



## NEWSLETTER

# AUTUMN 2014

Ed. Paul Liknaitzky

### Welcome Abigaëlle!

Clotilde gave birth to her fourth child at home on 25th of February. Abigaëlle came into the breathing world weighing 3.6kg, with two Sunshine Hospital midwives, Mary, Tim and Charlotte on hand. Abigaëlle has taken to her externalised existence very well indeed. A big thank you to the midwives from the Sunshine Hospital Home Birth Program and our school resident midwife Mary! Clo and Tim send a heartfelt *Thank You* to the school community for their warm wishes, presents and weeks of beautiful meals.



Abigaëlle with Charlotte

### Fare Thee Well Claire, by Tim

Claire has been a constant at school for five years. Her talents, attributes and character have been noticed and complimented time and again, and the fun and ideas that she brings to school welcomed and appreciated. Last year



Farewell Claire

she was described as "solid", and I think that this is the attribute that stands out to me, and is in fact the quality that we all unconsciously appreciate most. Solid: gets things done without a fuss, dependable and unflappable. These qualities are hard to teach, but for those looking after our children, are valued above all else. As parents we feel comfortable, safe and secure when our little ones are cared for by a person with such qualities. Our children also feel this, and as such are comfortable with her. This is not to negate the charm of her dry sense of humour (which came out in bursts when dealing with government), her rebel spirit (ask her one day about her final assignment to qualify as a teacher) or her imagination and love of dropping eggs off the balcony. Claire, after 15 years it is probably time to go home, but we leave the door open for your return. Thank you.

### Welcome aboard Jo and Tanya

Many of Claire's roles will be taken on by Jo and Tanya. Jo has returned to FCS after a year teaching in a local Catholic school, while Tanya did some of her practical teacher training at FCS. Please direct your admin queries to Jo and Tanya in the front office.

### **Middlies Camp, by Arkie (Yr 3)**

At the Middlies camp A, we did a lot of really fun things. These are just a few of them: We all had a lot of fun painting a tree and quite a few pine cones. On our second day, Claire organised a treasure hunt for us. When we were on the treasure hunt, Claire gave us a clue to get us started. The clues were quite funny, for instance here's one of the clues: "Run down the hill shouting 'I'm a silly sausage, hear me sizzle.'" One of the clues told us to think up a show. Everyone had lots of ideas, but finally we agreed on a circus. After we finished the hunt, we headed back to the camp. In the circus, Edie, Estela and I were The Amazing Starshine Acrobat Sisters. The boys were all different things. Eli and Ollie were The Trampoline Acrobats, Sol was Clumsy The Clown, Hector was Sleepy The Clown and Chester was The Ring Master. We watched the sunset on both nights; it was beautiful! Alice brought her little three-year-old son called Otis. Alice was reading The Magic Faraway Tree to Otis, so at night time Edie, Estela and I got to read to him. So those are a few of the many fun things we did at camp. Thank you, Claire and Alice!

### **Oxfam Trailwalkers/runners**

Thank you, dear parents, for supporting our participation in this Oxfam fundraiser. Our cumulative 100km run turned into many hundreds of kilometres, as your hip pockets are



**Bush art**

probably aware. In the end, nearly \$6500 was donated to Oxfam, with mountains of fun had by all. Thanks Claire for organising this.

### **The Lord is my Strength Neighbourhood House, Ouagadougou**

Flora (born and bred in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso) set up a neighbourhood house in this far-less fortunate corner of the world. Tim met Flora in 2001 while visiting a friend in West Africa. The objectives of The Lord is my Strength are to help children in their holistic development; to support widows, orphans and the disabled; to support sick children in the paediatric hospital through paying for their care, and through regular visits where small practical necessities are provided (soap and fruit to name a couple) and the children's spirits are kept up, and small joys shared through prayer and singing; and to sponsor children for school. The FCS school fete, which raised \$700 in Term 1, supports Flora's NGO in Burkina Faso.



**Oxfam runners**

## Thank You

A huge *Thank You* to Peter Brew, Emmett and their friend Ben for 5 days of concreting at Thornbury, and for helping with so many other little jobs. Legends!

## Kyneton Camp, by Hunter (Yr 6)

Kyneton camp, oh what a wonderful camp that was! Many a day we spent in the pool and spa, with canoe wars being the best thing that happened on camp. It was all the kids spread out into four boats on the lake, and Tim and Warren in another boat. The aim of the game was to tip Tim and Warren out of their boat. We tried for two or three hours until finally Silas, Ted, Llew and I tipped them out. Kyneton is the best camp of the year!

## Mystery Camp, by Faye

Philip and I had a wonderful time taking Biggie girls on Mystery Camp in Anglesea. We enjoyed the girls' goodwill and humour, their willingness to give everything a go, including romping in the surf and leaping from the bridge spanning the Anglesea River, and, above all, their beautiful manners which were remarked on wherever we went. Special thanks to Josephine, our friend and hairdresser, who did their hair while imparting wisdom about hair and personal presentation. Thanks too to David Brenchley (FCS founding parent and original art teacher) whose art exhibition we visited in Geelong. David spoke about his journey to becoming an artist, and about his exhibited works.



Anglesea river



Painting pine cones on camp

## Thornbury camp, by Joelle & Wayne

The first ever FCS Thornbury camp was a great success. Two days of adventure and fun at The Dereel Tree Farm has left everyone counting down the days till the next camp. The flying fox was very popular, and a few trees were enthusiastically chopped down. Everyone had a fantastic time exploring the tree farm and avoiding the adults as much as possible. Thank you to the parents who helped.

