



4th November 2016

Diary Dates:

Monday, 7Nov16

- Yr 12 (2016) Sign out day

Tuesday, 8Nov16

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

Wednesday, 9Nov16:

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

Friday, 11Nov16:

- Remembrance Day Ceremony, 11am

Wednesday, 16Nov16:

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

Thursday, 17Nov16:

- Yr7 (2017) Parent Information Evening, 6pm-7pm

Friday, 18Nov16:

- Yr7 (2017) Orientation Day, 8.45am-2.25pm

Saturday, 19Nov16:

- Yr7 (2017) Assessment morning, 9am-11.30am (Uniform Shop open)

Tuesday, 22Nov16:

- Parent Forum—Understanding CPD's and student success, 6pm-7pm. Guest speaker Anoushka Houseman

Friday, 25Nov16:

- Yr9, Luna Park Fun Day, 9am-5.30pm

PDHPE WEEK

**Monday, 7Nov16 to
Friday 11Nov16**

Lots of fun activities

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From the Principal

Dear Parents, guardians and friends of Xavier,

Last Friday was a timely reminder that we are now entering the bush fire season. The staff and students supported by the NSW Police, NSW Rural Fire Service and Fire Service NSW worked in unison to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of our community. It is alleged that the fires were the result of arson that originated some several kilometres from the College on Friday afternoon.

As part of our ongoing policies of ensuring your son and daughter is protected at Xavier College, we have evacuation and lock down drills each term. These drills allow the staff and students to become familiar with both evacuation and lock down procedures. As a consequence of these procedures, you may have observed on both Channel 7 and Channel Ten news (or on our Facebook Page) how well organised and executed our response was to this tremendously stressful and frightening situation. These drills keep us safe.

We are surrounded by the most picturesque rural setting and as such it is incumbent upon each of us to be proactive within the community and report any behaviours or comments we find unusual. Being vigilant and observant has allowed the police to quickly respond to possible suspects associate with this type of arson.

Finally, if your son or daughter is experiencing any anxiety, worry or uncertainty about the impact of the fires, please inform the relevant Dean of House. They will ensure that appropriate support is provided to your son and daughter. If you would like to chat about the fires on Friday afternoon, please call the College and I will be pleased to meet with you and provide any support you may require.

I have attached the timeline of events and our response during the afternoon. I am very proud of our staff and students who responded responsibly to the directions given to us by the NSW Police. I want to thank the many parents who have emailed a 'thank you' note to the College. We welcome your kind words and appreciation for just 'doing our job' of keeping students safe at all times.

2.10pm – A large billow of smoke was visible from the Northern Road end of the school. The fire brigade was contacted who advised that the school was not in danger. We were advised that the fire was in a lot on Vincent Rd and under control.

2.20pm – The wind changed direction. Police attended the scene and commenced closing Northern and Terrybrook Rd. Parents who live on Vincent Rd arrived to collect their students. Students who were driving were called from class to go to their cars and go home.

2.30pm – All students called to the yard. Police advised via phone that we were not in danger and to proceed with our normal afternoon procedure.

(School **concludes at 2.40**)



2.50pm – Police attended the school and took control of the situation. A decision was made to initiate a procedure to move students to a contained area to increase the effectiveness of communication between staff and students, and their safe movement off the school premises.

Students were moved to the oval and supervised by all available staff. Staff remained at the bus bay to liaise with police. Staff coordinated the movement of students on the oval.

A contingency was put in place that should the fire threaten the school students would be moved to the Xavier Centre and PAS. Should an evacuation have been necessary a decision was made to evacuate to Xavier Rd in the new Jordan Springs development.

An attempt was made to send instructions to parents via Skoolbag and group SMS; however, **phone and Internet lines had been cut**. A message advising parents that students were safe was put on the official school Facebook page.

The school was safe at all times. Parents and buses had access via the eastern end of Ninth Ave. Parents could also access students from Xavier Rd. Staff manned the Xavier Rd gates.

As parents and buses arrived students were moved off the premises in an orderly manner.

We continued to liaise with the police and follow their instructions.

3.20pm – Students were moved to the Xavier Centre out of the sun, with police consent.

