



AUTUMN 2017

Ed. Paul Liknaitzky

WELCOME SERENE!

On the 21st of February, Evelyn gave birth to Serene, weighing in at 3.9kg and looking a lot like her big brother Ray (Brunswick St Little). She has already lived up to her name, and Ray has been a proud and caring brother, reading her stories and playing with her. Congratulations to Evelyn, Jerry, Ray, and the whole family.



MYSTERY CAMP, by Faye

The Biggie girls and I had a wonderful Mystery Camp. We went to Daylesford where my son, Jeremy, Naoko, and 9 year old Om, welcomed us into their home with enthusiasm and warmth. Our activities were richly varied: Japanese cooking and Japanese craft sessions, writing workshops, bush walks and cross country running, spontaneous chess lessons, picnics, op shops, and swimming. Our final outing was to the Daylesford bathhouse. At the end of the week I told the girls that their future CVs should include 'Excellent holiday

companions'. Many thanks to Jeremy, Naoko, and Om for their generous hospitality.



BEYOND THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Camps are an integral part of the FCS experience. As a snapshot, below are the number of nights FCS staff spent on camp in Term 4 of 2016: Jo – 14; Greta – 18; James – 20; Janelle – 4; Nikki – 2; Clo – 2; Nick – 13; Wayne – 16; Miranda – 4; Joelle- 3; Philip – 1; Netti – 7; Alice – 4; Ben – 12; Warren – 14; Tim – 16. We appreciate the time that these teachers give to the children of our school. One of the nicest comment received after a camp was when a mother thanked Clo for lending Tim to her daughter for the week.

TINIES TEA PARTIES, by Netti

What better way to end a busy day of maths, English, dance, sport and art, than a warm cup of tea or cold glass of milk, plus a chocolate biscuit or a freshly made scone! Older children have been known to sniff the air approaching the kitchen on a Monday afternoon as the scone aroma wafts through the building,

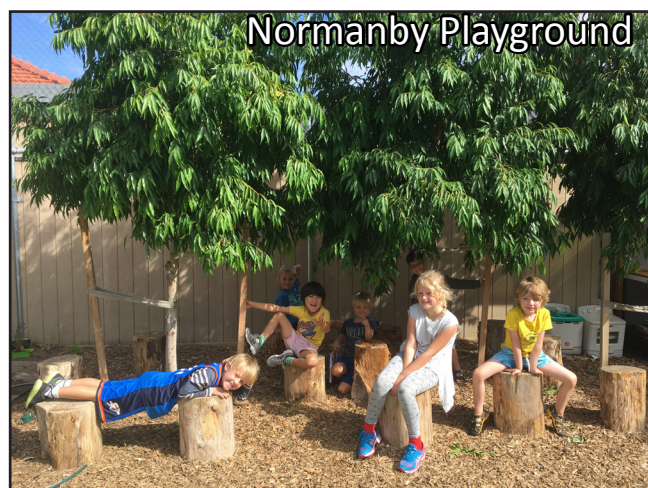
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only to be disappointed to find crumbs left! Our special scone recipe is simply: 2 cups self-raising flour, 1 cup cream, and 1 cup lemonade. Mix together and cook in hot oven for 10 mins. To be eaten while warm, before developing the characteristics of a rock!

THE VISITOR, by Lachlan (Yr 5)

I woke to an unpleasant banging from the gate. I plodded down the stairs and out to see what was going on. It was Grumpig, the pig. Ugh! My least favourite visitor. You will soon see why. He tore in like a tornado and raided the pantry, stealing Mum's chocolate -chocolate that I had nibbled! He thundered up the stairs and destroyed my Lego tank. I tried to stop him, but he was too quick. Then he leapt out the window and got hit by a car. And that was the last visit from this most unwelcome visitor.



NORMANBY AVE PLAYGROUND, by Joelle
At Normanby Ave we are slowly creating lovely areas to play. Our trees are growing and we have a new place to sit and climb thanks to Jo and Bevan (Rufus and Harvey's parents) who kindly donated some great logs and Ben (Zara's dad) who installed them.

