



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

Ed. Paul Likhaitzky

PLANKS, by Netti

Who knew you could have so much fun with thousands of little blocks of wood? Who knew that 2-metre high buildings could be constructed from such little blocks? Who knew that pushing over a towering construction once built was so much fun? Well, everyone who attended the Planks workshop does now. Cam, who runs the workshops, was impressed by the positive energy from all involved. And clearly, we were impressed by the planks. Thanks for a fun time, Cam.

PLANET SQUASH, by Gabriel and Ziggy, both Brunswick St Middlies

Once I visited Planet Squash. They only played one game, Squashed Squash. I thought it was a weird planet, but I couldn't leave because my spaceship was squashed. There were no houses because they had all been squashed as well. You also had to avoid getting squashed. I got so terrified that I decided to stop all the squashing. First, I had to find the person who was causing this mess. I found out that it was Squash Man of Squash Inc. So, to get to him, I decided to work my way up the ranks of Squash Inc. Being a skilled letter writer, I wrote a brilliant job application and immediately got the job. I told him how much I admired Squash

Inc., and how I had always longed for this opportunity. I slowly got to the position of chief adviser. One day when we were working together amongst the squashed machinery, I saw my chance. By now he trusted me and was showing me the squash elimination button. This button would squash the factory. It had a five-minute timer. The lunch siren sounded, and everyone left the building except for Squash Man, because he always checked on the jobs that his workers had done. Stealthily, I pressed the button and left. The five minutes felt like an eternity. But then... what seemed like a lightning bolt hit the hundredth-story building. The descent of the enormous building began squashing Squash Man as it fell. I rejoiced, but now I had to get off Planet Squash. How was I



Planking



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Middlies Mystery Camp to Skenes Creek

going to achieve this? For weeks I tried to think of a solution. I couldn't. But then (because I had been gone for weeks), Team Seventy-Two came to look for me. They picked me up and took me home.

COASTAL CAMPING, by Kate Campbell

The Normanby Junior and Middle girls went on a 3-day camp with two older girls, Joelle and Kate. We were fortunate enough to be able to stay at the Dinatales' farm in Merricks, which was an incredible treat. There was plenty of space for us to explore the bush, dam, and creek. The girls enjoyed wandering, jumping on the trampoline, getting muddy, feeding the chickens, collecting eggs, playing games inside, and chatting around the table over cups of tea and meals. We walked over 10km on the Red Hill Rail Trail, taking in massive pine trees, vineyards, and the occasional ocean vista. It was wonderful to have Jett there to show us around her farm, and for all of us to see where she and her family spend most weekends. Now we understand why Jett's family love it so much there! Huge thanks once again to Natalie and Paul for having us.

POETRY MORNING, by Philip Harvey

Walt Whitman was a favourite at this year's Parents' Poetry Morning in August, with readings of 'There was a Child went forth every Day' by John Salamito, 'O Captain! My Captain!' by Nick Berryman, and a rendition of 'Miracles' by Faye Berryman. Familiar poets were Shel Silverstein, his poem 'Sick' read by Philip O'Carroll and A.A. Milne: Tamsin Wagner read 'Halfway Down'. It is always good to hear original work; Kelly Mayo recited her poem 'Bumblebee'. Gideon Haigh read the inventive rhymes of Ogden Nash's 'Admonitory Lines for the Birthday of an Over-energetic Contemporary', while Carolyn Beckett delivered Pam Ayres equally comic 'Oh I wish I'd looked after me teeth!' Animal poems are always good value. Tulip Kilbourne's 'Spiders'

was given due drama by Colin Gardner, and we met Oliver Herford's 'The Crocodile', courtesy of Daniel Goldbloom. Sue Smith related the experience of planning a trip in 'Just in case' by Charlotte Mitchell. Poetry suits different moods, so it was also good to hear Adam Rozsa read Louise Glück's 'Autumn' and Emily Macdonald read Irene and Aubrey de Selincourt's 'I Like to Sit by the Fire and Stare'. I thought it would be good to hear the exciting language of William Shakespeare, opening the meeting with "All the world's a stage" from 'As You Like It', then closing with the speech "Lovers and madmen have such seething brains" from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Truly a cornucopia of poetic delights for everyone in attendance!

— *Once again, we realise how blessed we are to have Philip Harvey's leadership for several of our poetry events. Thank you, Philip.*

FUTURE STARS MAKE GRAND FINAL, by Keith

We had four basketball teams represent us at Hoop Time at the MSAC on 20th August. Middlies Future Stars, coached by Wayne, won their four pool matches comfortably, and the Semi Final as well! In the last game of the day, St Joseph's Primary School were just a little



Hoop Timers

too good and we lost 12-17 in the Finals. Congratulations to the team: Rufus, Lucian, Charles, Odette, Amber, Emily, Uta, and Ziggy. Our other three teams were in the Rookies section and all played five games with mixed results and great spirit. One highlight of the day was when the Warriors Rookie team sang their own self-composed team song! Thank you to our four scorers, Mikey, Jerry, Yasmin and Holly, and to the many parents who attended the games.

