

*"People  
before  
things"*

# December 2010

Ed. Paul Liknaitzky

## Fitzroy Community School NEWSLETTER

### STORK DELIVERIES

Welcome **Ilaria Hanako Faulknor**! Birthed by Mary (FCS: 1992) on the 18th of October 2010 at home, weighing 3.68kg, with great support from the Sunshine Hospital midwives. Solomon and Romany were witness. All are faring very well. Congratulations to Mary, Viktor, Solomon, Romany and the whole family!



Ilaria, with Romany

Welcome **Imogen Charlie Mariella Frankel**! Our art teacher Nikki brought her into this world on the 14th of October 2010, at the Mercy Hospital and weighing 3.05kg. Both are well. Congratulations Nikki, Dan, Enelsa and the whole family!



Imogen, with her family

### HAPPY ARRIVALS

Dominic Wilmott (FCS: 2004), big brother of Hannah and Rory (FCS: 2006) will take the film-making baton from Alix. Some of you might recall Dom's "Audrey-Anna Jones" film in 2008. Dominic, like Alix, started his film-making career at FCS - under Alix. Welcome Dom!

Claire Collings will become more a part of the FCS community in 2011, continuing with her teaching and filling the role of school secretary and Tim's assistant. Good luck Claire!



Ilaria (FCS: 2004), Greta (FCS: 2004) and Calum (FCS 2003) will take on part of the Restoring of Order job after school, alongside Hugh. Great to have past students involved in the FCS community. Welcome!

And finally, Paulzky is back in the hood after a year on the road with Amy. He will be introducing many of the FCS kids to the boundless wonders of the physical world in his science classes in 2011.

### **BIGGIES FINAL CAMP**

The farewell camp for our departing Biggies was held at The Land - the first camp back there since it was reduced to cinders in the wrath of Black Saturday! Tim pushed hard to get the buildings done, and Ben (and his helpers) succeeded in completing a camp kitchen and cubby-style sleeping space in time. The buildings look fantastic, the area is bushy and green, and the creek is flowing well. Year 5 and 6, along with Tim, Calum and Astrid enjoyed 3 days there playing in the creek, carrying wood, building dams and enjoying campfire chatter. The traditional dinner and performance night with Faye was held at a Thai restaurant and I-screamery in Whittlesea, with everyone doing lovely performances and having a good laugh. Faye, Philip, Nat, Clo, Charlotte and Christian joined in on the fun along the way.



Biggies final camp at The Land

### **ROCKING THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

In early December, about twenty children performed at The Good Shepherd Aged Care facility in Abbotsford where Eileen is resident. Eileen, in her 90s, is a long-standing friend of the school. Poems were recited, carols and other songs sung, violins and pianos played, and mirth and merriment felt. Eileen cried with joy, and many residents were obviously moved. Thank you to the children who performed, and to Faye, Helen, Judy, Clo and Nick for helping out. An additional a big thank you to Clo for being our

school chaplain this year!

### **RECORD BIG BUCK FETE**

Aside from being its usual riotous fun, the fete in late November broke a fiscal record. \$1028 was raised for our sister school, Enling Primary in Kunming, China. Currently the FCS community pays for seven children to attend school at Enling. On the same day Tim met with Kathleen Maltzahn (Greens), Richard Wynne (ALP), a group from Independent Schools Victoria and other politicians to discuss education policy. They all partook in the frivolity and indulgent glucose consumption. Thanks to Susie and Kelly for face-painting and making jewellery to sell with the kids, to Petra for her waffles, to Helen for her world famous scones, and to all the buyers, sellers and merrymakers.



Fete

### **WEENIES**

Our smallest members came in for a sneak preview on four Wednesdays in term 4. The eight radiant Weenies - Arki, Noah, Redford, Ruby, Scout, Sebastian, Solomon and Violet - will start as Tinies in 2011. They enjoyed Teddybears Picnic in the park, sports class, cooking, stories, craft and the delicious BBQ. We look forward to welcoming you as Tinies next year!

### **MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY ARTS DAY**

A trip out on the big bus to Melbourne Uni always signals a fun day ahead, and this time the whole school went along for the ride. The theme was Greek mythology and the children were split into groups to learn and participate in readiness for an afternoon performance. The result was a suitably dramatic display of masks, lively puppets, storm-swept ships, moody music and a Cyclops fooled by sheep! Thank you to Marnee Watkins and her students for an enjoyable ride back into the past.

