



## NEWSLETTER

# WINTER 2014

Ed. Paul Liknaitzky

## THE GAME-CHANGERS PROJECT

The girls in the Middlies and Biggies got into the altruistic zone in term 2 and discovered that it only takes some creativity and love to begin to change the world. These caring citizens chose an area in which they felt they could make a positive difference, found an organisation that served this interest and came up with creative ways to fund raise for them. Early in June, they organised a day of fund-raising and awareness-raising for their chosen charity, managing everything from cake-baking, money-handling, competition-running, tea-serving and goods-selling. And they pulled in \$500! Possibly the most important achievement was these girls' belief that they can make a difference in the world. Thanks to Nat for supporting this endeavour.

## ANIMALS AND TREES

Lions, Tigers and Bears all went to the tree farm for a three-day bush experience. During this period, the Lions also enjoyed a day tour of Ballarat in the rain and found that it has

an exciting play centre, a lovely old cinema and a well-stocked library. The Tigers and Bears did the more traditional camp thing of building cubbies, chopping wood, toasting marshmallows and whizzing down the flying fox with James and Warren on catching duty. Hanging out in the bush is a wonderful and growthful experience for children and adults alike.



Campers

At the Tree Farm



## SHOW AND TELL, by Warren

During term 2 the Year 6s did a film workshop exploring the idea of story, interviewing each other about special items they'd brought in. Discussions that followed were so rich that only 10% could fit into the final cut of the resulting documentary. Co-directors Robin Geradts-Gill and Jackson Castiglione were extremely impressed with the students' insightfulness in



conducting the interviews. The film premiered at the Little Big Shots Film Festival and will be shown again at FCS Movie Night. A big thanks to Jackson and Robin for preparing, shooting and editing the film, and to Little Big Shots and The Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation for supporting the project.

ROAST CHICKEN, by Dylan (Yr 1)

*I like to eat roast chicken*

*But it is hard*

*I have lost my two front teeth*

*It is also hard*

*Eating bruschetta*

*It falls through my two front gaps.*

TWAINING, by Faye

To say that literature feeds the mind, the heart and the soul is not to speak a truth for the first time. It is, though, a truth worth repeating. This term, the Biggies have delved into Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer*. And what an inspiring and growthful exploration it has been for us all! You know that literature is working when the class regularly breaks into spontaneous applause. *Tom Sawyer* is the perfect text on which to begin learning the fundamentals of literary analysis. And Biggies 2014 have been the perfect class.



SPORTS DAY, by Tim

Sports Day was the usual mix of competition and fun. The obstacle course required elite orienteering skills, and Tennis Ball Madness was a riot (with the perfect physique being 12 eyes and 12 arms). The Egg and Spoon race was very nearly called off midway as the eggs had been dropped and re-dropped so

many times they were more chunks and blobs by the time they ran their 17th 100m dash. The Tug-o-War produces the most amazing facial expressions, and The Gift brings out a competitive streak in all but the most ardent pacifists. The games were played with great spirit, with cheering for team-mates and competitors alike. A big thank you to Alex (father of Dylan and Ethan) for putting this year's event together.



THE PANTHER, by Sebastian (Yr 3)

*There goes the panther walking through the night*

*Look at its green eyes shining bright*

*Look as it silently stalks its prey*

*Hiding in the black and grey*

*Look how it blends in with the trees*

*No one saw it, only me*

*The little monkey had no idea*

*That the panther was very near*

*Look the panther is ready to pounce*

*Then the panther silently bounced*

*The monkey ran, the panther gave chase*

*And now it is a great big race*

*The monkey climbed a tree*

*The panther climbed after*

*Slowly, slowly see the panther gain speed*

*Suddenly the monkey stopped in pain.*

*The panther caught him with a gigantic jump*

*And the monkey's poor heart ceased to pump.*

OUT 'N' ABOUT

As is common for FCS, our denizens went on many an outing over Term 2.

The Tinies saw *Aston's Stones* at the Arts' Centre, a charming little tale about a small dog's boundless capacity to love without obstacle.

The Blues went to the Iwaki Auditorium

to a 'Meet-the-orchestra' event with Jay Laga'aia, the New Zealand born singer and actor, who is a great story teller.

The Reds went to the Town Hall with a thousand other children (about 990 were in uniform!) to hear the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the magnificent organ.

The Middlies saw the Australian Ballet at Hamer Hall for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary show, which included some contemporary works and the classic "Giselle".



THORNBURY GOES BUSH, by Joelle

The Thornbury students were fortunate to have another great camp at the Tree Farm this term, and even luckier to be blessed with incredible sunny weather. It was lovely to see the growth in confidence and resilience shown by all of our students during their second camp. We had a couple of beautiful walks, enjoyed a bit of Spot-o, and of course the flying fox got a lot of use. The campers interacted beautifully, and it was great to see everyone helping and encouraging each other and just having a lot of fun. Thanks to Miek and Sarah for your help on camp.

