



June 2012

Ed. Paul Liknaitzky

Youngest Clan Member

Welcome to Earth, Xavier James Chevalier Berryman! Well done Clotilde! A sizable baby at 3.9kg, though smaller than his siblings before him, Xavier surprised everyone with his relatively fast arrival; only Mary O'Carroll made it in time to aide Clo in her homebirth. Congratulations to Clotilde, Tim, Charlotte, Christian, Mary (her first solo delivery) and the wider family.



Sporting Bright Colours

Another super fun Sports Day, expertly organised by James Bargh and Haydn Chiron: running races with legs free, in sacks, or tied to other legs; channelling the force of many down a single rope; knocking balls off posts with beanbags; and other weird and wonderful forms of exertion made up the day. What a fun day! Many thanks to the organisers and all the parents who came down to help and cheer.

A Good Run - By Kate (Year 5)

On the 26th April the Middlies and Biggies ran a cross-country at Princes Park. The races are split into boys and girls and age. The Middlies ran 2 km and the Biggies ran 3 km. There were about 70 people in each race and the first 10 got into the next race, called Zone. In the Middlies race Chloe and Ella got into the next race and Dante came 11th which made her first reserve. In the Biggies race Anna and I got into the next race. Anna again qualified for the next round, clinching 7th place, and Kate is reserve, having come 11th.

Wild Animals

The Lions, Tigers and Bears all headed into the forests in Term 2. The mixed groups all got on famously at the Tree Farm, and the youngest certainly proved that four-year-olds can handle the wild. Climbing trees, playing badminton, collecting pine cones, whittling sticks, toasting marshmallows, word games and riddles by the camp fire were but some of the activities our intrepid campers undertook. Some got wet, most got dirty, and all survived the long drop. A big hurrah for all the Tinies who joined these camps – 2 nights in the bush without mum or dad! Well done! Thanks to all drivers and helpers: Miranda, Leah, Jannie, Erin, Claire, Mel, Warren and Netty.



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Middlies Camp

The main activities on Middlies A camp were archery, chopping down trees, building cubbies and constructing a shelter, which was put into use within 5 minutes of being finished thanks to a snap shower – the heavens just testing for leaks. The highlight for Tim was how well everyone played together, and how well everyone helped clean up. Thanks Warren for helping out on this camp.

Camp – by Bridget (Year 4)

Yummy cakes

Easygoing days

Air

Rubbishless

Fun

Oats for breaky

Under trees

Running around

‘Cocoo’ call the birds

Animals everywhere

Making a swing

Playing in a cubbie



Biggies Camp - By Josh M (Year 6)

On the 21st of May, the Biggies group A packed their bags and left for the long journey to the tree farm with Nick, Lachlan and William. We built a new camp fire and dug the holes for a deck that will go on Jabba (The Hut). Clay, Zak and I built a ramp, and Stefan rode up it on a little girl’s bike; it was a fail.

My favourite thing on the camp was go-karting. Unfortunately Clay was 1cm too short to drive a go-kart. It was unfair for him but he got to go in the double kart with Lachlan. William went with Nick in a double as well. It was really funny that Zak had been boasting about his



expert driving because on the first corner he crashed! Erica was going really slow and held up everybody.

On the last day when while we were cleaning up it was pelting down with rain and we had to wash up, we were cold and wet and Nick said we had to change clothes.

I think it was one of the best camps I have ever been on!!



Refugees – By Erica (Year 5)

*On Wednesday May 30th Nadia and her nieces, Fatima and another Nadia, who are refugees from Somalia, came and talked to the Biggies about their experience of moving to Australia. They talked about how hard it was for them to be accepted. Later in the day Maggie, a woman who works at Monash Medical Centre helping pregnant asylum seekers and refugees to improve their English, came to school. She played a game with us which involved us recognising flags of countries that refugees and asylum seekers now flee from. She has worked with people from over 150 different countries. At the end of the talk she read us a book called *The Littlest Refugee*. Thank you to Miranda, Faye and Rachel for organising this.*

Additional notes: This year the Biggies are taking part in the ASRC Poetry Competition. The idea of the competition is to help promote understanding of the real experiences of asylum seekers, and the theme is 'Australia Built by Boat People.' I think the Biggies will never forget the life stories they heard. Thanks to Philip Harvey and Peter Gebhardt who helped them write and finalise their poems.

