

# NEWS LETTER



## Upcoming Dates

### Normanby Ave Play

Thursday 11th June  
at 7pm- Renaissance  
Theatre, Kew High

### Mid-Term Break (no school)

Friday 22nd May

### School Photo

Wednesday 27th May- Norm Ave  
Friday 5 June- Brunswick St

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# AUTUMN 2020

## **Faye Berryman AM (Member of the Order of Australia), by Phillip**

*"awarded for significant services to education, literacy and community"*

Congratulations to Faye on receiving the AM. What a happy surprise! Faye has a long list of contributions to education, literacy and community. Her list of accomplishments are long and many, not least the founding of Fitzroy Community School, the creation of the Fitzroy Readers literacy method and the education of many hundreds of children over more than four decades. In all of her work with children, she has aimed to enhance their English ability (and love of literature), social skills and self-confidence. Faye has also trained over 500 student teachers during her teaching career.

Faye (and Philip's) Fitzroy Method for literacy started with the writing of the stories in a framework that incorporated a clear and logical introduction to our language. It is hard to summarise a life's journey in a snapshot, but here are two snippets. One is Faye's joy when a tiny tot gains the ability to read

their first story. Faye, in sharing this first step to literacy sparkles with joy and enthusiasm in her re-telling. Another special moment in her journey as a literacy warrior was the time she spent in a youth detention centre. The English teacher there was successfully using the Fitzroy Readers and wrote to Faye that it would mean a lot to the young men there if Faye could visit. These young men were excited in their achievement and the progress they were making with the Fitzroy Readers after many years of failed academic pursuits. Faye's work has lifted the literacy of unknown thousands of children.

Last year brought the launch of Fitzroy Community School – The Book in China, where it quickly gained a greater readership than in Australia, and is helping bring many new schools and new ideas into the Chinese education landscape. Another accolade is the many educators inspired and supported by Faye in the opening of their own schools. John Marsden heads a significant list of Australian principals who credit Faye with inspiring and supporting him in opening his school. Finally, a big thank you to the anonymous nominees, those who put Faye's name forward for this honour. Congratulations Faye Berryman AM, on recognition well deserved.

### **KYNETON CAMP, by Jono**

Biggies camp in Kyneton is one I always look forward to. In fact, to call it a camp is a bit of a stretch. It's more like a luxurious health retreat. I mean the land is pretty cool, but it's hard to play tennis, then have a sauna, followed by a facial. Ok, I might have skipped the facial - but I've heard it on good account that Greta's beauty salon is one of the most reputable in all of country Victoria! Now that I think of it, Greta's dinners are delicious as well. All of the food at Kyneton was "Yum, Yum", as Justin Bieber would say. The giant games of cricket and Mafia were also super fun, fun. Most importantly, the Biggies were fantastic company. They are a great mix this year. Some of the consistent core ingredients that make up this group appear to be thoughtfulness, humour, intelligence and kindness. I reckon that could lead to a pretty fine year.

### **YOGA, with Miranda**

On Tuesdays after school something very special happens in the Eyrie - yoga! We lucky people get to take an hour out

of our day to set up a beautiful and fun space where we relax, meditate, stretch, strengthen and balance. Sometimes we take it easy and do restful postures; sometimes we challenge ourselves by finding different ways of going upside down. Last week the inspiration was to make the Om symbol with our bodies. The session always ends with a peaceful five minutes of relaxation.

### **DRAWING CLASSES, by Nikki**

This year I have started an

after-school art class for older students who are serious about drawing. It has been very exciting to see the beautiful artwork that these students have already produced so far this year. They all seem very committed to improving their skills which fills me with pride and joy.

### **NAPLAN**

NAPLAN will not be conducted this year.



### **HOCKEY, by Warren**

In term 1 the children have been learning the basics of hockey. With support from the Sporting Schools program, Hockey Victoria have run several hockey clinics throughout the term. The kids have learnt how to beat the 'hocktopus', keep their sticks on the ground, go 'round the world and dribble past the cops and robbers. The highlight was playing some proper hockey in the final sessions. Thanks to Alex and Antonio from Hockey Victoria for running the sessions.