3.30 – 4.30pm – 3 buses gained access to the school. Parents continued to pick up their children from the front and back entrances. Once student numbers had reached ~ 50 students remained, staff who needed to leave were dismissed. A head count was taken of remaining staff as requested by police. A roll of remaining staff and students was taken. Students and staff were marked off as they left.

5.10pm – The final student was collected.

Students, staff and the premises were safe at all times. All procedures were coordinated through the police.

5.30pm - The fire was downgraded to act and watch. Two teenagers were arrested for starting the fire.

5.45pm – Observation of the Xavier Property and buildings found that there has been no damage to any aspect of the property. Our lambs and sheep have been relocated to Caroline Chisholm. Animals located on Seventh Ave are all safe – area placed on act and watch. All fire equipment has been checked and is operational. Static Security Guard was engaged for the weekend.

For latest and accurate information about learning and events at Xavier College, please refer to our Official social media accounts listed below.

Our official Twitter ~ @mrpate and @XavierLlandilo

Our official Facebook ~ Xavier College @xavierllandilo

Our official Skoolbag ~ Xavier College APP download from Apple (App Store) and Android (Google play)

for the greater good

Michael Pate

Principal Leader

From the Assistant Principal

It is with great sadness that I write my final newsletter as Assistant Principal, Xavier College.

To put it simply ... *Thank you, Thank you and Thank you!*

I have been blessed to be a member of this community for the past six years; a time full of gifts and challenges that I will be always eternally grateful.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of our community. Your support and feedback was always greatly appreciated. It is essential in assisting us as educators, ensuring that what we do is relevant to the community that we serve. There were simply so many occasions where your assistance was requested and you were there.

During my time at Xavier I have been privileged to work alongside two exceptional Principal Leaders, Tricia Maidens and Michael Pate. I am truly indebted to both these people for the enormous influence they have had on me. Their rich experience as educators and leaders in Catholic Education will ensure this outstanding community will continue to recognise growth and excellence of each individual.

Thank you to Fr George for his guidance, support and continual willingness to assist in any way.

Thank you to staff for the support you have given me in my role and also for the great care you show for each individual.

Thank you to parents and carers. It has been a pleasure to be part of such a caring and giving community. You have made my stay at Xavier so enjoyable.

Thank you to students. The respect and support you have given to me as Assistant Principal will never be forgotten. I have been so very fortunate to meet you.

As I now move to a new community, and face new challenges please be assured that I will remember what you have taught me, as through you and the Holy Spirit I have been blessed.

Thank you always for your support

Patrick Finnerty

From the Director of Mission and Formation

Sunday, October 23rd was known as the Diocesan Family Sunday. In this Year of Mercy, the pivotal role of the family has been made well known. The following are some reflections on the family:

Family - An Oasis of Mercy

- “When a family is welcoming and reaches out to others, especially the poor and the neglected, it is a symbol, witness and participant in the Church’s motherhood. Social love, as a reflection of the Trinity, is what truly unifies the spiritual meaning of the family and its mission to others.” (Amoris Laetitia, 324).
- “I reaffirmed the centrality of the family, which is the first and most important school of mercy, in which we learn to see God’s loving face.” (Pope Francis, Address of the Diplomatic Corps, 11 Jan 2016).
- “Wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. In our parishes ... wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.” (Misericordiae Vultus, 12).

Kellie Robinson

Director of Mission and Formation



A prayer for families

Sometimes in the rush of life
The prayer which most often escapes our lips is: God help us!

So, God of all creation,
You who made the stars and the heavens,
Who created such wondrous gifts for this planet,
And created women and men in your own image,
Help us!

Each time we utter that plea, aloud or in our hearts;
in hope, or in exasperation,
know that we are opening ourselves to your unending love.
Help us to stop and take time:
Time to look deeply at the world you have created,
and give thanks.
Time to be with one another, in our families,
long enough to appreciate each others' joys and sorrows,
and know in the depths of our hearts,
in the comfort of our kitchens,
and in the serenity of our sheds and gardens,
that we do not journey alone.