KYNETON CAMP, by Warren

The Brunswick St Biggies had a terrific week of swimming, board games, cricket, music making, and the perennial favourite Canoe Wars. Estela and Aiva covertly made a delicious cake for Arkie, who was very capably distracted by Martha until her birthday surprise could be sprung. Lachlan, Ed and Red blew their swimsuits up into spacesuits in the spa, while Ari and Mo were very slippery Marco Polo players. Seb sunk a three pointer on the buzzer to take the basketball match into



overtime, and Sol steered his side to victory in the Annual Limited Overs Cricket-on-the-Tennis-Court Match. At the end of camp concert, Hector delivered his now trademark stand-up sit-down routine, to the delight of the audience and the consternation of the Kangaroos. Many of the guests with whom we shared our time in Kyneton commented on how lovely the children were, and how well they got on with each other. A great way to start the year!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Seb on gaining a scholarship to Ivanhoe Grammar for his secondary education. Very well done.

SPORT, by Alia

One of my many favourite things about FCS is how hard people try, and Term 1 has been no exception to that! Sport has been so much fun in the sun, and all the new Tinies have been such a wonderful addition to our games. Looking forward to testing out a few new games – as well as all the old goodies, next term.

40TH ANNIVERSARY SPEECH, by Eric Gardiner (FCS: 2003)

It's so easy to remember. I can taste the peanut butter knives in jars of jam; the jam knives in jars of peanut butter. I can hear the groan of the Green Room's Lazy Susan. The graveyard of textas and pencils caught beneath that wheel. I can see A Fat Cat, The Bear Next Door, The Inconvenient Puncture, and Athlete Pete. I remember the patience of



Normanby harvest



Faye's mother, Elsie, as I cross-examined her about the nature and characters in *The Land of Zond*. It's only now that I realise I've spent years imitating the Fitzroy Readers in my own writing, shamelessly ripping off their blend of moral message, gritty personal conflict, and magical realism. And I'm only now realising just how formative an experience the school plays were.

Friends and collaborators sometimes ask why I like putting music or dance into shows for no reason, and now I understand why. I did not have an auspicious beginning. In my first play at FCS in 1996 I was Snowflake #16 in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. In Year 6 we spent 13 weeks on school camps. We dug postholes for the huts at the Tree Farm; played billiards in the Dereel pub. A lot of that time was spent at The Land. Years later, on Black Saturday, fire scoured the place and its structures. I've gone back there to camp with friends in the years since, gone back down those stairs into the valley, slept in the new buildings. It's such a strange thing, to go back to this place that was so strong and detailed in your mind, and which has now been overwritten. So strange, to walk down those stairs and find a place that works just like the mind does, where each new day is written on top of the last. It's so

easy to remember. But it's not enough. On their own, each isolated memory makes a map of butchered stars; the past rendered as a collection of images, instead of something felt. But what's the sky that holds those stars together? We know that we cannot live in the past, but the past lives in us.

What I wanted to do today was not just try to dredge up these moments that have stayed with me, but to reflect on what lay beneath. So what is it that endures when you leave the school? What is it that we learned? Sometimes Australia can feel like a place where nothing's as precious as a hole in the ground. But in the moments where I feel that sense the most, I hold on to what I was taught at FCS. Not by the lessons in its classrooms, but the building and its people. That books are worth reading, and ideas are worth having. That you can write a story; that you can make something out of nothing. That we should be proud of asking questions and making trouble. Those lessons are my foundation, the sky that holds my stars, holds my life. The demonstration of another way. So thank you FCS, thank you Faye, Philip, Tim and all the family of this very special school. You taught us we could live with grace, and that human nature is something that we're put on earth to rise above.

MIDDLELIE FANTASY, by Nick

This term the Middlies wrote - and wrote well - experimenting with a range of styles and ideas. Focus was placed upon having fun while thinking carefully about how ideas are expressed and one's choice of word. The theme that most captured their attention was a letter to Tim explaining why I couldn't be at school as some disasters had befallen me. They took to it with a slightly worrying glee. Here is an example written by Stephanie K:

Dear Principal Tim,

Nick won't be at school for a very long time. Today he was in a bus on the edge of Australia. In the bus there was a silly kid with a stick. Nick was lucky not to get his eye poked out. He dodged the stick and bumped the driver, so the driver turned and went off a cliff. Everyone stayed in the bus, but because Nick's hand was on the open door button, he flew out and landed on an aeroplane. It took him to Queensland.