**NORMANBY AVENUE BIGGIES  
MANSFIELD CAMP, by Greta**

From the 10th till the 14th of February Wayne, Tim, James and I had the pleasure of taking the Normanby Avenue Biggies on the first ever Mansfield Camp. The kids had a wonderful week hanging out at the Mansfield Country Resort: playing tennis, squash and mini golf, swimming in the pool, doing mud masks in the lake and enjoying the giant spa. We also went for a lovely bush walk around Mount Buller and enjoyed a picnic in the Mansfield town-ship. The students had a fun week bonding as the 2020 Biggies while relishing the luxurious 'camp' setting.

**A FLYING VISIT FROM JAPAN, by  
Netti**

In December Riho's family made a flying visit (3 days!) to Melbourne. Grandma - Kuniko, Father - Hiroya, Mother - Rumiko, older brother Fumiya and younger brother Ryoya. They all enjoyed a BBQ at Keith and Netti's house and then played some basketball at a local court. Warren and Clare's son, Django, made them very welcome. Riho's brothers were sorry that Django had to go home to bed and couldn't join the basketball trip! It was a lovely evening-

sadly, a very brief time for them here - like all families they have busy lives with work, sport, school/university. We hope they can all return at some stage.

Riho has sent her best wishes to all at FCS and wants us to know she is thinking of us.



**A VISITOR, by Ru Efron  
(Brunswick St Biggie)**

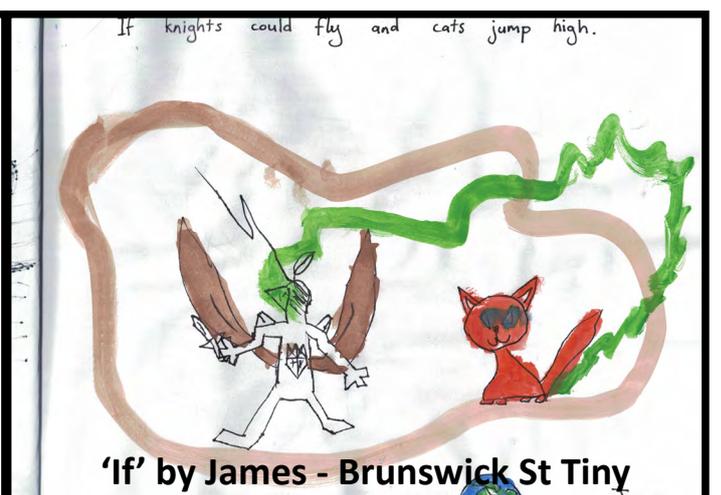
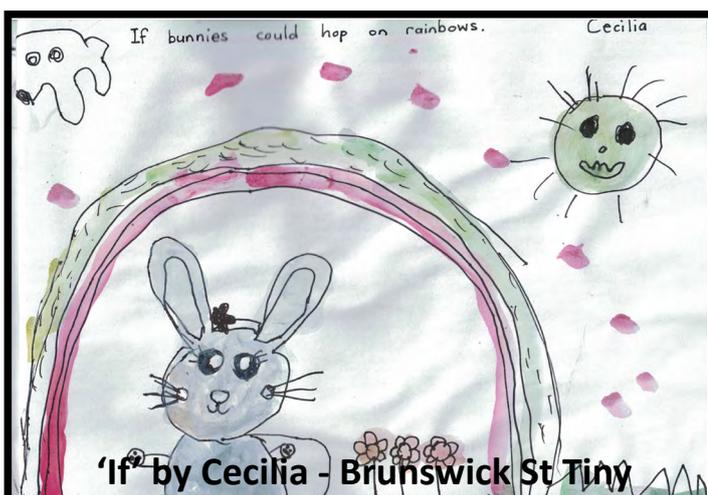
*I have a visitor. This visitor comes every night in my dreams. This visitor is a blue monkey who can sing and dance in the trees. Every night we swing through the jungle together. We laugh and sing until we get tired. Then we go back to my room to read stories to each other and eat bananas which we pick from the jungle. I love these visits and I am always sad when he has to go, but I know that he will come back very soon.*

