

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Xavier College,

During the annual Radio Talkback sessions that zoom in on "Schoolies' Week" as it looms at the end of each year, one phone-in mother told of her anxiety with the expression her son had adopted as his mantra: "I can't wait to be free!" When she asked her son, Tim, to explain further, all she got was, "I can't wait to be free!" The Talkback host, picking up on the anxiety in the mother's voice, tried to assure her that her son probably meant "free" from the rigours of study and the routine of school.

Volume 17 Issue 18

To some extent the Talkback host (Ray Hadley) and Tim were moving to the same drumbeat, for they were both about "freedom from". If taken to its full expression, "freedom from" is a negative form of freedom, when an individual can throw off all restraints and disciplines and have "the right" to do anything he pleases to satisfy his every whim. St Paul saw the danger in this when he wrote, "I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want, is what I do." Rom. 7:19

Perhaps Tim's mother would have been more comfortable if her son had said, "Can't wait to be free to choose from all the opportunities that life has to offer." This would be more in line with positive freedom, the freedom to do something constructive for yourself and which will benefit others. Positive freedom is the development and release of the creative skills that are gifted in each of us. So what "freedom threads" can we parents weave into our children's lives as they grow towards adolescence and adulthood?

If freedom means being able to fulfil the best that's within us, then this will more likely occur in an environment of safety when basic needs are being met by a loving family. Freedom is not so much about rights but about love and responsibility, which call upon us to determine what is the loving thing to do in different situations and then to act on it in a responsible manner. However, freedom is inconceivable without social ties and obligations and free individuals should contribute in simple, meaningful ways to their family before asking their family to support their personal requests.

As Catholics we believe that God did not create us to be solitary beings and as such we should respect each other and treat each other with dignity, Free people are informed, face up to reality, take responsibility for their actions and act in a responsible manner on their own behalf and of their family. "When the Spirit of the Lord is there, there is freedom." 2 Cor. 3:17 This freedom will lead us to respect life, property, nature, our parents and senior members of our society. It will lead us to be concerned for justice and be respectful of rightful authority, rules and laws (core qualities of a Xavier Graduate)

This week at Xavier we experienced "the Spirit of the Lord and freedom." in many different ways:

Our Xavier Cadet Core (Air force and Army) provided a very solemn and moving tribute to the men and women who died as a result of war. A silence and prayer filled the courtyard as students prayed for these brave men and women.

13th November 2015

Postal Address: PO Box 98 Cranebrook NSW 2749

Phone: 4777 0900 Fax: 4777 0930

Address: Ninth Avenue, Llandilo 2747 Email: xavier@parra.catholic.edu.au Website: www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au



- On Wednesday evening our Year 12 students attended the final event as part of the class of 2015. The dignity, respect and display of good manners was a hallmark of the evening. I wish to extend my thanks to the Year 12 parents who have supported their sons and daughters to be people of great worth and dignity. I was extremely proud to accept the many positive comments from the venue staff about the 'brilliant' young men and women we have at Xavier College.
- On Thursday night we held the Year 7 (2016) Orientation Evening. Some 620 people gathered to hear how we intend to ensure that the graduating class of 2021 have the skills and knowledge to contribute to a new economy (many of their future jobs have NOT been created yet!) In 2016 we will have 218 students (a record for Xavier). The overwhelming comment from parents on Thursday night was 'we are so glad you are focused on learning from Day 1 and you do not tolerate bullying', as a parent, this is what we expect from our schools.
- On Friday Mr Finnerty and I greeted the Year 6 students as they arrived for their Orientation Day. The 'Spirit of the Lord' was there as our SRC and Peers Support Leaders met these students, comforted the parents and 'gently' welcomed our new members into the community. Again the positive comments about the SRC and Peers Support Leaders centered around 'their ability to be present to our new members'.

In 2016 we will have 1103 students at the College, and currently families are enquiring each day about joining our learning community. I am extremely pleased to hear parents say we are choosing Xavier because we want our children to succeed in their studies. What more could teacher want from parents???

I would like to share with you some exciting developments taking place within our Science Faculty, under the direction of Mr Tim Byrne our Leader of Learning Science

Our Solar Siblings.

We use the Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope Network to collect student selected, professional telescope images. With these we create colour images and perform light measurement on star clusters to determine age of stars, distance form Earth and build up evidence of stellar evolution.

CREATE FOR SPACE

Students will learn to work together and with teachers as they embark on a their first space mission. This project will encourage students to learn interdisciplinary skills such as coding and electronics design, in physics, mathematics and data analysis.

