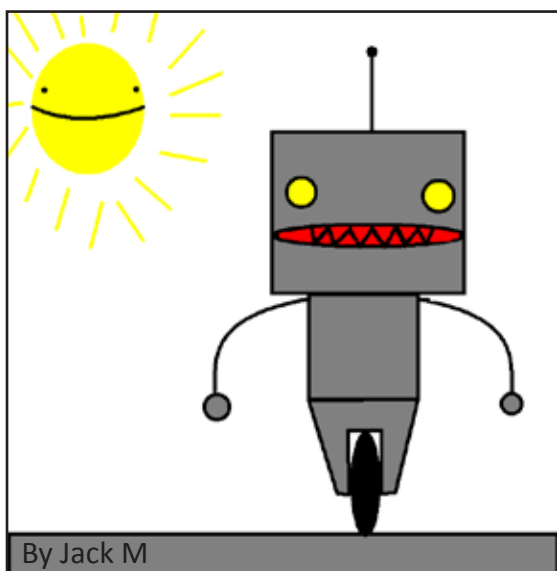
so please contact Haydn (0430 030 005) or James (0408 152 420) if you can lend a hand.

### FCS VS CANDLEBARK

The fourth meeting in the FCS vs Candlebark Sportsday Series will be hosted by FCS in Term 2. This wonderful day has found a permanent place in the annual calendar. Come down to support the guests and the home team at 11am on Wednesday the 15th June. Also, if you are able to help out, please contact Tim, Nettie or Claire.

### KYNETON CAMP

**By Nic (Biggie):** *The Biggies went to Kyneton about four weeks ago. We got there on Sunday and came back on Friday. The first thing we did was have a BBQ with all the parents who had come along on the Sunday. On Thursday we went to the lake and competed in 'The Olympics'. This Olympics consisted of games that Tim and Clotilde had made up. The first event was a relay race around the lake and the second was when Calum hid a few objects and we, as a team, had to find them. The last and final event was when we had to collect a milk carton from the lake and bring it back to Tim. Whoever got the most milk cartons in the set time was the winner. At the end, the team with the most points won 'The Olympics'.*



### PAULINE'S KITCHEN

For anyone interested in having gourmet meals cooked for them at home and free of charge, get your child into Pauline's after-school cooking classes! They run from 3pm to 4:45pm every Friday during term, starting on the first week of Term 2. Limited places. Call Pauline for cost and further details on 0425 745 069.

### RUN, LEAH, RUN

**By Saul (Biggie):** *Leah (FCS: 2009) has won Nationals again this year with gold in the 2000m steeple! Since Nationals, she has had a rest but now she is training again. The next big event is the World Games and she will be training non stop until then. Hopefully Leah will do well!*



### NEST-BUILDING

Paulzky (newsletter editor-in-chief, FCS science, general polymath) and Amy have a bun in the uterine oven (!) and as a result are looking to move from their apartment into a humble house in the inner north. They are responsible, conscientious and handy folk, and would prefer their rent money to go to good people (such as those within the FCS community). Please let Paul (0402 358 098) know if you have, or know of, a place.

### FROM THE COACH

**By Oscar:** *The swimming program that takes place at FCS is unique and not experienced in any other school. Over the ten years now that I have had the privilege to 'teach' swimming to those that pass through the school there have been many changes. Without a doubt the biggest change has been in the overall structure of the graded processes through each year level. The Tinies learn to gain confidence and have fun in the water with Scott, some Littlies and Middlies do water awareness with Claire and Sam while other Middlies work on swim technique drills with Nick. I then have the fortune to work on enhancing those learned skills to further their development. It is without a doubt the best program within the state, and full credit to the foresightedness of the FCS administration. To that end we are in the process of developing an 10 minute educational DVD demonstrating each stage of our swimming program. This DVD will also highlight FCS's commitment to healthy lifestyle and appropriate educational values. I*



might add that many of the parents have chosen to follow in their children's footsteps, participating in the Total Immersion sessions with me. It has been a privileged ten years personally and I truly appreciate the School's acceptance of my method over such a long period. Cheers, Oscar



### FCS ALUMNI

**By Faye:** *Jolie Price is well into 3rd Year Engineering at Melbourne Uni with flying colours. In July, Joli will further her studies on exchange at the University of Hong Kong.*

*Feri Price is doing an Honours in English, looking at the genre of detective stories.*

*Congratulations to Astrid Connelly on gaining a full boarding scholarship to Trinity College at the University of Melbourne.*

*Big sister Marina Connelly continues to love her studies in English and Psychoanalytic Studies at Harvard.*

*Even bigger sister Ros Connelly, former FCS drama teacher, was in Melbourne at Christmas with baby Thomasina - while Catherine O'C was using her London pad while visiting Nick E in Oxford.*

*While in Oxford, Catherine and Nick spent a few days in Cambridge visiting Amy Prendergast who is writing her PhD in the department of Geology.*

*Catherine also caught up with Paola Foresti, her new husband and baby daughter in Switzerland. Some parents will remember the sparkling presence of Paola in many areas of the FCS curriculum while she was on exchange from Stockholm at Melbourne Uni.*

### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Starting in Term 2, drivers are needed to ferry children to the Brunswick Pools on Wednesdays between 11:30am and 1:30pm. Even if you can only do a once off, please let Tim, Nettie or Claire know. If you can cart the little darlings more often, even better!

A call to any volunteer/s willing to wash the cushion covers from the Eyrie. Would be much appreciated!

A friendly reminder that if children are not swimming, parents should speak to Tim, Nettie or Claire, or send in a note.

Our beloved camp ground, The Land, is in need of 17 (thanks Petra for our first donation!) fitted sheets for single beds, and 4 single bed mattresses. Please let us know if you can contribute to this target.



### NONSENSE ALPHABET POEMS

**By Erica (Middlie)**

*C is for Cat*

*Who ate my pet bat*

*But she digested it wrong*

*And it came out with a pong*

*D is for Dog*

*Who got lost in the fog*

*When he got found*

*He got put in the pound*

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