*One day I realised that although we were together every night I*

*had never been to his house. That night I asked him to take me to his. He did. It was the loveliest house I had ever seen. It was inside a big tree that had beautiful big leaves. We went inside and he started showing me around. He had lots of lovely things, but there was one thing that was very peculiar. It was a golden cloud that was floating in the middle of the room. I asked him about it, and he said that if you got into it, it would take you to a land of happiness. I said we should try it and he agreed. As we took off in the golden cloud, I felt happy because I was now his special visitor as he was mine.*

**BRUNSWICK STREET TINIES  
PICNIC, by Sue**

Our inaugural Tinies' Picnic this term was a terrific success! Meeting at the playground in Edinburgh Gardens on a warm Sunday afternoon, our young ones had fun playing together while the adults had a chance to meet and mingle while sharing delicious food. As a past parent, I was reminded of the lovely supportive relationships we developed with our fellow parents as together we witnessed the growth of our 'Tinies' into 'Biggies'! Thanks to everyone, including siblings and older FCS students, who made the day such fun.





**The lovely Faye, doing what she does best- drinking tea!**

**WILD DOG, by Alyssa Chandry  
(Normanby Avenue Middlie)**

*The wind blows in the sky,  
the sun has risen high,  
I hear the birds singing,  
I see the grasshoppers springing,  
this is Wild Dog but there are no  
wild dogs.*

**HOLIDAY READING**

To continue on with the Biggies' holiday reading, we ask that over this break grade 5 students read Ian Serraillier's "The Silver Sword" and grade 6s Elizabeth Laird's "Welcome to Nowhere". These will be discussed in the second week of term two with Tim.

**GIRLS CRICKET WORLD CUP  
GALA DAY, by Viktor**

On Wednesday March 11,

hot on the heels of the World Cup triumph of the Australian Women's Cricket Team, Cricket Victoria ran a Gala Day on the oval across the road from school. FCS sent five girls teams to square off against North Fitzroy, Spensley Street and Merri Creek. Our year 3, 4, 5 and 6 girls did a great job in the warm autumn sun. Many hadn't played much cricket before, but they applied effort and skill to the games I saw. I felt like a 'tiger coach' on the sidelines, but there were some mighty sixes and excellent catches to cheer. Go girls, go!

**MIDLIES CAMP A, by Maya  
(Brunswick St Middlie)**

*On camp we created a play with  
all the kids. It was about a rich  
girl who was forced to steal from*

*the bank by an evil policewoman.  
It was heaps of fun! We had lots  
of fun at the dam as well. There  
was a paddle-board that the  
neighbours had left for us. We  
played Spotto every night and  
ate lots of yummy food. We had  
sausages on the first night, and  
curry with pappadums on the  
second night. The boys went  
apple and berry picking and  
made a pie – it was great! We  
won Spotto because we were  
too smart for the teachers.*

**RESIDENT PIANIST, by Faye**

Michael Leslie performed at both Brunswick St and Normanby Avenue meetings. We were held spellbound as we listened to Bach's "Two Part Invention" rippling under the fingers of Michael Leslie, a Beethoven expert! Michael is grandfather of Amber J, at Normanby Campus. Since being in Australia Michael has given two public concert performances. At meeting, not only were we feasted to a concert, but Michael, a most engaging teacher, led the children in a music appreciation class. He broke the Bach into its small segments in order to demonstrate the intricate variations of the main theme and its inversion. Following this 'Masterclass', Michael again played the work. Now, with their new listening skills, the children agreed they enjoyed the piece more. Thank you, Michael.

**ADDING TO THE SCHOOLING  
LANDSCAPE**

Fitra Community School and Village High School opened their doors at the start of February. We congratulate Saadia in founding Fitra in Clayton and Fiona on her new venture in Archies Creek.



Aya.K



Olivia



Zevi

### ART WITH JO

This term the Normanby Avenue Tinies read Graeme Base's wonderful story, *The Waterhole*. We counted, marvelled at the different animals and predicted what was happening in the story, all before creating waterholes of our own. They are on show in the artroom!

