



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2016

Ed. Paul Likhaitzky

Welcome Paddy!

On the eve of February 25th and in their kitchen, a fresh little lad arrived into the arms of Catherine (FCS:1995) and Nick. He let out a hearty cry, had a feed, and has been doing well ever since. Mary was present, along with two midwives. He was named Patrick Francis Elias. Well done, Catherine! And congratulations to you, Nick, and both your families!



Patrick!

At the Heart of it All, by Netti

The kitchen is at the heart of our school. Eating together, chopping, grating, slicing, baking, interspersed with some dancing, singing, joking, and the ever present question of "who will have Glenda's cakes today?" Everyone is welcome

to share whatever is on the table. Recently the Biggies have been helping the Weenies get their lunch on Wednesdays with great efficiency! Every Tuesday, Arthur is a welcome visitor with a huge variety of fruit, vegetables and other goodies. But no sooner is the fridge filled than it's emptied again into lots of small tummies! We were not sure how Arthur would manage without Christian to help unload (now that he is a school boy), but it seems Xavier has been in training for some time to take over! We know parents are busy, but if you haven't been in for a while, do drop in sometime for a cuppa or a snack. There's almost always a small child who would love to sit on the couch and listen to a story. *[Thanks Netti, Joelle, Greta and Alison, along with countless others who keep the children well fed and happy.]*

From Tiny Things, Biggie Things Grow, by Tim

I'd love to congratulate our Biggies at both campuses for doing such a great job of looking after their Tinies. Thank you, Biggies, for looking after our new students so well, and for settling them in.



Tweeny: a sneak preview

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Hueys, by Nikki

In an art class I took just recently, I read a book called 'It wasn't me' by Oliver Jeffers. I used the simple but sophisticated cartoon characters, collectively called Hueys, to teach some basic cartooning. We learned about speech bubbles and thinking bubbles. We also learned how to show different emotional states with body language and facial expressions. The children really seemed to love drawing Hueys. I have since drawn many different Hueys in many different situations, and then asked the children to draw their own Hueys responding to those situations. Often with hilarious results.

Untitled, by Ella and Stephie (Yr 1, Brunswick St)

Once upon a time, up in the sky, there were four suns. One sun was always happy, and one sun was always sad, and one was angry and one was scared. The scared and angry suns burned up. The sad one turned into the moon. And the happy sun was the only one left, so he became the sun we have today. The End.

Awesome Foursome

Our four music teachers, Kerrie, Warren, Christina and Dave, performed "Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes" (Paul Simon) together at the end of Term 1 concert. This wonderful song was the first time our music teachers have performed together. Thanks for sharing your music with us!

Swimming the FCS way, by Oscar

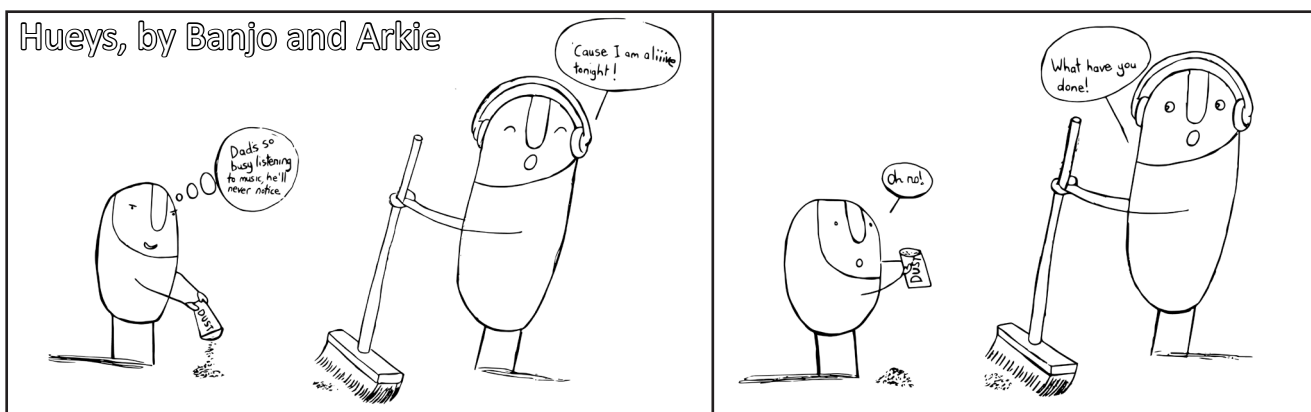
It has been 16 years now that I have had the privilege to be involved with the FCS swimming program every Wednesday. And what a wonderful experience it has been. The program has evolved over the years into probably the best in Australia. Comments are frequently made by outsiders looking on about how the children respond so well to the program from Prep through to Grade 6. There is always a happy atmosphere in the pool area when FCS are there—it is hands on, instructive, productive, meaningful, and enjoyable. The kids never seem to tire of doing the drills or playing in the water with their friends. They're learning how to respect water and how to swim efficiently. And having a serious amount of fun in the process. I'm sure the program will continue long after I'm gone. *[And the school would like to thank you, Oscar, for your long-standing dedication to our school!]*

