



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2012

Ed. Paul Liknaitzky

Latest Stork Deliveries

Ricci-Jane (mother of Finn) gave birth to Luka Astill Adams Simmons on 2nd July, weighing in at 3.88kg. Finn is a wonderful and proud big brother. When Luka can't be calmed by other means, often Finn holding his little brother's hand will settle him straight away. Well done Ricci-Jane, and congratulations to you, Julian and Finn!



Luka and Finn

On the 3rd of August, Eileen (mother of Marlon) gave birth to a baby girl, Aoife. Well done Eileen, and congratulations to you, Tim and Marlon.



Aoife and Marlon

Zoey Hart (FCS: 1992; and daughter of Richard, former video and puppetry teacher at FCS from 1988 to 1994) gave birth to Ivy Rose on the 3rd of September, weighing in at 3.4kg. Well done Zoey, and congratulations to the family!



Ivy and Zoey

Taking the Stage

Massive thanks to all who have been involved in the play – what a success!! Sam pulled out all stops again to produce an all-singing all-dancing glitterfest of talent.

From Sam: *I would like to congratulate our students on their amazing performance of The Wizard of Oz. I could not be more proud of you all. A special mention to the Biggies who were outstanding. Your dedication and execution of your roles was brilliant. Thanks must also go to all the parents, friends, teachers and student teachers. Too many to name. Special mention to Arthur, Luisa, Kerrie, Chris, Claire, Warren, Nikki, Gabby and Tim, and to Sue, Anne and Susie for amazing costume design. Follow the Yellow Brick Road!*



Play

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Speech, By Solomon (Yr 1)

What an amazing invention is speech.

It allows us to communicate.

It allows us to think beyond the ability of animals.

To cook, to talk, to build houses.

To read and to write

To remember and predict.

What an amazing invention is speech!



Biggies at The Land, by Jo

It was time once again for Biggies Camp to set off to 'The Land' for five wonderful days of returning to nature, sitting around the camp fire and gazing up at the stars. Despite the chilly and sometimes wet weather, we all managed to remain adventurous and went on creek walks, lit campfires and performed flips on the trampoline. There was an abundance of delicious meals consumed and plenty of tea drunk (mainly by Nick and myself!). I was even introduced to Nick's infamous 'Bush Banana Splits'. Nighttimes were spent telling jokes and ghost stories, with a few games of 'Spotto' thrown in; I certainly need more practice with this one! It was a great week away from Melbourne's hustle and bustle, with much time for quiet reflection and rejuvenation. Although it was comforting to come home to a warm shower on Friday, it was a fortunate experience being able to spend a week away with such remarkable people.

Singing in the Rain, by Sage (Yr 6)

On Mystery Camp in Halls Gap, Kate, Erica, Ella, Tim and I walked to the shops together, and just as we started walking back, it began to rain. Kate and Ella were having races, but Kate had thongs on, so she took them off and gave one each to Erica and I. We had a shoe fight with them. Then it started to really pour, but instead of sulking, getting grumpy or upset, trying to get out of the rain or calling someone to

come and pick us up, we embraced the rain, and started singing "Singing in the Rain" and dancing. We made up parodies to Singing in the Rain, ranging from Skipping in the Rain to Stamping up the Hill, We're at the Top, I've got a Stitch, I'm really Puffed... We all got really soaked but we had loads of fun. When we were nearly back, Cameron drove past to pick us up, but we waved him away because we wanted to keep on walking in the rain. Afterwards, we said that we were more than just content, happy or joyful; we were so happy, words couldn't even explain it. This shows that the little and unexpected things can be the most fun. This was by far my favourite thing about camp. Thank you Tim, Jax and Cam.

Visitors to our little school, by Tim

The school continues to be visited by interested educationalists from around Australia and the world. A number of Victorian schools have sent groups of staff to spend the day with us on their teacher free days, and school leaders from interstate and overseas continue to seek us out, with recent visits from Malaysia and New Zealand. The most inspiring visitors are those wanting to start schools - good people who want to give something back to the world. However, their stories are often the most frustrating. A very small number get schools off the ground due to bureaucratic blockages and massive non-educationally-justified hurdles. It feels like a denial of democracy that so many hurdles are placed in the way of good people.

