



## NEWSLETTER

# WINTER 2015

Ed. Paul Liknaitzky

### Kideyes

In 2009, inspired by Arthus-Bertrand's '7 Billion Others', Clo and Nat facilitated a visual art and film project, *Kideyes*, wherein children were asked to respond to some basic and profound questions. This year, Clo and Nat brought this project to Thornbury. They asked eight essential questions, and the students pondered each before participating in a series of drama exercises, art projects, poetry workshops and group discussion. A new question was introduced each week, and Mimi followed each session with filming and a filmmaking workshop. The artworks and film, exhibited on the 16<sup>th</sup> June, were described as intelligent, thoughtful and beautiful. To see some of the documentary, go to [tinyurl.com/kideyes2015a](http://tinyurl.com/kideyes2015a) and [tinyurl.com/kideyes2015b](http://tinyurl.com/kideyes2015b).



Tigers cooking bacon

Please visit [www.fcsbook.com.au](http://www.fcsbook.com.au) for more information or to order a copy.

A letter from John Marsden to Faye: "I found it riveting. I love the way you tell it like it is, especially on the subject of rudeness of public servants. I've marked quite a few passages to remind me of things that we could do, or should be doing, at Candlebark – I've already spoken to Taran about having a parents' soiree (i.e. where parents play or sing or perform or whatever – it's such a nice idea). But what I found most powerful was your unflagging faith in the style of education you offer and the beautiful enriching benefits for the young people lucky enough to have access to it. I do hope very much that the model continues to spread – without you and Philip, there would have been no Candlebark, no ALIA, so hundreds, and eventually thousands of young people will benefit, and have benefited already, from your vision. Who knows how many there will be in the future? You are a real pioneer."

### Kideyes



### The Story of FCS

Faye and Philip will launch their book, "Fitzroy Community School" at FCS on the 22nd July (see attached flyer) and at the Brunswick Street Bookstore on the 30th July at 6:30pm.

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### Constant Change, by Nikki

Recently, on a beautiful crisp autumn day, some children and I went across the road to make art. We had seen examples of public art and discussed some relationships between nature and art. We talked about impermanence. It was lovely to watch the children either working quietly by themselves or in small groups, building stick structures or collecting leaves to make words in the oval fence. There is no longer any evidence of the artwork we created on that day, but those joyful moments will stay with me.

### Eyes of Fire, by Solomon (Yr 3)

*Eyes of fire*

*Full of ire*

*The tiger paces to and fro*

*But his captors will not let him go*

*Inside his steel locked cage*

*The tiger's heart is full of rage*

*He longs for an open door*

*And yes, he gets it, for the lock has a flaw*

*Then, Bang!*

*Everything turns black*

*And the tiger falls...*

*Slack*

### What Fete Brings

Money that we raised in our school fete recently paid for a 15 year old Burkinabé boy, Zakaria Sawadogo, to have a critical urinary operation. Zakaria, who has received care within Flora's The Lord is my Strength Neighbourhood House in Ouagadougou, had been waiting to have this operation for 5 years. It is wonderful that our small fetes can have such a significant impact on the lives of those less fortunate.



### Cruisin', by Nat

Our weekly adventures continue to take us to wild and wonderful places. We tested the limits of public transport, journeying up to 'Bounce', a trampoline world in an old hangar in Airport West. We added to our knowledge and compassion in visiting the Asylum Seeker Resource Center. We ventured to a farm in Eltham. We fed our creative spirits at Patricia Piccinini's latest exhibition. We sampled delicious food at an Ethiopian restaurant (with our hands), a Hara Krishna eatery and a hip cafe in the city. These adventures are fun, educational, adventurous, cultural. And tasty!



### Cup O Tea, by Netti

Possibly the second most important item in the curriculum (after free time!) is Tea Party. As soon as the cups appear the cry goes up "Ooh tea party!" Willing helpers soon have all the ingredients required – milk (in jugs of course, never out of the bottle!), cups (not mugs), Faye's giant white tea pot and, of course, biscuits. Now the scene is set for some serious tea drinking and interesting conversation. Sometimes there's a topic (What are we grateful for; What have we done today to make the world a better place...). At other times a general chat about plans and activities. When school visitors join our Tea Party, we try to find out a little about them and make them feel welcome. And of course, the end of Tea Party involves cleaning up. So, apart from a little breather during a busy



school day, Tea Party involves listening, speaking, serving, co-operating, waiting and cleaning up. Some important life skills!

### Speedy Gonzales

Moses (Yr: 3) ran like he stole something in the under 10s cross-country. He bolted through the stages, arriving 5th at the Interschool finish line, 8th at the Zone and 28th at the Regionals. Well done, Mo! Also, congratulations to Chloe and Thea for representing our school at Zone level.



### Understanding Naplan Data, by Philip

Results for Year 5 for FCS 2014 do not appear on the current MYSCHOOL website on the grounds that we had too few Year 5 students. The reason given is that schools with small classes have very variable results and therefore their results should not be published. I don't see the logic. For one thing, our results are not very variable. And, two, I think the public are entitled to see just what good value small schools generally are across the country.

Turning then to YOURSCHOOL results published in the Australian of June 20: the 16-page insert shows the achievements of the hundred best schools. Here, primary schools with fewer than 100 students are not included in the lists.

But if you go to the YOURSCHOOL website, you will see that our Year 3 Reading results, when compared with top-scoring

Sydney Grammar Primary, and the top three Victorian Primary schools, lead them all. All other subjects are near the top too. So the data, once mined, are very reassuring for FCS.

