

THE COMPANION

13th September 2016

Diary Dates:

Wednesday, 14Sep16:

- College Assembly— Induction of College Captains, House Captains and SRC. 9am. Parents invited
- Morning Tea—New Student Leaders 2017 and their parents.

Thursday, 15Sep16:

- Walkathon
- Year 11 Society & Culture excursion to State Library

Saturday, 17Sep16:

Sign Choir at Nepean
 Disability Expo, Panthers

Monday, 19Sep16:

- Yr 12 Back to the Future Day at Luna Park
- Parent Morning Coffee chat with Principal, 9am-10am

Tuesday, 20Sep16:

• Yr 12 Graduation rehearsal

Wednesday, 21Sep16:

- Yr 12 Farewell Assembly, Period 1, Parents invited
- Yr 12 Graduation Mass and Awards, Corpus Christi Parish church, 5pm-

Friday, 23Sep16:

Last Day Term 3

Monday, 10 Oct16:

 Staff Professional Learning Day, No Students

Tuesday, 110ct16:

• Students commence Term 4: Summer Uniform

Wednesday, 12 to Friday 140ct16

SRC Camp, Narrabeen

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From the Principal

Recently Pope Francis canonized one of the greatest witnesses to the love of Jesus who ever lived - Mother Teresa of Calcutta. (*We shared her relic at Xavier just before her canonisation.*) Because of this historic moment and because she exemplified so well the radical lifestyle Jesus calls us to in Sunday's gospel, let us take this time to reflect on her life and draw inspiration from the mighty work God performed through her.

This call to serve the poorest of the poor makes sense when we understand Mother Teresa's spirituality. All her life she meditated on Jesus' words on the cross, "I thirst". She understood this as not only a physical thirst from the exhaustion of His tortures, but a thirst for souls and a thirst to ease the sufferings of the poor. Mother Teresa saw her mission as looking for Christ in the sufferings of the poor where He promised He would be and as quenching His thirst for souls by bringing comfort to the sick and dying. (See 'A Life for God: Mother Teresa Treasury', p108)

In this simple phrase of Jesus, "I thirst", we can understand something of the mystery of suffering and His words in Sunday's gospel, "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." By dying on the cross, Jesus forever identified Himself with the poor and suffering. Taking on the punishment of a criminal, He drew near to the outcast and those who are treated unjustly. To take up our cross daily means that we too must identify ourselves with the poor and marginalised. If we want to be like Jesus, then we cannot be afraid to suffer as he did and to be rejected by the world. Mother Teresa understood this which is why she left everything to seek Jesus in the face of the poor in the slums of Calcutta.

Mother Teresa teaches us that the Christian life requires us to quench the thirst of Jesus by bringing comfort to those who suffer. In this **Year of Mercy**, we do well to reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that all of us can perform. All of us can feed the hungry, pray for the living and the dead, counsel the doubtful or visit the sick. Even if we do not run into economically poor people, we certainly do know people who are lonely, confused or anguished. When we take the time to pray for them, comfort them or simply sit down to listen to them, we are quenching the thirst of Jesus.

Suffering has to come because if you look at the cross, he has got his head bending down - he wants to kiss you - and he has both hands open wide - he wants to embrace you. He has his heart opened wide to receive you. Then when you feel miserable inside, look at the cross and you will know what is happening. Suffering, pain, sorrow, humiliation, feelings of loneliness, are nothing but the kiss of Jesus, a sign that you have come so close that he can kiss you.

A Life for God: Mother Teresa Treasury, ed. Lavonne Neff (NY: Harpercollins, 1996), p. 139.

Last Friday I attended the closing ceremony for the Unischools Steer Competition. It was a privilege to witness our Show Team achieve an equal second place in the 2016 Competition. Along with this coveted award, we received several ribbons recognising the outstanding commitment made by our 2016 Show Team. I wish to thank Ms. Phillips, Mrs. Alexander and the 30 students who represented our College with enormous pride.

