



NEWSLETTER

April 2012

Ed. Paul Likhaitzky

Today Tonight: Quote - Misquote

From Tim: *I am not sure how many of our families were watching Today Tonight a few weeks ago, which was looking into the issue of homework, and showed some footage from our school. I was quoted as saying that "We do not do homework". My full sentence was: "We do not do homework, until the middle of year four, when the children are set 15-20 minutes of maths homework a week. Starting in year five, the children are set 15-20 minutes of English homework per day. In addition to this, all children have spelling to prepare, beginning in the last term of prep." Not quite the same as simply "We do not do homework". I had made the decision to speak slowly so that I would not look frantic or flustered, but I have now discovered this makes the role of selective editing even easier. Still, this enabled an interesting discussion at meeting, especially as some of the children had heard me expanding on the spelling! My wife was so upset by this misleading editing that she was swearing in both French and English, concluding: "That is why we do not have a television, and that is why we will never get one!!"*

Dancing Faye

Many of you are sure to have seen Nettie dancing occasionally in the kitchen (or conducting choir) but perhaps missed Faye

dancing and skipping when The Age quoted from Philip and her "Whingeing Virus" - so this term it is included instead of Tim's blog.

Tinies first camp

The Tinies, along with Nettie, Philip and their parents, spent a night camping at the Tree Farm in Dereel. The children made yummy mud-pies, played badminton and soccer, collected pine-cones, erected tents and explored the forest. The parents made sure the tea continued to be drunk, the benches were sat on, the fires stoked and the chins wagged. They also put the first legs on a new cooking structure. The night in the bush was a lovely opportunity for kids, parents and teachers to enjoy each other's company away from the buzz of the city, and for the little ones to feel a bit of the great outdoors. Many thanks to those who came along.



Plain sailing - The Boatshed, Albert Park

The Middlies and Biggies, along with Tim, Claire, Miranda, Carolyn and Kylie, learnt a few sailing basics on the Albert Park Lake with the good folk at the Boatshed there.

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Students learnt the names of the different sides and components of the small sail boats, then scooted across the waters, managing to “fall” in a number of times each. A super fun outing! Many thanks to the Boatshed at Albert Park Lake for this introductory session. The Boatshed offer weekend and holiday programs for children. If they are anyway as much fun as the time we had with them, you’ll love it! Please ring Robyn on 0430 052 182 for bookings (www.theboatshed.net.au).



Sailing, by Oscar (Yr. 4)

Yesterday our school went boating in a sailboat. Everyone had to have a partner with them. First, we had a race. Josh was my partner. Then we made a boat-train with a piece of rope. Bridie fell in first, everyone laughed with her but Sage pulled her up and she was laughing her head off. Stefan’s hat blew off and went to the bottom of the lake. He was upset. Then Josh’s boat capsized. It made a big splash and Freda and Josh started screaming. Celeste fell in and everyone jumped in after her. Everyone was splashing and laughing and shrieking. We swam to the jetty and got out and went to change. After that we had lunch and had to wring-out our sandwiches. They were OK but other sandwiches that hadn’t fallen in the lake were better. When we had done everything, Sarah gave everyone certificates. Then we went back to school. I felt very happy that Tim had taken us on this boat trip.

King of the castle

Qualifying rounds preceded the chess competition in Term 1, with 32 players

making the grade. Some impressive moves were displayed by a few little ones, with Josh S taking the grand prize in the end. Well done! Many thanks to Samuel (FCS: 2004) and Calum (FCS: 2004) for organizing this fun brain-training competition.

By the book

Nettie, Georgia and the Middlies visited the State Library for “Book Week”. They walked through the impressive collections of ink on paper, heard several well-known authors speak, and participated in a writing workshop. A fun and educational trip.