Students will learn to code a chip to direct sensors to collect data. This sensor board will then be launched into space aboard a Quberider nano-satellite. Data will then be transmitted back to the school for analysis in class.

Kerbal Space Program

Students can plan an entire virtual space mission, which will then be simulated using NASA software.

This type of learning will prepare our students to contribute to the fabric of a rich and just society. It is no longer 'I can't wait to be free' but 'I can't wait to begin', what a wonderful transformation in our learning and teaching.

One of the surest ways to teach our children about positive freedom is to set an example. A close family gives children real people with whom to identify, real examples to learn from, real values and traditions to uphold, a real support system to turn to in time of need. When our children feel connected to our family, they have a rudder that helps them to hold a course of responsible conduct in the face of pressure from their peers and from the negative presentations of society.

For the greater good.

Mr Michael Pate



From the Assistant Principal

An important message to all families ...

Students should be very careful when walking home

As you may be aware, on the afternoon of 3rd November a Year 10 student was struck by a car as he walked home. Fortunately, after being admitted to and treated at Westmead Hospital, he is now recovering and is planning to return to school next Monday.

I would like to make note that this student was walking on the side of the road and was at *no fault* in this incident.

We are in the process of writing to Council and mentioning our concerns as a community. If you would like us to add any additional information in this letter, please email me on pfin-nerty@parra.catholic.edu.au as soon as possible.

An Important Reminder...

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.

This fortnight I have been reminded, on a number of occasions, of how much we take our health for granted. There are families in our community for whom illness is an ever-present part of their lives. There are also many other families who have to deal with challenging situations, both physical and emotional.

As I share this brief reflection I ask you to keep in your prayers those who live with ill health and those who support family members and friends through these challenging times.

The poor and the sick are those who demonstrate the secret sickness in us all.

In helping them,
we merit help for ourselves
when we are finally ready
to admit our deep needs,
our great gaping wound of soul,
our desire to be fed,
to be loved,
to be helped,
to be made whole.

We are all in this together, simply waiting for the other to carry us along.

(J. Chittister, God Speaks in Many Tongues, p35)

Thank you for your continued support,

Patrick Finnerty



From the Director of Mission and Formation

November the Month of All Souls

The College acknowledged the Month of November as a month of remembrance of souls. Below I've included the wonderful prayer service that our college partook in and thank Careyanne Moylan for her contribution.

During this month a book of remembrance is in the Student Reception and students are invited to include names of deceased loved ones. Prayers will then be said in Religion classes for these people

All Souls Prayer Service



Leader: "They will hunger no more, and thirst no more . . . and God will wipe away every tear, from their eyes." Revelation 7:16-17"

The Sign of the Cross



All: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: At this moment, we welcome each other gathered together. We acknowledge that each person present is here has someone to remember: a mother, a father, a wife or husband, a son or daughter, brother or sister, a friend or someone they admired. We come bringing our own memories and carry with us what they mean to us in our hearts. In a moment of silence, an invitation is extended to the gathered community to bring to mind those we



are remembering and to gather our memories of them

Reader 1: God of comfort, may our hearts be open to your healing touch. May our spirits be prepared to acknowledge the glory of your heavenly kingdom. We ask this through Jesus your Son and our brother in love.



All: Amen.

Leader: We place a pebble here as a symbol of remembrance of the one/s we pray for. The pebble has been changed through time and force, as our lives change. Together they make more than a pile of rocks. They become a symbol of love and hope, of commitment and the promise to pray for the dead. It is by our prayers that others may quickly reach eternal life.

Scripture

Reader 2: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mark 15: 33-39; 16:1-6)

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land^[a] until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"...Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom... Then Joseph^[e] bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, ^[f] wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body^[g] was laid... When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him... As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.

Reflection

Reader 3:

From John O' Donohue ... (Anamcara)

"If we were to imagine heaven, we could say that heaven is as near as God and there is nothing as close as God. In the same way, the dead are not distant or absent. They are alongside us. When someone dies, their physical form disappears. But because we can't see them doesn't mean that they are not there.

An easy way to explain this is to look at the journey of the larva to become a butterfly. Once it is a butterfly it can't go back to being larva. As larva, it was bound to earth, as butterfly it inhabits the air. It can fly, look down and remember where and who it has been but it can never go back to its original form.

Changed into a different form, the dead can't re-enter their old form. However, they continue to be near us. When we ourselves come to die and see our lives on earth in a full view, we may be surprised at the enormous support our departed loved ones have given



us during our life's journey. In their new state, their compassion, understanding and love take on a divine depth, enabling them to become secret angels guiding and sheltering us".