* * :

The College Walkathon is our major fundraiser for 2016. Unfortunately, the weather, in particular torrential rains, has forced the postponement of this community day on two occasions. We are endeavouring to hold the walkathon this Thursday. I am incredibly grateful to parents and students who have worked hard to obtain sponsorship for the walkathon. This year our funds are being allocated for the construction of a new sports shed to be located near the College oval. This will allow us to convert the current space into a Year 12 collaborative learning area for 2017.

The College Parent and Friends Association are providing significant prizes including an iPad, Blue Tooth Headphones and vouchers. I appreciate the support from the P and F executive, who have offered to judge the 'Fashion Parade' on Thursday morning and sell house coloured cup cakes and toffees!

* * *

As this is the last week of formal lessons for Year 12, it is a time to offer our prayers and thoughts to both Year 12 and their parents who have supported them throughout the journey from Kinder to graduation in 2016. The HSC class of 2016 is truly a class of respectful and motivated young men and women who represent what it means to be a graduate from Xavier College.

For the greater good,

Mr Michael Pate *Principal*

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The Diocese of Parramatta is required to appear before the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 44. This public hearing is expected to begin on Monday 12 September 2016. For more information please refer to the Royal Commission websitewww.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/public-hearings/case-studies

For anyone needing information and support please contact the Diocese of Parramatta information line on (02) 8838 3470. Operational from 03/09/2016 until 07/10/2016, Mon to Fri 7am-10pm, Sat and Sun 9am-5pm.

The Child Protection Information Line 1300 661 015 is available for families who would like more information about protocols or support services in Catholic schools run by the Diocese of Parramatta.

Concerns or allegations about any criminal offence should be reported to NSW Police on 131 444.

The Diocese of Parramatta is committed to continuously reviewing and improving its child protection policies and procedures.

For more information please visit www.safeguarding.org.au

From the Assistant Principal

Year 9 Planning Committee

I am always so appreciative of the assistance that our students provide to our community.

As you are aware, the Year 9 camp is not going ahead. However, we have a committee of eight Year 9 students planning alternative "fun" options as an end of junior school celebration.

This group addressed Year 9 last week and provided some suggestions. A survey will be conducted this week and the final decision will be communicated before the end of term.

If any parent has questions regarding this matter, please email pfinnerty@parra.catholic.edu.au

The benefits of talking through an issue in person (rather than communicating via social media)

There are many occasions where teachers deal with issues during the day that have been created at night or during the weekend through social media. Miscommunication through group chats or hurt feelings caused by questionable posts are common events. When an on-line third-party gets involved in the discussion, this only confuses or escalates the issue.

If there is an issue, so much more can be achieved by discussing that issue in person.

A more successful long term solution can be achieved when the parties can clearly express their views in person. This could occur by them working through the issue in private or in the presence of a teacher who can assist with the facilitation of the discussion.

Such miscommunication can also, unfortunately, occur in the workplace for many adults. Miscommunication as we all know is not an exclusive problem for the under 18's.

I would like to make this request to all parents of our community ... If there is an issue that you would like addressed regarding the education of your child, please make contact with a member of staff. If you are unsure whom to contact please email pfinnerty@parra.catholic.edu.au

We are very happy to meet to discuss any issue that you would like addressed.

Helping Your Child Manage Anxiety

On Tuesday 22 November, 6 pm at Xavier College Anoushka Houseman, a Clinical Psychologist, will be presenting a parent forum on "Helping Your Child Manage Anxiety." The following details some points from Anoushka's presentation:

What does good mental health look like?

- It's not really about being happy all the time.
- It's more about being able to handle problems, feeling confident about life, having a positive outlook and being able to bounce back when things go wrong.
- Helpful productive thinking processes as opposed to 'glass half empty' approach.

Understanding Anxiety

- Anxiety is a natural part of life and is a useful emotion.
- Anxiety is only problematic when it dominates someone's life. This can happen if it is
 overactive in situations that actually are not dangerous.
- Helping young people to understand anxiety can really help them regain their sense of power and control over their emotions.