Planes, By Jan (Yr 6)

Country to country

City to city

Carrying a heavy load.

High in the air

Sitting in an uncomfortable chair

Racing at top speed.

Hundreds of sleeping people

In a magical thing

I cannot describe.



Welcomes and farewells and thanks

A big thank you and goodbye to Daniel for all of his work in movies and claymation over the term, to Cameron for his enthusiasm and love of bash-ups, and to Jax for all of her ideas, help with the play and wonderful cooking.

Jo did a placement with us last year as a student teacher, and has recently joined our staff as a teacher. A great addition!

Welcome to Inez and Sasha (new Tinies) and their parents.

Welcome back Reuben and Violet.

Welcome to Maja, Tanya and Michele – new student teachers, and welcome back Angela for another placement.

Thanks to Keith for all the basketball action.

Thanks to Leah for stepping in as pool fun leader.

Thanks to Warren for song writing with the Middlie and Biggie boys.

A big thank you to parents and friends who keep the heart of the school (the kitchen) warm, wholesome and productive.

Visiting the cemetery



What are the REAL fees at FCS? By Philip

We have a problem when people ask us what the fees are. We must decide which of two possible answers to give. If a prospective parent asks us how much, we must be sure to tell them the grand total of the tuition fees, the lunch fund, the personal supplies fund and the building contribution. But if a journalist asks us what the school fees are, we have decided from now on we will cite the tuition fees only – because this is the figure that compares to other schools' advertised fees, and to state schools' annual recurrent income per student. It is the figure that is relevant in the school funding debate. Other schools don't provide lunch and the many other extras we do. Parents normally provide these over and above their school fees. Essential building costs in State Schools are met by the taxpayer. (The BER fund, providing a building grant to every school, was a once-off exception.) When you examine our tuition figure, you discover that FCS income and spending per child is the average state school budget per child. If we

are a good school, it's not because of the amount of money spent. This is a very important fact about the model of schooling we present. If parents were free to choose schools, ours would be very inexpensive to attend.

State of the Art

Alice, our creative teacher, is curator of "Place of Assembly", an exhibition at The Schoolhouse Studio (97 Nicholson St, Abbotsford) running from the 10th to the 27th of October. Do go and have a looksee.

Warren (FCS: 1996), our song-writing teacher, is performing as part of the Darebin Music festival on the 6th of October at The Thornbury Local (635 High St, Thornbury). Come on down from 9.30pm for some fine tunes, a beverage, and a boogie.

Jeremy O'Carroll's (FCS: 1986) first novel "Fullspeed" will be launched at St Mary's College, Melbourne University on the 24th November at 6:30pm. All welcome, though please RSVP at: www.fullspeedbook.com

Off the Beaten Track

Thea (daughter of Tamsin and Adam) has contacted us from Darwin to let us know she is very excited about coming back to school next year. From Thea (Yr 3): *Dear School, I have been having a fantastic time in Darwin. It's very warm and very green. Every house we have house-sat has had a pool. I sleep with only a sheet on. There're quite a few sandflies and mozzies. At the house we are staying in, the walls are louvres so you get a good breeze. We eat all our meals outside. The sea is so pretty, but there are lots of crocs. I still went for a swim, though. I've sent some photos from Seven Emu Station, Kakadu and school assembly at my school in Darwin. Ludmilla Primary is a bit bigger than FCS, and you have to call your teachers Miss or Mister. There are more rules than at FCS and one of them is that you can't climb trees. I made a diorama and wove a basket at school to go in the Royal Darwin Show. In a few weeks' time, we are going to go to the Kimberleys and then around the West Coast. Hello to everyone! I'm really looking forward to coming back next year. Lots of love from Thea.*



Thea and family in NT

Jackaroo

Sam Walker (FCS: 2005), aka Gibber (as in hard as gibber stone, which is what it takes mustering up on the Barkly), who finished year 12 last year, is spending his gap year working as a Jackaroo.



