



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

Ed. Paul Likhaitzky

NATALITY

Tanya Rapattoni gave birth to Ivy Belle Mein on the 11th of August! Well done Tanya! And congratulations to you all! We hope Ivy enjoys her stay.



And... Natalie Banks gave birth to Matilda Rose Banks on the 29th of September (just in the nick of time to make this newsletter, phew!) Well done Nat! Congratulations to the whole family. Looking forward to seeing Matilda around school soon.



WATCH OUT FOR WEENIES!

Brunswick St will welcome our new Weenies on Wednesdays in November for their introduction to school life (although several have been coming to school for many years already!) It's always an exciting time for everyone, particularly for new parents in the school, and it can be a bit overwhelming too, so please keep as look out for them and make them feel welcome.

CYCLES OF (SCHOOL) LIFE

What a great bunch of FCS alumni we currently have on staff – Nisha and Cecelia looking after the Programs office, Mimi doing great media at Normanby, Feri doing a sterling job in English and Maths, Sarah doing lots of individual tutoring, Alix creating amazing films, Scott keeping us clean (and getting pummelled in the pool), Greta keeping the crumbs coming, Mary taking urban adventures, Nick keeping us highly literate, and Tim with many irons in the fire while steering the ship.

WELCOMES

We welcome Faith (Tiny) to Brunswick St and Iggy and Noah (Reds) to Normanby Ave this term. Great to have you join our school!

We welcome Claire back. Claire was a student teacher with us three years ago, and cut her teeth on Grampians camp. She has taken on Nat's Thursday outings at Normanby Ave. We are sharing her with Preshil. Good to have you back at school, Claire.

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ANOTHER REASON TO RHYME

Once again we received good news from the Dorothea MacKellar poetry awards. Our school received a commendation, and two of our children received special awards (poems below). Again, thank you to Philip Harvey for his expert and generous contribution to our poetry at Brunswick St, and for again launching the Dorothea MacKellar competition this year.

THERE IS A DOOR IN MY MIND, by Aiva (Yr 4)

*There is a door in my mind
It leads to a world of imagination
It's a place that I can go to
When I'm feeling sad or lonely
When I feel there's nobody to play with
There is a door in my mind
It takes me to a world of imagination
A fantasy land where dreams abound
Where the sun is always shining
There is a door in my mind...*

Judge's Comment: 'This is a heartfelt and honest poem. Repetition and using the title at the end drew me to this poem. Haunting.'

WHERE THE FAIRIES PLAY, by Arkie (Yr 4)

*There is a little door
No less, no more
Outside in the garden.
People say
The fairies play
Outside by that little door.
I have seen for myself
Three fairies and an elf
Outside by the oak tree.
They pulled apart a curtain of leaves
To reveal a door, just as you please
Outside in the garden.*

Judge's Comment: 'I loved this nice-feeling poem the moment I read it. 'People say, the fairies play' takes me right back to my childhood. Magical.'



CHESSMASTERS, by Wayne

On Monday afternoons at Normanby Ave, we learn all about chess from our enthusiastic chess master, Grant. This term a group of students joined seven other schools for an inter-school chess tournament. We had a great day and every student won at least one game, with a few students winning three or more. Thomas took the title as the most successful FCS student. The day was a fun learning experience, and we will compete again early next term.



NETBALL, by Tim

Our biggies were again the local Carlton district netball champions, and then progressed through another two rounds, with a couple of good wins, a couple of really close ones (going both ways) and a couple of good losses. Great to see the determination and sportsman/woman-ship, along with good teamwork and camaraderie. Well done, everyone.