Some Very Important Reminders...

- 1. Please be aware that if you come to the front office to pick up your child without notice there will be a delay. This practice should only occur in an emergency.
- 2. The Office Staff have a meeting every Wednesday (Week B) from 10.00 10.40 am in which services will be affected. The school phone will not be answered during this meeting time.
- 3. If your child does not feel well at school please encourage them to go to the front office and speak to the office staff. The office staff will make contact with you if required.
- 4. If you are unsure how your child is progressing in a particular subject, it is best to call 4777 0900 and speak to the teacher. Don't wait for the semester report or parent teacher evening ... call today.

Thank you for your continued support,

Patrick Finnerty

From the Director of Mission and Formation

Thursday Morning Staff Prayer in the Navarre Chapel

Each Thursday morning before school, staff are invited to attend prayer with each other. It is led by a different staff member each week. I would like to share with you last week's prayer which featured the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This prayer was led by Kim Kitching, a wonderful member of our community. May you enjoy it as much as we did.

Pope Francis has established September 1 as an annual **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation,** inspired by the example of the Orthodox
Churches who have observed this day for a number of years. Pope
Francis wishes to remind us that: "Christians are called to "an ecological
conversion whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ
become evident in their relationship with the world around them." Thus,
"living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a
life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian
experience." (Laudato Si', 217).

The prayer session continued, singing St Francis's Canticle of the Creatures which so inspires the ecological vision of Pope Francis, before concluding with Pope Francis' Prayer for the Earth.

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
And in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
That we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may love
As brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,
Help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of the earth,
So precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
That we may protect the world and not prey on it,
That we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts
Of those who look only for gain
At the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
To be filled with awe and contemplation,
To recognize that we are profoundly united
With every creature.

As we journey towards your infinite light, We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle For justice, love and peace.

Amen.



Reconciliation opportunity Term 3

Each Friday in Term 3 students at Xavier College will have the opportunity to receive Reconciliation from Fr Chris during Period 4. Classes are rostered for this but any student may avail themselves of this opportunity.

Charity Clothing Bin

Xavier College now has a charity clothing bin on site. Your good quality, clean, pre-loved clothing will get a new life, support Australians doing it tough and reduce landfill. Do your part for those less fortunate, as well as for our planet and give your clothes a second life.

*Kellie Robinson*Director of Mission and Formation

From the Director of Teaching and Learning

I would like to congratulate the parents of all Year 7 to 9 Xavier students who participated in 2016 Wordmania. Their efforts in demonstrating excellent word building skills resulted in our College being acknowledged as a Regional Winner in round two of the competition. The College was proudly awarded a selection of word games which were aptly used as activities during the celebration of Literacy and Numeracy Week.



Christine Bainbridge
Director of Teaching and Learning

From the Director of Learning and Pedagogy

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education. Martin Luther King, Jnr

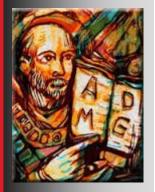
Although I spend much of my articles writing about the importance of academic learning and growth; I am deeply committed to the education of the whole child, as are all teachers at Xavier. As Catholic educators it is our moral imperative to educate from the heart. As a school in the Ignatian tradition, we strive to live the **Ignatian Educational** purpose of "developing a well-rounded Christian person of competence, conscience and compassion who will be of service in the world and has the generosity to make a contribution". At Xavier the learning, formation and wellbeing goals are intrinsically linked; in every aspect of what we do, in and out of the classroom, we live our mission in each of these core areas.

PATR - Comprehension

During Week 9 all students in Years 9 -10 will complete the Progressive Achievement Testing - Reading Comprehension. Each year students across the Diocese complete the test in early Semester One and again in late Semester 2. Completing the test twice provides comparative data on student progress in the important skill of reading comprehension. The test is completed online and comprises the reading of a variety of texts from a range of subject areas and genres, and the answering of between 34 and 40 multiple choice questions about these texts. The questions are designed to test students' skills of: retrieving directly stated information; reflecting on texts; interpreting explicit information; and interpreting by making inference. If you would like further information about the test and your child's achievement please contact me.