Six-word 'stories' from the Middlies, based on the following themes:

Friendship:

I love, I hate, my brother - Blake

Be a friend, have a friend - Ted

Courage is not easy to see - Jack

Self Belief:

I can do it. I will. - Blake

I believe that I am awesome - Oscar

Being Different:

Being different is not a crime - Ted

You don't have to follow others - Ella

Different or not, you are wonderful - Christiania

My Life Story:

At breakfast my sister was screaming. - Oscar

I am happy reading a book - Ella

Troubadours Wanted

Any fathers who would like to sing a bass part with a small student choir at the end-of-year FCS concert (13th December) please contact Philip for 2 or 3 get-togethers to learn a simple part.

SOCCER, By Marlon (Yr 6)

Dribbling down the field

Goalmouth is coming in range

The pressure is on

In The Age

FCS appeared in the first of an occasional series on alternative schools in The Age on the 17th September 2012: "Secondary teacher Faye Berryman and

academic philosopher Philip O'Carroll couldn't decide where to send their children for primary school. The couple had agreed that a school's job was to create confident, competent and happy kids, and that this meant interpersonal communication skills had to be the priority. But none of the schools they saw fitted the bill. In the free-spirited 1970s that wasn't a problem. Many parents shared their concerns and were prepared to join with them to start an independent school..." To read further, search for the article titled "Free spirits rule in this family affair".

Sporting

The FCS netball squad, comprised of all the year sixes and a couple of year fives, won the Carlton District inter-school netball competition! The team continued on their triumphant course, winning all 3 games in the next round, Zone, and thus qualifying for Regionals. The Regionals team, Josh M, Josh S, Stefan, Zak, Sunny, Jan, Marlon, Kate, Anna and Sage put in some great performances, winning 2 and losing 2. Well done netballers!

Unknitted Brows

Sue (joined by Anne) has introduced knitting to the children on Friday mornings from 9:20am in the kitchen. Thanks Sue! Spare needles and wool would be appreciated.

FCS Oscars

Dom and Daniel have been busy this year producing some hot Oscar contenders: a series of short films and claymations that will be screened at 7pm on Tuesday 13th November in the Meeting Room. Come down to witness our rising stars.



Out of the Woods

A big thankyou to Lee, Wayne, Murcel and Nick for spending Saturday 8th of September at The Land preparing firewood for camps in 2013. For those who are unfamiliar with such early preparation of our wood supply - firewood burns much better if it sits through a summer.

Middlies Camp at the Land , by Claire

Oscar, Jack, Bridget, Dante, Freda, Ashley Blake, Berry, Jax and Claire camped at The Land. Most of us had not seen The Land since it was burnt to the ground on Black Saturday. We loaded up and carried our supplies down the hundreds of steps to the oasis at the bottom. Once bags had been dumped, the boys all headed to the trampoline, where they remained for the rest of the day. Jack even spent all of day two there! The creek had some water and the weather was divine, so the girls donned their bathers and went for a swim. The camp kitchen was a delight, and Jax and I drank an excessive amount of tea (even by FCS standards!) whilst the children explored and played. This was all repeated again on the second day in glorious sunshine. Everyone got on famously and most recalled Ashley's late-night Bunk House 10-page rendition of "Badder and Badder and Badder" from The Bad Book by Andy Griffiths. All the food was hoovered up and we wended our way back up the hill just as the grey clouds started to roll in.

Harvest Screen Printing, by Antonia, Christiania and Chloe (Yr 3)

We did screen printing on the first Wednesday of term. We did it with Arkie's mum, Emma, at Harvest textiles. It was really fun. We used white or pink cloth and lots of colours. We used light purple, orange, green, blue, black, brown and red. Thanks Emma!!! ...How to do it:

1. You make a stencil out of plastic paper.
2. You choose a colour ink that you like.
3. Stick the plastic paper to the silk (not really) screen with a little bit of tape.
4. Choose a Llew-Gee (squeegee)
5. Put a colour of ink on the screen
6. Use the Llew-Gee to pull the ink across the screen once lightly and then three times hard.
7. Hold one end of the screen and lift it up with the other hand very quickly.
8. Get a hair dryer and dry your print.
9. There is your print
10. You have to say "La Da Da Da".
11. Keep doing this till you're done.