STAGECRAFT, by Netti

At the end of term, Sally from *a3 Arts Alive* joined us for a morning of singing and drama. We learned a range of techniques and warm-ups, like balloon-breathing, sirens, making faces (old man, surprise, kiss the ceiling, kiss the floor, fish face...) and our favourite tongue twister: *super-duper-double-bubble-gum*. Sally then went through all the songs for *Oliver Twist* and gave valuable advice about spitting out the words, staying in character, projecting voice and a new way of counting in to the break of pose at the end of a song: *one hippopotamus, two hippopotamus, three hippopotamus!* She wrote later to say "Thanks for having me back at FCS today – I had an absolute ball with the kids. They really are super talented – seeing them all working together so beautifully and singing out so strongly was pretty exciting". Thank you for your visit Sally.



KITCHEN, by Greta

We've been very busy baking on Mondays this term. We often experiment with recipes to use up any overstocked ingredients in the kitchen. Cooking-chocolate was clearly on sale over the winter holidays, because when we returned to school this term, the pantry was *choc-o-block* full. So with the help of the kids we have made chocolate-chip biscuits, chocolate-iced shortbreads, chocolate oat mounds and some tasty chocolate cakes. My refusal to follow a recipe doesn't always work out, and am grateful to the kids for smiling and eating it anyway.

DRESSING REHEARSAL, by Sam

There are always so many people who contribute great effort and skill in the lead up to the school play. It's a real team event. The Costume Team, led by Anne and Emma, have been amazing setting up working bees and creating an exciting vibe at school: Anne, Emma, Sue, Maryanne, Kaz, Mary, Tamsin, Jane, Jo, Amy, Greta, Charlotte, Nikki, Arthur, Carolyn, Joelle, Sue, Kat, Alistair, Kate, Alison, Megan, Leah and Olivia. Great work!

PADANGUSTHASANA, by Miranda

There has been a lot of yoga at Brunswick St this term. Yoga for adults, after-school yoga for kids and Hare Krishna yoga for Lions, Tigers and Bears. It has been great fun bending ourselves into all sorts of shapes, deepening our breath and spending time in the silence of meditation. These sessions always bring a lot of laughter and some deep insights. But yoga is not only on the mat, as one of the visiting yoga teachers from the Hare Krishna centre said: yoga can encourage us to bring awareness, love and enjoyment into everything we do in life.

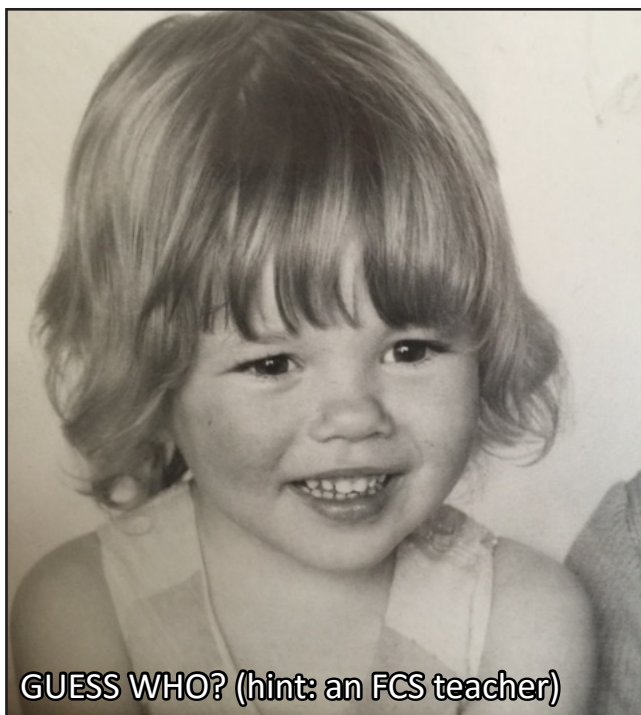
MORE THAN JUST A BRICK IN THE WALL, by Nikki

Some people may have noticed that change is afoot on the front wall of the Brunswick St Art Room. This is an exciting new project that the Middlies are undertaking with me. Over the last term there has been research, discussion, preliminary drawings and, when the weather permits, actual painting. Keep your eyes peeled as the front of our beloved school transforms into a Middlies masterpiece!