And from this strength, face calmly the turmoils that arise.
Help us to value the work of our hands, minds and hearts,
as a way of participating in your ongoing creation,
as a way of building relationships and building a more just society.

Give us the insight and courage to build a society
where everyone shares the riches of the earth and the wealth of our endeavours.
Help us to reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves:
Indigenous families, asylum seekers and refugees,
people who are homeless, or living in poverty,
families struggling to meet the needs of those with a disability.

Jesus, your Son, knew the reality of living in a family.
Together they knew the harsh reality of a forced journey
to Bethlehem and then to Egypt.
In Nazareth he learnt the grind and delight of daily work.
Through him we pray for all families,
that we may all live life to the full
and that we all, in our families, Church and society,
work tirelessly to bring this about.

We make our prayer through Jesus your Son
in the company of his family.

God, help us.

Amen.



From the Director of Learning and Pedagogy

Reading Bishop Vincent's homily on the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, in the latest edition of Catholic Outlook, I was struck by his reflection on our need to be humble before God and recognise that our gifts and talents are God's gifts to us; gifts we should use for his glory through the compassion and empathy we show to others. Our intellect and academic achievements are two of the talents and gifts we possess. Every day I am grateful and blessed to be a teacher, because as a teacher I have the opportunity to share my gifts and talents with students, teachers and parents on a daily basis.

As the 2016 HSC concludes and we farewell our Year 12 cohort of 2016 I pray that they receive achievements reflective of their ability and effort, and journey into the world beyond school to share their gifts and talents with others. Similarly, as we welcome our 2017 cohort, I pray that their journey may be fruitful and rewarding, both personally and academically.

Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) –Mathematics

During Weeks 6 and 7, Year 7 – 10 students will complete the second round of PAT Mathematics. Repeating this test allows us to assess student growth and areas of concern in a range of numeracy strands. The data provided in this test is a valuable source of information about students' specific strengths and areas for improvement. In 2017 we will be investigating ways to report these results to parents as a part of our on-going commitment to transparency in reporting and assessment.

Numeracy Enrichment Programme

Next week a small group of Year 8 students who have demonstrated excellent mathematical skills in NAPLAN, ICAS and course work will be involved in an enrichment programme designed to extend their current skills and concepts in preparation for high levels of mathematics in Stages 5 and 6. Mr Ben Lange, a new member of our Mathematics Faculty, will be working with these students.

Year 8 Targeted Literacy Programme

We are now in our fourth week of the targeted literacy programme and I commend students and teachers on the positive way they have embraced this programme. Currently students are focusing on the skill of sentence construction and understanding the grammatical terms associated with sentences. In and of itself grammar drills are meaningless; but when considered in the context of the art of effective communication, they are invaluable.

Year 10 Assessment

During Week 5, Year 10 will complete formal examinations in a number of subjects. We are introducing the examination structure to Year 10 in preparation for Stage 6. These examinations are a component of their formal assessment for Semester 2. It might be judicious to speak to your children about their upcoming examinations and assessment, and observe their study routine and preparation process. This is a perfect opportunity to assess what they might need to change to ensure success in Stage 6.

Senior Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences

Senior conferences are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday in Week 9. Information pertaining to bookings will be available via Skoolbag and the next Companion.

Many blessings,

Alyssa Roach



From the Director of Innovation and eLearning

Online Ordering Now Available at the Canteen

Xavier College has now introduced a great new online ordering system for the Canteen, called FlexiSchools!

This system allows parents, students and staff to place orders from home, work or school at any time and pay online. As well as being convenient for parents, the online orders are much faster and easier for the school canteen manager to process.

FlexiSchools is well established and tested, operating in hundreds of schools across Australia. Getting online is easy and only takes a few minutes to register. Simply visit the web site www.flexischools.com.au and click "Register Now". You will be sent an email with further instructions on how to complete the registration. Once registered, you can start placing orders immediately.

There are a variety of payment options including Visa, MasterCard (credit and debit), PayPal and Bank Transfer. The system operates via a pre-paid account chosen by you.

If you have any questions about the online services we are introducing, please contact the school canteen for more information.

If you have any questions, FlexiSchools also provide a great help desk on 1300 361 769, or you can contact them via their website.