Litany: We Look to You

All: We look to you with praise

Reader 4: For the blessing of the lives of our departed loved ones,

All: We look to you with praise

For opening your arms to receive our kin,

All: We look to you with praise

For the home of peace and love in which they now reside,

All: We look to you with praise

Reader 5: For the welcome you give to all your cherished children.

All: We look to you with hope

For healing amidst our sorrow for our loss,

All: We look to you with hope

For an abating of our mourning with the knowledge that our loved ones rest in you

All: We look to you with hope

For the promise of tomorrows without grief and heartache,

All: We look to you with hope

For serenity that will return to our hearts in your time.

All: We look to you with hope

Reader 6: We look to you in remembrance: Of the life of our loved ones,

All: We look to you in remembrance

Of their patience and strength,

All: We look to you in remembrance

Of their love and support,

All: We look to you in remembrance

Of their humour and companionship.

All: We look to you in remembrance

Reader 7: We look to you in thanksgiving: For our fond memories

All: We look to you in thanksgiving

For the sharing of gifts,

All: We look to you in thanksgiving

For your everlasting love,

All: We look to you in thanksgiving

For the comfort you offer us.

All: We look to you in thanksgiving



Leader: God of comfort, we look to you with praise, hope, remembrance and thanksgiving. May

our souls be open vessels into which you can pour your wisdom.

All: Amen.

Closing Prayer: Compassionate God,

May we open our hearts to receive your blessing, our souls to witness your grace, our lives to welcome your love. We ask this through your Son, our companion, Je-

sus Christ.

All: Amen.

Final Blessing

May God our Father, Source of Life, Who supports those who suffer And heals the broken-hearted Bless you with strength.

All: Amen

May Christ Jesus, Light of our lives, Who wept at the grave of his friend Lazarus Brighten our darkness and bless us with new seeing.

All: Amen

May the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, whose presence is full of consolation, bless us with God's presence when we feel the absence of loved ones.

All: Amen

And may our gracious God bless us Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

All: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Kellie Robinson
Director of Mission and Formation



From the Director of Learning and Pedagogy

We are exceeding our expectations

By now you are familiar with our mantra, "we are exceeding our expectations" and you would have read multiple times about our goal that all members of the Xavier community – students, teachers, support staff and members of the wider community – exceed their own expectations in everything they do. However, I am still going to use this mantra as the focus of this article, and not for the last time, I'm sure.

The catalyst for my return to this mantra, other than the inherent belief in the significance of the mantra to everything we do, was an article on Jason Day, the Word's Number 1 Professional Golfer, I read recently. Since reading the article I have also watched an inspirational YouTube biog. References to both these pieces are below.

Jason Day's story is one of heartbreak, overcoming adversity, perseverance, determination and success driven by self-belief. Day was born in Beaudesert, Queensland, to a poor farming family, who had to scrounge the local tip for furniture and other useable household items. On one of these "shopping expeditions", at the age of 3, Day found a golf club. On hitting a tennis ball with the club his father commented to his mother, "this boy's going to be a champion, one Day". In 2000, when he was 12, Day's father fell ill and died. Jason spiralled into a grief-driven rebellion – drinking, getting into fights and giving up golf. To save him from this path of self-destruction, his mother mortgaged their house to pay for him to attend Kooralbyn International School, whose motto is, "believe in yourself". His mother's and sister's self-sacrifice put Day on the road to being the success he is today.

However, this success wouldn't have been possible if Day hadn't believed in himself and wasn't committed to excellence. In the clip and article, Day talks about being "addicted to the process of getting better", "working harder than others were working", "setting the bar high" and "walking toward the fear". Day has adopted his father's motto "never say die". He had a dream to be the Number 1 Golfer in the world. A dream he has realised.

This story is inspirational and captures the elements of life-long learning that leads to success. Each morning and afternoon there are senior and junior students working in the library. These students embody the qualities of commitment and perseverance. The recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Student Award, Amy Zordumous, worked tirelessly to improve her learning and outcomes. It could be said, that she was "addicted to getting better" and had set the bar high. This is what we want for all our students, that they "set the bar high" and become "addicted to getting better" in order to exceed their own expectations. If at the end of each day they can honestly say they have worked with diligence and sustained effort and learned something new, then they are on their way to achieving personal and lasting success as a learner and an individual.

Senior Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews – Tuesday 24th November

Please avail yourself of the opportunity to meet with your child's teachers. Ensuring that they are working toward exceeding their own expectations by completing work and understanding skills and content is essential for a successful senior year. Your input and support are crucial to ensuring their learning journey is successful and enjoyable. The interview-booking page will be open from next week. Details on how to access the page are included in this newsletter.



