

*“People
before
things”*

October 2009

Ed. Paul Liknaitzky

Fitzroy Community School NEWSLETTER

Welcome Jhonan!

Alix Jackson (FCS Media) is a dad! Jode bravely brought Jhonan into the world in the wee hours of Saturday 26th September following an effort that would dwarf any Grand Final. He weighed in at 3.4kg and they are now both healthy and settling into this whole new world. A big congratulations to Alix and Jode and your families!



Jhonan, 4hrs old!

Welcome Weenies

We have a new mob of Weenies (the future Tinies of 2010) descending on us: Blake, Hector, Julia, Oliver, William, Xavier and Xaviere. Welcome gang!

Sports Day with Candlebark School

During term 3, in what was a first for both schools, we shared our Sports Day with Candlebark School. What a wonderful day we had! The competitions were fought with vigour and jocularly, and the roughly 150 people that swarmed around the FCS kitchen created a delightful buzz. Big thanks to the many helpers, the extra culinary hands, the cheering crowd, John Marsden and his positive crew, and especially to Casey, our student teacher, who organised this fun-filled and successful event. Hopefully, the first of many inter-school Sports Days. Maybe we'll be cross country running in Romsey next year....

Sports Day, Candlebark and FCS



Keith with Gold

In August, Keith and Jeannette travelled to The World Master's Athletics Championships (an Olympics for the temporally advanced) in Finland. Keith ran like the wind to win gold in the 100m (12.6 sec)! He didn't stop there in his prize-winning spree, winning silver in both the 200m and 400m, and bronze in the 4x400m relay! The spring chickens (some as young as 60) couldn't keep up with our 64 year old Flash Gordon. To cap it off, he won 2nd place in the *all ages* 440-yard run at the Scottish Highland Games at Loch Rannoch! Well done Keith! He really appreciated the efforts of Netty as Masseur, Manager and Chief Cheerleader whilst in Europe. "She really was a terrific help!" Keith and Nettie also enjoyed a relaxing holiday in Estonia, Scotland and England.



From Philip and Faye

We are amazed at the whole-hearted response of the school community to the loss of our school camp site of 28 years at the Land. Parents, students and friends, present and past, putting in so much effort, contributing generously on the night and just being there to add moral support. So many have done so much. We salute the school community.

It is very gratifying for us to realise from this event how many have so well understood the benefits of the Land. We will certainly feel encouraged in our efforts to restore the school camp site at the Land. The 250 steps are in. The land is cleared of debris. Dead trees have been felled. New trees are already 30cm high. A good second-hand Olympic size trampoline has been donated (we will buy a new mat for it). A roofed, gravity-operated toilet is already in place down below. Tents are next. Then

camp huts, wood shed, tanks...

We have already put in a water tank on a stand at the top of the land. This will eventually be part of the top house project, but for now will be filled (by truck) with drinking water. This will provide for school camps until we have roofs below. So it won't be too long now until children are again enjoying discovering their own viability at the New Land.

Cleaning Up The Land

Plenty of good cleaning work has been done at the Land, unstable trees have been felled and stumps for cabins have been dug in. The area is now safe for kids wearing shoes. A big thank you to those who have helped so far! If you would like to come lend a hand building cabins, chopping wood and other lighter jobs, the dates for Working Bees at The Land in Term 4 are: Saturday 10th October, Sunday 25th October, Saturday 7th November, Saturday 14th November and Sunday 6th December. Days start at the Land at 10am and usually finish up at about 4pm. Lifts are available from school at 8.30am. Please contact Pauline for details.



Kitchen Goddess

Big thank you to Amy Huon for filling in while Nettie was overseas. Stepping into big shoes, she showed good authority and a solidness that inspired confidence, while being fun and generous.