Andrew Wonson

Australian War Memorial Excursion

Xavier College's Year 12 Modern History students visited the Australian War Memorial on October 20th and 21st. These students of modern history are examining World War One for their Core HSC unit, with their study primarily being undertaken through an analysis of sources.

On behalf of the College, students lay a wreath during the Last Post Ceremony at the Pool of Reflection. They also had the opportunity to speak with Ignatian alumni, Brendan Nelson AO, about his role as Director of the War Memorial and his publications on World War One. As part of this excursion, students undertook a lesson on primary sources, examining bias, context, and the documentation of war history. This visit also gave them the opportunity to spend time in the War Memorial galleries, recording primary sources and diorama depictions of major battles; all which they will draw on for their HSC studies in this area.

We would like to thank Mr Wonson and Mr Hackett who gave up their time to support this learning experience. We also appreciate the support of the families of our Modern History students for the opportunity.

Ms Renee Blyth



L-R: Olivia Canak, Emily Cappadona, Niamh McKervery, Brendan Nelson AO (Director of the Australian War Memorial), Bailey Dukes, Grace McCurley and Claire Zordoumis.

From the Director of Sport

Xavier Sporting Blues Awards

Last week, I had the privilege of presenting the first Xavier College Sporting Blues Awards at our College assembly. This is the premier award for students who represent the College through selection into a NSW All Schools or National team (e.g. NSW All School Open Soccer). This Award is also presented to students who represent a sport at a state and/or national level outside of school (e.g. National BMX team). This award acknowledges exceptional talent and commitment to sport.

A student who receives a Xavier Sporting Blue Award will receive the following:

- Framed certificate;
- Sporting Blues Crest and Badge;
- Name on the Xavier Sporting Blues Board (located in the Xavier Centre); and
- Written article and photo placed in the College newsletter.

The first Xavier Sporting Blues Awards were presented to:

- *Chloe Spears* from Year 9.

Chloe went to Queensland earlier this year and competed in the Australian Swimming Titles for the Under 14 5km Open Water Championships. With over 120 competitors in the race, Chloe did extremely well with a time of 1 hour and 12 minutes, finishing 30 in Australia in her age group.

Furthermore, Chloe has represented our College at the PDSSSC Swimming Carnivals since Year 7. Her ambition is to achieve a top 10 position in the Open Water Swim and make the Olympic Swimming Team.

Congratulations Chloe!



- *Braedyn Urban* from Year 7.

Braedyn was selected in the Under 13 NSW Ice Hockey team who travelled to Victoria to compete in the National Titles. Being only 12 years old at the time, Braedyn was one of the youngest selected in the age group and played against stronger and taller opposition. After the round matches, Braedyn's NSW team made the semi finals but unfortunately lost to Western Australia in a penalty shootout. Braedyn trains three to four times a week for over an hour each session. His ambition is to make the Australian Ice Hockey team.



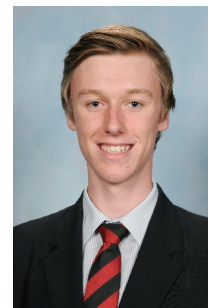
- *Daniel Brown* from Year 9.

Daniel is the current Under 15 World and Australian Champion in two different styles of Karate. Late last year he travelled to the USA and won two World titles. He also went to New Zealand and won bronze in a style of Karate called Kumite, which has now been confirmed as a sporting event at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Daniel trains one hour before school and four hours after school, six days a week. His ambition is to make it in the Australian Olympic Team for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.



- *Liam McCann* from Year 11.

Earlier this year, Liam was selected in the NSW Under 20's 4x100m relay and travelled to Western Australia for the National Titles. His relay team came first in the final and were crowned Australian Champions. During the National Titles, Liam came 5th in the final of the UNDER 18 200m with a time 22.4 seconds. He also competed in the NSW AllSchools Carnival at Homebush. Liam entered the 100m and 200m, finishing 4th in the 200m (22.07 PB) and 5th 100m (10.98 PB). Liam trains 5 times a week for two hours a day and his goal is to make the Australian Athletics Team for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.