## Tinies Camp, by Nettie

A wonderful overnight stay was had at the tree farm for 14 Tinies and their parent/grandparent. A colourful tent-city appeared as if by magic and when dark came all the little munchkins went magically to bed! A new tank stand was constructed by Phillip, Tim, Jack and Mark, while Pete chopped piles of wood and others drank tea or played boggle. Adam's espresso coffee machine was a great hit (for the adults!). The flying fox and trampoline were in almost constant use with some brave catchers positioned at the end of the flying fox. Cubby houses and playing in the dirt were other popular past times. Thanks to all involved; it was a great camp!

### Happiness and Viability, by Tim

On the middle day of bike camp it rained the whole day, with the only variation being between showers and downpours. Our newly installed tank went from empty to full by noon. But the boys on this camp did not let the rain dampen their spirits. Mud was dug, bikes ridden, cricket played and more mud dug. I was immensely proud of Oscar, Ted, Blake and Reuben for enjoying the day, the bush and each other, and just letting the weather do what it does.

### Outings, by Miranda

Already this year we have had some very special visits with Betty. She is always happily expecting us on a Wednesday. We often take Betty in her wheelchair around to the Gallery cafe at the Convent, and she has her cappuccino, while the children get to choose between a cool drink or a hot chocolate - quite a treat! These afternoons spent in the Convent courtyard with Betty and the children are such a pleasure. Betty is great to talk to and she absolutely loves the visits with our kids; she already refers to us as her family. Betty worked for many years as a mothercraft nurse and is very fond of kids and gets a lot of pleasure from listening to all their stories and watching them play. The simple joy a weekly



visit can bring is immeasurable. If anyone in the school community can think of someone who would love a visit please let me know. Or if you would ever like to come along to meet Betty, extra adults are always a great addition. This poem by Emily Dickinson made me think of our visits to Betty:

*If I can stop one heart from breaking,  
I shall not live in vain;  
If I can ease one life the aching,  
Or cool one pain,  
Or help one fainting robin  
Unto his nest again,  
I shall not live in vain.*



### The Sound of Music - FCS style

Philip has made copies of a full length movie (100 minutes) we made in 1992 featuring the whole school with the Biggies in starring roles. It took nine months to make. We hired the State Theatre to show it. Children (and others) seem to enjoy watching this movie. Copies are available at the Fitzroy Readers office for \$10 each.

### Middlies Camp, by Taiga (Yr 4)

On Middlies camp at the tree farm, Will, Seb, Red and I made a base. First, we made it by finding a tree that had been cut down. Then, we gathered long sticks to lean on the tree. After that we used an axe to cut leafy branches. We used the leafy branches and ferns to cover the long sticks (for shelter). Next, we found bits of yellow plastic to put in the base as ornaments. The next day, we collected heaps of moss to make a carpet. Then, we went to get pine cones for defence, but when we were getting pine cones, we started to throw them at each other for fun. When we went back to the base with the pine cones, our fingers felt like they were about to fall off. The pine cones we brought back were then used to "include" the girls (Berry, Xavie, Avia and Julia) in our game. Camp with Claire was great as always.

### Be a Host - Advert

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting



you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student arriving in July 2014. Our students from across the world are looking forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new friends and becoming a member of an Australian family. If you feel you could do this for them for the length of their stay (3, 5 or 10 months) or even some of it, please contact Klaus Schumann on 97584279 and let him know of your interest.

### Let's Not Be Nitwits

From John Marsden: *"Now, with the holidays approaching, I would like to exhort you all to unite in a campaign for Candlebark to be a Nit-Free Zone for Term Two 2014! As most of you know, the little blighters are practically ubiquitous these days, but if we all work together, and are determined, we can eradicate them for a time at least. It would be great if you could treat your children's hair, regardless of whether you think they have nits or not, at the start of the holidays and again at the end of the holidays. This double whammy should have the desired effect. On with the onslaught! Let 'No Nits for Candlebark' be your rallying cry!"*

Let us at FCS take up this battle cry and make Term 2 at FCS nit-free too!



## **Thornbury's Maiden Term, by Wayne and Joelle**

FCS Thornbury has now been going for one incredible term. The ten Thornbury students have made a great start and have all enjoyed becoming members of the FCS community. The Thornbury parents have all made the time and effort to build our community and have facilitated what must be the smoothest start for a new school ever!

Each week we have enjoyed having the different groups of Fitzroy students who join us on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We have appreciated how helpful, friendly and welcoming these students have been. It is wonderful to see the students from both sites mixing. We have also appreciated the help given to us by our weekly Biggie. Ella, Thea, Jack, Oscar and Hunter all spent time at Thornbury and were all very helpful in their own unique and varied ways. Thanks also to Fitzroy parents Eileen Archer and Peter Brew for sharing their skills with the 'other campus'. We hope that all Fitzroy parents (current and past) feel welcome to join us here in Thornbury. The highlight of the term was undoubtedly our first camp at the tree farm - although a visit by a not-so-friendly

snake (with its escort) came a close second.

The happiness exhibited by the Thornbury kids this term has been a joy for both parents and staff to see. Our smooth start has been made possible by the help we have received, and the amazing skills of the Fitzroy staff who have ensured that the wonderful feel of FCS continues here. Thanks to Tim, Warren, Claire, Jo, Nat, Mary, Sam, Clotilde and Mimi for your work.

The Thornbury Campus was opened by Minister Dixon, Mayors Jackie Fristacky (Yarra) and Gaetano Greco (Darebin).

"Fitzroy Community School makes a significant contribution to providing educational choice and a high-quality educational experience to Victorian families," Mr Dixon said. "As a former school principal, I have long been impressed by the school's history of fostering excellent personal and educational outcomes for young people."



**Official opening, Thornbury Campus**



**Martin Dixon,  
Minister for Education**