In Queensland in a forest he bumped into a tree and his eye came out - and he couldn't find it! He was searching and searching until he felt something under his feet...pop! Oh no - it was his eye. He was feeling so sad he didn't notice a lion behind him. The lion gobbled him up, and then the lion felt sick and spewed up Nick, or what was left of him. He looked like a skeleton. He was very floppy, like a big pile of bones. A big dog got Nick's bones and ran away with them.

*Yours sincerely,
Stephanie*



TINIES CAMP, by Netti

Another Tinies Camp at the Tree Farm has come and gone with the usual fun and games. Our eight Tinies were joined by Faith, Ilaria,

and Xavier, making 11 enthusiastic campers in all. Mother Nature decided to show us again who was in charge, and delivered a significant amount of rain as we were arriving. This didn't worry the small people, who played happily in and out of the rain, and then set up a games room in Jabba. Trampolining, flying fox, 'the big hole', making bows and arrows, running up the hill to see the sheep, eating Pete's jaffles, a few songs at bed time and the supermarket game all contributed to this camp. Thanks to all the adults who joined in this adventure – Sue, Daniel, Julie, Pete, Ben, Mike and Viktor. Children got to see adults coping without all the conveniences of modern life and imbibed the fact that they can too. There may have also been a little bit of listening to the cricket and the odd cheer when a six was hit, but as the result looked inevitable (4th test in India) it was turned off. Several empty wine bottles were also noticed in the morning!

SPORTS DAY

Sports Day was a great success – thanks Alia for again organising such a fun day, and to Pete and Jack for helping too. Our Biggie team captains did a great job organising their little charges, and the whole day was played in a spirit of fun and good-will. Tug of war was again a stand-out favourite. Congratulations to Ethan (Brunswick St) and Noah (Normanby Ave) for their victories in the FCS gift.



OUTINGS AT WARRANDYTE ABORIGINAL RESERVE, by Clotilde

In Term 1, Normanby students explored a site where members of the local Wurundjeri people used to live. The students and I learnt that the Wurundjeri lived in this area semi-nomadically, the land being rich enough to provide food for most of the year. The



Mystery Camp - Japanese craft

reserve was removed when European gold prospectors arrived in the area. After walking along a Wurundjeri trail, the children enjoyed a splash in the Yarra. We found an ideal spot with rocks to climb, and a tunnel with fresh water running through it. No one could resist putting their feet in the water, and exploring the site in hope of finding gold! Unfortunately no gold was found, but they did find an old-fashioned lolly shop in town, and for a five year old, that's a bit like gold!

NORMANBY BIGGIES CAMP, by Wayne

The Normanby Ave campus feels just right with our first full group of Biggies leading the way. The Biggies camp in Gippsland provided a fantastic start to the year for this group. We all enjoyed walks, swims and blackberry picking but the highlight was just spending time together and strengthening the great relationships within this group. This was Emile's first camp and he is a perfect addition. Thanks to Miranda for hosting and helping.

FRIDAY OUTINGS, by Sue Smith

This term the Kangaroos were lucky enough to visit a Calligraphy Exhibition by Deirdre Hassed at the Manse Gallery in Toorak. Titled "Illuminating Wisdom", the exhibition brought art and wisdom together in a collection of timeless quotes from philosophical, spiritual and literary traditions. The artwork and the words really held our attention. The children were beautifully behaved, and as a result received very special attention from the gallery/cafe owners. An example of a quote within this exhibition is by Ralph Waldo Emerson: "To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."



