



21st October 2016

Diary Dates:

HSC EXAMINATIONS

**Continuing until
Friday, 4 Nov 16**

**Best wishes to all
HSC students**

Tuesday, 25 Oct 16

- Yr 7-10 Parent/Student/Teacher Learning Conference, 2pm–7pm

Wednesday, 26 Oct 16:

- Yr 7-10 Parent/Student/Teacher Learning Conference, 2pm–7pm
- HSC 2 Unit Studies of Religion Excursion

Friday, 28 Oct 16

- SRC Lunchtime BBQ

Monday, 7 Nov 16

- Yr 12 (2016) Sign out day

Tuesday, 8 Nov 16

- Sports Awards Evening—College Sporting Blues, 6pm–7pm. *Parents invited*

Wednesday, 9 Nov 16:

- College Assembly—Presentation Gold Award & Peer Support Badges, 8.45–9.45am. *Parents invited*

Wednesday, 16 Nov 16:

- Yr 12 (2016) Formal, Nurrungy Reserve, Doonside, 6pm–11pm

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From the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Xavier College,

It is our young people's sense of self that will influence the manner in which they will respond to life. Young people will develop a self-concept primarily through the way they interpret what their parents, teachers and peers reflect back to them. This is why we, as parents and teachers, need to be thoughtful about how we might influence their way of thinking and so their beliefs, their approach to life, their attitude about themselves and about their abilities.

When helping to shape our children's beliefs, we need to be careful that our own "good intentions" don't, in fact, make our children feel anxious or limited. To tell our children that they are smart or gifted or talented may not be helpful to them at all. They might like to hear this but then, they might become anxious about failure: "What if I put a lot of effort into something and I fail; this might prove that I am not as smart or gifted or talented as my parents and teachers believe me to be."

If, when helping to shape our children's beliefs, we concentrated on our children's efforts rather than their ability, our praise might help them to value themselves for the effort they put towards achieving the goal itself. We can help them experience a sense of worth through their effort, learning and growth rather than the sense of worth being attached to their results.

As we shape our children's self-belief, we hopefully are preparing our children to be self-assured, fully functioning individuals who feel capable of pursuing their hopes and ambitions, whilst also being caring, loving and lovable people.

Since the beginning of term, there have been a multitude of opportunities for our students to demonstrate their beliefs and abilities. In Week 1, I attended the SRC Leadership Conference (*facilitated by Mr McCorie and Ms Lee*) and was astounded by the effusive praise and reflections staff made about our student leaders. I was also privileged to present a proposal about lockers with Izabella Cormack, an example of a self-assured young lady.

Last week we inducted our Year 12 Class of 2017 into their shared leadership roles within the College. These young men and women are most definitely fully functioning individuals who feel capable of pursuing their hopes and ambitions. It was a pleasure to meet with so many Year 12 parents on Tuesday night, as each Year 12 student was supported by either one of both of their parents. This type of support is invaluable as we prepare our students to be self-assured.

During the week we commenced editing our College Magazine 'The Xavian'. This will be a brilliant reflection of the year! We have truly 'exceeded our expectations' in our academic learning, on the sporting field, on stage with music, dance, drama and debating as well as spiritually through World Youth Day, Vinnies Van, Project Compassion, Catechist Program and Weekly Masses and Reconciliation.

For the greater good,

Mr Michael Pate
Principal Leader



From the Assistant Principal

The development of self-esteem in children is very important. In the article *Developing Your Child's Self Esteem*, from <http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/self-esteem.html>, the following points are made:

Sometimes it's easy to notice when kids seem to feel good about themselves — and when they don't. We often describe this idea of feeling good about ourselves as "self-esteem".

Kids who have *healthy self-esteem* tend to:

- feel valued and accepted
- think good things about themselves
- feel prepared for everyday challenges

Kids with *low self-esteem* often:

- feel self-critical and are hard on themselves
- lack confidence
- doubt their ability to do well at things

How Parents Can Nurture Self-Esteem

Self-esteem develops over time. And if it's low, it can be raised. Here are things parents can do:

- **Help your child learn to do things.** As your child grows, things like learning to dress, read, or ride a bike provide perfect opportunities for self-esteem to take root.
- **When teaching kids how to do things, show and help them at first.** Then let them do what they can, even if they make mistakes.
- **Praise your child, but do it wisely.** Of course, it's good to praise kids. Your praise is a way to show that you are proud, too. But research shows that some ways of praising kids can actually backfire.