You Goose, by Uta (Yr 1, Normanby Av)

[Task: story should start with 'It came creeping towards me and I couldn't turn my head away...' and include these words: hideous, vermin, scrumptious, hilarious.] It came creeping towards me and I couldn't turn my head away. The water moved fast. I couldn't go away. It was scary. I did not like it. It was hideous. It looked at me. I was scared. It had a vermin head. I did not want to get eaten. I was scared it might eat me. I did not know what to do so I did not do anything. I was too scared. I think that it thinks I am scrumptious! I looked closer. It was only a goose. How hilarious!

Biggies Girls Mystery Camp, by Greta

In Term 1, Jo and I were lucky enough to take the Biggie girls from both Normanby and Brunswick campuses on Mystery Camp, while Faye remained in Melbourne awaiting the arrival of her newest grandchild. We stayed at Faye's beach house in Anglesea (thanks Faye!), and the girls had a blast. We jumped off the bridge at Anglesea River, played



in the mud at Aireys Inlet, went for a lovely walk along the Cumberland River and enjoyed a picnic and swim at the Jebbs pools. Jo and I generously offered our services as judges of a massage competition, and there was plenty of top secret girly stuff, from face masks to Sister Act, nail art and hair braiding. We all had great fun.



Untitled, by Magnus (Yr 1, Brunswick St)

Once upon a time there was a box of carrots. The owner was Tom. One evening Tom went to get carrots to eat. But the box of carrots was gone. Tom set out with a torch. He saw a cave. He went inside the cave and he saw a robber. Tom jumped out of his hiding spot and took down the robber. He called the police and they arrested the robber. He ate his carrots.

Along for the Ride, by Phillip O'Carroll

Life is a miracle:
 Of unknown origin,
 Breathtaking, bountiful,
 And full of surprises.
 Life is a gift,
 Neither ordered nor paid for.
 We can glare at it and doubt -
 or open the box and enjoy.
 Life is a wind.
 It comes and it goes.
 We are the butterflies
 Along for the ride.

Normanby Renovations

While our new classrooms were being built through Term 4 (2015) and Term 1 (2016), many classes were held in a local church hall. Wayne and Joelle, along with the help of staff and parents, managed to seamlessly shuffle students and activities without missing a beat. Everyone showed great FCS spirit. The people at Thornbury

Church of Christ were welcoming and we will always remember their generosity and kindness. Thank you. Many sets of young eyes have watched as these classrooms have taken shape, and the builders have kindly answered a long list of questions. Our thanks to Richard Stampton (our architect), and to Peter, Chris and Steve (our builders), for all of their work on building these wonderful new spaces. We are all unbelievably excited to run our first classes there in less than a week.



