



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017

Ed. Paul Liknaitzky

PLANETARY WELCOMES

On the 21st of March, Olivia and Michael Howden welcomed their new daughter, Hannah, into the world! Hannah is sister to Jade (Little) and Esther (Tinie), granddaughter to Netti and Keith, and niece to Warren. Well done Olivia, and congratulations to your whole family!



Hannah!

On the 23rd of June, Thomas Roger Behrendorff joined his new family. Thomas is the son of Emma and Pete, and brother to Harvey (Junior) Elva (Tinie) and James. Well done Emma, and congratulations to you all!



Thomas!

ON TERM 2, By Alia

Such a lovely term! Crisp, bright mornings, wet socks and shoes, heaps of running and laughs. I have had so many favourite days this term, including: Zombie Tiggy and climbing in trees with the Middlies and the Juniors; Tinies in Edinburgh Gardens; huge hikes through Thornbury with the Middlies; and hilarious Playdough Maths with the Biggies!

FROM TINIE THINGS BIGGIE THINGS GROW, by Alison Reiher (Mimi's mum)

I have been working at Normanby on Thursdays in the kitchen. I love the energy of the Tinies in particular. It has been a privilege to observe their growth in all areas, especially their social skills. I see children feeling comfortable and reaching out and making friends. Well done Tinies.



Thornbury crafters

WILD DOG CAMPS, by Claire

Three mixed Middlies Camps were held at Wild Dog over Term 2. We were lucky enough to be hosted by the custodians – Sean, Miranda and Mary – who lived there full-time for 2016. Even with the added luxuries of electricity and hot water in the Barn, very rarely was a minute spent in there! Long walks, playing in the creek, and launching off the end of the pier into the chilly dam were how the days were spent. This, followed by the usual camp staples of fire-side stories and joke telling. And of course, Spotto - which Nick consistently holds the title for being the scariest at!

CAMP, by Illia (Yr 3)

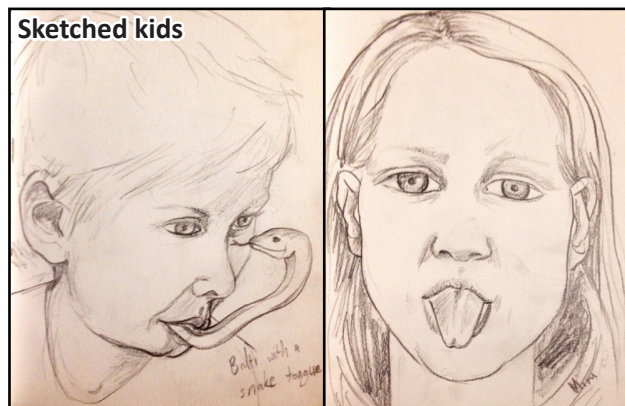
I liked Camp because everybody was playing together. It was also very fun. I like camp because I brought my book and we did lots of drawing. It was at Wild Dog, so we went on a big walk and listened to the birds.

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ANIMALIA, by Nikki

I have been carrying my sketchbook around with me recently, and have sometimes had the chance to draw some of the children from FCS. They seem to love having their portrait drawn and usually sit very still. Sometimes there is a resemblance. If they don't stay still I make a game of it and turn them into something like a giraffe or a bird. Last Wednesday I was sitting on the couch in the kitchen drawing Will while he played chess. Ru and Stephanie B got out a pencil and paper and decided to draw me at the same time. I apparently moved too much and they turned me into a giraffe.



IN THE GREAT GREEN ROOM, by Faye

The English classroom remains one of the significant blessings in my life. Tinies are a special joy. Their little faces light up when they grasp some new understanding of how English works. It is a pleasure to notice how much knowledge the Littlies have acquired in their year and a half at school. They now understand most of the rules that bring a pattern to written English. Recently when I had an unexpected extra class with the Juniors, I was delighted to hear them enthusiastically reminisce on their now large repertoire of poems. Middlies are now proficient in writing many text types: creative, persuasive, notices, recipes, poetry, posters, letters and invitations. It is wonderful to see them put the formal skills they have learned into practice in this way. As for the Biggies, to have a group with whom you can discuss language and literature at this level is indeed a delight!

FITZROY GARDENS, by Janelle

The Normanby Bears went on an outing to the Fitzroy Gardens in Term 2. It was a brisk and sunny morning and everyone was glad to be out in the sunshine. We wandered through the conservatory and admired all the beautiful plants, played in the freshly dropped autumn leaves, got wet and sandy playing Tiggy around the pond, and ate our



lunch under the fairy tree. What a lovely day it was!

POETRY LOVERS

The 22nd of August is Poetry for (and with) Parents and Poetry People at the Brunswick Street meeting – to which Normanby Ave parents are of course also welcome. Led by former parent and poet, Philip Harvey, kick off time is 8.45am. Come and share a poem you treasure.

REFUGEE WEEK

We were privileged to have Jo (Rufus and Harvey's mum) present the movie 'Cast from the Storm' for refugee week. We showed this film to our Biggies and Middlies from both campuses. Jo and Miranda led a group discussion with the children. The movie documented a group of refugees, working with drama teachers to bring their life stories to the stage. The discussions were insightful and a few tears were shed. Thank you, Jo, for organising this special event.

EGG DROPPING DYNAMOS, by Claire

Egg dropping returned this term at the insistent request from the Brunswick St Middlies. The challenge - within a set time, utilise given items and tape to protect your egg from breaking after being thrown off the balcony. Simple? Not always. A few teams cracked under pressure and a second round was called to see the successful eggneers battle again. The Grand Egglimitation will be held next Term.



CHECKMATE, CHESS MATE!

Chess continues to be very popular at Normanby Ave. We have 20 afterschool chess participants and during most frees, you can find a chess game going on in the corner. Thank you to Grant for making chess so much fun!

