



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2018

Ed. Paul Likhaitzky

TWINS!

Emily Fishman and Sean O'Carroll welcomed two new children, a girl and a boy, into their family! Born on the 9th of March, Elsie Fox and Felix Abraham are doing well, and the champion mother who birthed them (3.2kg and 3.7kg!) at 40 weeks is slowly on the mend. Well done! And congratulations to Emily, Sean, Mo, Mia, Eli, Milla, and both your families.



Twins!

BIKE CAMP, by Warren

Ten energetic Biggies arrived at school, bright eyed and bushy tailed and ready to embark on a 42km cycle from Meredith to the Tree Farm. Twelve bikes



Bike Camp

were turned and twisted into the trailer, and chainsaws were sharpened. One brief snack stop on the road fuelled the kids, before the peloton assembled and rolled off into the golden plains. Some hills were high, but spirits were higher, with the groaning of gears and muscles rewarded at the top by some smooth sailing down the other side. A halfway pit stop at a secret swimming hole was a hit, recharging some batteries in advance of the bumpy dirt roads into Dereel. Upon arrival at the Tree Farm, and with little sign of fatigue, a complex network of tunnels was excavated, and a large luxury tent put up. The next morning, we awoke to the familiar sound of birdsong and the rhythmic thud of lumberjack children felling trees. A good dose of football, soccer, cricket, and ice cream, and all were ready for the return journey. Despite a few tired legs, and one or two sleeps that could have been better, everyone pedalled back to Meredith. At the outset, an 84km round trip may have seemed a little daunting. Yet all the children discovered

they were more than up to the challenge, with the fastest section of the ride being the final 8km!

NORMANBY OUTINGS, by Kate Campbell (our new Chaplain)

What a thrill it is to see two six-year-old girls standing still on a path, holding hands together, and staring in awe at the bats in the trees up ahead. The children's total absorption in that sight reminded me of the opportunity to treasure any moment in time. Beautiful moments, such as that one, are sprinkled across all our outings. Rocks, dust, water, beetles, and trees have also inspired awe, conversations, and long bouts of dramatic play. I feel doubly privileged as I share these moments with the children, and I also observe the children's joy and wonder at these encounters. This term we have explored various corners of the Darebin Parkland, played in parks, collected rubbish along Merri Creek, walked along the Yarra River, visited the bats, and devoured picnics in these lovely places. While each outing is



Other Worlds

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different, the spirit of adventure is alive and well each time. Thank you to Clotilde and Abigail for showing us some exciting places to visit.

CREATIVE WRITING BY THE TINIES, by Faye

As soon as the Tinies can write a few words, we like to get them started on creative writing. This gives them a feeling of empowerment and of pleasure, and also provides purpose to their learning. With this art/writing activity, they used their ability to write 'if', and to illustrate their ideas while considering hypotheticals (although we didn't call it

this). Nikki and I enjoy working together on projects, and this one is a charming example.

ASRC DONATION

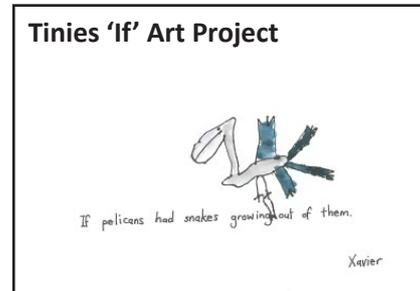
Last year the students ran laps of the oval in order to raise money for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. They reached a total of \$1750! Thank you, Claire, for organising this fabulous fundraiser! A number of Middlies from Normanby Ave and Brunswick St went to the ASRC to hand over a huge cheque. The students were shown around the centre by a volunteer, Who described the plight of refugees coming to Australia.

MONKEY BUSINESS, by Janelle

This term, the Middlies went on an extra special outing to Latitude in Heidelberg – a place for climbing, bouncing, and flying. The ten Middlies chosen each week caught the bus there and spent an hour jumping on trampolines, rock climbing, knocking each other into foam pits, and completing obstacle courses. Each trip was rounded off with lunch and a stroll back to school for the final stretch. Each group had a great day out!