Mystery Camp - Japanese cooking

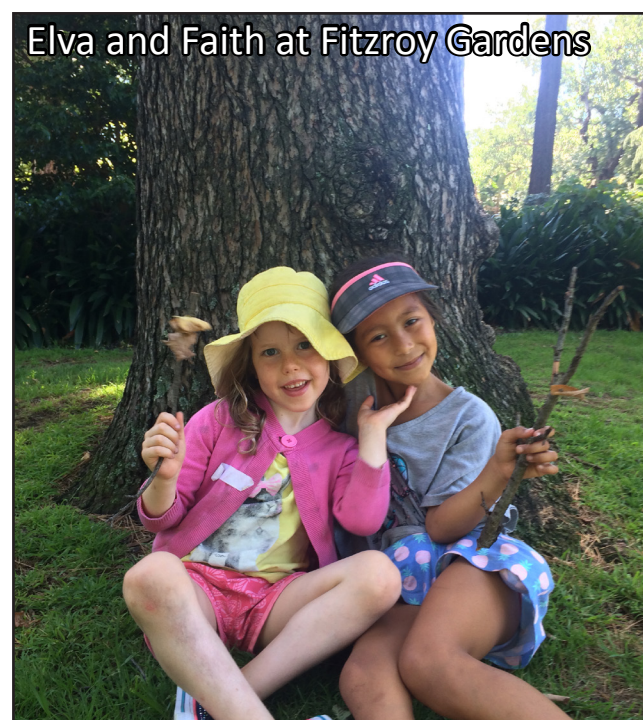
CROSS-COUNTRY AND NETBALL, by Tim
The Biggies have done quite a lot of running over the term, frequently followed up by an ice-cream and a game of netball. I have been really proud of them, as they have gained confidence in their running ability, constantly supported each other, and have striven to do better. Thanks to Clo for joining us on a number of occasions.

NORMANBY FETE

Thanks Normanby Biggies for organising a fun and successful day! As in past fetes, the money raised (\$700) will be used to provide medical care, tuition, accommodation, and support to children doing it hard in Burkina Faso, West Africa.

VOICES OF ANGELS

A huge Thank You to our music teachers – Christina, Gawain, Jolene and Warren – for



Elva and Faith at Fitzroy Gardens



Sports Day

their enchanting a capella performance at the Brunswick St end of term concert. Lovely to have some adults on stage, and such accomplished ones at that!

MIDDLELIES B CAMP, by Nick

The Gippsland hills again proved a wonderful place for a camp, with the Middlies showing great spirit and sense of adventure. The dam was a highlight, and all Middlies braved the jump from the pier. Water play and walks filled much of the time, and many blackberries were eaten on these adventures, with scratches and discomfort ignored for fun. Added to this, the kids showed leadership, kindness, and a willingness to help. A really enjoyable camp.

VICTORY OR DEFEAT? by Clotilde

After-school French had expanded. Recently, we kicked off a class for the oldest students on Thursday mornings. Motivated and talented students get up early to explore French History as well as learning the language. I have a challenge to meet: covering 1500 years in 9 lessons. Of course, I could not overlook Clotilde, the first Queen of France. So I started with the birth of France in introducing Clovis and his wife Clotilde from the 5th century. Then, students were transported in time and learnt about Charlemagne, Jeanne of Arc, Louis the XIV, Napoleon, and Charles de Gaulle. They discovered the French version of certain historic events, which can be slightly different from the British version. For example, the Battle of Waterloo is described for the French students as a great defeat! In each lesson, some games, songs, and a snack alleviate the density of these classes. History was the theme, complemented by the viewing of a movie for children at the French Film Festival, called Adama.

THANK YOU

Once again a big thank you to Philip Harvey and Carol O'Connor for their time and expertise in introducing the Biggies to the historical context of *Wind in the Willows*. Further thanks to Nick and Sean for their presence and support in our marvellous outing to the Fairfield Boathouse, the rowing expedition, the picnic, and the reading of the first chapter of *Wind in the Willows*. Thank you, Biggies, for being such delightful company!

CORRECTION

The Term 2 Soiree at Brunswick Street Campus will be on Thursday 25th May at 7pm.

NOTE FOR MIDDLELIES

Jo departs for Normanby Ave at 8.20am on Tuesdays, so please make it to Brunswick Street by then, or if a drop off at Normanby Ave works better, please make sure that you manage to get your English folder and maths books there too.

GUESS WHO

Guess who this young lady is! Hint: an FCS staff member.



Guess Who?