Here's how to do it right:

- **Praise effort rather than fixed qualities.** Avoid focusing praise on results (such as getting an A) or fixed qualities (such as being smart or athletic). This kind of praise can lead kids to avoid challenges that may threaten the good 'reputation' they get praised for most.

Instead, offer most of your praise for effort, progress, and attitude. For example: "You're working hard on that project," or, "You're getting better and better at these spelling tests," or, "I'm proud of you for practising piano — you've really stuck with it." This kind of praise encourages kids to put effort into things, work toward goals, and try. When kids do that, they are more likely to succeed.

- **Be a good role model.** When you put effort into everyday tasks (like raking the leaves, making a meal, cleaning up the dishes, or washing the car), you're setting a good example. Your child learns to put effort into doing homework, cleaning up toys, or making the bed.
- **Ban harsh criticism.** The messages kids hear about themselves from others easily translates into how they feel about themselves.
- **Focus on strengths.** Pay attention to what your child does well and enjoys. Make sure your child has opportunities to develop these strengths. Nurturing strengths is better than focusing on weaknesses if you want to help kids feel good about themselves and succeed.

Some Very Important Reminders...

1. If your child is experiencing some challenges and you would like assistance please let us know. Don't wait to see how things go ... let us know.
2. We now open the back gate (morning and afternoon) accessing the new housing development each day.
3. Our Student Management Policy is attached to our website and also on SkoolBag.
4. 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.
5. Thank you for ensuring that your child arrives at school by 8.30.
6. As you know we have almost 1100 students arriving in the morning and leaving in the afternoon. Traffic is very busy at 8.15 – 8.30 am and again at 2.30 – 2.50 pm. Please remind your child to be very careful and watch out for buses/cars/bikes.
7. If you are unsure how your child is progressing in a particular subject, it is best to call 47770900 and speak to the teacher. Don't wait for the semester report or parent teacher evening ... call today.

If you would like to clarify a process or have a question please email pfinnerty@parra.catholic.edu.au **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.**

Thank you for your continued support,

Patrick Finnerty

From the Director of Mission and Formation

On Friday 14th October four Year 11 students — *Kasper Daignault, Grace McCurley, Larisa Portelli* and *Owen Thomas* — represented the school at the Parramatta Diocese Mission Mass. The Mass was an opportunity to celebrate with students, teachers and executive members from across the Parramatta Diocese in recognition of the missionary work being undertaken by primary and secondary students. The Mass was celebrated in the presence of the relics of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and St Teresa of Kolkata, who were both extraordinary missionaries.

After Mass concluded, Catholic Mission gave an educational presentation to the congregation on the works the organisation carries out in Cambodia and on how we can make a difference in our own communities.



*Kasper Daignault, Owen Thomas, Larisa Portelli
and Grace McCurley*

Mass was followed by lunch and a “Mission Fair”, where schools which had been involved in significant missionary work presented their accomplishments to other students, teachers and principals. The Xavier College students gave an excellent presentation of the mission projects undertaken within our immediate community, the district and on the global scale.

This day proved a great opportunity to not only display the incredible achievements of the Xavier College community in demonstrating mission in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, but also to see the work of other schools. The representatives of Xavier College were approached by Catholic Mission who commended our involvement in mission works. Catholic Mission asked the College to host their organisation with the aim of forming a union. It is hoped that this advocacy will inspire other schools to make a difference within their community.

Missionary work undertaken by students at Xavier College in 2016:

- World Youth Day 2016: Xavier students and staff participated in the Dioceses’ immersion experience, helping to rebuild schools in the disaster prone region of Bohol in the Philippines.
- Fundraising: Ranging from large scale causes such as Project Compassion, through to smaller scale projects which supported individuals within the school community.
- Catechist: Students across the grades travel to Henry Fulton Primary School to teach younger students about the beliefs of the Catholic faith and introduce them to biblical teachings.
- Donation Bin: A clothing bin is located behind the College canteen for students to donate their unwanted clothing and toys. The bin requires regular emptying due to the generosity of the Xavier students.
- Vinnie’s Van: As a part of their community service, Year 11 students undertake missioning by providing friendship, compassion and dignity to those experiencing homelessness and social isolation as they assist in food delivery on the night patrols.
- Christmas Hampers: Every year each Tutor Group is challenged to fill between one and two baskets with items that they would love to have themselves over the Christmas season. Items donated include basic toiletries, decorations, gifts and non-perishable food.