Baboons and Pigs

Sam Menzies, a music teacher and local performer, ran a few workshops in rap, beat-boxing and lyric writing with the Biggies. The kids learnt some good musical skills and really enjoyed the sessions. It appeared to be catchy stuff, with a few kids unable to stop

rapping “baboons and pigs” around school, words that can be voiced percussively as a beat-box line. Thank you Sam!

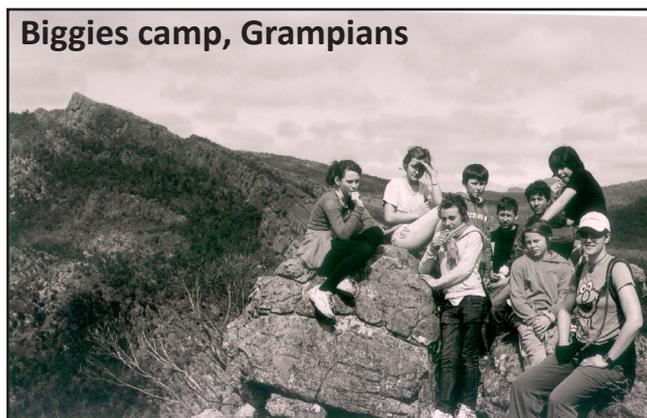
Student Teachers

We were lucky enough to have three wonderful student teachers in Term 3, all of whom made a positive contribution. Kirrily, who is a teacher at Blue Gum Community School in Canberra, was a wonderful energy and help on camp, and got the girls into playing footy! Claire is a student from Latrobe University who showed great initiative in Term 3, and will be with us a few more weeks in term 4. And Casey from Victoria University was a good help in various classes, and organised the highly entertaining Sports Day with Candlebark School. Thank you student teachers, and all the best in your teaching career!

Biggies Camp

A reflection by Kirrily: *I am a visiting student teacher from the ACT and I think I'm one of the luckiest student teachers going round... I got to go on camp! Being part of the Biggies Grampians Camp was both a pleasure and a privilege. The Biggies students, their maturity, their pleasant natures and their lease on life, make them a credit to their school community, their families and themselves. I thoroughly enjoyed camping, cooking, cleaning, climbing and chatting with them.*

The idea of a camp with very few formal, structured activities was quite intriguing to me at first. My background is in school camps with very formal activity structures, providing LOTS for kids to do. I wondered, would they bicker or get bored? Would they become destructive or distracted? And what exactly would they be learning? Well, it turns out they were never bored, they didn't bicker and were never distracted or destructive. Instead,



they were highly engaged with each other as people and friends. They were creative about their play options, their explorations and their discussions.

It seemed to me, they learnt a lot about how to be with each other; how to be in the bush; how to be with adults; how to be in the local community, and how to be content without the comforts and mod-cons they know from Melbourne life. Fitzroy Community School slows things down on camp. The pace of life changes and there is pleasure and learning experiences embedded within the simplest of things. Thanks to the Biggies and Tim B. for inviting me along and for reminding me to slow things down and to 'stop and smell the roses.' Camp was GREAT!

The Biggies were also given Maori names by Chris Capp on camp: David – Takapuna; Zak M – Manukau; Coco – Mokoia; Zak G – Pupuke; Lucas – Titirangi; Liz – Hinemoa; Paul – Pukekohe; Max – Minihaha.



FCS Goes To University

Our Middlies were taught some fun ensemble songs by music education students from Melbourne University over a few sessions. Among others, they produced redux versions of Pachelbel's Canon and The Lion Sleeps Tonight using various instruments, some made from basic household items, and voice. They showcased their work in a fantastic performance at the term 3 concert. Thanks Andrew and your team of students for making this opportunity available to our students. Littlies also were involved in a creative arts workshop at Melbourne Uni. The whole school will be doing creative arts and music workshops with Melbourne Uni in term 4.

Nat in Kunming

Natalie Haimon taught at Grace School in Kunming, China. She ran a program on creativity for the kids there.

