



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2013

Ed. Paul Liknaitzky

NEW ARRIVALS TO OUR PLANET!

Welcome Amelia!! Lianne gave birth to Amelia Constance Richards at 1.40am Monday 21st of January, 45 minutes after the hour drive to Sunshine hospital. Amelia weighed in at 3.7kg with a head full of red hair. Mother and daughter are well. Well done and congratulations to Lianne and Tim!



Amelia

Welcome Elijah!! Natalie (former FSC teacher) birthed Elijah Thomas Banks on the 10th January after an amazing 5 hours at home (45 min at hospital). He weighed 3.2kg at birth and "is the cutest little button ever!" Clotilde assisted during the labour. Well done and congratulations to Nat and Paul!



Elijah

Welcome Frank!! Louise (FCS architect) gave birth to Frank Orso Wright on the 10th March at 5.52am after a 14 hour labour and a good natural birth. He weighed in at 3.7kg. Mother and bub are "doing very well, if a little tired!" Well done and congratulations Louise and Mauro!



Frank

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Welcome Aboard

A warm welcome to our new students and their families: Rafael, Roman, Grace, Dylan, Banjo, William, Juliette, Edith, Roxy, Illia and Estela. And welcome back to Thea and family.

Biggies Camp

By Jackson (Yr 6): My favourite part about Kyneton Camp was when we were rowing in the canoes and everyone was trying to get Tim and Warren's canoe to tip over. We didn't succeed the first two days but on the last day we tipped them in! Another fun thing was the muddy seaweed fights.

By Hunter (Yr 5): Kyneton camp was soooooooooooooooooooooo awesome. We had canoe wars and seaweed fights. We went to the pool a lot but going to Hanging Rock was the best thing ever!!!

By Tim: The group were really cooperative, helpful, fun and relaxed. Highlights were not getting tipped out of the canoe for two days (despite all the kids ganging up), too many biscuits and cakes (thanks parents), Bridget learning to ride a bike, climbing Hanging Rock (and no one going missing) and swimming in the lake. Karen called Kyneton Bushland Resort to ask

if Dante's sleeping bag had been left there and was told no, but that "the kids with Tim are the most polite kids we get here!" (Dante is still missing a sleeping bag if anyone has it).



Bike Camp

Bike camp happened to fall smack bang in the middle of that record-breaking heat wave in early March. Not that any of our intrepid riders even noticed. They just took more swims than when it's pouring or threatening to snow - there is a river crossing on the way, and they also slipped down to Rokewood for a dip in the lagoon. A great fun adventure.

By Clay (Yr 6): Bike camp was great fun and it was easier than the first time I did it. It was a great group and for the first time everyone rode the whole way there and back!

Middlies Camp

The Middlies seemed to thoroughly enjoy their time on camp at the Tree Farm. In the short time they had, they bonded as a group, and both Nick and Warren were impressed with their inclusivity. As Nick put it, "they took on the concept of greater responsibility with determination".

Tinies Camp

Our smallest members enjoyed their time exploring and hanging out in the bush. The parents all got along really well, and were exceptionally good at leaving their children



Hanging out at the Rock

Petra (Daniel and Noah's mother) organised a surprise feast for the staff and teachers as a thank you for 2012. It was so lovely and heart-warming to walk into the kitchen to find a big German style brunch - delicious to eat but also such a lovely sentiment. Thank you so much!

Jim Watterston, Deputy Secretary of School Education, visited our school on March 6th to explore some of the programs we run here at school - and a sharing of ideas was the order of the morning. Mr. Watterston was particularly impressed with the confidence of our students. Thanks for taking the time out of your busy schedule to spend with us.

We had visits from a few student teachers from different universities in Melbourne (not through their degrees, but interested in our school), as well as from a number of teachers from Brunswick to Romsey and in-between.

By Philip and Faye: We were approached by Di Fleming (former principal Kilvington Grammar), a manager for DUCERE [doo-sair] a charity run from Melbourne with Gus Nossal (former school grandfather) on the board (visit www.ducere.co). This charity works in Africa. There are several countries where the common language is English (learned simultaneously with local tribal languages). Di wants the Fitzroy Readers for these children. She realises that our Readers are uniquely ideal for kids who speak English, but have no books at home and want to read and write. [We've seen this work well for aboriginal children.] Unlike the *immersion* or *whole word* approach, ours is a *decoding* method of literacy - you learn the sounds of the letters and letter groups, you come across a written word, you sound it out, and you hear yourself saying a word you already know! (They'll print it in Africa (much cheaper of course) in B&W (cheaper). They'll start with Botswana and Zambia. We are glad of this opportunity to contribute and we hope the Fitzroy Readers will make a big difference for these children.

Mary and Jeannette have been hosting tribes at the Normanby Avenue Creative Space on Monday mornings, cooking scones and making art projects. Lots of fun activities and good reports. And thank you Jeannette for



putting such a lot of energy into the garden there – just over a year ago it was a gravel yard, but its quickly becoming an oasis.

Alumni

Past student Mimi Field (FCS: 2007) had her short film accepted into Top Screen, an award that is given to the 14 best media students in the state of Victoria from the 2012 VCE Media class. You can see her film at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Federation Square from Thursday 7 March to Friday 17 May. Go to the ACMI site for further details. What a great achievement, well done Mimi!