### CAMP B, by Clara (Brunswick St Middle)

*On camp, half of the Middlies went to Wild Dog. It was so much fun! When we got there James made us walk up a really steep hill. We came back covered in mud. That night we had meat-balls for dinner. The girls slept in a massive tent and the boys slept in the barn. The next day we went black berry picking; we got a lot of scratches! That night we ate tacos for dinner and then we played Spotto. The next day, when we were driving up the driveway, we got bogged in the mud- it took us 2 hours to get the bus out! We were so happy to be back at school after such a fun camp.*

### CROSS COUNTRY TRAINING

The term has seen cross-country running as part of the Biggies weekly schedule, with Tim, Warren and Viktor (and a

number of guests) running around Edinburgh Gardens or Princes Park with the children. The level of commitment is high, encouragement higher, and fitness developing. Well done Biggies.

### NORMANBY AVENUE OUTINGS, with Kate

Some things cannot be learned in a classroom. Wednesday outings provide the possibility and the time to follow one's curiosity... and so much more! We never know exactly how outings will play out, though common elements of these days include connecting with nature, dramatic play, camaraderie, friendship and fun. I am amazed at how each outing is unique. Different groups of children use their time differently, even if we return to places we have visited before. This term we have

spent time exploring Darebin Creek and Merri Creek as well as visiting the National Gallery of Victoria and the Melbourne Museum. Oh, the wonder of Wednesdays!

### SONG BY THE WOMBATS, by Warren

The Brunswick St Wombats exercised their song writing skills creating the following verse. Please note, it sounds better spoken out aloud than read! Enjoy

*Pomegranate-and-smashed  
banana smoothie  
It's good with frozen berry  
cream  
Yummy yummy in my tummy  
None left for you!*



Amber, Stella and Zoe playing in the rain

### **2020 Biggies, by Tim**

This year has started really well, due in no small part to the caring and supportive leadership shown by the Biggies. The new Tinies have been especially well looked after, but the care has not been exclusively directed to the smallest children at the school, the Biggies (at both campuses) have made an ongoing effort to bring a culture of care and support to all.

### **LIFTING SPIRITS, by Sue**

One of the loveliest parts of my week is taking two or three students at a time to visit Rita in Rathdowne Place Nursing Home. Rita is not particularly happy to be living in an institution - but rather resigned to the extra care and support she needs as she approaches 90 years of age. She is a perfect fit with our community school as she is always questioning the status quo so that it is good for people and emphasizes the need for connection to one another!

Rita is delighted to spend time with the children chatting, playing cards and sharing stories. Our children are so open-hearted and at ease with her, following her around as if they had always been connected. Recently Lexie made her day by greeting her fluently in Italian! Elva was also able to converse in Italian which was fun. Teddy and Stirling taught Rita how to play Uno and she taught us the names of the colours in Italian! Last week, Nellie and Ivan taught Rita how to play "Go Fish" which was fun for all. It is a joy to see the goodness spreading across the generations.



**Outings with Kate**

### **THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD, by Claire**

The topic for this term has been the Scientific Method and the steps that are involved. Some gummy bears may have been sacrificed in the name of Science! The Brunswick Street Junior scientists have looked at the importance of accurate measurement and the recording of results. The Littlies have an ongoing project that started last year, called The Stinky Science Tray, where weird and wonderful things are added each week and observations are made. They are determined to keep it going until they are Biggies! And the Tinies have got to grips with mixtures and some scientific thinking - food colouring always adding to the excitement.

The Normanby Avenue scientists have been very lucky this term to have a guest scientist, Scott (Alyssa's father) to deliver the nitty gritty on a number of topics that often led down some wonderful rabbit holes of intrigue. It seems that there is no question that he cannot answer. Thank you, Scott. You are AWESOME.

