



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2013

Ed. Paul Liknaitzky

NAMELESSLY FRESH!

Caroline Chee (FCS: 1989) birthed a little girl on the 26th May at St John of God Hospital in Geelong, weighing 3.4kg. The new arrival was born to the “sounds of Louis Armstrong and Etta James...” and her new mum “spent much of that night staring at her in disbelief! She was born with a full head of dark hair, and very bright eyes!” Caroline was the second of four children to attend FCS. Her parents, Shirley and Denis, did an enormous amount for FCS during the early days. Well done, and congratulations to Caroline, Sam and your families.



WELCOME GRETA!

Kelly gave birth to Greta Grace Jackson on the morning of 22nd April, weighing in at a substantial 4.2kg. New daddy Luke (FCS: 1989) thought she looked “the spitting image of her mum” on day one. Well done, and congratulations to Kelly, Luke and your families.



THANK YOU

Thank you to parents Allison for cooking, Leah for swimming, and Alex and Kate for delicious and nutritious donations from their Seddon Sourdough Kitchen over the last two terms.

A SAD FAREWELL

Jane Langley, a friend of Calum's family, passed away on the 17th of May. She had been battling cancer for many years, but this did not hold her back from volunteering at school each and every Friday, helping many of our younger children with their reading. Thank you to Jane for all her help and support, despite such difficult challenges. She was a constant source of inspiration to all at school; she will be missed.

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ASYLUM SEEKER FOOD ACTION NETWORK, By Jess (Silas' grandmother)

Our Mothers' Day food collection was a great success—the collection delivered to the Asylum Seekers was estimated at about \$400. The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre expressed their gratitude to Fitzroy Community School and thanked us for our generous contribution. Many asylum seekers have fled war or torture, and often struggle to survive in Australia. The Centre provides the entire food supply to over 150 families every week. Most of these recipients have no work rights and receive no welfare! Fitzroy Community School has a food collection for the Asylum Seekers once a term; these collections have been conducted at the school for the past 9 years. Thank you to the Fitzroy School community for sharing and caring with those doing it tough.



BIGGIES UNAFRAID OF CATS AND DOGS, by Tim

Camp was wet! But this did not dampen anyone's spirits. Long walks were a highlight for the children, led by Celeste, as was Greta's cooking. Thanks Greta. Chats on the top bunk also featured prominently. In reflecting on the camp, my initial thought was that I was proud of all of the participants: Ella, Bridie, Celeste, Jackson, Zak, Silas and Llew, for their energy and positive spirits despite the constant rain - but actually, this would imply that they made an effort to overcome the adverse weather. In fact, they were nearly oblivious to the weather; it just rained in the background. A wonderful example of viability. Go kids! Camp, like sport, throws up challenges not common in everyday city-life, such as my last camp, a bike camp in the middle of a summer heat wave. And this time, non-stop rain. In both instances, life was lived and enjoyed, with weather providing just a part of the backdrop.

WILD AND INTENSE, by Warren

Term 2 saw our pride of Lions, sleuth of Bears and ambush of Tigers head to the Tree Farm for a two-night stay. Whilst for some of the fearsome creatures it was their first time camping away from their families, there were many old hands to ensure spirits were high and there was plenty to do. Lions transformed into pine-wielding pirates, performed a spectacular night circus, and whiled away the daylight on a treasure hunting adventure. Tigers clashed swords (sticks) with agility and determination, collected countless bones and made the long walk to Corindhap Park. Bears hunted rabbits, chased the sunset, chopped logs and sang songs. They walked as well, and walked and walked....and then they ran! All groups also enjoyed wood carrying, building bases, eating, sleeping tucked in between their friends and learning to have fun together in the bush. A big thanks to student teachers Hayden and Angus for helping the camps run smoothly and the kids have a great time.



A DESIGN DAY OUT, by Celeste (Yr 6)

On Tuesday 30th April, Claire took Ashley, Clay, Arkie, Daniel, Estela, Eli, Solomon and myself to the NGV for a design conference. There we got to design a machine to help the world or ourselves. There were three steps, each 20 minutes long. The first step was brainstorming, where we had to make up what our machine was and what it was going to do. Then we had to draw it out and add detail.