ICAS English

On the 9th August Year 8 students completed the ICAS English paper. The paper is a challenging test of students' reading comprehension. In the past only selected students



completed this international competition and assessment. UNSW Global, the body that designs and marks the test, provides schools with data that allows them to "better understand what students can and can't do at a point in time and track learning as students progress from year to year". This year the cohort completed the paper for this purpose. Year 8 parents will receive their child's results in the coming week. All students will receive a participation certificate. The students listed below achieved above Australian average and will be awarded with the achieved certificates indicated at an upcoming College Assembly.

Riley Faulkner	Distinction	Melissa Cato	Merit
Hayden Baker	Credit	Lauren Hearn	Merit
Jack Bracken	Credit	Ethan Lockie-Jameson	Merit
David Dawson	Credit	Mia Marquez	Merit
Bao Qi Deng	Credit	Noah McElhinney	Merit
Monique Dries	Credit	Bonnie Montgomery	Merit
Kyle Foufas	Credit	Maegan O'Connor	Merit
Rosabelle Galea	Credit	Olivia Palamara	Merit
Kayne Maharaj	Credit		
Michael Sherry	Credit		

Congratulations to these students.

If you would like to read more about NSW Global and ICAS visit the website: https://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about

If you have any questions about our learning agenda, your child's progress or secondary education in general, please feel free to contact me.

Many blessings, *Alyssa Roach*

From the Director of Student Growth and Administration

Student Representative Council 2017

Over the last few weeks students and staff have been voting to finalise the makeup of the Student Representative Council for 2017. After some excellent interviews, speeches and meticulous vote counting, we have finally completed our selection process.

I am excited and proud to announce that the Xavier College Student Representative Council (SRC) for 2017 is as follows:

Captains: Callum Elliot, Kaitlin Hansen Vice Captains: Gideon Chia, Emily Kowal

SRC Secretary/Treasurer: Evelyn Funtanilla, Bianca Portelli

Kirnari Representatives: Jake Weidle, Chloe Heath

Indigenous Representatives: Raymond Wood, Abbey Zabielo

Year		House Representatives		
	Bradman	Campion	MacKillop	
8	Jai Bunfield	Paige Manning	Ty Hickson	
9	Sophia Biordi	Alicia Curtain	Brandon Colantonio	
10	Sarah Bonnici	Lara Manning	Cassandra Stephens	
11	Tina Beslic	Elyssa Dunn	Natalie Stein	
12 House Captains	Kaylee White	Jordan Thompson	Jacques Tan	
V	House Representatives			
Year	Cumberland	Loyola	McCormack	
8	Izabella Cormack	Abbie Clark	Alex Miller	
9	Rosabelle Galea	Sophie-Anne Brebner	Matilda Dib	
10	Amy Williamson	Geordie McColl	Tanaka Musokuwaya	
11	Jack Combe	Gabrielle Brebner	Aleksija Canak	
12 House Captains	Madelyn Hall	Ethan McSweeney	Ayesha Kumar	

I wholeheartedly congratulate all of those students who have been elected and look forward to working with them on the upcoming Leadership Camp, which is scheduled for October 12th to14th at The Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation, Narrabeen. This camp is designed to develop the skills required to be a successful SRC member - working cooperatively and effectively as a team to create goals for 2017. The camp is also a team building exercise, which will allow students to form positive and constructive relationships within the group.

If you have any questions about the camp or the selection process, please do not hesitate to contact me at the College.

Mr Lee McCrorie

HSC Showcase Night 2016

The HSC Showcase Night for Art, Music and Wood Technology was held on Tuesday, August 30. The showcase night is an event which celebrates the achievements of our Xavier HSC students both as individuals, and as part of a collective of students who bring another dimension of talent to the school.