Past student Jaslyn Goette (FCS: 2006) is going to volunteer at an orphanage and a school in Ghana for 3 months. She is raising money for much needed items there. You can donate to her cause at mycause.com.au/page/ghanaapril2013. Good on you Jaslyn!

Fetelistic

As usual, the Fete was a colourful and yummy way to do something good for others in need. We raised money for two projects: a High School in Cambodia (Claire has volunteered there in past and will deliver the money to them personally in the next school



holidays when she will be volunteering there again), and a Tibetan orphanage in Yunnan Province, China (Tim has a personal connection there). Thank you to all involved, on both sides of the counter.

That's Debatable

The last Monday of Term 2 (June 17) will see FCS host an inter-school debating session. All Biggies involved. All welcome to support.



Broadway on camp



Student Teacher

Big thanks to Kate, our student teacher for Term 1. She worked on a movie with the Biggies and some claymations, bringing enthusiasm, patience and previous experience to it all (she has a background in film, and worked on The Matrix). Was fantastic to have you on board Kate!

An Observation On School Funding

By Phillip: Thanks to a constant propaganda effort, most of the public are still deluded into thinking that school funding in Australia is needs-based. Here is a simple demonstration that it is not: Take our locality. ICSEA is the acronym for index of community and socio-educational advantage. Looking on the Myschool website within postcode 3068, I see 3 state schools with an ICSEA of 1195, 1181 and 1171. They get 100% taxpayer funding. Fitzroy Community School has an ICSEA of 1154. We get only a fraction of the normal funding. Parents have to pay most of our school income over and above their taxes. This situation will not change when (if?) the Gonski plan is carried out. Parent choice in schooling is not yet a right in this country. Yet it is the only reform that will significantly impact on educational opportunity and national standards.

Putting the Worm Back in the Book

A reminder that the Premiers' Reading Challenge is happening with the whole school enrolled! So keep reading and entering your books online... so many wonderful paperworlds to be immersed in by mid-September!

Hoop Time

Although Term 2 ends on Tuesday 18th June at FCS, we have entered teams for Basketball Hoop time on Wednesday 19th June (Mid-dlies) and Thursday 20th June (Biggies) from 8.30am to 3pm. If the competition does not proceed (which has happened too often in the past – they hear they are playing FCS and just disappear), Keith will run two days of Basketball clinics/matches from 10am to 12noon at the Edinburgh Gardens court. More specific details later.

Survival of the Fittest

Keith, our Basketball Coach, is a member of Collingwood Masters Athletics. On Tuesday nights at the Clifton Hill track on Heidelberg Rd there are sprints, middle distance and long distance runs catering for all ability and fitness levels. Action starts at 7pm. Although Masters Athletics is for adults 35+, children are welcome. The cost is a whopping \$2 per night. Any queries please contact Nettie or Keith on 9443 7811.

Mirasana

Miranda continues to offer yoga classes for parents and staff. Wednesday mornings 9am to 10:15am in the Eyrie. No charge. Please bring a yoga mat if possible.

Bush Bash

Camps for Lions, Tigers and Bears (oh my!) are just around the corner. Please check dates on calendar. The venue is the Tree Farm (Dereel) where Tinies parents recently had great bursts of activity (interspersed





with lots of camp-fire food), and as a result we now have a 2-storey cubby and an in-ground trampoline! (Please write name on sleeping bag to make pack-up at the end of camp a little easier). Any parents able to drive the cherubs, please let Nettie know.

Advert: Host Families Needed

Girls and boys, 15 -18 years old, from exciting countries like Italy, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Brazil, Norway, Argentina, Finland and Austria are hoping study in Melbourne, and looking for volunteer families that can host them for 5 to 10 months (or part thereof) from July 2013. Contact Klaus Schumann from WEP (wep.org.au) if you are willing or would like more info: (03) 97584279.



A star being born...

The Biggies were set the topic "Pioneers"

By Clay (Yr 6): I am a student at Fitzroy Community School. The school's founders, Faye and Philip, are educational pioneers. Faye and Philip forged the way for other schools. When the school was started in 1976, phonics wasn't popular. Faye and Philip triumphed by starting their own literacy program based on phonics called The Fitzroy Readers. It is now used around the world. They did something different by providing lots of sports classes to encourage fitness for students. How many schools let you spend three dollars at the lolly shop a week? We go swimming every week at the pool. We also get lots of free time and we still get excellent academic results. While other schools were removing danger and physical contact, our school was actively encouraging us to take risks and play contact sports. A few examples are animal ball (a sport quite like rugby), climbing trees and the use of tools. One summer I rode 42 kilometres to get to our school camp. When I got there I used an axe to chop down a tree. My brother, who is also a student at Fitzroy Community School loves Bash Ups. Bash Ups is a game where you tackle everybody on mats. Personally I like asteroids. It's a game where you throw balls of paper at each other. This would never happen at a mainstream school. Thank goodness for the pioneering of Faye and Philip, not only with the Fitzroy Readers but with the classroom and school life environment.