### **FINDING YOUR GROOVE**

Sam Menzies spent two terms with the Biggies as part of the Artists in Schools program. He ran workshops in beat-boxing, vocal percussion and

lyric/rap-writing. For their final song, the FCS motto (People Before Things) was woven into a beautiful and catchy tune that Sam and the children wrote and recorded. The program inspired FCS to invest in a Tascam 24 digital recorder, microphones and studio monitors, so we now have a semi-professional recording studio. The song was highly commended and won 4th place (and musical instruments for the school) in the Australian Children's Music Foundation's National Songwriting Competition (you can listen to the song on the ACMF site). They also made a music video to go with the song (soon to be loaded onto the FCS website). Sam wrote *"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the biggies at FCS and constantly rave about the school. I hope you enjoy our music video!"* Well done to Sam and the Biggies! Thanks to Arts Victoria for funding Artists in Schools - A Victorian Government Initiative.

#### **VIBRATING AIR**

Fourth term soiree was another well-attended event, showcasing both the emerging and established talent at FCS. A highlight was the performance of "People Before Things", the song written by the Biggies with Sam Menzies during his Artist in Residence time.

#### **TERRIFIC TINIES, BY CLAIRE COLLINGS**

*I have shared my first year at school with the Tinies and what a great year of learning it has been for us all. I have learnt from them as they have learnt to read and write, impress with numbers, play games with sportsmanship, work on manners and speak up with confidence. Their growth has been impressive and I look forward to meeting the newcomers.*



#### **LIBRARY BOOK FUNDRAISER**

FCS hosted 'The Book Night' at St Peters Eastern Hill Church in late October. As usual, the FCS All Star Band rocked this stunning venue in style, and

a flotilla of parents and staff helped out. There was a quiz, items donated, and a Readings stall where parents bought \$1300 worth of books for FCS! Additionally, we raised \$4705 for the library from this event! Thank you to the All Stars, Carol, Jackie and all the contributors for a fun night and a beneficial do.

#### **GET TO THE BACK OF THE (BARBE)QUE**

Thank you to Karen and Sophie for always being there, keeping our delumptious Wednesday BBQ tradition going! Thank you to Gabby for coordinating it. And thanks to all the helpers that chip in. Word around the coals is that - just when you thought it could get no better - Scott has raised the bar on the roast potatoes! For any new parents wanting to help out, it's a fun way to be more a part of the community. Let Tim, Jeannette or Gabby know if you have a spare Wednesday morning or two.



#### **ASYLUM CENTRE DROP BOX**

Thank you to everyone who dropped off consumables to be donated to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. We will continue to have a drop box once a term next year. Thank you to Myf and Jess for keeping this going.

#### **TINIES FIGHT FIRE**

The local fire brigade visited the Tinies twice in fourth term. Four burly firemen gave the kids tips to avoid starting a fire, what to do if you find yourself on fire, and also let them sit in their fire truck. Thank you Firemen!

#### **CARTRIDGE RECYCLING**

We have a Planet Ark recycling box for any printing and photocopy cartridges. This is a zero-waste-to-landfill service, and you are welcome to drop your cartridges off at school. Box is in the front office.



## CREATIVE WRITING

### A Plane Trip, by Zak Aldenhoven (Yr 3)

*When I was four I was on a trip to Bali. But trust me. It wasn't your everyday trip. Everyone was getting comfortable on the plane. I was drawing and my parents were chatting. Then the pilot said, "We are getting ready for lift off." The plane was soon speeding down the runway. As it took off it was very noisy and bumpy. When we were in the air I was sitting next to a man wearing a hood. The hood fascinated me because it was so hot in the plane. He looked at me. There was something in his face that scared me. I saw a gun in his pocket. Suddenly he stood up and said, "Hands in the air!" He shot the pilot and took control. He had some passengers hostage. We realised that he was setting a time bomb. Immediately he'd finished, he parachuted out of the plane. There were ten minutes left before the plane would blow up. It was left to my dad who knew something about bombs to defuse it and try and fly the plane. We had half the passengers arguing about the bomb and the other half arguing about how to fly the plane. Luckily for all of us, a man on the plane was a pilot. He took control of the flying. Meanwhile, Dad was figuring out which wire to unplug. There were three minutes left. Everyone was panicking. Then my Dad pulled one of the plugs out. Everyone crossed their fingers and said, "Please work." And it did. Then the pilot said, "We're down on fuel." Everyone went. "EEK!" A couple of minutes later, the pilot could see the runway and we had to do a crash landing. Everyone was so relieved to be at the airport and they all got to their hotels safely and had a great time telling of their adventure to anyone they met.*

## EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

If you are a parent of an FCS child, have a healthcare card and are entitled to EMA, please let Jenny know.



