

# NEWS LETTER



## SPRING 2024

### Upcoming Dates

**First Day Term 2**  
Tue 8 Oct

**Normanby Ave Tinies Camp**  
Thu 10 - Fri 11 Oct

**Normanby Ave Play**  
Tue 22 Oct 1pm & 7pm  
Wed 23 Oct 7pm  
Richmond Theatrette

**Melbourne Cup Holiday**  
Mon-Tue 4-5 Nov

**Brunswick St Graduation Concert**  
Mon 9 Dec 7pm  
Richmond Theatrette

**Normanby Ave Graduation Concert**  
Wed 11 Dec 7pm  
Richmond Theatrette

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### NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations Berengere & David, who welcomed baby Marco last holidays. Charlotte and Paul seem very proud of their little brother!



Marco

Astrid Gardner (FCS 2004) with Partner Mark Bonnichsen also welcomed baby Kasper Stig on August 6th, and Samantha Neesham (FCS 2007) and partner Alex Gibson had baby Theodore on July 17. Congratulations all!



baby Theodore

### BHUTAN VISIT

by Kate (Mum of Theo & Josie)

Lhatu, director of the Gross National Happiness Centre of Bhutan, visited and talked to Brunswick Street Middlies & Biggies. Lhatu shared that his visit was a deeply meaningful exchange and an experience he'll always remember.



I personally felt a deep sense of pride being there with the children. Lhatu was warmly welcomed and experienced a group of polite, fully engaged children who brought intelligent and thoughtful questions to the discussion. Finally, a special thank you to Nick for your beautiful facilitation.



## NORMANBY MIDLIES CAMP

by Miranda

Middlies Mystery Camp was blessed with three days of blue skies and sunshine. A lucky group of ten kids headed down the Peninsula for three nights. The weather was sunny but the water was freezing! This did not deter Miranda and some brave



kids from taking a winter dip. We jumped off the pier at Rye, had a dip at Bushrangers Bay and waded out to a pontoon in Sorrento. The children enjoyed challenging themselves to jump in the cold water. Another highlight was the trip to the ruins at Point Nepean where we gained an insight into how the soldiers lived during the war. Lastly, we all scored some great bargains at the local op-shops.



## PRINT MAKING with Steph

The Biggies have been learning about printmaking using lino-mats and carving tools, displaying great skill, patience and creativity in this artform. The students focused on animal and plant imagery as a source of inspiration.



## HOLLYWOOD AT BRUNSWICK STREET

Special guest Fulbright Specialist Heather Massie visited Brunswick St through a connection with past parent Helen. Heather was touring with her one woman theatre show, "Hedy! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr" and made a pit stop at our school. The Biggies and Middlies enjoyed their time with Heather and her theatre



skills workshop. Heather was impressed with the children, their welcome, attention and thoughtful contributions.

## HOLIDAY READING

Books for the children to read – plus at least one of your own choice

**Middlies:** The Naughtiest Girl In The School (Enid Blyton)

**Year 5s:** My Side Of The Mountain (Jean Craighead George)

**Year 6s:** The Silver Sword (Ian Serrellier)

## BRUNSWICK STREET

TINIES CAMP by Tim



It is unclear if this was a camp or a 24-hour eating escapade. Parents brought along the full gourmet Melbourne experience, which is even tastier when cooked on a fire and consumed in the fresh air. The kids had a great time, especially enjoying getting their socks and shoes wet in the creek while chatting



to each other. Marshmallows were enjoyed on the campfire, while the parents connected in the quiet bush setting. The



Tinies were independent and happy in each other's company, making the camp a very easy and successful one, and a good way to launch them into next term's camp without a parent.



## ALIA COLLEGE TURNS 25

by Faye

On Saturday, 14th September, Alia College celebrated its 25th Birthday. Husband and wife team, Bob Morgan and Lesley Donelan, founders of Alia College, were warmly and gratefully affirmed by the large number of attendees.