Kyneton Camp

The Biggies enjoyed their resort-style camp at Kyneton, along with Philip, Tim, Clo, Nisha (FCS: 2004), Charlotte and Christian. Highlights included boating on the lake, riding bikes, swimming in the pool, and 9 decimals classes with Philip. A big thank you to the kids for cleaning up so well after all the meals, and for generally being a lovely group to spend a week with.



Out ‘n About with Miranda and Mary

From Miranda: During Term 1 Mary and I have had the pleasure of taking outings. We take a different tribe each Friday morning. We have mostly explored Darebin Parkland which has provided us with a different adventure each time. On our first week we came across what at first looked like a bush fire. We discovered, after a bit of excitement, that it was actually a controlled burn off. The second week we found a quince tree full of fruit that we took back

to school to cook. We also found a huge pile of rubbish that we cleaned up the following week. The pile consisted mostly of plastic bottles but also provided the children with a lot of treasure. One week we encountered a very informative and friendly park ranger watching two tiger snakes mating! Wow! We made sure not to get too close. We have also visited the creative space at Normanby Avenue and been to the Collingwood Children's Farm. The kids are always really excited about going on outings. It is great to see the tribes in action, with big ones helping the little ones, and everyone exploring the world out there. Last week it started to rain a little so we found a beautiful natural hideout at the farm and ate our picnic under the shelter of gumtrees. I think it is always so lovely for children to be in nature. I am looking forward to lots more of these adventures.

Creative Space

The Fitzroy Community School Creative Space at Normanby Ave in Thornbury has now been incorporated as part of the FCS experience. Maths, art, reading, craft, cricket, netball



and gardening have all taken place there. Big thanks to Jan, Clay, Josh M and Jackson for helping to move 6 cubic meters of soil for the garden! And a big thank you to the dads who participated in the working bee there. Tim, together with these strapping fathers, worked efficiently and tirelessly, shifting gravel and soil before putting in some native trees and vegetation.

A Duck, by Freda (Yr. 3)

Once upon a time there was a duck called Dj Quack who loved boats so much and played around in them all the time. He loved reading



about them in books called 'History of Boats', and 'The Boat Partner of the World' and other books like that. One day after school, when Dj Quack came home his mother had a gift for him. It was two boat tickets for Dj Quack and his mother to go sailing that weekend. "I hope we don't get too close to capsizing," said mother. His mother had to pack extra clothes for them. Then they were off. Their life jackets fitted perfectly. They hopped into 'Chomp Monster' (which is the name of the boat), and set off through the water. Dj Quack's mother let out a shriek. The reason was Dj Quack had splashed his mother. "Don't you dare do that again," said Dj Quack's mother and then mother had pushed Dj Quack in. Dj Quack's mother laughed very hard. When they got to shore, Dj Quack had to wring out his feathers. After that day Dj Quack never liked boats again.

Visiting Eileen

Miranda continues to take small groups of children to visit Eileen at her old folk's home each Wednesday. Eileen is a long-standing friend of the school. The visiting group of bright young faces always seems to bring a great deal of joy to Eileen and the other residents. We consider these visits an important aspect of FCS life.



Various Appreciations

Many thanks to Philip Harvey for introducing the Dorothea MacKellar poetry theme each year, and for initiating our very successful "Favourite Poems" segment where adults were invited to read their favourite poem at the morning Meeting - an inspiration to the children, showing that poetry is something to be valued throughout life. Also, thanks to both Philip and his wife Carol for judging our annual in-house poetry event.

Thank you to Patricia and Peter (Hector's parents) for donating a superb art-drying rack to the school.

Many thanks to Peter Gebhardt and Mark Austin for their ongoing support of our literature program, this year providing the historical background to "Tom Sawyer", the Biggies main literature text for the year.

Thanks to Myf (Marlon and Llew's mum) for introducing game rule writing to the Middlies. For those who don't know, Myf has had a couple of game rule books published, making this class the work of a master.

Welcome aboard

Welcome to Aiva and her family, who joined the school at the start of the year.