From Nat: *My three weeks at Grace School was full of laughter, of breaking down language barriers through animated miming, simple games and lots of silliness! The Grace School kids were thrilled to have someone from FCS teaching them and so excited to have new games to learn. For the art class, I decided to make a DVD of Grace school and send it back to FCS as a 'Cultural Exchange Project'. All the kids thoroughly enjoyed making the DVD and are eagerly anticipating receiving some feedback from the FCS kids in the near future (to arrive on Melbourne shores in the next few months, after some editing).*

She was greatly loved, with a few of their children in tears when she left to continue her travels last week, and the vice-principal declaring that they would adopt some of her style and methods.



From FCS to Cambridge

Amy Prendergast (FCS: 1991) has won a scholarship to the University of Cambridge for a PhD at the Department of Archaeology. Her study will reconstruct changes in climate in Northern Africa over the last 200,000 years, and will help to answer important questions such as: *Did climate change affect the migration of humans from Africa to Europe? And how did ancient humans modify their behaviours and technologies to cope with climate change in the past?* Congratulations and all the best Amy!

Vote Myf

The Rainy Season by Myfanwy Jones (mother

of Marlon and Llew) has been shortlisted for the Best Writing Award 2009 in the Melbourne Prize for Literature. Congratulations and good luck Myf! You can vote for her book in the Civic Choice Award section of the competition at <http://tinyurl.com/votemyf>



O Captain, My Captain

Emma Lightfoot (FCS: 2008) was voted Class Captain at the Academy of Mary Immaculate by her peers 2 terms in a row. Well done Emma!

Congratulations Alia

From Philip: *Catherine and I attended Abbotsford Convent on 12th September for the 10th birthday celebration of Alia Secondary College, alternative secondary school.*

It was truly inspiring to see such a positive band of young people, past and present students of what started as the brave idea of Bob Morgan and his wife Lesley. Their children – Andrew, Ginevra and Benjamin – did primary at FCS. Bob and Lesley were very pleased with FCS and Bob, then a secondary Maths teacher, felt he should do something original by way of a new secondary school.

Alia emphasises academic progress and tries to replace regulation with personal responsibility for the individual student. It has provided an educational home for many fortunate young people. Bob and family have contributed to Melbourne something that is sorely lacking in the school industry – diversity (without which, choice in schooling doesn't mean very much). In his speech, Bob generously acknowledged FCS as the "grandfather" of Alia.

I asked Bob on the night, where do you go for school camps? "Anywhere, everywhere – I leave it to the students". Helet's

the students choose a location, gives them a budget and let's them organise the event. If the bus happens not to show on the day due to a lack of thoroughness in the planning, he considers that a valuable lesson for the students handling the event! Wow. In the best traditions of FCS. (No, we are not going to put our primary kids in charge of organising events! Well, we might let them do bits of it, with some supervision.)

Bravo, Bob and family. Three cheers for Alia. We are a very proud grandfather. Alia has 75 students and is at 405 Tooronga Road, Hawthorn East. For more info, see www.alia.vic.edu.au

Middlies Shooting

The Middlies basketball squad, FCS Flames, showed great team spirit and produced four wins and a draw from five games in the Hoop time tournament at Albert Park on 22nd July. A great result for the high flying team, coached by Keith. Thanks to Sofie for driving and keeping score, Jono for being assistant coach, and the parents who came down to cheer.



Middlies Hoop Time team

Biggies Dribbling

The Biggies and Jordon, playing as Fitzroy Jazz, pulled off a brilliant effort in their five Hoop Time basketball matches to win the Grand Final of the Grade 5/6 "Future All Stars" section. Jono (filling in for Keith) did a great job coaching the team. Many thanks to student teacher Kirrily for driving and scoring, Kevin for orange duty, and the cheerleading parents. This win has gained the team entry into the Regional Finals on Monday 9th November at Springers Leisure Centre, 400 Cheltenham Rd, Keysborough. Come down and support these Hooptimers!