Jumping through Hoops, by Keith

Middlies Basketball Hoop Time in Coburg, 21st August, 2012: A most enjoyable day. Our results were mixed, but our endeavour was first class. Our Future Stars won 1 game (by eight points) and lost 4 (two by just 5 points). Our Rookies won 3 games and lost 2 (both by small margins). Thanks to Wayne for scoring and coaching the Future Stars in Game 5 and in the grudge match at the end when FCS Future Stars defeated FCS Rookies 4-0. Thanks also to Wayne, Kate, Adam, Jo, Karen and Charlie for driving, watching games and supporting the teams. Keith and Warren (our coaches) wish to thank the players for their endeavour, good sportsmanship, disciplined approach and top behaviour on the day. They also want to thank Tim, Jeannette, Nick and everyone at FCS for their support of Basketball.



Publishing Principal

The current issue of Leadership in Focus (a national journal for school principals) features an article by Tim on team leadership.

Ahead of the Game, By Ted and Llewlyn (Yr 4)

Every Wednesday since the beginning of term, we have been doing a type of concentration class with two ladies called Rachel and Vicky. This has been a marvellous experience. One of our favourite games is called Tutti Frutti, and the rules are to think of sounds for places, foods and colours. At the end of every class we sing a very catchy song, and when Rachel says 'freeze!' each person has to say something they enjoyed about the class. This has been a great experience and we can't wait to teach the games to the rest of the school.

Under Construction

We would like to thank Senator Gavin Marshall for taking time out from his busy schedule to officially open our BER Project, for having toured our school

and Creative Space in Thornbury, and for making time for a cup of tea and an exchange of educational ideas. While our politicians are sometimes divided, we all found Senator Marshall to be well informed, intelligent and passionate about education.

Birds, By Christiania

Pigeons fly over the city, their wings flapping constantly.

Pigeons steal your food in city cafes.

Seagulls fly over the roaring waves at the beach.

Seagulls, they steal your chips.

Ducks, they swim gracefully over the water.

Ducks, they dive for weed.

Magpies, they peck you in the spring to protect their babies.

Magpies sound like an un-tuned violin.

Owls, they swoop down on their prey.

Owls can move slowly, owls can move swiftly.

Lorikeets have wonderful bright feathers.

Lorikeets have beaks that shine.

Cormorants, they dive for fish.

Cormorants have wonderful long necks.

Galahs, they are a wonderful colour.

Galahs, they have curved beaks for opening seeds.

Eagles, they have wonderful sharp eyes.

Eagles have huge wings.

King parrots, they are wonderful colours.

King parrots are bigger than normal parrots.

Swans have long necks.

Swans have sharp beaks.

Albatrosses have big and wide wings.

Albatrosses fly over the big frothing waves.

Lamb

Alice brought a lamb into school that had been abandoned by its mother. Bottle feeding required for 6 weeks. As Greta posted on Facebook – random unannounced lamb at school – “so FCS!”



Letter from Fo Guang Yuan (FGY) Art Gallery

Dear Miranda, thank you for visiting our FGY Art Gallery today. It was a pleasure to meet you, Mary and the kids. You have brought joy and laughter to our gallery and to the collectors who have put their hearts into decorating the cabinets; it was very rewarding for them to see how interested the kids were. Warm regards, Cusa Xu (Exhibition Coordinator).

Visiting the Elderly

Miranda and kids would be very happy to visit any older relatives of the school if they are living at a nursing home nearby. Thanks Miranda for your care of our school community, especially our children.

Soup

Thank you to all who made soup this term. If you would like to contribute to full, warm, soupy tummies at lunchtime on Thursdays, please put your name on the soup list in the kitchen.

Thank you

A thank you to Grilled Hamburgers in Fitzroy for their donation! We were their charity of choice in May. Eat more burgers!

Stars, By Bridie (Yr 4)

All the little pictures in the night

It's so clear, not a bird in sight

But the amazing thing is the stories of the stars

Andromeda, the Southern Cross, and look – there's Mars.

Orion and Capricorn, a spillage of milk

Taurus, the Archer, all of the same ilk

That's where it starts

The stories start there

All there's left to do

Is imagine and care.