A big thank you to all those who contributed by sharing their stories with us, Nadia and her nieces (Nadia and Fatima), and Rachel, Jess, Maggie and Myf.



Creative Space Goes Green – by Claire

FCS was lucky enough to be awarded a generous grant from the Biological Farmers of Australia and Bendigo Bank to create an organic edible garden. Three large garden beds have been built and will soon be filled with goodness, and a fourth is under construction. Edible items coming soon. Clotilde (in between having another baby) has also headed up a couple of planting days to beautify the surrounding area. Thanks also to Alison for help in our garden.

Biggies Poetry – By Marlon (Year 6)

Lately the Biggies have been doing a lot of poetry. Philip Harvey has again introduced the



school to the annual Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Competition. This year's topic is 'Wheels, Wings and Marvellous Things'. As well as that, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre has started a poetry competition called Australia Built by Boat People. Peter Gebhardt, an old friend of the school, came in and gave us some help and ideas. It was very fun.



A wonderful celebration – By Faye
Cassie Clark (FCS: 2003) celebrated her 21st birthday last Saturday, and what a wonderful occasion it was. Many of the FCS community were there to commemorate this important turning point in Cassie's life. The warmth and support surrounding Cassie were palpable. We all left uplifted and inspired, confirmed in our belief that the FCS community is alive and vibrant. Congratulations Cassie, and may your future be blessed.

New students of the Fitzroy Method

A welcome to Jax (Jacqueline) and thanks and bye to Liz, the latest student teachers at FCS. Your ideas, energy and help are appreciated.

Basketball – By Zak (Year 5)

When I arrive, I see a couple of my friends sitting

together. I go over to see them but Keith says "guys let's warm up", so I go over to Keith and start to warm up. Then Keith says the rookies are playing first. That's me. I play centre so I have to do the ball jump.

Keith throws the ball up. I jump but the other team gets the ball. They take the ball up the court and shoot 2 points. Damn they're good. Jackson takes the ball up the court, then passes to Sunny. Sunny shoots ... but he misses. The other team gets the rebound and takes the ball and runs it up the field, they pass and shoot another two points. Then Keith calls half time.

Two minutes later we're back on the court. As soon as we start we win the jump ball, Jackson collects the ball and passes it to me, I shoot and score. Then Keith tells us that it is time to go back, so we head back to school. What a fun day!

Letter - from Alessia (FCS: 2008)

Hello Faye. It's Alessia. How have you been? Faye I have something which happened to me today which I think will interest you. As a part of my schooling at The Academy of Mary Immaculate, there is this program which every year 10 must participate in, it is called "Community Action" (CA). CA is when we all go off and give back to the community, at places such as aged care centres, special schools, etc. For my CA I have been placed at the Little Sisters of the Poor, Saint Georges Road. Today when I arrived there, I met



a man whose name is George Dimovski. He told us about his passion for art, of his travels and of his wife and of his children. It was only by chance that he mentioned that he had once worked at a small private school, yes, you guessed it: Fitzroy Community School! What a small world! I told him how I had graduated from FCS a few years back and he told me how his three daughters did as well. He also told us how he taught art at FCS and some of the other things which he did with the school. It really made me think, what a small world it is, and how a school like FCS, even though it is so small, the community is so strong. The memories which he had, when he shared them with me, brought him to tears on more than one occasion. Faye, hopefully you'll receive this before afternoon tea tomorrow. Hope to hear from you soon, Alessia xox

Gratitudes

Big thanks to the many volunteers this term – the nimble fingered Glenda, our BBQ mums, the soup providers, Liz with netball, Leah for swimming, Jane for reading, and many others.

General notes and reminders

Remember that lovely hot soups are brewing in the kitchen each Thursday over winter. Come down and warm your bellies up. Still a few empty days for Term 3 if anyone would like to put their name down.

A reminder that Miranda is offering free yoga classes on Wednesday mornings from 9am-10:15am in the Eyrie. Come along and enjoy some mid-week magic for Mums and Dads. No need to book, but please bring a mat.



Some of our Tinies are yet to master the art of dressing themselves following swimming. Hopefully they will get a bit of practice in the holidays.