- *Rachel Fiutowski* from Year 7.

Rachel recently competed in the NSW State Championships for Figure Skating, held at Penrith Ice Palace. In her division, Rachel competed against 16 other girls ranging in different ages. She finished 9th in the State with a score of 23.27. In her routine, Rachel was required to perform four different jumps, two different spins and a step sequence. Leading up to each competition, Rachel trains a minimum of two hours a day, three to four times a week. It is her aim to become a performer for Disney on Ice.



Representative School Sport Results—Season 3

Junior Boys Oztag

Rd 1 - Won 6-5 against St Clare
Rd 2 - Lost 4-7 against Emmaus
Rd 3—Bye

Junior Girls Oztag

Rd 1 - Won 5-3 against St Clares
Rd 2 - Won 5-0 against Emmaus
Rd 3 - Bye

Intermediate Boys Oztag

Rd 1 - Won 6-3 against St Clares
Rd 2 - Won 5-3 against Emmaus
Rd 3 - Bye

Intermediate Girls Oztag

Rd 1 - Drew 6-6 against St Clares
Rd 2 - Won 3-1 against Emmaus
Rd 3 - Bye

Boys AFL

Rd 1 - Bye
Rd 2 - Lost 25-27 against St Agnes
Rd 3 - Lost 32-38 against McCarthy

Girls AFL

Rd 1 - Lost 6-52 against St Agnes
Rd 2 - Lost 6-46 against MCHF
Rd 3 - Lost 5-44 against McCarthy

Boys Cricket

Rd 1 - Won 1/54 to 2/53 against MCHF
Rd 2 - Won 2/47 to 4/43 against Emmaus (Red)
Rd 3 - Lost 3/28 to 0/56 against McCarthy

Junior Girls Basketball

Rd 1 - Bye
Rd 2 - Won 25-0 against St Clares
Rd 3 - Won 31-7 against St Bishoys

Intermediate Girls Basketball

Rd 1 - Bye
Rd 2 - Won 27-18 against St Clares
Rd 3 - Won 45-15 against St Bishoys

Xavier College's Motorbike Champion

XAVIER COLLEGE

Uniform Shop

Including pre-loved uniforms

Thursdays

8am-4pm

Ph: 4777 4068

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

"Exceed your expectations"



Xavier College

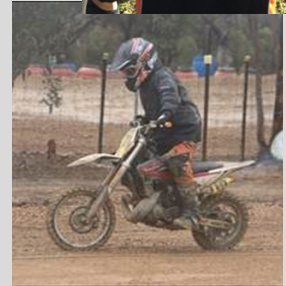
Llandilo

Jack Boatwright of Year 7 competed in the State Championships for motorcycle racing on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd October 2016. The competition was held in Gwandalan on the NSW Central Coast. It was a tough weekend, with Jack and the other competitors riding in pouring rain on Saturday, then in the wind on Sunday.

Jack rode his 65cc motorbike so well, despite the conditions, that he gained first place and is now the NSW Minikhana State Champion for A Grade (65cc).

Congratulations Jack on your achievement!

Daniel Whiley
Director of Sport



Want to make a real difference in the lives of young people?

MacKillop Family Services and Marist180 (formerly Marist Youth Care) are seeking **specialised carers** to create a safe and nurturing home environment for young people experiencing homelessness in Western Sydney.

Specialised carers live rent-free in a MacKillop or Marist180 owned home. Carers can be part of a couple, single, studying, retired or working, of any cultural or religious background.

To be successful in this role you will need to be committed to caring for and supporting young people aged 12-15 years who are experiencing homelessness. You will need to be able to work collaboratively with MacKillop and Marist180 to provide therapeutic care.

The specialised carer role attracts:

- ✓ Generous tax-free carer reimbursements
- ✓ Free accommodation in a MacKillop/Marist180 home with all utilities paid for
- ✓ Full use of a serviced vehicle
- ✓ Specialised training, including how to support young people affected by trauma
- ✓ Intensive support from MacKillop and Marist180 therapeutic specialists, case workers and youth workers

To register or to find out more phone (02) 8881 4801
or email marmac@mackillop.org.au