L-R: Tim R, Tim B, Michael (ISV), Tim (ISV), Michael (ISV), Kate (ISV) and Hayden (Sophia Mundi)

## LITTLE NIGHT OUT

The adults-only Big Night Out was so much fun

that a great deal of envy was stirred up amongst the FCS children. So we decided to have a Little Night Out to include them in the merrymaking. The FCS All Star Band busted out their jiving tunes at the Edinburgh Gardens Community Room, and between the picnic and the boogie it was hard to wipe the smiles from everyone's dials. Thank you to The All Stars, the organisers, and all who joined in on the fun!



Visitors, Koko and Mimi

## THE NEXT STEP

Ilaria (FCS: 2004), Meg (FCS: 2007) and Lucas (FCS: 2009) visited the year 6 kids at FCS to share stories and tips about transition into high school. A very helpful session to ameliorate some common concerns.

## MOVIE NIGHT

Showcasing some classics and the latest in FCS movie making, the Movie Night was a gas. The "Primary School Musical" film was a 20 minute song and dance extravaganza including many children from year 4 to 6. The Biggies ran their latest murder mystery reel. And Tegan (student teacher) produced two movies with the Juniors, "Knock Knock" and "Bad Dream", and one called "Alien Invaders" with the Littlies. Thank to Alix, Tegan and the FCS film-makers for all your efforts.

## TINIES AT THE FARM

In the last week of term, the Tinies took Netty, Alison and Sue to the Collingwood Children's Farm, where they milked a cow, fed a pig, cuddled a guinea pig, patted a horse and ate lunch under a shady peppercorn tree.

## EXCURSION REPORT

### Chinese Trip, by Sage (Yr 4)

*The Middlies went to China Town to see a show at the Chinese Museum. First they watched some magic tricks, such as making a toy rabbit turn into*

*a real rabbit, pulling things out of a bag of nothing, and making birds disappear into thin air. Then we watched a vase-thrower throwing vases into the air and landing them on his head. Then we heard jokes, such as “point to that light” to Celeste, and he hung his jacket on her finger, then he said “do you want to see something a little greater?” and pulled out a miniature grater, and then “do you want to see me juggle eight balls?” and pulled out a couple of black 8-balls... After the show we went and had a look around the museum, and all got dressed up in big pants, hats and tops. Last of all we went to the Dragon Boat and got yum cha. Yum!*

Thank you Nick and Warren for organising this trip.



Sally and Claire

#### **A NOTE FROM CLAIRE**

*I would like to say a big thank you to all my helpers in the kitchen on a Monday. The Great Graters, the weighers, mixers, stirrers, pourers, peelers, tea makers and takers, tidiers and tasters and even the “When will it be ready? Can I have some? Can I go first? Can I have seconds? When can we have some?” helpers. Food requests for next term will be taken in the first week. Think “quick to make and feeds an army!”*

#### **HELP!**

Just when you thought that ‘rock, paper, scissors’ was old hat, Kendra has brought it back with a brilliant twist in the game of Help! A fast paced game of two teams competing for points with speed, teamwork and the luck of the hand in ‘rock, paper, scissors’. (Nick has added a Chinese dimension to the game to further add to the pace.) An instant hit that is here to stay.

#### **TINIES CAMP**

Our youngest full time members went on camp to the Tree Farm in Dereel. They helped their dads building the new cubby, played in the dam, made daisy chains and looked after Charlotte

and Mimi beautifully. Phillip, Jeannette, Tim and many parents were there. Thanks to everyone for helping out.

#### **SEAN’S SHOTS**

Sean O’Carroll (FCS: 1990 and our school photographer) has been nominated a finalist for the National Portrait Prize at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra. The exhibition opens 24th February 2011. Also, he has been invited to exhibit his series ‘Interspection’ at the Australian Centre for Photography in Sydney, opening 17th March 2011. Congratulations Sean! See some of the images at [www.seanocarroll.com](http://www.seanocarroll.com) We hope you’re not going to get too expensive Sean!