We ask visitors and parents to not bring their dogs to school, and only friendly ones are to be left out the front.

A reminder to keep reading for the Premiers' Reading Challenge. Don't forget to enter your books online.

Education Politics (Funding) – By Tim

Some school families may be aware that the Commonwealth Government is conducting a review of school funding, and has appointed David Gonski to chair the review.

Independent Schools Victoria has contacted us to warn us that under the proposed new model, Fitzroy Community School stands to lose a significant amount of funding.

I can't imagine how making it harder for families to get their children into a school like



ours is an improvement in the funding regime! If anyone feels particularly strongly about this, then please contact your local MP and ask them for their position on school funding, or the Gonski review.



FCS in the news – again! – By Tim

Goodness me, for a small school, we do get talked about. The Northcote Leader, had our architecturally-noteworthy Thornbury Creative Space all over the front page (plus more on page 5), with a gossip-and-innuendo “story” which isn’t really a story. Actually, I believe that other parts of the Leader Group have also used this “story!” Of course there have to be hostile sources for stories like this, but the interesting question is why journalists would bother. I sent a letter-in-reply as follows:

Dear Northcote Leader,

In response to your story about our school’s creative space in Thornbury, I would like to say I am grateful to my brother for acting as custodian during the completion of the construction. As many readers who have renovated their homes would know, building projects seem to have an uncanny ability to go over time. Having now resolved all issues, we have begun to use the site. I am told that all good things take time.

Tim Berryman, Principal

I doubt that a “story” based on such flimsy hearsay would have made the front page - or any page - if it was about most schools. The Northcote Leader tells us their source was a former parent. I half-expected that the recent glowing publicity about the NAPLAN would put us in the cross-hairs of some fault-finders. I suppose “celebrity” schools must expect this sort of thing!

In terms of being fair: in a small organisation, a person (like me) can end up with a lot of hats. Just a simple example - I felt this in terms of my own renting of the school house, so I simply asked a local agent to come and indicate an appropriate rent.

I felt sorry for Sean getting labelled by the Northcote Leader, as I had asked a number of teachers and connections of the school about being the rent-paying custodian, but a small apartment with no kitchen, with much of the space shared frequently with a group of children, is not easy to fill.

Thanks Sean and sorry that you got written up so badly.



A Lesson on Media – By Phillip O’Carroll

Parents will remember my warning at their initial interview that because of the tribal politics in the school industry, they will hear false rumours against our one-of-a-kind school. The one about our having a birth in the classroom is still going after about 30 years. This week the Northcote Leader and the Melbourne Leader Yarra Edition have now added a new false rumour which will also circulate indefinitely – that we were funded by the Fed Govt for a school building which was then improperly given as a residence to the principal’s brother!

An educational benefit of this week’s “scandals” is that you learn – if you didn’t

already know – that you cannot automatically believe stories that you read in the media. You learn that some journalists do not advise what they are going to write for the simple reason that if they hear the facts, they may not have a story to run! If the law of karma is true, some journos are carrying an awfully large karmic deficit!



A Day in Marvellous Melbourne - By Ted (Year 4)

*The bustling city,
The high rise buildings
In the centre of the capital
Are marvellously wonderful*

*Down on the street
The main population
Some are all rushing
And some are at ease.*

*The marvellous culture
Is made by the buskers*

*They wit round all day and
Sing to the visitors.*

*Next catch a tram along
To the station, ding, ding goes the
Whistle for the engine is leaving.*

*Hop off at Jolimont
And stomp to the football
Next goes the whistle
Which starts the great battle.*

*Carlton v. Collingwood is off in a minute.
Carlton gets a goal first
Which starts a sensation.*

*After the first half the thing to do
Is go get a pie from the Four and Twenty station.*

*Then after the whole game
Carlton has won!
And to celebrate the victory we decide to have
lunch.*

*It is now 5pm and its beginning to get dark.
Dad says one last stop.
But what could it be?
We walk past the GPO and its Pelegrinis!*

*Marvellous Melbourne it's been such an
experience.
Goodbye Melbourne, and goodnight Dad.*

A warm welcome to Ted and Chester, and their brothers Charlie (2) and Sebastian (3 months), over from Adelaide for half a year.