BBQ GRATE FULL

Thanks to all soup-makers and BBQ-tong-shakers from all the grateful chow-takers! These tummy-warming offerings are wonderful sustenance for both the body and spirit.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT, by Megan Norgate

One of the best aspects of being an FCS parent is the open invitation to participate in school life. One of my favourite days to be part

of is the Wednesday BBQ, a tradition started a decade ago by ex-parent Gabby. Since then, countless sausages, crispy potatoes, vegies, salad and sauce have been made with love and enjoyed by parents, teachers, kids and many other guests. I love the BBQ days, a chance not only to have some long and interesting conversations with other parents and teachers, but also to connect with the children. Over the years, I have come to know just about every child in the school in some way, and that really contributes to the pleasure I get from watching all the FCS children growing up together. My kids also love it when I stay to do BBQ, and sometimes after a few really busy weeks I will decide to hang around on a Wednesday and get a BBQ fix. All parents (and grandparents) are invited to be part of the team; it's a place where you're always welcome but never obliged. If you would like to be part of the BBQ roster, even as a one-off event, email Megan to be part of this uniquely special FCS tradition: [megan@braveneweco.com.au](mailto:megan@braveneweco.com.au)

FROM THE FIELD, by Sam B

I have been on teaching placement for five weeks this term and wanted to share a reflection I had. It is a strong confirmation that the students at FCS are gaining such a fabulous, well-rounded education, full of learning, sport, the arts, fun, and an appreciation of the elements. I love the fact that come rain, hail or shine, the students at FCS are excited, determined and happy participants in whatever is happening that day. People often say to me, "Wow, you have been there sooo long!" To state the obvious, I love the kids and I love to teach, though added to that, FCS is the school I wish I'd have gone to when I was a kid.





## RUN WATER RUN

After running an impressive number of laps around the oval, and raising an equally impressive amount of money for Oxfam last term (nearly \$6500), comedians Sammy J and Randy came for a visit to show our kids exactly how their fund-raising efforts are helping people in Mozambique. The children learned how to build a 'tippy tap' and were shown how this sanitation system can help to prevent the spread of disease. Thanks to Sammy J and Randy, who were wonderfully entertaining.

## LIKE THE WIND, by Nick

Cross country this year showed what a wonderful and courageous group of students we have at FCS. Congratulations to all who took part for your spirit and determination. Onlookers were impressed. Particular congratulations to Will C, Blake, Silas, Chloe, Ella and Dante, who finished in the top ten and made it through to the next round, competing in the zone cross country. They were brave, gave their all, and had results they should be proud of, with four making it through to regionals: Dante and Ella finishing in fifth, and Blake and Chloe coming in tenth. So, on the 18th of June we headed back for the next round, and again, great courage and spirit were shown, with all finishing strongly

and running well. A big thanks to all who came out to support our runners.



Cross country

## THANK YOU

A big thank you to Susie (mother of Hunter) and Nikki for their work on the mural. Their



Sammy J and Randy show us the 'tippy tap'



creative drawings and bright colours look fabulous! Also, thank you to Alison, Amy and Kaz for their yummy Dumplings!



Cross country cheerleaders

#### RHYME AND REASON, by Warren

The Middlies and Biggies have been writing songs and raps with me this term, making their own beats and looking at different ways to structure rhyme and rhythm. It's fascinating to see where the collective imagination can take some simple ideas. We're currently in the process of recording all of the finished pieces. You can hear some of the results on the school's new Soundcloud page here: [doiop.com/fcssongs](https://doiop.com/fcssongs). Feel free to 'follow' to be notified as soon as we publish each piece!

#### A TALE OF A LITTLE SHIP, by Scout (Yr 2)

*A ship drifts off the sunburnt shore  
At night it glides through the sparkling  
Clean water  
Dolphins, whales and squid  
Are gliding next to it  
The stars above are a map  
In the sparkling sea-world sky*

#### TEACHERS FROM THE FUTURE

Thank you to our student teachers for fitting in to our world and helping out with so many different tasks: Lana, Loredana, Lucille (at Fitzroy) and Miek (at Thornbury).

#### CHAMPS ON CAMP, by Tim

Tim, Rohani and the Biggies headed to the Tree Farm for the week – and while it was a bit chilly at night, the days were clear, blue and sunny, much like the children. Older and

younger, boys and girls, all mixed happily in groups big and small. Chores were done without complaint, and joy was found in the simple provisions provided by nature. A *hangi* produced roast lamb, pumpkin and sweet potato and a new flying fox was built. Stories were told, and tea and milo consumed. A camp doing the many good things that camps do.

#### HASTA PRONTO

A big thank you and bon voyage to Jo, who is off the Europe for the rest of the year. We wish her well, and look forward to welcoming her back at the end of summer.



Tramping with Jo

#### A GREENS VISIT

Senator Penny Wright, South Australian Greens Spokesperson on Education, spent a Friday morning at school in February. Regulation and choice were hot topics. We thank Senator Wright for taking the time to visit us back in February.





A MIRACULOUS JOURNEY, by Nick  
In term 2 the Middlies read *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, an inspiring story about a toy rabbit who learns to both love and be loved. The classroom discussions and the students' reflections on the book were profound, with the depth of understanding and analysis showing wisdom beyond their years. A big thank you to all the parents and friends who sat in on the classes and added to the discussions.

## CAMP CHANGES

There are some changes to the Tigers' and Bears' Camp dates for term 3. Please put these into your diaries now! Tigers' Camp is now Wed 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Aug; Bears' camp is now Wed 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Sept; and there is no change to the Lions' camp which is still 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Aug. (These changes were needed because the Grampians camp venue was unavailable during the required week). Also, new Animal Groupings are attached.

1 We also have an exciting addition to camps in term 3: Year 3s will go on a "Mystery Camp" from Wed 13<sup>th</sup> – Fri 15<sup>th</sup> August! Please diarise now, and rearrange any appointments; this may be the only Year 3 Mystery Camp ever, so don't miss it!

Finally, the Grampians Camp is now set for Mon 1<sup>st</sup> – Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Sept.

BALLOONS, by Ethan (Prep)  
*I wish I lived  
In a multi-coloured world  
Where balloons never popped*