In the last section we had to share with our team how we could improve everyone's, and our own, design. The machines we drew were on slates with slits at the top and bottom so that people could put them together to make a sculpture. It was a very fun day and I think we all learned how to make something that could benefit this world.



CARN THE BLUES! by Will Currie (Yr 2)

On a Tuesday in May, Dennis Armfield and Dylan Buckley from the Carlton Football Club came to Fitzroy Community School for a footy clinic. They taught us how to kick and handball and we taught them how to play Animal Ball. We all had great fun and at the end we asked them lots of questions like, "What do you eat for breakfast?" and many of us got their autographs. With Carlton being such a popular team amongst students and teachers at FCS, we felt very lucky to have them at our school.

SCIENCE, by Claire

Science has been egg-cell-ant fun! Budding biologists abound amongst the Middlies. An introduction to biology via the circulatory system and excellent answers in the 'Heart Attack' quiz ended with the dissection of enormous ox hearts led by Super Scientist Megan Brookes (Ben's mum). Sheep eyeballs and fish guts have been requested next. The Lions, Tigers and Bears have also shown themselves to be of scientific persuasion. Egg-speriments, colourful collaborations, lenses and illusions and the endless possibilities of bi-carb and vinegar.

FAREWELL AMY

The wonderful Amy is leaving the Fitzroy

Programs office to have a break and maybe try her hand at something new. Hopefully this will allow for additional tea-drinking time in the kitchen. We wish you all the best and will miss your voice on the other end of the phone (though hopefully we'll still see plenty of you around the school).

TOP OF THEIR GAME

Sports day on the 3rd of May was another fun mix of serious and silly. Big thank you to James and Haydn and all their helpers for such a fun day, and the best obstacle course ever!

CONSTRUCTIVITY

Green Hat held a wonderful workshop at school, with the kids building towers to rival those of Hanoi, Babel and Pisa using hundreds of wooden blocks. Thanks Green Hat for a truly constructive session.

CREATIVE SPACE

Our Creative Space in Thornbury is flourishing. Since Nettie and Keith found a new home close to school, Rachel and Clara have moved in as custodians, continuing to nurture the spirit of the place. Monday outings with Mary always result in amazing creations and Friday sees Tim and a Tribe team enjoying gardening, sport, games and maths. In addition, a gardening grant from Bendigo Bank has allowed Viktor and his brother Sam to move mountains for the creation of additional garden beds.



NETBALL

Despite many sessions being rained out, FCS still managed to Regional level in term 3. Well done netballers!



OUR KETTLE OF FISH

It has been great to be back at the Collingwood pool with Oscar and Nick fine-tuning the next Olympic hopefuls while Leah (mother of Aiva and Edith) wrangles the dolphins in the play pool. Thanks also to student teachers Hayden and Angus, who bravely took a splashing (or more like a thrashing) from the Tinies.

CROSS COUNTRY, by Alison (mother of Lexie, Kate, Julia and Mimi)

On a beautiful day in May, the district running races were held at Princes Park for years 3 to 6. The younger children run 2kms and the older ones 3kms. There was a big turn-out of families and it appeared that FCS was running the show with Sam and Tim at the finish line. There were also other helpers from FCS marshalling the children (that is, when they could be found). Thanks to Tanya and Hayden. All in all it's a very exciting day. Each year we seem to have more children reaching the next round ("Zone").

Congratulations to all the children

and to those who went on to the Zone a few weeks later at Bundoora Park. These were Will C, Blake, Daniel, Zak, Chloe, Dante, Ella and Kate with Celeste and Ashley as reserves. Here we saw great determination by all runners coping with the cold and wet conditions; and extra determination by a couple who were injured and not feeling well. A couple of these muddy runners happily went off to camp directly afterwards. I love the children's can do and make do attitude.

Zak, Chloe and Kate went on to the Regional Cross country Championships on the 19th of June. They finished 40th, 51st and 41st respectively. Chloe also went straight on from the race to play in a basketball competition. My family has been helping at the cross country now for 6 years, and I think the reason the children do so well is the support they get from each other, particularly on the day. The fun training also helps. I'm proud of all the children and the spirit in which they participate in the race. I think it really is the spirit of the school. If you can run cross country, I think you can do anything.