NORMANBY MIDLIES AT WILD DOG, by Miranda

Early in Term 1, Wayne, Miranda and 18 Normanby Ave Middlies headed out to Gippsland for three days. The days were filled with adventures of all sorts. We swam in the dam, swam in the creek, sat by the camp fire, played Spotto, climbed in the tree house, chopped wood, had lovely sunset meals together, and hung out in the big shearing shed. One highlight of the camp was picking an enormous amount of blackberries and eating them! The kids made blackberry jam, blackberry pie, blackberry tarte, and blackberry shortbread. The sweetness of the berries was accompanied by the sting of their thorns. With stoicism, the group bashed through endless brambles, squeezed through small gaps in the bushes, and got tangled in branches, all for the prize of the berry. Another unique camp moment was the dead animal exhibit put on by some of the





Altitude at Latitude!

children, including a possum tail, a mouse, and a spider. Thanks also to Wayne and some of the children for digging a hole for a sheep that died.

EYES ON YOU, by Claire

This term, the scientists at both campuses looked at how the eye works. We turned the world upside down and back-to-front, pondered why pirates wear patches, and produced pieces of art on the parts of the eye.



The Eyes Have It

ENGLISH, by Faye

The longer I teach, the greater becomes the awe I feel about the English language. Despite the common belief, English is in fact a systematic language. Critics have just not looked carefully enough. Each level brings its own unique satisfaction for the student and for the teacher. So, what have we been doing in English classes?

It is a privilege to have witnessed the Tinies' joy in discovering that they can read. Like children of all cultures through the ages, our children want to be able to do what they see their adults valuing.

Littlies find that they can readily understand what they found challenging one year ago. Spelling becomes a serious weekly task.

Juniors have greater fluency, and with this, greater joy in reading and writing.

Middlies work on a variety of text types, discovering the power of words when used well. Language analysis begins.

And Biggies put into practice all aspects of language: they read, they write, they speak. Literary analysis starts in earnest. And Poetry remains

central at all levels, bringing joy in literature, memory training, and clear articulation.



ON HER WAY TO THE TOP, by Baber (Vasylyna's dad)

Vasylyna has always loved climbing! Since she was 1, she has climbed doors, ladders, walls, and trees. She first started indoor rock climbing at 5. Recently, her coach asked her to compete in the Victoria State Titles (under 10-year olds) – she finished 2nd! Well done, Vasylyna!

PEDAL POWER, by Edward (Yr 6)

This term's Bike Camp was great fun. We rode 42km from Meredith to Dereel, and 42km back again. At the halfway mark we swam in a cool pond with a creek running into it. When not riding, we played cricket and hung around the Tree Farm. There is another Bike Camp coming up in fourth term, and I hope that all the Biggies volunteer to go.

BACK-YARD MARBLE RUN, by Netti

Marbles have been very popular with the younger boys this term. The dearth of marbles in week 1, and the accompanying sad faces, instigated a quick trip to K-Mart to rectify the situation. Luckily, they now come in boxes containing several hundred. Even so, the tray now boasts just

20 or so, necessitating a massive marble hunt, akin to an Easter Egg hunt (without the eating at the end!) for the last day of term. These future engineers are learning about balance, support, co-operation (mostly!), and having lots of fun. Any keen-eyed op-shoppers who can find more wooden marble tracks over the holidays will grow exponentially in these children's estimation!

TRIBE OUTINGS, by Sue Smith

This term our Tribe outings on Fridays have taken us by tram to the Fitzroy Gardens for tree climbing, running, and wandering through stunning flower displays; by bus to The Royal Children's Hospital playground for water play, slides and great climbing; and by foot along the Merri Creek to Ceres for exploration, and running and hiding amongst the maze of vegetable plots! It's always good to get outside and unwind. It has been especially enjoyable to see the attention and generosity from the older children towards the younger ones. At the start of the year, these outings are a great opportunity for buddies to



get to know each other. Thanks to all of you who have looked out for your younger buddies when we were out and about!

CURIOUS AFFECTION, by Faye and Philip

Curious Affection is the name of Patricia Piccinini's (mother of Hector, 2017, and Roxy) latest exhibition of works now showing until the end of August at the Brisbane Gallery of Modern Art. The accomplishment of this extraordinary exhibition took two and a half years,

during which Patricia worked in collaboration with her husband, Peter Hennessey. We were invited by Patricia to come and view the exhibits with her while stopping at Brisbane on the way to Singapore. We were delighted with the works and Patricia's profound conversation with us. The works bring humans and other animals and imaginary life-forms into intimate contact. And now, her work is also integrating living creatures with machines. The petty discriminations amongst humans fall far out of





sight as we contemplate our past and future connections with other beings. With this exhibition, Patricia is rightly honoured as one of Australia's foremost artists.

