



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2013

Ed. Paul Liknaitzky

PLANETFRESH!

Alby Nash Barrett was born at home on 14th of October. He weighed in at 3.46kg. Arkie, Ziggy, Emma and Pete were all very, very pleased to meet him. Well done and congratulations to the family! And welcome to this corner of the universe Alby, we hope you enjoy your stay!



Alby Nash Barrett

JUST MARRIED!

Catherine O'Carroll and Nick Elias were married on Saturday 21st December in a wonderful ceremony and festive reception. Congratulations to you both, and may your years together be devoted, expansive and many.

TRANSITION – THORNBURY CAMPUS

The last month of school has seen the roll constantly increase, as Amber, Jarrah, Cocoa, Arno, Kiki and Beth joined the Fitzroy Crew, while Indigo and Ada spent time in Thornbury. New friendships were made, and lots of fun had. One of our new students went home and commented to their mum that they had finally found a school that was fun!

FCS - THORNBURY CAMPUS, by Wayne and Joelle Wearn-Jarvis

The Thornbury Campus is up and running! We have received our site registration (thanks Claire), and we have students enrolled for 2014 through to 2018. It is all very, very exciting! Throughout this term, all tribes have visited the Thornbury campus, while the Lions spent a full week there. This has given us the opportunity to see how this wonderful space is going to work, as well as a chance to go out and explore the local parks and playgrounds. We've greatly enjoyed getting to know (and teach) more Fitzroy students, and are very happy to be in a position to give more families the opportunity to experience the unique FCS approach. Next year we will live at the Thornbury Campus and hope you will pop in



The wedding of Catherine and Nick

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to our kitchen for a chat and cuppa. Ted and Chester will continue at Fitzroy. Our other two boys, Charlie and Sebastian, will join us at Thornbury in the coming years. We would like to thank Tim and all of the staff at FCS who have worked so hard to make our 2014 opening a reality!



Wearn-Jarvis family

GRADUATES

Congratulations to our 2013 graduates: Zak, Clay, Jackson, Celeste, Erica and Kate. Best Wishes for next year. We will miss you all, so please come back and visit us!

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Natalie has rejoined the staff for the third time (just can't get away!), back after having Elijah in January. She has been our creative and project teacher at Thornbury this term, and will continue there on Wednesdays in 2014. Great to have you back on board, Nat! Welcome also to Feri (FCS: 1999) as Faye's English assistant. Sadly, Alice is leaving after many years of being our creative teacher; she's just too busy with her own projects (schoolhousestudios.com.au and nolightsnolycra.com). Thank you for all your wonderful input, Alice! Goodbye also to Ruby. We will miss your beautiful presence.

STUDENT TEACHERS

A big thanks to our 4th Term student teachers

for their contribution to school life – Kristy, Liz, Maddy and Kirk. Extra thanks to Kirk for volunteering to go on the Future All Stars Camp following his placement, and to Maddy for coming back to help out in the last week of school.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to Robi, Glenda, Alison, Sofia, Leah, Sue and Glenda for continuing to help out around school week in, week out.

WILD(ER)NESS, by Warren

In Term 4 the Lions, Tigers and Bears disappeared into the Dereel forests yet again, with Claire, Netti, Wayne, Joelle, but mostly Warren, who was chief jaffler, cricket coach and axe trainer. The children were unperturbed by the fickle weather, and displayed great skill as lumberjacks, jaffle makers and rabbit hunters (although some trees did not fall, the occasional jaffle was burnt, and the rabbits won). The Tigers were so taken with a beautiful sunset on the first night that they raced toward it with wild abandon - it was perhaps only the promise of marshmallows that brought them back. The Lions set new records for the size ratio of axe-held-to-tree-felled. And the Bears created new fashion trends in wet weather wear. The flying fox got a workout and the trampoline was in constant use; fears were faced (away from home, the long drop, night noises...) and everyone returned home a little taller. Well done to all campers and a big thanks to parent drivers.

The Reds also had their chance to bush-bash, with Greta and Netti escorting them to The Land in October. They discovered



Camp at tree farm

the joys of the regrown bush, the rebuilt huts, and tramped along the creek, made cubbies and enjoyed being all together in the bunk house.

In other camp news, the boys' Mystery Camp was a blast. Nick and Warren travelled to Numurkah where a week was spent playing tennis (with a bit of squash and racquetball thrown in), swimming, canoeing and generally romping around. There was a great walk through the nearby wetlands, a visit to a dairy farm, a dinner out and a few good DVDs. Fun was had by all brave enough to venture off into the unknown.