AROUND THE STOVE

The FCS kitchen is a wonderful phenomenon; the warm heart of the school is always busy and bustling, overflowing with cups of tea and sustenance for one and all. These include the delicious Thursday soups made by parents, ever-changing BBQ delights commandeered by Megan (Xavie and Illia's mum) Friday banquets by Alison and special guests... and then there's Nettie's wonderful scones on a Monday at our Creative Space. Thank you all for adding to this warmth and nourishment.



TO A DIFFERENT BEAT

Finishing school term with a disco is a tradition likely to be envied by many primary school kids. Thankfully our children are saved from such envy. Thanks Scott (former sports teacher) for returning from running a kindergarten to spinning some fine tunes on our decks. Big Ups to Kate, Celeste and Erica - assisted by Ella and Mietta - on setting the whole place up: it looked amazing! Thanks also to all the parents who helped keep the morsels and beverages flowing. A great time had by all. And Reuben and Jack - what moves!



THE OLD STOMPING GROUND

Welcome to Sarah, a past student (FCS: 2000) who completed her B.A. at La Trobe last year, and is helping tutor at our school (as well as at La Trobe) while she undertakes her Honours studies.

A GOOD GAME (NA)PLAN

Again, a big thank you to all of our parents of children in years 3 and 5 for not stressing your children out about these exams, and leaving exam prep out of home life. This year ACARA (the administrators of NAPLAN) rolled the dice and our number came up for a random exam inspection. These visitations are a necessary part of upholding the integrity of the external examination system, and we are pleased that this takes place.

POLITY POLICY

Tim was invited to Treasury Place in the second week of term, to speak on matters educational with Martin Dixon, the Minister for Education. Tim described the meeting as productive. Going into politics Tim? Martin will visit our school next term. We thank Minister Dixon for taking the time to learn of the alternatives offered in schools in Victoria, and for his particular interest in our school.



BON VOYAGE

Ben, Caroline, Oscar, Chloe, Holly, and Clara are whisking themselves off to Geneva for 6 months. Have a wonderful sojourn.

YOOKAY'S SUMMERY HILLS

After contemplating a visit to Summerhill for about 20 years, Tim finally visited the legendary school in the last week of May. Some of you may be aware that Tim wrote his MLitt thesis on Summerhill, and its founder, AS Neill. The school is now run by Neill's daughter, Zoe, who is ably assisted by two of her four children, Will and Henry. Amy her eldest, while not directly involved, sends her two children there, and Neill, the other son, will send his children there when they are of age. The visit was a real inspiration for Tim, and also, affirming. The Neill/Readhead family are now into the third generation as custodians of Summerhill, so have a wealth of experience that can only be learned in the playground of school leadership. Tim, Faye and Philip



have faced many of the same challenges and battles. Tim found it a relief and a joy to be able to talk of the challenges and thrills of running an alternative school with a family of so many parallels. As Zoe's son Will said to Tim, "Our experience allows us to finish each other's sentences". We very much hope that Zoe or her children will visit our school in the future.



JUMPING THROUGH HOOPS, by Keith

Boosted by Julia, Will, Xavie and Redford, our Middlies travelled to MSAC for Hoop Time. Our Future Stars team missed Chloe for the first two games but gave it their all. The Rookies were 'undersized' in most games but came away with 3 wins out of 5 matches. A special 'well done' to Berry for playing for both teams. The most exciting game was probably the final match between our Future Stars (plus Tao and Warren) and the Rookies (plus Kate and Keith). This game was fiercely contested and ended in a 6-all draw. Our thanks to Keith and Warren for coaching, to Anne and Kat for scoring, Tao for photography and to Caroline and Alison for coming to support our players on the day.