Parent Forums

In 2016 we will be introducing a termly parent forum. These will be organised opportunities for you to hear about important aspect of the College's procedures and innovations in learning and wellbeing, and to engage in the learning journey of your child. I look forward to these evenings and helping you to better help your child.

Many Blessings

Alyssa Roach

References:

Never Say Die – The Jason Day Story, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V SugpKp-bQ&sns=em

"Day Dream: Jason Day's Record-Breaking Maiden Major Championship was Built on Belief", *The Professional*, October 2015



Book School Interviews Online

Year 12 Parent/Teacher/Student interviews for will be held on:

Tuesday, 24th November 2015 (3.30pm—7.00pm)

You can now book interviews at times that suit **YOUR FAMILY BEST**. Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

BOOKINGS CLOSE ON MONDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER AT 5PM. NO BOOKINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS TIME.





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

Choose teachers

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.



From the Director of Student Growth and Administration

Christmas Hamper Appeal

Our annual Christmas Hamper appeal is now in full swing. The SRC recently organised a Mufti Day to jump start the appeal and get each Home Group started with their hampers. What a wonderful response we witnessed! Many students donated much more than the requested one non-perishable item, with some students donating more than ten items. It was incredible to see so much kindness offered by the Xavier College Community to those less fortunate. Hopefully this initiative by the SRC will continue to motivate all Home Groups to continue building their hampers so we can continue this fantastic tradition of "giving" at this special time of the year.

The SRC has made the Christmas Hamper appeal one of their focus goals for the year and I congratulate them for starting this initiative with such enthusiasm.

Annual Presentation and Awards Ceremony

Our annual awards and presentation ceremony, which normally takes place in early December, will now be held on *February 10th 2016* at the Marquee Exhibition Tent at Panthers Penrith. The College Leadership Team has made this decision in an attempt to raise the profile of this ceremony. This special day will show the value we place on learning, culture, community and sport as we acknowledge and affirm the outstanding achievements of our students in 2015. It will be an opportunity for our new Year7 Cohort and the rest of the College to witness the ceremony and become familiar with some of the awards we offer at Xavier. Hopefully this will inspire them to strive to be a recipient of an award in 2016. We are very much looking forward to this ceremony as it is a Xavier first

Parents of major award winners and those students who have performed consistently at an outstanding level will be invited to this ceremony towards the end of this school year.

Mr Lee McCrorie



XAVIER COLLEGE 2015 PRESENTATION and AWARDS CERMONY

PANTHERS PENRITH

10:30am 10th FEBRUARY 2016

XAVIER UNIFORM SHOP

AND

SECOND HAND SHOP

OPENING HOURS

THURSDAYS ONLY

8.00am - 4.00pm

REMINDER TO PARENTS

Parents are asked to notify the College if your child will not be attending school.

Phone: 4777 0900



From the Student Counsellor

Enhancing Online Safety

The online activity of our adolescents continues to challenge and sometimes confuse us. Whether we like it or not, it is an important part of their world. The best response is to be as informed as possible, albeit they are usually a few steps ahead of us.

I would like to recommend a useful site that promotes online safety. This site has been established by the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner, available at https://esafety.gov.au/

It contains practical, issue-focused information and advice for parents of children of all ages. Issues addressed include:

- cyberbullying
- social networking
- sexting
- mobile phone safety
- offensive or illegal content
- how much is too much?

In addition, there is a quick guide to popular social media sites and apps, which can be viewed at https:// esafety.gov.au/esafety-information/games-apps-and-social-networking

The following sites and apps are presented:



Ask fm is a social network where people can post questions and comments to other people's profiles, with the option to be anonymous or not.



Twitter is a real-time information network that allows users to find information streams they like and 'follow' the conversation. Information is presented in short bursts of information called tweets, which are limited to 140 characters or less.



Instagram is a way to share your photos with friends and family. Take a picture, choose a filter to transform its look and feel, then post it to Instagram.



Kik is a smartphone messenger that connects you to people you want to talk to.



Facebook is a social networking site that allows members to connect and share with the people, places and things that they care about.



Skype is an internet-enabled communications platform that allows users to communicate with other Skype users through messaging, voice and video. Skype users can also group video, call landlines and mobile phones using the platform.