Friday Outings, by Sue Smith

Each Friday in Term 1, the various tribes have visited a range of places within the city that provide sanctuary for the soul. We stood outside St Patrick's Cathedral in East Melbourne marvelling at its size and structure. The cathedral took 80 years to build, and we wondered what it would be like to spend your whole working life on a single project that you knew you would never see completed! Inside, we sat quietly for a while, and the children enjoyed lighting a candle in silence, offering a thought or a prayer for somebody else. Some groups have visited the NGV, and enjoyed the Andy Warhol and Ai Weiwei "Studio Cats" interactive display. Photo-booth style pictures with your friends seemed to be a highlight there! Another group explored the magnificent La Trobe Reading Room at the State Library. All outings have included some playful park time, frolicking in fountains and sharing food. It's a joy to spend time with the children and to join in their sense of wonder. It's lovely to see how well they manage themselves appropriately to each environment,

and how they keep an eye on each other on the trams and busy city streets. *[A warm welcome to Sue as our new chaplain, and thanks for a great term.]*

Untitled, by Harvey (Yr 1, Brunswick St)

The dogs were happy to be moving. They lived in the city, but they were moving to the bush. But when they were half way to the bush the car broke down. The dogs were very sad that the car broke down. John, the dog, had an idea. "We should fix the car with my tools," he said. And the dogs did.

Phillip Island Village School

Tim visited this new addition to alternative schooling during the Easter holidays. Lien (one of the founding parents and drivers behind this school) had visited both FCS campuses last year, and is a friend of Normanby Av parents Nicole and Michael. Our thanks to Lien, Fiona (the principal) and all of the team there for making Tim welcome, and congratulations on adding to school choice with your great little school!



Bushwhacking, by Clotilde

Kestrels and Falcons took turns to go on Tuesday excursions. Each Tuesday, one group would go on an adventure to various parks or to the city. They loved spotting wild animals (we've seen flying-foxes, blue-tongue lizards, and kangaroos), walking through the bush, playing in the creek and exploring nature together. Our Tinies showed endurance, resilience and enthusiasm, while the bigger kids looked after them very well. To end the term, both tribes went together to meet Vikki (our singer teacher) at Greensborough park. There they sang some tunes in her studio. To my surprise, her studio was a big circle of branches

in the forest. After some tea and songs, all the children helped to renovate Vikki's wonderful studio. Thanks to Vikki, and to the spirit of Nature!

Tempting Fete

Cakes, bickies, scones, balloons, toys and games swirled in a frenzy of fun and fund-raising at the Brunswick Street fete at the end of Term 1. We had raised just over \$1000, which will go toward school fees, tutorial provision, medical expenses and housing assistance through our friends in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Thanks Biggies for organising another great fete!



Camping in Gippsland, by Wayne

Two groups of Normanby Av and Brunswick St Middlies spent a camp with our lovely hosts on their farm in Gippsland. We explored the creeks, the rolling green hills, the dam. The fun of jumping off the bank into the creek was only surpassed by the leaps from the dinghy into the dam. The feeling of the dam's silty mud between toes was a cause of great excitement. However, the most memorable event, was the capture of an Eel. Two young, rookie hunters ventured down to the creek, set their Eel trap and sat and waited and waited and waited. After our hosts informed them that Eels are mostly active at night, our eager trappers left until the morning. And with the morning came great cries of excitement, the trap was carried up to the shearing shed, and sitting in the middle of the basket was a large Eel. What a great camp all round! And by the way, Eel tastes great when fried in butter!

Kyneton Camp, by Tim

A few decades ago, Faye convinced Philip to go to Kyneton for a set of free saucepans, and ended up purchasing a week of timeshare there. This began our Kyneton camp tradition at the Kyneton

Bushland Resort. Highlights of this year's camp included 'canoe wars', tennis, cricket and board and card games. Thanks to Warren, James and Greta for helping to make this a great start to the year.

Dancing Queen

Congratulations to Daisy for winning numerous awards in the Follow Your Dreams National Championships: Follow Your Dreams National Champion; 1st Champion Dancer; 1st Own Choreography; 1st Contemporary; 1st Jazz; 1st Classical; 1st Lyrical; 2nd Hip Hop!) What an impressive haul! Well done, Daisy!