### **CHESS, with Grant**

For those of you wanting to continue honing your chess skills over the holidays, Grant is offering Skype based lessons. If you are interested, please contact him directly on 0401 925 075 or [grantszuveges@gmail.com](mailto:grantszuveges@gmail.com)

### **CENTRAL ASIAN ADVENTURES**

All children, and many parents, were fascinated and certainly amazed by the movie presentation of the three-month trek through Central Asia made by Mary, Viktor and their three children: Solomon (2017), Romany (Brunswick St Biggie) and Ilaria (Brunswick St Middlie). Their extraordinary journey was made in canoes, on horseback and on foot. It was fascinating to experience, through their eyes, such different cultures. Thank you, Mary, Viktor and children, for opening our eyes to situations so far removed from our lives, and for demonstrating what it is possible for adventurers to do.

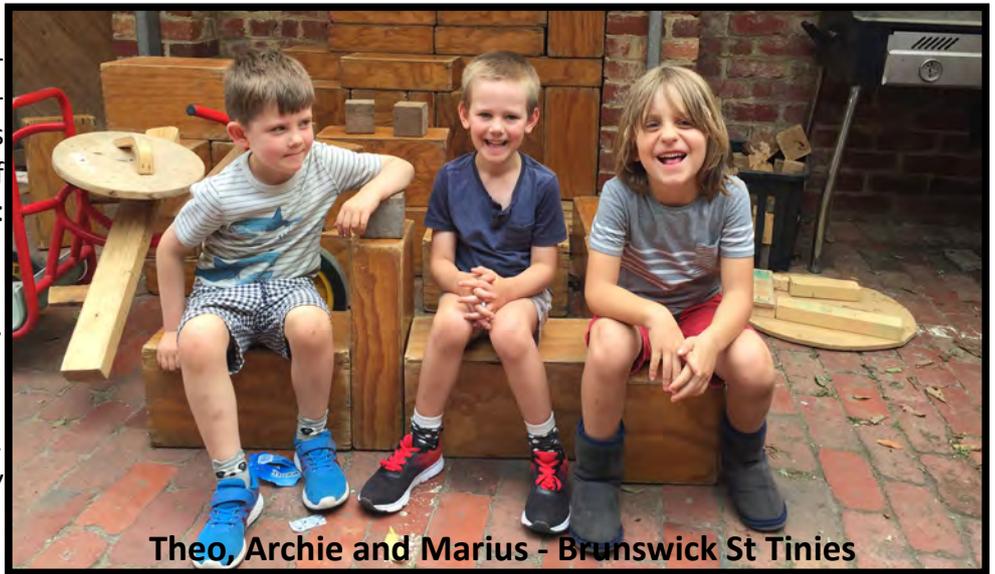
Solomon has written a powerful poem reflecting his response to the circumstances in which the Uyghur people of Xinjiang region find themselves:

*Head down, shoulders slouched.  
My spirit beaten  
like a wild horse  
subdued by the bite of the whip.  
They know my name, they know  
my face,  
they know my prints, they know  
my gait.*

*Shuffling, eyes glazed,  
down camera lined streets,  
prey, under the eyes of the  
dragon.  
Surveyed with endless malice.  
Searching, searching,  
for a hint of dissent.*

*I have nothing,  
naught but the sanctuary of  
mind.  
But what was secure,  
is now under siege.*

*This body a veil,  
that cloaks within,  
a swelling tide of convulsing ire,  
burning my soul, a raging fire.*



**Theo, Archie and Marius - Brunswick St Tinies**

### **CAMPS FOR NEXT TERM**

The Brunswick St Lions and Tigers camps, and the Normanby Avenue Falcons and Kestrels camps have been cancelled for next term. All other camps will be re-assessed closer to their scheduled date.

### **THANK YOU**

A heartfelt thank you to our Japanese intern Riho for her presence around school over the eight months. We already miss you and look fondly to seeing you one day.

Greta, it was great to have you around school briefly this year, Tim.

### **To our dear school community,**

We wish you all the best. The last weeks have been challenging on many fronts with difficult decisions and significantly heightened anxiety. We hope that the quiet time so many of you are now experiencing is a time of bonding and connection, and that your families and our community, despite the significant challenges many of us face, emerge stronger.

Best wishes,

Timothy and the whole FCS team



**Romany and Ilaria with Ilara and her little sister**



**Teddy, Stirling and Rita**