#### **STREET ART TRIP, BY NAT**

*The Biggies and I, who had been studying ‘street art’, went for a cruisy graffiti tour in the city centre. Under a bright blue sky with a beaming sun, we pottered down side lanes and meandered through stinky alleys, amazed by the insanely colourful and extremely diverse street art that is hidden in and around Melbourne’s CBD. The Biggies and I marvelled at how far street art had come, from simple tags on the front of houses to incredible murals, clever recycled installations and funky stencils. We were especially excited when we found an original Banksy, hidden down ACDC lane. After hours of walking, we had some hot chips to replenish our tired feet and jumped on the tram back to school. When someone said it was the best Tuesday they’d had in ages, I felt myself agreeing completely! The Biggies and I can now look forward to the holidays, when a professional street artist is going to help us create a mural for the backyard!*



Biggies, Street Art Trip

#### **BASKETBALL AGAINST ST JOSEPH’S**

The Biggies, coached by Keith, were invited to play basketball by St Joseph’s in West Brunswick.



Two games were organised, one for the boys and one for the girls. These games were hard fought and low scoring due to great defensive pressure by both teams, but our courageous Biggies held their nerve in the last frantic minutes to win both games. A special thanks to Sage, Josh S and Josh M for filling in as honorary Biggies. Well done all!

### **FAREWELL BREAKY FOR OUR YEAR 6 STUDENTS**

The Early Bird Catches the Worm... though many of the parents, staff and year 6's who attended the Graduation Breaky might retort "but the second mouse gets the cheese!" It was an early start, with way too many pastries for that time of the day, but what a good effort we all made! For those not normally at school at 7am, the Graduate Breakfast is a well loved tradition.



Alex and Daisy

### **VISITORS TO FCS**

Song-Ae Han visited from Korea, where she is school principal of an alternative school. She would love to have five of her Year 6-8 students spend the month of May at FCS in 2011. This will only be possible if some of our families can host them, so let Tim know if this is a possibility for you.

We also hosted Inge Slatts, a visiting principal from an independent Montessori school in the Netherlands, as well as Anne-Marie, a principal from a large private school in Auckland, both interested in how we organise our academic programs.

### **FÉLICITATIONS**

Ilaria (FCS: 2004), who just completed year 12 at Ivanhoe Girl Grammar School, topped her class in French. Well done Ilaria!

### **THE ART OF ARGUING**

Some parents may be dismayed when they discover a real talent for the argument in their progeny. The Debaters Association of Victoria (DAV) encourages just this. FCS hosted DAV's inaugural Primary School Debating program, competing with the North Carlton Primary School. All Biggies took part after receiving training by two professional debaters, making their cases strongly and rebutting the opposition. A draw. And a hoot. Thank you to DAV, former judge Peter Gebhardt who helped with the training, and also to Carol and Faye for adding this to our school experience.



Oscar, Clay and Jackson

### **ON HER TOES**

Congratulations to Leah (FCS: 2008) for winning The Rising Star Award in Athletics at Strathmore High!

### **ROUNDERS**

FCS sent three teams to the Carlton District Interschool Rounders tournament. The teams, coached by Sam, Tim and Nick, were made up of a variety of ages. The older kids did a marvellous job encouraging and coaching the youngsters in their team, who as a result showed rapid improvement. All teams did very well and two of the three teams remained undefeated. Well done all!

### **A NOTE FROM SALLY (STUDENT TEACHER)**

*Teaching at FCS has been the greatest teaching experience I have ever had! It has been completely free of stress and negativity. I have felt welcomed, supported and appreciated by every member of this school community. The teaching quality is high and my literacy and numeracy skills have improved immensely! I don't recall being taught grammar when I was at school and the FCS students are lucky to be taught grammar so well. I have been given autonomy over my lesson content and my teaching style, I have experienced success in the classroom and my confidence has grown. I have loved meetings and their focus on values and the reinforcement of these through stories and conversations. The students are respected*

*and treated as equals. I am inspired and excited to witness a school successfully meeting all the children's needs. This school has a positive school culture that aims to encourage everyone to be the best they can be. I now feel reassured and confident to become a teacher and share the teaching practices I have learnt here with my future colleagues in mainstream schools. I wish to thank every member of the Fitzroy Community School; every parent, every child and every staff member, as you have all made this a pleasurable learning experience for me. I hope to come back and visit from time to time and I hope that if any of you come to Point Lookout at North Stradbroke Island you will say G'day. Just ask where to find me at the gelato or fish and chip shops! MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

### FINAL CONCERT AND GRADUATION

The final concert and graduation was an entertaining and moving event. We saw Sam Menzies and the Biggies playing their song 'People Before Things' live, some energetic dancing, passionate singing and a heartfelt closing speech by Tim. We congratulate and say farewell to our graduates: Coco, David, Grace, Lizzie, Max and Zac!