BIGGIE CAMP, by Georgina

Once again Biggies camp was great fun. Each night we played 'spotto' (a camp favourite), except on one evening, when it poured with rain. Instead, we lit the fire in the octagon and rehearsed the play. We had rounds of 'camouflage' and 'assassin' too, which kept everyone on their toes, and the bush ringing out with shrieks of laughter. Camp dinners could (almost) be described as gourmet with dishes from Malaysia, Korea, and Japan made fresh on the fire to warm us up. We were blessed with lyrebirds in close vicinity to the camp – their incredible and complex mimicry was impressive, and such a special backdrop of sound out there on The Land.



WHEN I FIRST CAME TO FCS, by Edith, Brunswick St Biggie (Yr 5) "Hi, I'm Edith," was all I got out, then groups of children crowded into the kitchen, and then seemed to leave as fast as they came. Mum and I started the tour in the music room. It had a piano. I love the piano. We then entered the art room, paint flying everywhere. How much fun would that be! I think a little got on my shirt. We moved on to the meeting room, where there was dancing - one of my favourite things to do. I joined in for a bit, before we went into the maths room. Everyone was

working on their own thing, instead of on one thing that is either too easy or too hard. The coolest room was the top room, or what they call the Eyrie. I got to see some costumes for their school play. Then Mum and I saw the library with so many books to read. We moved onto a room called 'Middle Earth'. It had a green screen in it. We went into the English room, where Mum had a meeting with the founder, Faye. She was really nice and looked like she would be a great English teacher. I couldn't wait to go to school there!



FIREFIGHTERS FOR TEA, by Netti Four burly firefighters joined a Tinies Tea Party in August to teach them the difference between 'good' and 'bad' fires. Tinies learned that a good way to get out of a burning house is by tiger crawling along the ground. They learned about safe meeting spots outside. And they learned about triple-zero. To top off the practical education, they also got to spray the fire hose, and climb up into the fire truck! Thanks Furies!

DRAMATICS, by Netti

New Zealand Playhouse made their annual visit to present 'Red Robin Riding Hood' in which King George has lost the plot! In his never-ending quest to build bigger palaces, giant walls, and enormous statues of himself, he has raised the Land Far Far Away tax rate to 101%! Jack and Jill can't afford to get a pail of water, Little Bo peep has to sell her sheep, and even the Princess is so hungry she eats the pea! When even the bravest of knights are too scared to stand up to him, the Land Far Far Away cries out for a hero to put a stop to the madness of the King. Luckily their cries are heard by a mysterious red hooded figure with a bow and arrow, a basket of goodies and some very unlikely Big Bad back up. The three actors who played all the many and varied parts showed great enthusiasm and agility in the quick changes necessary. It was a hoot to start the first week of term.

GRAMP CAMP, by Craig

Together, the Grampians Camp troupe leapt, scurried, and hiked ourselves across gloriously beautiful terrain. We stood atop 'The Pinnacle' and marvelled at the view below us; scrambled up parts of McKenzie Falls and shouted, "FCS is the best!"; and glimpsed emus and kangaroos foraging on the plains. Back at the Tall Timbers home, we were a big family cooking dinner, cleaning up, and (for those who weren't too tired) talking about our day. All told, the Grampians Camp was a tremendous success, and I look forward to reflecting with those students about our time together when next we meet.



THE PLAY, by Tim

Aliens of North Fitzroy was great fun! Highlights included the students playing their teachers, and many funny reflections on the happenings of daily life at school. Jarrah, Moses, Emile, Lachlan, Martha, Ari, Edward, and Cocoa were all stars, and brought fun, humour and a great deal of talent to their roles. The children seemed to love the concept of their teachers being aliens. A big thank you to Sue for coordinating the costumes, and to Maryanne and Val for their supporting roles here. Jono and Tim for a fun script, and Nikki for the props and make-up. Thank you to all the parent and teacher helpers. And of course, Sam, for putting the whole show together!

CHILD SAFETY

The school takes child safety seriously. We see safety as having two main elements, a culture that embeds safety, and procedures that uphold and strengthen this culture. Over the last 12 months we have examined our culture and procedures. These are available on our website under the compliance section.

A VISIT

During a brief return to Melbourne in August, Gracie

Sze Mei visited the Normanby campus. It was lovely to see her.

BIG KEITH

Big Keith just spent a week in Penang participating in the Asia-Pacific Masters Games, returning to Australia with Gold Medals in 100m, 200m, 400m and the long jump! He also picked up a Gold in Basketball and a Silver in the 4 x 100m relay. No doubt the display cabinet is becoming rather crowded!

GUESS WHO

The young girl appearing in the Winter 2018 Guess Who was... Sue Smith! Guess Who this little school girl is here (hint: she probably started most days with some Bubble and Squeak, and never left her gaff without a broolly).