THANK YOU, FAMILIES!

We continue to be blessed with help from family members at Normanby Ave. Hilary (Jett D, Indi and Kato's grandmother) teaches knitting to the Juniors, and Tabitha (Jett M and Amber's mum) teaches handwriting to Juniors and grade 3's. These lessons are extremely popular and

we are very thankful. There are many other parents and grandparents who help to make each week run smoothly. Special thanks to Lucy, Helen, Jo, David and Philipa.

RUNNERS' HIGH, by Miranda

It was thrilling to watch our five FCS competitors run in the Regional Cross Country at Bundoora Park this year. The runners all put in an amazing effort, in running the races but also in supporting each other. Thanks also to Edith and Daisy for cheering everyone on. Well done Ari, Elijah, Mo, Jarrah and Cocola!



MATHS CLASS, by the Juniors (Year 2)

Juniors Maths is AWESOME! It makes us think bigger, and outside the box. We do lots of problem solving, and games such as: 'What's My Rule' and 'Strike it Out'. We especially like working on challenging questions and going to the café! It has taught us to try new things, even if you think you can't. And, to be brave and have a go. We would like to learn all the things that the Middlies and Biggies do!

HIGH TEA IN PARIS

Last week, on the other side of the world, Faye shared a cup of tea with Marieke, Daniel, Axel (Tinie) and baby sister Hilda at a favourite café in the Marais. A wonderful small world moment!



WINTER WEDNESDAYS! By Netti

After swimming, in the art room (not swimming in the art room – aah, the importance of punctuation!) what was once called Table Games occurs. Monopoly and Chinese checkers have made an appearance, along with a few card games. We hope to include a variety of games next term. If any family has a favourite game available for loan

for the afternoon – excellent! Bring it along. Fun without technology!



FRIDAY TRIBES, by Sue Smith (Chaplain – Brunswick Street)

We have been blessed this term with superb weather for our Friday outings. This always entices us into the great outdoors. We have visited Quarry's Park, Ruffey Lake Park, Fitzroy Gardens and Darebin Parklands. Wherever we go, the children are quick to engage with, and explore their environment. It is always joyful - whether the discovery of a hidden creek, hills to roll down, trees to climb, or good sticks for sword fighting. It is such a pleasure to share in their natural wonder and drive for exploration. The outings provide a great chance for the children to engage with each other - regardless of age differences. It's always hard to announce, "Time's up", but even then, the children good-naturedly head back to the bus or tram. Thanks everyone for such fun Fridays!



UNDER THE STARS, by Ben Langmead (Zara's dad)

The Biggies B camp at the Tree Farm was a delightful week of free play, games, and hanging out by the fire. It only rained the first night, which meant hours of Spotto and lots of outdoor fun on the other nights. Passing through Ballarat, the kids attended a diner for lunch, and the staff there said they were very impressed with the kids' manners. On the way back from the local town where we

got dessert one night, I dropped Tim and the kids about 3km from camp for a brisk night walk back. Forts were built, fires lit, and firewood stacked. On the last night a few kids slept under the stars, and some very tired kids returned to play an inter-school netball competition. Despite the exhaustion, they played really well, and I'll bet they all slept well that night too!



PUZZLED? by Feri

People often ask me, "What is Puzzles class?". This question isn't always easy to answer, but I'll try. If you give someone the same problem or type of problem repeatedly, a rigid problem-solving method can develop. But problems in the real world come in many forms. In Puzzles, the emphasis is on tackling something new each class. It could be sorting the pillows in the Eyrie into groups of colours (harder than it may seem, there's an eclectic selection up there), drawing the common habitats for animals that are randomly selected from cards, finding a small token on the oval, or building sculptures out of chess pieces and rulers. While the specific problem changes, the general structure doesn't. The class begins with a presentation and group analysis of the problem, then we try out various solutions and end with presentations of those solutions and a discussion. My goal is always to make the solving process collaborative and open to a variety of possibilities. And it's heartening to see the children taking to new problems with enthusiasm and flexible thinking.

FCS WAR ON WASTE

Did you know that food waste DOESN'T decompose in landfill!?! Let's do our bit to change that! We now have a compost bucket in the FCS kitchen. For our new project to work well, we need lots of families to get excited about compost and have a go! The bucket needs to be emptied every day and then returned clean for the following school day. All you need to do is grab the bucket from the kitchen bench for your compost bin, worm farm, or community garden, or you can just dig a hole in your garden and bury it – the worms will love you! Don't miss out on this ex-soil-ent opportunity!

ANNIVERSARY PICTURE BOOK

Our camerawoman Pauline has compiled many photos of the FCS 40th year celebration, held at Normanby Ave campus, into a book of pictures. Anyone can purchase one online at: tinyurl.com/FCSBook

ADVERT – ANGLICARE FOSTER CARE INFO NIGHT
 Anglicare Victoria is looking for people who have a place in their heart for a child in need of a safe home. Care can be short term or long-term. Information session Tues 18th July 6:30-7:30pm. For more info, contact Bea Wood on beatrice.wood@anglicarevic.org.au or 9301 5200.

ADVERT – LEARN TENNIS
 Mayors Park Tennis Centre, Clifton Hill.
 Holiday Clinic: Mon 11th – Thur 13th July from 9am to 12pm. Clinic cost: \$140, morning tea, drinks, fruit, and racquets provided. Term 3 lessons begin 17th July. Please contact Jeff on jeffb@mayorsparktennis.net or 0418 359 791 for bookings. FREE RACQUET for any new student enrolling in July clinic and Term 3 lessons.

GUESS WHO?
 The girl in the previous (Autumn) newsletter was Jo! Guess who the young lady below is (Hint: another staff member, this one born overseas).