These students have worked for a long time on either their artworks, a designed wood object, or a series of performances. This feat of sustained effort is often difficult for young people, and it shows that these students have acquired maturity and persistence as part of their skill set in their senior year. These young people have also learnt to plan, have confidence in their decision making, imagine a result, persevere, receive constructive criticism, and encourage other people engaged in the same pursuit.

In the shorter term, however, those who came to the showcase night may not have been considering such benefits. Instead, the many family and friends who attended commented on the craftsmanship and attention to detail of the woodworking projects, the variety of the

expressive forms in the artworks, and the raw talent and the evidently concerted practise of the musicians who performed on the night.

The audience on the night was invited to vote for their favourite practical piece of work and the resounding winner was Tyler Dunne with his Shuffle Board Table, which was designed to be both useful and to showcase the beauty of the wood used in its construction. In addition, many people had great fun playing on Michael Trad's fantastic

pool table.



Mr Pate also presented two Principal's Awards on the night:

Principal's Award for Art was presented to *Ami Jones* for her artwork showing Cockatoo Island and Circular Quay, executed in the style of Modernist Photography. Ami built up the artwork in layers of imagery to create an intricate low–relief sculptural effect.

Principal's Award for Technology was presented to *Luke Masters* for his Poker Table. Mr Pate congratulated Luke on his careful attention to detail and advanced use of woodworking techniques





More photos of the HSC major works can be found on the Xavier College <u>facebook page</u>.

The HSC Music students performed some beautiful singing pieces ranging from Musical Theatre inspired pieces to Jazz numbers, and their own compositions. This range showed the breadth of choices the students can make in the HSC Music curriculum. The students then finished with a finale of "Thank You for the Music" by ABBA, as a tribute to their teachers. One of the students, *Sian Taylor*, commented that for her it was a very "bittersweet" moment, the last time these young people would perform together

The staff would like to thank the attendees of the showcase night for their support of the students involved, and hope that you will be able to join us at the next HSC Showcase Night in 2017.

Kirinari Week

This week we celebrated diversity in our school community with Kirinari Week. Staff and students at Kirinari organised many activities which began with a selection of songs, that replaced the school bell.

Every student in the school was invited to decorate a sock with a pattern, symbol or some thoughtful words to make it individual (like themselves). On Wednesday the socks were placed on the Belonging Tree in the library and making a fabulous display, all different, but all belonging. Kirinari students prepared a delicious morning tea for the Xavier staff on Wednesday with the Sign Choir providing entertainment.

Thursday was Lots of Socks Day, with staff and students invited to wear their boldest, brightest and oddest socks. Friday finished off a great week with Mrs Rudd and the Sign Choir putting on a fantastic performance at the Penrith Eisteddfod.

Some student highlights:

- "I liked all the funny socks," Noah.
- "Our songs were used for the bell," Michael and Caroline.
- "I liked decorating my sock in Tutor Group," Josh and Savannah.
- "I like the tree in the library," *Tylah* and *Emily*.
- "I enjoyed greeting the teachers when they came to visit," *Jake* and *Caius*.
- "Playing outside with the other kids," Chris and Michael.



Lots of Socks Day



Decorating the Belonging Tree



Sign Choir at Penrith Eisteddfod

Important Information for Students and Families with Diverse Learning Needs

A reminder to families that the Western Sydney Vocational support Network are hosting the **2016 Post School Options Expo** at Penrith Panthers (see details below) for students with (dis)abilities who are completing their schooling. The expo will allow families to meet with Disability Employment Service (DES) Providers to discuss services offered by the provider. The Expo is an important step in determining who the young person would like to engage with in 2017.

It is essential that families register with a DES Provider *before* the student is signed out of school. The school will provide each student with a letter for the DES Provider. Please contact any teacher in the Diversity Team (Mrs Fanning, Mr Penserini, Mrs Deane-Sivell, Mrs Fenech or Mrs Castellan) to discuss obtaining a letter.