And finally, the Bike Camp was yet another validation of the FCS way. All the participants rode with commitment and a sense of fun. Plenty of jokes, piles of snacks, a few swims, and no big stacks. Well done all!



LOOK OUT HOLLYWOOD!

The animated film 'Trouble In Treebie Land' by the FCS Middlies and Daniel Rizeman (student teacher 2012) was selected as a finalist for the ATOM Awards, a national film competition for primary and secondary schools. Congratulations to the young film makers! To watch, search the film title at www.atomawards.org.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REVIEW, by Tim

FCS has finally passed through a review without being threatened with closure or any major changes to our modus operandi. We

congratulate the VRQA on this new more enlightened approach to school reviews and accreditation. Permission to operate to the end of 2018 was granted in August. Thank you Claire for heaps of work on this.

WHATS UP DOC!

Catherine O'Carroll and Imogen Hamel-Green (FCS: 1995 and 1996 respectively) both recently graduated as medical doctors and were both offered positions at Western Health in 2014. Catherine gained one of the three top medical awards at the University of Notre Dame. Congratulations to you both, and may your scalpel-hand always remain steady!



READERS IN VANUATU, by Jordon Lewis

[Jordon (FCS: 2011), along with fellow students and teachers from MLC, visited a primary school in Vanuatu for a cultural and educational exchange.]

Dear Faye, I can't thank you enough for the donation of Fitzroy Readers and schooling supplies; you have no idea how much they impacted on the children's educational and learning abilities ... the people of Tanna are the most grateful and polite people you will ever meet. When the Fitzroy Readers were introduced, the headmaster teared up and hugged me. The Fitzroy Readers really helped me teach and guide kids at their primary school, hopefully in the right direction. So I am proud to say that I am a true past student of FCS, and I am proud to say that the school and my family have both helped me develop and find my way to be the person I am today. Maybe if I wasn't pushed to be 'out-there' at FCS I would have never grasped the opportunity to teach children who really need a good education in a developing country. Maybe I would have been oblivious to the

feelings and acts of others, and the fact that I could change them if I had the determination to. Maybe I wouldn't have learnt that I can change the world. But I did. And I will. Love, Jordon Lewis.

Jordon in Vanuatu



END OF YEAR POETRY, by Philip Harvey

Each term the students recite poems in public. At year's end the favour is returned, when parents and teachers read their favourite poems. There were some classics: Banjo Paterson's 'The Man from Ironbark', Rudyard Kipling's 'If', and A.A. Milne's perennial favourites 'Lines and Squares' and 'The Good Girl'. Weird and comic poems are required reading. Tulip Kilbourne's 'Spiders' and Michael Stuart's 'Beware of Night' were presented, along with Shel Silverstein 'Cluny the Cat' and that object lesson in housekeeping, 'Messy Room'. Another more mysterious cat poem was Rainer Maria Rilke's 'Black Cat'. Mystery is in fact an essential element of a poem, as we found in 'The Dacca Gauzes' by the Bangladeshi poet Agha Shakid, not unlike the effect produced by 'Description without a Place' by Wallace Stevens. Philosophical poems too, such as Wislawa Szymborska's 'Clouds' and Christina Rossetti's 'Impatience'. The recitations finally closed with a moving joint performance by Faye and Phillip of the poem 'The Story of the Christmas Guest' by Helen Steiner Rice.

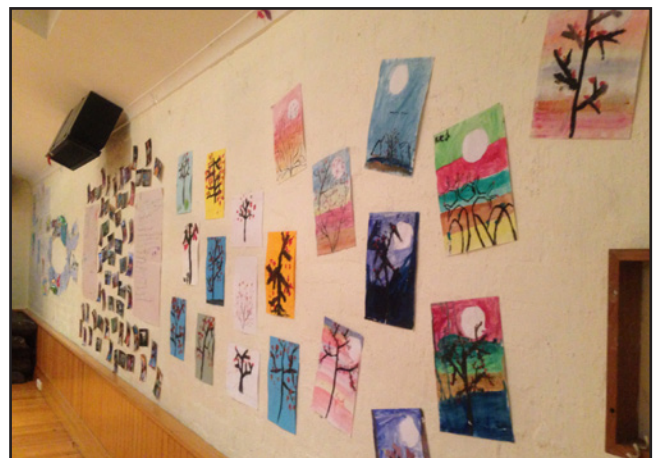
ROUNDERS, by Sam

FCS had 3 rounders teams in the inter-school competition this year. Once again all the games were played with wonderful team spirit and support for each other. As there were some groups away each week we would often

have year 3's and 4's playing, with the biggies showing terrific leadership. Even if the team was down there was always a lot of cheering and encouragement. But there were certainly more ups than downs, and FCS won the Division A with 8 wins and 1 loss! Well done team! Tim, Nick and I were all very proud of their season and special mention must go to the grade 6's - Kate, Erica, Celeste, Zak, Jackson and Clay, we will miss your classic catches, massive hits and excitement during the rounders season.