Bob & wife Leslie

In his speech, Bob acknowledged the inspiration and support that Fitzroy Community School had given him. He went on to describe Fitzroy Community School as a lifesaver for his son, Andrew who joined FCS in year two, and was followed by his sister and younger brother. Son Andrew who had struggled at school prior to his move to FCS is now Dr Andrew Morgan at The University of Melbourne. We congratulate Alia on 25 years of dedicated work with children.



Bob, Leslie, Philip & Faye

## TINIES, LITTLES AND JUNIORS SCIENCE

Chemistry has been this term's topic. You may have heard stories and seen brightly coloured tongues come home as we made a coloured edible slime using a polymer called alginic acid. We observed evaporation, crystallisation and filtration. Sandy, muddy, salty mixtures



have been returned to their base components. Hypotheses have been tested and questions explored, such as 'can you pour gas?' And 'what happens when you tip cold water upside down?' We've discussed and designed our experiments to be fair tests so that what we observe and measure is correct.

## GRAMPIANS CAMP

by Tim

This camp again returned to Halls Gap and the northern Grampians. Our walks included Chatequa Peak, Sundial Peak and the Pinnacle, MacKenzie Falls and Beehive Falls and then to Briggs Bluff. Aside from these walks, we also played quite a lot of netball and enjoyed some marvellous meals, read stories and even did a little bit of maths. A big thanks to those families who sent along snacks and meals. The kids put in a sterling effort, especially the Middlies,

with a few reporting jelly legs at the end of the longer walks. The children commented on the amazing views, rock formations and rock-scrambles, with a few acknowledging that they discovered they were stronger and more able than they had known. A special shout out to Hugh for being a super helper across the whole week.

## JUNIORS PASSION PROJECTS

by Craig

Passion Projects this term focused on developing and enriching ideas surrounding favourite zoo animals. The design brief was to come up with a plan to either encourage the animals to behave or move as they would in nature or to captivate their senses. Ideas included orangutan hammocks, underwater seal mazes and a new penguin enclosure.



The Juniors researched their favourite animals before visiting Melbourne Zoo to further their ideas and designs. These were then further developed back at school. The results have been creative and impressive. Alongside the finished products and presentations, I've especially enjoyed observing the Juniors' empathy spike at times throughout the project and a keen desire to improve the lives of their favourite zoo animals.





## TINIES, LITTLES AND JUNIORS FRIDAY PARK OUTING – by Craig

Friday afternoons usually see Miranda and I with the Lions and Tigers in the park. Each week sees them more deeply interacting with their surrounds. This park time is a mix of excitement, exploration and also calm. Dismembered possum



tail, dormant dragonflies and butterflies are discovered while cubbies and washing machines built, shops opened and trees



climbed. The unbridled spirits of the children are a joy to observe.



## BONSAI by Steph

The craze of Bonsai has hit FCS! The Littlies and Middlies participated in Bonsai workshops run by Penny (Raph and Hugo's grandma) and her friend Neil (Bonsai enthusiast).



They ran through the history of Bonsai, and demonstrated great patience with our budding gardeners. A big thank you to Penny and Neil for their time and expertise.



## INTER-SCHOOL NETBALL by Tim

The Biggies combined campus netball team won the District netball competition at Fairlea Netball Centre, qualifying for Division level competition in MacLeod, where they finished a close second. All made stellar efforts at both of these events, were good sports and encouraging team-mates.

## FLOWER ARRANGING by Sue

One Friday morning, after a short meditation practice, the Year 4's tried their flair for flower arranging. The idea was to carry the awareness and steadiness from the meditation into an activity. First, to select a vase and then, free of ideas about a particular result, to simply



enjoy the detail and beauty of the flowers. I was inspired by the care and attention from everyone as they formed their creations. Finally, and happily, the activity concluded by finding a spot around the school to add a little beauty. Look out for more floral artistry next term!