A LETTER FROM SALLY (past student teacher)

Hola to all the beautiful people at Fitzroy Community School! I have been in Buenos Aires for three weeks. It is very dirty and run down in most places and the pavements are broken and uneven. I have enjoyed the talented musicians and jugglers that get on and off buses and trains to entertain you while you're travelling. I started teaching at Conviven the first week I arrived and am really enjoying it. I was only supposed to be assisting the teachers but somehow I've ended up leading the classes and I can barely speak Spanish. The Fitzroy Readers are a hit. The kids love them and the school has no other resource like it. Unfortunately they don't have a photocopier, so if I want copies from the workbooks, I have to go elsewhere. But I have found that the children can copy the exercises straight into their books. I'd like to say a big thank to FCS on behalf of all the



teachers, children and even the adult learners who have started to come to the centre to learn English. All of us are benefiting from these great resources. Love and friendship, Sally Novak.

CULTIVATING REAL CHOICE

A big thank you to Nathaniel Bellio, a director at the New Schools Network (London) for making the time to see Tim when he was in the UK. Tim happened to be at the New Schools Network on the day that another 102 schools were approved to open. All very different to each other and all free. New Zealand just passed legislation to allow independent government schools to operate there. Our own government would do well to look to these countries for inspiration.

OUR SOUTHERN FRIENDS

FCS hosted Chris and Wendy from Peregrine School, Tasmania. Thanks for keeping this connection alive.



LITERATURE, by Faye

I love so many things about teaching at FCS, but a highlight is teaching literature to our Biggies with Carol, Bridie's mother, who also has a passion for literature. We have just finished the class work for this year's main text, "Wind in the Willows", a classic. Each sentence is beautifully crafted to achieve the effect Grahame wanted; I have heard that sometimes his perfect sentence would take him a week to write! Because it is so carefully crafted, "Wind in the Willows" is a perfect text with which to begin teaching the fundamentals

of literacy criticism.

The novel began just as we began reading it - on a river. We had the Yarra, though, not Ratty's river. However, we imagined that we were in boats just like the boats of Rat and Toad, and certainly the Fairfield Boathouse is of the same era as Toad's boathouse. Having hired boats, we rowed upstream with much hilarity and a great deal of running aground until we sighted a favourable picnic spot. Nick and Sean (Mo and Eli's dad) had come with us to ensure that safety as well as fun prevailed!

Another chapter, the one with Toad in gaol, was read in the Old Melbourne Gaol. We took the guided tour, and were duly locked up for petty crimes; this so that we might get into the spirit of what Toad had been subjected to. For several minutes we were in pitch dark. This would have been Toad's experience - but he endured a month or so, not a few minutes. By the best of luck, Myf, Llew's mum, had the use of a cell at the gaol at that time, as part of a 'Writers in Residence' program. She kindly shared her much more comfortable cell with us while we read our chapter and enjoyed our packed lunch.

Study of literature helps us with our own writing; we can learn writing techniques for our own use. However, and what seems more important to me, literature provides us with a pathway to empathy, that attribute that makes us truly human. Kenneth Grahame's understanding of character is humane and insightful.

FOR THE DIARY

The Reds camp is set for Monday 28th to Wednesday 30th October at The Land (arriving back in time for the fete). Please put this date in your diary.





AFTER SCHOOL FRENCH

Clotilde is offering French tutorials after school: for children from Prep to Year 3 on Tuesday, 3:15pm-4:15pm; for children from Year 3 to 6 on Thursdays 3:15pm-4:15pm. Please see Clo to join.

HANDYMAN

Viktor (Solomon's dad) is offering his capable services as a handyman, with the skills and tools for a wide variety of jobs including carpentry, landscaping, painting, etc. His rate is \$30/hour. Contact Viktor on vikoceanic@gmail.com or 0434 334 045.

OPEN YOUR HOME TO THE WIDE WORLD

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student arriving in July 2013. Our students from Italy, Belgium, Finland, France, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Brazil and Chile are looking forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new friends and becoming a member of an Australian family. Find Out more! Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact WEP today to



receive a full information pack for your family. Phone: 1300 884 733, Email: info@wep.org.au, Online: <http://www.wep.org.au>

PARENTS NEEDED!

Researchers at the University of Western Australia are investigating how parenting influences children's beliefs about themselves, and how this changes as children grow up. We are looking for parents of 8-11 year old children in Australia to complete an anonymous survey (15 mins for parents, 10 mins for children). The survey is online at: www.tinyurl.com/mychildisspecial