Mrs Deborah Fanning Diversity Team Leader



- Disability Employment Services
- Apprenticeships and Traineeship Representatives
- Leisure, Respite and Recreation Providers
- Tafe Teacher Consultants
- NDIS and Centrelink Representatives
- Post-School Programs

Contacts

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Further details contact:

Leoni Jeavons-Fellows: 0424 750 583

Ph 02 9678 7376

Bernard Sobiesiak

OR

Andrew Hickey: 0409 034 994

Caroline Krix

Suza Puljic: 0488 119 984

Find us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SWPostSchoolOptionsExpos/

Unischools Steer Challenge - Live Day

Students from the College competed in the Unischools Steer Challenge Live Day on Tuesday, August 13. Good results were achieved:

- Champion Led Steer
- Fifth place for best presented steer
- Third place in Junior Novice Parader—Jesse Pearce-Smith
- Fourth place in Junior Experienced Parader—Brittany Pedersen

More results for the competition will be announced on September 9th at the closing ceremony, to be held at Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury Campus.





Penrith Show—August 27th and 28th 2016

A team of 25 Xavier College Agriculture students attended the Penrith Show this year. They achieved some outstanding results:

- First place for both Prison Farm Calves and Champion Prison Farm Calf
- Third place in the Dairy Heifer class
- Sheep Handling third for Sophia Seymour, fifth for Sandy Zhong
- Fourth place, Fleece Judging—Patrick Tuner
- Cattle Parading fourth in Experienced for Abbie McLoughlin
- Reserve Champion Poultry Judging Team Matt Kerr van Look and Dylan M Williams
- Champion Alpaca Handler Nicholas Gorman
- Reserve champion Alpaca Handler *Katherine Walton*
- Third place for the display on Feral Goats and second place in the Student's Choice category
- Vegetables second place
- Horticultural plants fourth place
- Jams and Jellies third place
- Poultry two second places for the Colombian Wyandottes
 - Reserve champion soft feather for our Plymouth Rock Hen





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Annual Collections

In recognition of your contribution towards creating a better environment

From July 2015 to June 2016 Xavier College

collected **32.45**kg of mobile phones, batteries and accessories for recycling.

Thank you for helping us keep old mobiles out of landfill.



Spyro Kalos Manager, Recycling



From the Director of Sport

Season 2 Representative Grand Finals

On Thursday 1 September, Xavier College had four sporting teams play in the grand finals for Season 2 of the PDSSSC competition. The results were:

- U/14 Boys Rugby League Won 16-12 against McCarthy
- Junior Boys Soccer Lost 2-0 to McCarthy
- Junior Girls Soccer Lost 1-0 to Bede Polding
- Intermediate Girls Soccer Lost 3-1 to McCarthy

A huge thank you to the players and coaches for the season and, although we weren't as successful as we were in Season 1, as a College we did extremely well to have four teams make the grand finals.

Xavier Sporting Blues Award

Student Name: *Braedyn Urban* Year Group: 7

What sport(s) do you play?

Ice hockey, inline hockey and swimming

What are some of your finest sporting achievements?

Making the NSW Ice Hockey Team and competing in Victoria at the National Championships.



Outline your weekly training program for your sport. I train every Wednesday and Thursday; I play two games

on the weekend; I swim every Tuesday; and do dry land training for whatever time is left.

Who is your favourite sporting team/ person? Vancouver Canucks

Name one athlete who has inspired you. Why?

- Nathan Walker because he is the first Australian to make it to the NHL and he always comes to our practise to help us improve.
- My parents who support me.
- My coach and dad who keep me on top of my game.

What are your career aspirations? What do you want to achieve when you are older?

- I'd like to play for Australia in the Olympics and keep on enjoying what I do
- I'd like to help coach younger hockey players and get more Australians to play ice hockey

Mr Daniel Whiley Director of Sport