GOOD SPORTS

Well done to everyone who participated in a very fun Sports Day. Sportsmanship was high as friends were transmuted into foe for the pleasure of the battle, and then back again. Thank you to Pete Behrendorff (father of Harvey and Elva) for taking the lead in organising this event.

BRUNSWICK MIDLIES AT WILD DOG, by Claire

The Brunswick St Middlies had another action-packed and sun-soaked camp at Wild Dog. Hours were spent at the dam, paddling around whilst Ziggy B and Ziggy M clocked up 301 jumps off the jetty in 24 hours! When back at base, the children used their wiley ways to avoid being assassinated by everyday

objects, and battled each other with noodle light sabres. Thank you to the Wild Dog hosts for such a wonderful adventure playground.

THE ALBINO, By Will Berryman (Yr 5)

I was leading a group of explorers up the Amazon River in search of unknown or undiscovered species of animals. My particular interest was amphibians, especially crocodilians. We had already caught three types of turtle, one of which I think was unknown - an impressive little snapping fellow. One of my crew was lowering a new snare (a whole chicken and a noose) when something large and white launched out of the water, took the crew member by the arm, and dragged him into the water. As I ran over to help, I saw the creature start a death roll and I realised it was a crocodile - a white crocodile. Desperation filled me. Of course, I wanted to save my crew member, but even more I wanted to catch the white

crocodile. In the end, it took us three days to capture the white crocodile. The crocodile turned out to be an albino, very rare and valuable. Even though we never found the body of our crewman, the expedition was still counted as a great success.



YOU BEAUTY!

Daisy has been selected to perform in Sleeping Beauty at the Comedy Theatre. Dates will be put up at school for July. Well done, Daisy!

CULTURAL HISTORY IN 2018, by Philip

Schools are called upon to teach too many subjects. Only a few can be inserted into a curriculum. As a result, many children learn nothing at all about important areas of human knowledge. For our senior students, we have made a slot on the timetable for what we call Cultural History. We explore cultures, ideas, physical phenomena, and discoveries. This stirs the young appetite



Flower Girls and Boys



for further learning. This year's subjects will be drawn from the following pool: Mapping a sphere; insects; substances; influential historical civilisations; history of government; the Australian federal electoral system; old English pronouns; five religions of the world; the solar system; logic and rhetoric; essential conventions in maths; world trade; water; flight; evolution; heat transfer; states of matter; icebergs; and tsunamis.

CHESS MATES, by Tabitha (mother of Amber, Jett, and Doris at Normanby Ave)

An enthusiastic group of 18 kids from both campuses travelled to an interschool chess tournament at St Bridget's Primary School. The standard of play was very high, with some stiff competition. There were also a few students who appeared to be new to the game (not ideal in a competition setting), but it was good to see our kids helping out their opponents if they didn't know how to move their pieces (sometimes even telling them how to make a capture!). Isaac and Ziggy B did particularly well, winning medals in their respective age groups. Arno

and Jarrah both succeeded in winning a massive five out of seven of their games. Credits were also earned by Rafael, Rufus, Amber Rose, Abigail, Jett, Uta and Harvey C. What fun!

DONATION TO SYRIA, by Clotilde
Thank you to the students who completed the fundraiser run in Term 4 last year. They raised \$1700 to help children in Syria with basic needs, including food, clothes, and education. The war in Syria is now into its seventh year. Despite the extreme tragedy, the Archbishop of Damascus sent us a thank-you card with a quote from St Paul: "If I have no love I'm nothing. Love is patient and kind. Love is happy with the truth. Three remain: Faith, Hope and Love... The greatest is Love."

CLASSIC BIGGIES CAMP, by Jono
Kyneton camp was an all immersive boot camp of activities. Some highlights that come to mind were "The Kyneton Tennis Open", some hearty games of cricket, and of course the vigorously-contested Canoe Wars. There were also more sedentary activities, such as Poker, Detective, Mafia, and film nights (where we

were schooled on the simple pleasures of the haiku). We were even graced by cameos from some kangaroos and an echidna. But the real stars were the Biggies themselves. So here is a haiku for them: *The weather spot on; The company was better; Classic Biggies Camp!*

GUESS WHO?

The young girl in the last newsletter (Summer 2017) was Janelle! Have a look at this strapping lad and try to guess who he is. Clue: He's still strapping! Another clue: Although too old to be a Digital Native, he's sure made up for it.