### CELLO AND RECORDER

We are very happy that Reidun Turner, who during her university days worked with us as a teacher assistant, is returning in 2011 to teach cello and recorder. If any parents would like their children to learn either instrument, please let Jeannette know before the end of the first week in Term 1, 2011.



Finn C

### REQUEST LIST FOR THE LAND

If anyone would like to donate a few items to The Land, we are in need of cups, a large pot with a solid base, soup bowls and a dish rack.

### CAPS FOR SUMMER

Please send children to school with a cap in the summer months, and if you have a few spare ones at home we can always do with donations for those who tell us that "my mum forgot my hat".



Tim and the kids at the Fete

### STUDENT TEACHERS

A big thank you to our student teachers: 'Byron' Myron for drama and Capoeira (a Brazilian martial art), Tegan for truly hilarious films and Sally for a term of dedication, creativity and adaptability.

### BON VOYAGE

Pauline departs after 7 years with us, initially as a cook, then as a parent, and later as the school secretary. What a wonderful part of the family she has been! Good luck exploring new directions in your life Pauline, and huge gratitude for all your energy.

Chris, our trusty Restorer of Order, is moving onto other things after 8 years of working against the Second Law of Thermodynamics (the statistical tendency towards chaos in the natural world). Thank you for so many years of effort and all the best in future! We hope you'll pop in and visit regularly!

Alix, our man of the moving picture, began making movies 21 years ago as an FCS student. He has been creating movies at FCS for 8 years. He leaves us to move into a senior role within a film distribution company. Thank you Alix for your skill and effort over so many years, and for producing so many classics!

Milena (FCS: 1999), who has been an assistant for 4 years, heads to Hanoi. Thank you Milena for all your good work.

Clare, one of our piano teachers, is leaving us to become a full time Naturopath. Thank you for your musical contribution to the school and all the best!

Sam Menzies brought his great musical



energy to FCS in 2010 as Artist in Residence, teaching the Biggies song-writing, lyric writing, rap and voice percussion. Among other things, they produced a wonderful song and music video. Sam heads to South America for a few months. Great work, and happy travels Sam!

Miriam (FCS: 1998), who was an assistant for some of 2010, left us early in the term to manage the Prahran Mission Opportunity Shop on Victoria Street. Thank you for your contribution at FCS and we look forward to seeing you around in a wide variety of garments.

FCS is proud to give so many young people a start in their working lives, and gains immensely from the energy and vitality they bring to our community. Good luck in your future careers and adventures!



Pauline and Zara

## CREATIVE WRITING

### How I Saved the Day, by Alex Lightfoot (Yr 2)

In my family there was Grandma Jenny, Grandma Trudy, Grandpa Jeremy, Grandpa Max, my mum, my dad, my aunty, my uncle, my cousin Tom, my cousin Georgia and me, Amber. We all lived in a giant mansion. We were very rich. The day I turned ten, Grandma Trudy told me that she was a super hero. I almost fell over laughing. Grandma Trudy looked at me because she knew it was true. To prove that it was true, she took me to her room and pressed some bricks on the wall. The bricks opened on the wall, a door opened and Grandma Trudy went in. I went in after her. In the room there were computers, security cameras and TV screens everywhere. She opened a trunk and

in it was her super hero suit. She went behind a screen and put it on and then came out. The suit had a pink skirt, purple top, white pants and black boots. She looked ridiculous. This time I did fall over laughing. She told me that she was sick and that I had to put it in the shrinking machine so that it would fit me. Then she told me to put it on, and, having done that, to check the mission on the left computer. Finally she wished me good luck and left the room. Even though I didn't want to do it, I did it anyway, for Grandma Trudy. So the first thing I did was put the super hero suit in the shrinking machine, then I put the suit on and checked the mission on the left computer. Then I got into Grandma Trudy's super hero plane and drove it to the exit and took off. I had no idea how to work it but luckily Grandma Trudy had left the instruction manual on the other seat. I opened it and noticed that I had pressed the crash landing button by mistake. I turned the pages in the manual until I reached the page that said: How to stop the plane from crash landing when you press the crash landing button by mistake. The book said to press the blue button. The blue button said: Stop Crash landing. I reached out my hand and pressed it. Suddenly, the plane stopped in mid air and shot straight up into the sky. I checked the navigator and checked where to go. The navigator said to turn left, then right and finally turn left again. The plane stopped. I jumped out and saw three robbers stealing from an antique shop. I slowly walked over and threw three bags on their heads, then called the police and left for home. When I got back no one suspected a thing. I had dinner, brushed my teeth and went to bed. ~



Chris, with a farewell gift

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