Snapchat is a mobile application that allows users to capture pictures and videos and send them as messages to other Snapchat users. Every Snapchat message has a viewing time limit ranging from 1 to 10 seconds, as selected by the sender. The timer starts when the recipient views the message. When the time limit is reached, the message is deleted and can no longer be viewed using Snapchat.



Tumblr provides a platform for users to share their artwork, writing, photos, audio and videos with a worldwide audience.



There are also links to the other sites and apps that our young people are accessing. It is well worth visiting.

Margaret Trevena School Counsellor/Psychologist

Student Representative Council Report

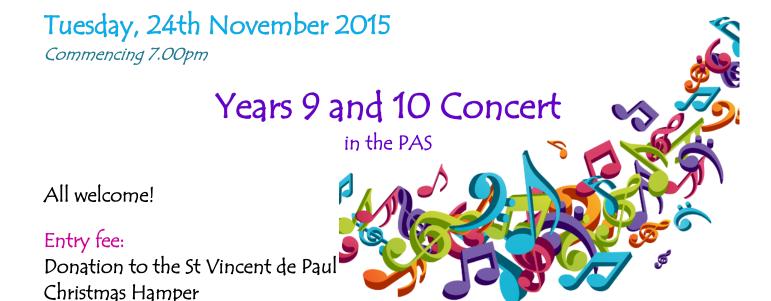
The Student Representative Councillors have recently come back from a school leadership camp where we learnt to work together, not only in house groups, but as a whole SRC group. We learnt to trust each other and work on things we could improve in the school.

Following the leadership camp we had our first SRC meeting and we talked about how we were going to follow through on the initiatives we discussed at camp. The initiatives included water bottle refilling stations, Christmas hampers, a Mufti Day to raise products for the Christmas hampers and, finally, how to promote the school mascot idea.

- The SRC has received the go-ahead from the Principal, Mr Pate, to buy a water bottle refilling station and, if it is liked by students, others will be bought.
- On Friday, November 6th, a Mufti Day was held to bring in non-perishable items for the Christmas Hampers which are to be donated to St Vincent de Paul.
- The idea of a school mascot has been introduced at the most recent assembly and, as an SRC, we
 have decided to try and promote the idea through Homegroups, as well as through student announcements.

The SRC have come back from camp with lots of ideas. We hope we can introduce them all to make the school life of Xavier College better for everyone.

Sundance Fuller and Ben Wenzel SRC





Fishers Ghost Festival and Exhibition

On Friday, November 6th, we went to Campbelltown Art Gallery to visit the Fishers Ghost Festival and Exhibition to view our artworks as finalists. It was a great experience. We saw many professional artists and it was a great opportunity to compete against those professionals and to exhibit in a major art gallery. It was great to see real artworks, since the impressive scale of some works made a difference to the meaning of the work which we would not have seen if we had only viewed a photograph of the artwork.

Attending this exhibition also allowed us to see how other schools' artworks compared to ours and we had the opportunity to get feedback on how to improve our art. We learnt how judges are often subjective and the winner often judged on the basis of one opinion. We were inspired to try new things and be creative when coming up with new ideas, artworks and techniques.

It was an amazing experience and hopefully we will be able to have this opportunity again as being in an exhibition is a reward in itself for our efforts at school.

Gabby Pace and Holly Hliounakis













Monday, 1st February

Friday, 12th February

Wednesday, 10th February



Important Dates

For dates of more Xavier College Upcoming Events go to http://www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au/upcoming-events#

<i>52</i>	Thursday, 19th November	Surf School—Year 9 PASS students
	Tuesday, 24th November	Year 12 Parent-Teacher Interviews, 3.30-7.00pm Years 9 and 10 Concert, 6.30pm
	Tuesday, 1st December	P & F Meeting, 7.00—8.00pm
\subseteq	Friday, 4th December	Xavier Day
	Monday, 7th December and Tuesday, 8th December	Year 7 Swim School
5	Wednesday, 9th December and Friday, 11th December	Year 9 Great Aussie Bush Camp
	Monday, 14th December and Tuesday, 15th December	Year 9 Swim School
	Tuesday, 15th December	Final day of 2015 classes for students
	Wednesday, 16th December	Parent Teacher Interviews
	Thursday, 17th December and Friday, 18th December	Staff Planning Days
		_
2	Wednesday, 27th January	Staff Professional Learning Day
	Thursday, 28th January	Year 7 Orientation Day, 8.30—2.40pm
	Friday, 29th January	Year 7 Orientation Day, 8.30—2.40pm

Years 8 –12 commence 2016

College Swimming Carnival

College Awards and Presentation Day

College Mass, 9.30am

Page 1	4
--------	---



Community News...