Untitled, by Alex (Yr 1, Brunswick St)

Once upon a time there were two parrots. They lived with a poor little woman who barely had enough money to buy their food, or hers. Then the woman had an idea. She had a rich sister and she called her for some money, but her sister didn't answer. So she drove to her house and looked inside and called for her sister, but there was no reply. She searched the house but couldn't find her. Suddenly she heard a voice saying, "Sister, come!" and she found her sister floating in a pile of gold. She asked for some money. Her sister said, "Why, certainly." So she took a truck load of gold and lived happily ever after. The End

Tinies and Giants Among the Trees, By Netti

Magnificent weather, space to run, trampoline for jumping, dirt to muck about in, sticks and pine cones to collect (just the one dead mouse!), hunting for rabbits, and a most beautiful sunset



to admire. Yes, this was another Tinies camp where all the little people got to commune with the natural world, while the big people amused themselves with some building, chopping wood (go Gav!), cooking, washing dishes, supervising flying fox (and occasionally having a go!). Ballan chips and dim sims were the usual highlight at the halfway point there and back. Monday night barbecue was almost as extensive as Wednesdays at school. Woody and Liv cooked up a storm – steak, sausages, hamburgers, chicken, chops, Potatoes, and topped off with Evelyn's gourmet salad. Cereal was popular for breakfast, but when Mark cooked a pile of bacon and eggs they disappeared almost before they came off the pan. It's hungry work, playing outside for 2 days! Thanks to all the parents for contributing to such a relaxing and fun camp, and to the two Tims for growing such a wonderful tree farm.





Parle, Parlons, Parlez, by Clotilde

While the little ones continue to enjoy French language games using colours, counting, animals, body-parts and other basic conversation, the older students have begun to learn conjugation, and to build more complex sentences. We have been learning French songs in two parts. Biggies from Brunswick St have been learning French with me since they were Tinies, and I admire their growing proficiency and their love for French. They recently asked for something special, so we did some French cooking and craft!

Final Combined Concert

After a few years of combined concerts, our end of Term 1 concert was the final concert that the Brunswick St and Normanby Av campuses will share. This is simply for the reason that, in giving everyone a chance to participate, the concerts are becoming too long. So do please feel free to attend both concerts at the end of the year. These will occur on the Monday and Wednesday of the last week of term, both at the Hungarian Hall.

A Reminder, by Jo

As many of you are aware, the Middlies and I are creating something special. For this, we would love for all families to send in their favourite recipes (thank you to those who have already done so). You may also like to write a sentence or two explaining why your chosen recipe is special, or include any photos (high resolution) if you have them. Please give these to Jo in the office, or email to school: info@fcs.vic.edu.au. We can't wait to share our surprise with you!

The Sun, by Zali (Yr 1, Brunswick St)

The sun was in the sky. One day a man wanted to fly up to it in space. But he didn't have a space ship and he didn't have a space suit, so he needed to go to the shop. He did, and he got a space suit.

He made a ship out of metal, nails and glass. He flew up to the sun. The End

Keep your wits about you!

Nits are an ever-present threat to a comfortable head. You must fight them on the beaches, you must fight them in the fields and in the streets, you must never surrender! And also, please check heads weekly, and if found, get rid of them. The method recommended by a former president of the AMA is to apply watery conditioner and comb carefully, as the little critters are becoming resistant to many of the treatments. They are pretty clever; they haven't survived for millennia by being stupid! But we're not nitwits either!

ADVERT

Sunrise preschool and long day care now has a campus in Thornbury too! Opening in April at 63 Woolton Ave. The centre will provide only long day care service for 3-year-olds in 2016. The kinder programme for 3-5-year-olds will commence in January 2017. Enrolments open now. Call 9481 5324 or visit www.sunrisepreschool.vic.edu.au.

Guess Who

The Guess Who picture in the last (Summer 2015) newsletter was.... Nikki Frankel! Try guess who this young lad is (below, hint: a current FCS teacher again.)