### In the Slammer With Toad, by Faye

The Biggies, Carol and I thoroughly enjoyed our outing to the Old Melbourne Gaol. We were lucky to be given a tour by Troy, an animated and well-informed young man. By the end of his session, we had a sense of the horrors of gaols of this era, and the conditions into which the rich and pampered Toad of *The Wind in the Willows* was thrown. At some point we were all sentenced as convicts. Having been examined for contraband, we experienced the blackness of a locked cell - again emulating Toad's experiences. After lunch, immured as Toad was, we read the chapter where he was in gaol. As Carol reflected: the wheel of time turns. Never would prisoners within the walls of this gaol have imagined that one day a group of students would be reading in there.



### New Beginnings, by Warren

Reflecting on the past 18 months, I have felt extremely privileged to be involved with the Thornbury campus and its foundation



students. As was mentioned at the launch, new schools do not open very often, and this continues to be one to celebrate. Aside from the obvious benefit of offering 23 more individuals a unique approach to education, the two schools are also richer for each other's existence. Fitzroy students enjoy all of their regular visits to Thornbury, and Thornbury kids have a great time doing swimming, sport, camp and other activities with the whole school group. Whilst the timetable may seem just *slightly* complicated from time to time, these arrangements are part of what makes the two campuses feel truly part of the same school.

### Footy Mum

Leah (mother of Edith and Aiva) played for the Triple R 102.7FM / PBS 106.7FM Megahertz against the Rockdogs in their annual traditional footy clash at Elsternwick Park on 21st June.



### Thornbury Outings, by Joelle

The Thornbury students enjoyed a couple of great outings this term. We had a lovely day exploring and learning at Ceres. We climbed trees, jumped puddles, chased chickens and came home exhausted. Scienceworks was a term highlight too. The whole school attended with the Middlies seeing a great lightening show too. The highlight for the Tinies was the magical world of Alice in Wonderland, especially the mirrors and mazes, while the older kids loved designing things with the interactive software.



### Thornbury Whole School Camp, by Joelle

The Thornbury campus set a Tree Farm record this term – 28 people camping there! It was a fantastic camp and all of our Middlies did a great job caring for the younger kids. Warren led a long walk that ended with an excellent soccer game and a visit to a farm. It was great to be together as a whole school for possibly the last time given our ever-increasing numbers!

### Thornbury Newcomers

Ronan, Liliana and Rufus joined FCS Thornbury this term. We have really enjoyed getting to know them and they have been great additions to our school community. We look forward to welcoming Vienna, Lucie and Luke next term.

### The Open Door, by Edith (Yr: 2)

*When you see an open door  
You feel like going through  
And when you see an open door  
It feels like something new  
When you go through a door  
There are beautiful sights to see  
And when you go through a door  
You feel free.*







### **The Great Debate**

On April 22, students from Gold St Primary joined students from FCS for our annual Debating morning. Faye reports that the two schools had a jolly good time of it. So much so that both schools have decided to catch up later in the year for another casual debate. FCS Middlies and Biggies will also be participating in a debating workshop run by the Debaters Association of Victoria.

A letter from Sue, from Gold Street:  
 "Dear Faye and FCS, Thank you so much for a wonderful and entirely memorable Debate Day. Our children were just absolutely buzzing

today. They seemed to get along very well with your school's children, which was half the fun of the day. It's great for them to meet new friends in this setting. Everything was just fantastic - and you were so kind to include our children in your lunch arrangements. To be honest, you were lucky we managed to get them out the door. I think a few of them might have happily settled into your warm and friendly kitchen for good. ;-) The feedback from the parents has been glowing. Warmly, Sue"

### **Netball, by Tim**

This term, our Biggies and Middlies have played a number of rounds of interschool netball. We have won some, lost some, had a good time, and always demonstrated sportsmanship. Teachers from other schools have commented on how polite and supportive our children are of each other, with a few getting singled out: Xavie for her flair and individuality (she was wearing a colourful ra-ra skirt and ears), Freda for her politeness and leadership, and Ashley for his support and determination.





### Studio Time, by Warren

Groups from both Thornbury and Fitzroy have had recording sessions, embracing the typical excitement and hilarity that comes with hearing one's own voice played back.

### Friendly Neighbours, by Warren

During a camp last year, a stray dog led us from Corindhap Park to a farm across the road. There lived John and Sally with their many different animals. They were very pleased to invite the children in to see the alpacas (Ronnie and Pablo), feed the chickens and ducks and collect their eggs. Since then we have visited them with several different groups and always been greeted with a warm welcome. We feel privileged to experience the kindness of strangers, and it's great for the kids to get up close with animals. If anyone would like to write a short thankyou letter, please hand it Jo, and we will make sure that it gets to John and Sally.

### Announcements

Date changes – apologies. Most of these were outside of our control. Most important two to note for Fitzroy Parents are: the play is now – Friday October 16th at 7pm. Still at



Collingwood College, meaning that the post-play Year 6 lunch is now Saturday October 17th at 12.30pm

### The Open Door, by Marlon (Yr 3)

*What is that over there, behind the open door?  
What is that little thing, behind the open door?  
It's walking slowly that little thing,  
behind the open door.  
Something's there, I know there is  
Behind the open door  
What is that furry thing, behind the open door?  
It's coming closer and closer  
That thing behind the open door.  
Oh! I know what it is:  
It's a cat.*