A SCHOOL IN A CHURCH, by Joelle

A few weeks ago we moved out of our classrooms at Normanby Ave so that the building of our new classrooms could begin. We have been fortunate to be able to use a wonderful space just around the corner: Thornbury Church of Christ. The church community has been welcoming, flexible and friendly and we are all enjoying the change of surrounds and the excitement of being out and about during the day. We expect that we will be using this space until Easter next year. Our old classrooms are now gone and I'm sure we will all enjoy watching the new ones grow next term.





GETTING DIRTY HANDS, by Joelle
 The Normanby Ave Reds and Middlies had a visual feast at an art exhibition by Simon Finn (Ronan and Liliana's dad). The charcoal artworks were spectacular. Many of the pieces depicted structures in various states of collapse. Simon and Lauren (mum) organised a workshop where our students built their own wooden structures and recorded their demolition using charcoal. It was a fun, messy, educational outing and everyone came home with an appreciation of Simon's talent for manoeuvring charcoal! Thank you Simon and Lauren.

CAMPUSES CAMPING, by Tim
 A group of children from both Brunswick St and Normanby Ave, along with Tim, James, Miranda and Jean-Baptiste, spent a week in the Grampians on a camp based around mountain walks. Day one involved a short walk alongside scores of kangaroos and emus, and even a few deer. The walk on day two began at Lake Bellfield, tracked through Sundial Peak and the Pinnacle to Halls Gap, while day three was Boronia Peak. Day four was Rosea Carpark to Borough Huts while day five was the short Venus Baths loop. I loved all the breath-taking views,



and the children loved the rock scrambles, especially during breaks. It was great to have both campuses on camp together, and looking on, it was impossible to see any difference between the two groups. The children showed great spirit and a sense of fun and adventure (along with the remarkable ability to eat a lot of snacks). A big thank you to all those who sent delicious baked goods along.



HOOP CHAMPS, by Keith
 What an unusual Hoop Time day it was on Tuesday 18th August at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. With two teams of 10 players selected, we gathered at FCS early on the morning, only to find that 6 players were missing...! We quickly recruited Xavie (with Edith of the Reds on standby) and that made 8 players for the Future Stars and 7 for the Rookies. The first match saw our Future stars leading 14-0 after just 6 minutes, at which point it was discovered there had been a revised fixture issued and we were on the wrong court playing the wrong team! Grrr!! We raced to the correct court and played a six-minute game against Kew Primary School, drawing 6-6. The Rookies won 2 games, lost 2 and drew one. The Future Stars were better in game 2 and kept on getting better and better. They won their section, then their semi final, and then the Grand Final (12-6)!! And thanks to parents Jo and John helping to keep the score right and the cheering loud!



SOUPEr THURSDAYS, by Joelle

An incredible variety of nutritious, yummy soups made lunch on Thursdays a highlight at Normanby Ave this winter. Every week the children couldn't wait to take a peek in the pot and it was great to see how proud the kids were when it was their parent who provided the soup!

Brunswick St continued to enjoy the Souper Thursday tradition, with yummy Pumpkin, Minestrone, Pea and Ham, and Red Lentil, keeping our tummies and hearts full and warm. Thank you to Jo, Maryanne, Tamsin, Jo, Emma and Amy.

PLAYWRITE

Eric Gardiner (FCS: 2003) recently had one of his plays, *Bounty*, performed at the Fringe Festival. *Bounty* is an epic, absurd collision between modern Queensland and ancient Rome. Eric made his acting debut as Robin Hood in the FCS school play, and decided he loved theatre. Well done Eric!