Welcome to Elijah (brother of Moses) who will start at school in Term 2.

Welcome to Lucci (FCS: 2004) as a general class assistant on Mondays and Thursdays.

Welcome back Dom (FCS: 2005), to continue making movies with the Biggies.

Welcome to Cecilia (FCS: 2006), back in her old stomping ground but this time to help clean up at the end of the day.

Song and (stop-motion) Dance

Warren, armed now with a music degree in composition, has returned to run classes for the year 6 boys in song-writing. They will record an original song in Term 2. Daniel, our new student teacher from Vic Uni (and a film-maker) will help the Biggies to produce a stop-motion animation music video for this song. Daniel is also working on short films and animations with other students. We look forward to the showcasing of these collaborative projects.



On yer bike

Tim, Charlotte (past student), Zak, Jan, Sunny, Anna and Kate, rode their bikes from Meredith to the Dereel Tree Farm (about 42kms), and spent a couple of nights camping there. As usual, a few scratches were added, but no whingeing. Our 'day-off' between rides included collecting 7 trailer-loads of wood for future camps, listening to Charlotte and Jan on the guitar, and chopping down trees.

Sailing, by Antonia (Yr 3)

Yesterday we went sailing in small boats. We all had a partner. Mine was Sunny. It took awhile to fit life jackets. First, we had a boat race. Our boat came second-last. I was a bit sad but it didn't really matter. Then the boats were split into two groups and towed behind motor boats. It was great fun. People laughed and yelled and even fell out of their boats. Freda and Josh capsized their boat. As we were sailing, Stefan's hat blew off and he let out a shriek. When we were nearing the dock, about half the people jumped into the water

and swam back. Once all the boats were in the dock, everybody got changed. I had to wring out all my clothes so they didn't smell of bird poo.

On the ball

Tim nominated Stefan, Josh S and Marlon for district selection trials for the Victorian primary boys soccer team. Sadly, Stefan was away on the day. However, both Josh and Marlon made it through the 1st round, and Josh went through the second round. Good luck Josh with the next 3 stages, hope you make it onto the Victorian state side!

Free Yoga at School

Miranda is offering yoga for adults from 9:15am – 10:15am on Wednesdays in Term 2. Simply drop in to these gentle classes in the Eyrie, and please bring a yoga matt and blanket.

Nature's course

Alongside all the wonderful facets of the FCS experience, Term 2 will see all the children go on camp, something that has not happened (everyone going on a camp in a single term) since the 1970s! Bring your flares?



Call for tailors

Costume sewing for the Term 3 mega-bonanza play gets underway in Term 2. A call for volunteers interested in costume-making (no skills required). Please put your name on the list on the fridge, or email school (this, however, does not come with an inside scoop on what this year's play will be).



Fishmobiles

We need drivers to ferry the children to and from the new Collingwood Pool on Wednesdays (departing school 11:40am, returning around 1:20pm) starting in Term 2. Once-off or regular drivers, please let Nettie know.

Reminder

A reminder to all in the school community (staff, families and friends) to please let the school know if any of your contact details change. Simply call 9489 2356 or even better email info@fcs.vic.edu.au with your new details to ensure that you continue to

receive school communications, such as this remarkable newsletter.

Advert: Foster carers needed

Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service is seeking carers to provide emergency, short or long term foster care. A loving home is the most important thing, and carers may be singles, couples or families, stay at home or employed, old or young. All of our carers receive full training, financial reimbursement and have access to 24hr/day professional support and back up. We have many children, from babies through to teens, seeking help from our service every day. Sadly, due to lack of carers, many are turned away. Contact Ingrid Forster on info@goodshepvic.org.au or 9270 9352.

Advert: Garden Ease

Garden Ease provides friendly, reliable and professional garden maintenance by employing people with a disability in a healthy and supportive working environment. Contact Luke Tracy on luke@gardenease.com.au or 0408 156 483.