Netball

Round one in the Zone comp saw FCS beat Pascoe Vale South Primary School in a fine display of sportsmanship. They advanced to the next round and played with grit and determination, but lost to Gladstone Views Primary School. All players worked up a good sweat and showed some speccie skills. Well done team!

A Dog Movie

The Biggies wrote a script for a Dog Movie with Jono, and then produced it with Alix - a big thank you to those two for their substantial efforts. The film is a hoot, so come along to our movie night at 7pm Thursday 22nd October for the premiere.



Photons for FCS

Our solar system upgrade has been completed, with 30 new panels installed (bringing us up to 54 panels in total). With this 7.5kW system, we are now self-sufficient. A big thank you to the Federal Government's National Solar Schools Program for funding the project.

Resuscitate-A-Mate

Biggies and Year 4s participated in a St John's Ambulance CPR training, learning some potentially life-saving skills. No doubt they understand that these skills could be used to Resuscitate-A-Stranger too.

Ride for Cancer

They made it! On Friday the 11th September, Berry's dad David and eleven other riders completed their epic ride from Federation Square to Uluru to raise money for the Cancer Council. It was a mammoth 13 day 2317km long journey which took them through some amazing parts of Australia. They experienced driving head winds, rain, heat, hills and some

damage to bikes and bodies, but all their training, determination and hard work was rewarded when they finally got to Uluru. The ride also exceeded its goal of raising \$50,000! For more information and a blog go to www.rideforcancer.com.au

Eyrie Opening Ceremony

We will be having an official opening ceremony for the new multipurpose room dubbed The Eyrie, as well as the refurbished maths room and the new True Blue Toilets. This will take place at 3:30pm on the 11th November in the company of The Hon Lindsay Tanner MP or a representative. All are welcome to attend.



The Fete of the School

Our very fun and colourful Fete will run after lunch on that same day, the 11th November. This event raises money for school fees for underprivileged children at our sister school Enling in Kunming.

New Mixed Lollies Camps in Term 4

Some date additions and group changes have been made to the mixed Middlies and Littlies camps at Tim and Tim's Tree Farm in term 4.

Mixed Lollies Camp 1 will be on Monday 19th to Wednesday 21st October: Lexie, Celeste, Saul, Jack M, Josh S, Jan, Laila, Dante, Hunter, Jack N, Sage, Sunny.

Mixed Lollies Camp 2 will be on Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th November: Zoe, Issa, Clay, Kate, Arun, Jordon, Erica, Zak A,

Silas, Jackson, Mietta.

Mixed Lollies Camp 3 will be on Monday 9th to Wednesday 11th November: Anna, Hannah, Nic, Josh M, Stefan, Marlon, Ella, Bridie, Flora, Llew, Oscar, Alex.

Date Changes

Another reminder: the school play will be held at Collingwood College at 7pm on Thursday 3rd December (to make its Christmas theme more relevant). Also, the term 4 Graduation Concert will be held at the same location a week later at 7pm on Thursday 10th December.

Story, By Max

Faye set the Biggies a challenge to write a story in 10 minutes containing the words "I spun the bottle". Here is what Max wrote:

My party was about to start. I was so excited! I had planned it all out. At the start we would play some games, then we would eat the cake. My first game was Pin the Tail on the Donkey. But that game turned out to be a disaster. No one liked it. I was hoping they would all like the second game, Limbo, but that was a complete disaster too. Everybody was getting really bored. So I thought of one more game, Spin The Bottle. I was really hoping that everyone would like it, or my reputation of being cool was over. I spun the bottle and it pointed at my friend Bill. I spun it once more and it pointed at Sarah. You imagine what happened next...

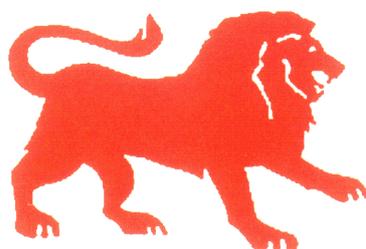


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