US WE THEM, by Nat

This term the Reds (featuring other groups occasionally) have been working on a project called 'Us We Them', an art and cultural awareness project along with the Hua Mao Foreign Language School in Ningbo China. The project has involved a range of awesome creative endeavours looking first at 'Us' (ourselves, our school, our community and our country) then 'Them' (Chinese art, Asian influence and culture) and finally, 'We' (where we created a shared puzzle piece mural). We also took the opportunity to go munch on some dumplings at China Bar on Brunswick Street. At the end of the project, we held an exhibition showing all the artworks, shared on the joint FCS/Hua Mao blog, and had a live Skype session with our friends at Hua Mao who held their exhibition simultaneously. Over the course of the project, we had many dialogues about culture, language and schooling, and realised that whilst in those areas we are vastly different, in matters of creativity and spirit, we are one and the same. It was a SUPER fun project and if anyone is keen to check out what we did, please visit: uswethemproject.com



ORATORY, by Faye

Oral English ranks high at FCS. Learning to speak clearly, confidently and coherently, to listen respectfully and be able to formulate a response which advances the dialogue are all fundamental skills, best developed during the formative primary school years. As usual, the Biggies have presented oral book reports each term, usually with groups of younger children listening in order that they learn the ropes. Our grand finale was held in the Fairfield Boathouse this year and not the amphitheatre (due to inclement weather), with an audience of parents and friends, and a celebratory ice-cream after the event. Our debating programme began early in the year under the guidance of our expert, Peter Gebhardt. This term, every Year 6 student participated in the Victorian Debating Championships - with some wins and some losses. I thought that the articulation, voice projection and manner of the FCS students were superior to those of the other competing schools. Our final debating event was a full day workshop for the Biggies and Middlies, conducted by two young men from the Victorian Debating Association. They were excellent teachers, quickly established good rapport with the students, and a great deal was learned.

MAD SCIENTISTS, by Claire

What a bunch of brilliant scientists we have! A project was set for the Middlies and Blues: think, explore, expand and report. I have so enjoyed Monday morning tales of explosive weekends - with parents being fully involved, and perhaps a little science-mad too! Bats, bones and explosions were a big feature - thankfully not at the same time. It has been wonderful to see such great enquiring minds in action. First prize went (jointly) to Berry and



Tinies, Weenies, Eenies, Tinsies

Marlon, with a special mention to the great scientific work of Thea and Daisy. I hope you all continue to love and explore science - it will shape everyone's future.



Outting

LETTER FROM POLAND, by Anna-Maria Zgliczyńska (visiting teacher)

Dear Fitzroy Community School! I had a lovely two days with you all. I really enjoyed the atmosphere of your school and felt at home there. I also loved the idea of organising meetings with new kids one year before they start at the school. The excursions that I saw were a great idea and the children seemed to love them. It was great to see your connection with the community and the lady who we met in the nursery was so friendly! I would like to take this inspiration with me to Poland and to connect more with the community around my school. The idea of preparing food with parents and students is also great, and I will try to start this when I get home. I'm very happy that I was able to meet you all. Thank you very much for being so friendly and welcoming! You are also very welcome to come to our school in Poland. We have beds in a chill-out room where you could sleep. Warm regards, Anna-Maria [Anna-Maria made contact after hearing about our school at a global education conference in Denmark.]

TRA-LA-LA, by Kerrie

It's been yet another fabulous year of singing and music making at FCS. Voices soared



and entertained a captivated audience at our wonderful school play; and brave musicians generously shared their unique musical skills with us at soirees, sometimes moving us to laughter or to tears as they told us wonderful stories through music and song. In Singing classes, rounds and harmony (four-part for the Biggies!) have been sung, tongue twisters

tackled, and styles from rap to opera explored. Three budding singers even took up the challenge to sit for their first AMEB singing exams: Llew, Briget and Mietta.

OUR FÊTE FEAT

The colourful convivial campaign we call Fête raised \$998 for a neighbourhood house in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, run by Flora Guere (Tim's neighbour when he lived there). A big thank you to the Biggies for organising this, and parents for getting behind the Fete yet again.

TRANSITION 2014

This year was our easiest yet, as all the new Weenies (next year's preps) already have a connection to school, and many have been around quite a bit. Thanks parents for quick drop-offs and providing such an easy group.

**Merry Christmas, Happy New Year,
and see you all in 2014!**

Faye with our 2013 graduates!