The efforts of all students who have shown mission within the Xavier community are deeply appreciated, no matter how small the gesture. They have made a difference within the community.

Diocesan High School Special Religious Educators Celebration

On Wednesday October 19th, 13 of our Year 10 catechists attended a celebration at Bede Polding College where they were able to share their experiences of teaching the Catholic faith in a local State primary school. Bishop Vincent Long also attended to celebrate this occasion with them.

Bishop Vincent thanked the catechists for their work, saying that "being catechists in state schools is taking ownership of the Church’s mission." Bishop Vincent said that he was pleased that he has an army of confident, passionate people sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. He told them they “are witnesses and disciples of the church and the Good News of Jesus Christ”, that he was grateful that they take the Gospel of Christ seriously, and that by being catechists they “make the Gospel alive”.

I would like to thank our team of catechists for their dedication to this program and I can honestly say it has been a pleasure working with them throughout 2016.

Mrs Kellie Robinson
Director of Mission and Formation

From the Director of Learning and Pedagogy

If we did the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves. Thomas Edison

Welcome to Term 4! It always astounds me how quickly time passes. I must be having fun! I mean this quite genuinely. “Fun” is usually equated with leisure activities or something extraordinary. But having fun is also connected to feeling satisfied, to the pleasure of achievement, of astounding ourselves when we realise our capability for greatness.

Y12 Induction and Study Skills Presentation

Last Tuesday night we encouraged our new Year 12 students, Year 12 2017, to astound themselves by aiming for what they are capable of rather than what is easy or manageable. The tradition of inducting each Year 12 cohort is a powerful symbol akin to a ‘coming of age’ ritual. The final year of compulsory, formal education is significant and we value the students, and their parents, who have chosen to complete this milestone at Xavier. However, the final year is also about high expectations and responsibilities.

To assist the Year 12 2017 cohort on their academic journey Dr Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services (ELES) presented them with powerful tools for organising their work and studying smarter not harder. Parents were also given information about the privileges afforded to our Year 12 students and the responsibility that comes with these privileges.

The positivity of students and parents who attended was an encouraging reflection of the approach this group will take to the next twelve months. Thank you to our parents of Year 12 for your support of you child, and consequently, Xavier.

Parent -Teacher - Student Conferences

As you are aware parent-teacher-student conferences are being held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. This additional time is in response to parents asking for more opportunities for feedback on their children’s progress. I encourage you to take the time to meet with our child/children’s teachers. Have a conversation with these teachers about the work to be completed this term, what your son or daughter needs to do to achieve a higher grade than in Semester 1 and what the expectations are for the coming year.

Please note that this conference is in addition to the reporting day on Friday Week 10.

Year 8 Targeted Literacy Programme

Last week we distributed a letter to all Year 8 parents outlining the rationale and methods of our Term 4 Targeted Literacy Programme. This week we commenced the delivery of the programme. The programme is designed to target the specific literacy skills required to correctly use punctuation, grammar and vocabulary. The need to work intensely with our Year 8 students in this area has been evidenced in their 2015 NAPLAN results and their school based assessments. Being literate enables the individual to interpret the world around them and to communicate with it. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, said, “Literacy is the road to human progress, and the means through which every man, women and child can realise his or her potential”. This is what we want for all our students.

ICAS Maths Awards

Numeracy is also a fundamental skill. The Mathematics faculty, under the direction of their Leader of Learning, Mr Geoff Scerri, are developing powerful teaching and learning strategies to improve student literacy and mathematical understanding. At our assembly last Wednesday we acknowledge the Year 8 students who achieved a merit or higher in the ICAS – Mathematics they sat last term. Congratulations to the following students:

STUDENT	Award	STUDENT	Award
<i>Liliana Harris</i>	Merit	<i>Maegan O'Connor</i>	Credit
<i>Stephanie Pithers</i>	Merit	<i>Amy Chapple</i>	Credit
<i>Laura Carpenter</i>	Merit	<i>Samuel Mallows</i>	Credit
<i>Emily Dunn</i>	Merit	<i>Ella McCann</i>	Credit
<i>Rosabelle Galea</i>	Merit	<i>Bao Qi Deng</i>	Credit
<i>Daniel Hall</i>	Merit	<i>Kyle Foufas</i>	Credit
<i>Matthew Monsieur</i>	Merit	<i>Joshua Grima</i>	Credit
<i>Jasmyn Papworth</i>	Merit	<i>Christian Hliounakis</i>	Credit
<i>Kaden Smith</i>	Merit	<i>Dylan Rowles</i>	Credit
<i>Maddison Warby</i>	Merit	<i>Corey Schoenherr</i>	Credit
<i>Harrison West</i>	Merit	<i>Riley Faulkner</i>	Credit
		<i>Francisco Han</i>	Distinction

Many blessings,
Alyssa Roach



Book School Interviews Online

Years 7—10 Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences will be held on:

Tuesday, 25th October 2016 (2.00pm—7.00pm)

Wednesday, 26th October 2016 (2.00pm—7.00pm)

You can now book interviews at times that suit **YOUR FAMILY BEST.**

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow the simple instructions shown below.

BOOKINGS CLOSE MONDAY, 24th OCTOBER at 5.00pm

NO BOOKINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS TIME.

Enter THIS school event code. Then follow the 3 simple steps:



When you click **finish**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately. You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time to change your interviews, until bookings close.

SRC Leadership Camp

The first two weeks of this term have already turned out to be a busy and exciting time for Xavier College's newly inducted SRC. With many new faces joining the team this year, we were all given the opportunity to bond, form new relationships and get to know each other better over the course of a three day leadership conference. This conference was held from the 12th to the 14th of October with Mr McCrorie and our Assistant Deans accompanying us on our stay at Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation located in Narrabeen.

Over the three days, we participated in many challenging activities which brought us closer together as a whole and enabled us to learn a lot about one another. Some of these activities included rock climbing, swimming, canoeing, raft building, building a campfire, archery and high ropes. As a group, we also formulated our SRC smart goals and initiatives for the upcoming year which were presented to Mr Pate. The goals for the 2017 SRC will be centred around learning, school environment, student health and social justice.

The 2016/2017 SRC members are looking forward to a great year and are excited to show you what we've been working on.

Elyssa Dunn and Bianca Portelli



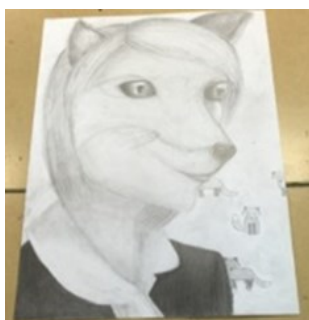
Xavier College Art Success at the Penrith Show

Congratulations to the many students who won prizes for their artworks at the recent Penrith Show. Xavier College students received first, second and third places in Stage 4 Painting and Drawing and Stage 5 Drawing out of the many schools, public and private, in the area who entered artworks for the show. What an outstanding achievement Xavier! Featured below are the artworks which achieved a place in their category, along with a list of the many students who were awarded highly commended. Congratulations to artists at Xavier!

First Place:



Kyle Foufas



Gemma Pauling



Liam Calgaro

Second Place:



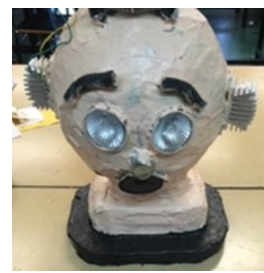
Elissa Simmonds



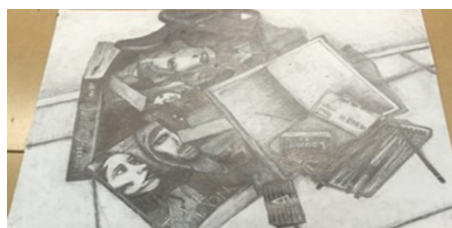
Kyle Foufas



Ethan McSweeney



Darcie Holcombe



Kayla Bowers



Emma Gies

Third Place:



Claire Palamara



Amy Balmforth



Holly Hliounakis

Highly Commended:

Riannon Morgan, Monique Carney, Emily Dunn, Jasmine Papworth, Amy Brabin, Micaela Campora-Kaal, Madison Trott, Riannon Morgan, Gabrielle Brebner, Jacob Tempone, Sundance Fuller, Claire Wilson, Maddison Sullivan, Sam Thatcher, Shadae Ashby, Maddison Hollis, Klariz Tabar, Emily Kowal, Liam Calgaro, Jacob Tempone, Charlotte Seymour, Paige Manning, Joshua West, Emily Dunn, Christian Webb and Jasmyn Papworth.