SUBSTITUTE LAND FOR WATER, by Joelle

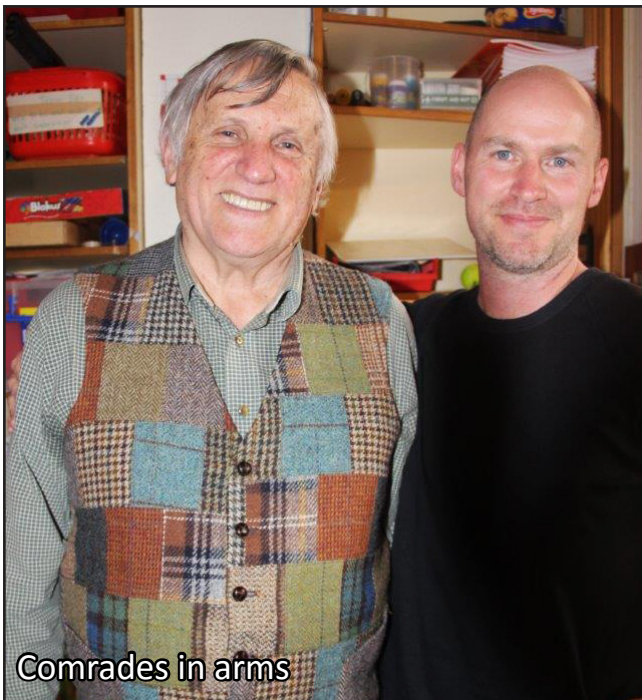
When swimming was cancelled one Wednesday, we jumped at the opportunity to take our Greens, Blues and Reds to a mystery destination... the kids were surprised when we stopped at a gate with a sign saying 'The Land'. And what joy we saw, as children clambered up hills, crossed the creek, and cooked sausages on the fire. We were lucky to have Lucian's mum, Robi, along for the day. As it was a Wednesday, we set up our own special lolly shop in a playground on the way home. We returned muddy, half dressed and exhausted – just the way we like it!



OUTINGS, by Nat

This term, once again, I have undertaken a challenge to have the most fun humanly possible each and every week. Luckily for me, my job is taking outings, so this goal is very easy to achieve. This term we visited Inside the Brick (a Lego world), perused the children's exhibitions at ArtPlay, got lost in the magic of the Melbourne Museum, were captivated by a beautiful documentary at IMAX and had a gander at the new National Gallery literature exhibition. Our students were charming and conscientious on these outings, reconfirming to me that my job is the best, and I will be back as soon as possible to pick up the challenge again!





Comrades in arms

STUDENT TEACHERS

Thank you and good luck to Megan, James and Andrew (Brunswick St) and Luisa and Peta (Normanby Ave) for your contributions this term. Good luck with you future teaching careers.

UP A TREE, by Alison

At Normanby Ave we have been planning, discussing and building treehouses after a visit to the Melbourne Writer's Festival Tree House series to hear author Andy Griffiths speak about his work. The students also had a chance to create stories with Andy and Terry Denton. I was impressed with the children's translation of their complex ideas into 3D treehouses. The children worked collaboratively and happily.....and the

treehouses look great!

WANTED

If you have a pile of these items lying around at home, we will happily use them up for you:

- Bowls (melamine)
- Forks
- Tea Spoons
- Envelopes
- Pencils/textas
- Large teapot

REINVENTING THE NATURE OF SCHOOLS

John Marsden will open the new Alice Miller School on February 2nd 2016 in the Macedon Ranges (110 Bailey Rd Macedon) with years 7-11, and year 12 starting in 2017. An exciting different secondary school offering mainstream VCE courses, and the opportunity to specialise in art, music, writing, dance or drama. For more information, millermacedon@gmail.com or 5427 0384

FAMILY CRAFTING

Monthly Family Crafting Workshops continue each month in Northcote, a whole new way to spend time with your children. Families of all ages (pre-Weenies to grandparents) can play and explore together with clay, wood, beeswax, fleece and paper. No creative experience required. Monthly Sundays from 2-5pm at The Chalice, 251 High St, Northcote. Upcoming sessions: 25 October, 15 November. For more info, please email cliknaitzky@gmail.com or call 0415 603 077.



Normanby