Sheltering from the storm



## NUMURKAH CAMP

The Brunswick Street Biggies, with the addition of Abi and Khadija from Normanby, spent a week in Numurkah with Tim and Gabby. The week included many games of mini-golf, tennis, pool, air-hockey and table-tennis, and countless hours in the pool and spa. The kids were fun, helpful



and independent. The children contributed to preparation of all meals and cleanups, continually offering to help or just jumping in. Tim remarked that it is first time he's ever been away and not needed to do any post-child cleaning as it was done to a very good standard. Another pleasing aspect was independence of the kids.

## MIDLIES HOOP TIME by Keith



25 Middlies and one Junior headed to Coburg Stadium on 13th September for Middlies Hoop Time. All three Rookie teams played six games...most of which were close tussles (some against each other), and the All Stars won the day! Thanks to our three coaches Jono, Nadine and Michael and the parents who acted as scorers.

## OUTINGS by Steph

We recently volunteered as gardeners at Darebin Parklands. The Tinies, Littlies and Juniors all helped to plant wildflowers and natives in the rehabilitation areas of Darebin Park, while also helping to pull out weeds. Kim, the park ranger, was so impressed that she's invited the kids back. Thank you to Michael (Flo's Dad) for both his help and expertise.



## PHARAOH EXHIBITION AT NGV

by Kate

The Normanby Avenue Littlies and Juniors were fortunate enough to visit the Pharaoh Exhibition at the NGV International this term, hosted as a series of magnificent display spaces, connected by atrium-like corridors. It was an immersive experience fit for a Pharaoh, replete with atmospheric lighting, architectural additions and a regal soundscape. The children dubbed their favourite space "the water room" where we experienced aqua-coloured lighting that



shimmered & was reflected on textured mirrored columns. Also on display was ancient jewellery, intricately decorated coffins and a range of weapons. The children enjoyed trying to interpret hieroglyphs.



Thanks to Kerry, Misha's grandmother, for accompanying us on this outing, and for sharing so many insights, thoughts and ideas with the children.

## DUMPLINGS

Thanks to Phoenix and Rita for visiting and making delicious dumplings for everyone!



## BRUNSWICK STREET SOIREE

by Tim

Performances at the Soiree ranged from beginner to semi-professional. Travis entertained with some honky-tonk piano, Patrick had the whole audience singing along, and Lucas and Ivan looked amazing and played accordingly. A really fun night.



## BIGGIES HOOP TIME

by Keith

Thanks to all who helped make HoopTime a great success. The Biggies just missed out on a Grand Final place, despite some amazing shooting by Seb and Ben. Halftime witnesses a mind boggling buzzer beater by Ben from 2/3rds back on the court. Keith shared that in 50 years of coaching Junior basketball he's never seen such a shot!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TCS

Tokyo Community School celebrates its 20th birthday this year. The connection to TCS comes via Rachel who shared the FCS story, playing a part in connecting an idea with our school here in Melbourne. Faye shared a congratulatory message that we are 'thrilled to send congratulations to their sister school on a successful 20 years of existence... and delighted to know that in a world desperate for connection that another small, intimate schools exists, and concluded that 'we share a vision of raising good, well- rounded people for our world.'



## JOKES

by The Brunswick St Middlies

What do you call a horse that rides at night in people's minds?  
A nightmare



What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?  
Frostbite



What do you call a cow with no legs?  
Ground beef



What is something that cries but doesn't have eyes?  
A cloud

What has four wheels and flies?  
A rubbish truck



Faye's Birthday

## ART with Steph

Art class followed the topic of Botany with some amazing creations inspired by plants. The kids drew botanical illustrations, weaved baskets from cotton thread, made gum-nut puppets, and used the pigment in plants to die fabric which was then



make into bags. We used onion skins, oxalis flowers, avocado, cabbage and vinegar to achieve beautiful and unexpected colours when soaked, steamed or pounded into fabric.



## WHERE IN THE WORLD...?

Can anyone guess where these FCS families are gathered, and who we are looking forward to seeing again soon?