Mrs Maria Lonie
Visual Arts Faculty

Xavier College

Uniform Shop—Extended Trading Hours



December 2016

Tuesday 6th 8.00am-7.30pm
(including Year 7 2017 Blazer fittings)

Thursday 8th 8.00am-7.30pm
(including Year 7 2017 Blazer fittings)

Tuesday 13th 8.00am-4.00pm

Thursday 15th 8.00am-4.00pm

January 2017

Friday 13th 9.00am-3.30pm

Monday 16th 9.00am-3.30pm

Tuesday 17th 9.00am-3.30pm

Wednesday 18th 9.00am-3.30pm

Thursday 19th 9.00am-3.30pm

Friday 20th 9.00am-3.30pm

Monday 23rd 8.00am-3.00pm

Tuesday 24th 8.00am-3.00pm

Wednesday 25th 8.00am-3.00pm

Monday 30th 8.00am-3.00pm

Tuesday 31st 8.00am-3.00pm

Normal trading hours: Thursdays, 8.00am—4.00pm
will resume from Thursday, 2nd February 2017

Contact the Uniform Shop: Ph 4777 4568

Email :xavieruniform@parra.catholic.edu.au

Corpus Christi Parish Cranebrook - Youth Group

Corpus Christi Parish Cranebrook is having their monthly Youth Group. You are invited to come along and join us for a night of fun!

When: Saturday, October 29th

Time: 7.00pm—8:30pm

Where: Corpus Christi Church

If you want to meet new people and are up for a challenge, then this youth group is right for you. There will be food provided, so remember to bring \$5 for pizza.

We hope to see you there!!

Mount Schoenstatt Events

230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa

Sunday 23rd October

Foundation Day (no charge)

10.30 Welcome and prayers

11:00 Holy Mass at the Shrine (BYO chair)

Lunch (BYO—some hot food available)

1.30-2.20pm Schoenstatt Shared – a program in the Family Hall

2.30pm Celebration of the Covenant of Love, Sending out of Pilgrim Mother, day concludes with Benediction

Come along and bring your family and friends.

Enquiries: 02 4773 8338 pilgrimmother@bigpond.com

Saturday 29th October (8am) to

Sunday 30th October (3pm) 2016

A Retreat for Men of all Ages:

Myself - The Adventure

Schoenstatt Brothers4Soul Team

\$150 all inclusive, twin share.

RSVP: Jim 0432 487 927 / jim.jank2006@optusnet.com.au

Saturday 29th October

Grace & Silence Retreat Day for Young Women

9.00am-4.00pm for General Retreat Day

9.30am-4.00pm for Vocation Discernment to Marriage & Family, Single Life or Consecrated Life.

Cost: \$30 (includes morning tea, warm lunch, afternoon tea and materials)

Registration/ Sr M Julie -juliebricar@gmail.com

Information: Phone: 0408 738 334

Friday 4th November

The Way of Mercy - Pilgrimage (No Charge)

6.00-10.00pm Adoration and Reflection in the Shrine.

Saturday 5th November

The Way of Mercy - Pilgrimage (No Charge)

9.00am Stations of Mercy from the Valley to the Shrine
OR anointing of the Sick in the Shrine.

11:00am Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long
Afterwards, lunch available or BYO.

Enquiries: 02 4773 8338 or

email: manager@schoenstatt.org.au

Friday 4th November (7pm) to Sunday 6th November (5pm)

Discover Retreat for Young Women (18-35)

A self-discovery weekend for Young Women at Mt Schoenstatt. Come and discover your dignity, identity and personal mission.

Cost: Student \$180, employed \$200

Sponsorship available

Registration/ Sr M Julie -juliebricar@gmail.com

Information: Phone: 0408 738 334

"Exceed your expectations"



Xavier College
Llandilo