



1st March 2016

### From the Principal

*“Exceeding your own expectations”*

*Learning, leadership, community service, good manners and a good character are the heart of a fulfilling life. Each of these characteristics is the sum of many individual choices and decisions, which embody a positive attitude backed by discipline and purpose.*

*The only way to achieve your purpose is to make positive choices every day and to become an active participant in your own learning. In the end, these choices and actions all add up. Learning is much more than getting all straight A's or lots of certificates. It is a commitment to a life-long love of learning and is the sum of all the small choices you make each day.*

### Diary Dates:

#### 1Mar16:

- Parent Forum 6-7pm
- P&F Meeting 7-8pm

#### 2-4Mar16:

- Year 7 Camp

#### 4Mar16:

- Mass Navarre Chapel 12.55pm
- Yr11 Biology/Snr Science excursion

#### 5Mar16:

- Xavier Show Team, at Castle Hill Show

#### 7-11Mar16:

- Catholic Schools Week
- Xavier Maths Week

#### 8Mar16:

- Open Night 4.30-6pm
- WYD Fundraising BBQ

#### 11Mar16:

- Mass Navarre Chapel 12.55pm
- Jump 4 Kids campaign

### A Community of Excellence

Great things happen when we work together. Below are just a few activities grounded in excellence and mercy;

Year 9 SRC have held a cake stall and a Yellow Ribbon Day to raise funds for Matthew Malloys who is currently in hospital.

Under the direction of Mrs Bax (P & F) a Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser has been arranged and is now in its second week. Orders close 9<sup>th</sup> March.

Our WYD Car Raffle has raised substantial funds to assist the 7 Year 11 students who will be travelling to Poland later this year. Thank you for your generous support.

We shared an awesome night last week at the Year 12 HSC pre- Showcase concert as we were treated to a wonderful musical journey by this class.

The tradition continued at our February SRC BBQ where teamwork flourished.

On Monday and Tuesday 8 Year 7 students returned to their primary schools to share their 'High School Experience'. I was delighted to hear their reflections about Xavier and watch them explain the importance of learning and positive choices.

### Student Management Interviews

During the next two weeks the teachers will be surveyed to identify students who are disrupting the learning environment here at the College. Any student who is identified by three teachers or more will be required to attend an interview with a parent or guardian and the appropriate Dean of House or in some instances Mr Finnerty, the Assistant Principal.

Research around learning clearly indicates that the learning environment needs to be engaging for the students if they are to learn. Each time this engagement is compromised by poor behaviour, valuable learning time is lost.

Parents please be assured that these interviews are a support mechanism for both the teacher and you the parents, to ensure that your son/daughter realises how important it is for them to participate fully in every lesson, so that they can achieve their personal best. They also serve the purpose of supporting other students within the classroom whose learning is being directly affected by the behaviour of a few.

*Due to significant technical issues with our email system for newsletters, we have been using Skoolbag to communicate information over the past several weeks. In response to many parent requests we will continue to communicate additional information via SkoolBag.*

*For the Greater Good,*  
Michael Pate

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## **From the Assistant Principal**

Please let us know if you have a question regarding the education of your child. If we are made aware of issues early it gives us the opportunity to plan ahead for the best possible solution. The partnership that exists between home and school is crucial in achieving the common goals which are primarily focused around maximizing the learning experiences for each and every student.

### **Picking up and dropping off students**

We are very fortunate to have a school filled to capacity. Having almost one thousand one hundred students arriving and leaving Xavier College each day does present some challenges and we really rely on your assistance so that we can do this safely. I would like to remind parents that double parking anywhere is against the law but more particularly very dangerous within a school zone. It is important that parents and visitors follow the road rules regardless of how inconvenient this could be at times. Everyone's co-operation on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

### **Quality Catholic Schools Survey (Mid-March)**

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) project in 2016.

QCS will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date.

Commencing on 14<sup>th</sup> March, all staff, students and 60 randomly selected parents will be asked to complete a survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Each school will receive an information report at the end of May and will use this report to inform their planning.

If you are selected to complete the survey, a member of the School Leadership Team will contact you and I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

If you have any questions please email [pfinnerty@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pfinnerty@parra.catholic.edu.au)

### **Some Important Reminders...**

- Please be conscious of the stop sign at the front of the school. We have almost 1100 students who enter and leave our school every day. The safety of every member of our community is paramount.
- 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.
- If you have a question or a concern regarding the education of your child please make contact with their Tutor Group teacher. It is always better to ask rather than wait.

Thank you for your continued support,  
*Patrick Finnerty*

## **From the Director of Mission and Formation**

### **Solidarity Lunch at Xavier**

On Ash Wednesday, after returning from the College Awards Ceremony, the Xavier College community had a Solidarity Lunch which consisted of a small bowl of plain rice for every person. The aim of this initiative was for our students and staff to experience what it is like to not have enough eat as we launch our Caritas Project Compassion Campaign for Lent.

### **Jump4Kids**

Jump4Kids will occur on Friday, March 11th where our community, along with the rest of the Parramatta Diocese, will make a solidarity stance against the policy regarding mandatory detention for children.

*Kellie Robinson*

## **From the Director of Learning and Pedagogy**

Welcome to 2016! What a busy and productive beginning to the school year it has been. We continue with our motto, “Exceeding Our Own Expectations”. We commenced the first of a series of Parent-Student Information Evenings and Parent Forums, designed to raise the profile of learning and assessment, and clearly articulate the expectations of all students in our community.

These evenings have been focused on the importance of ‘diligence and sustained effort’ in student success and the role of assessment in learning gain. The Xavier teachers are committed to creating a learning environment that engages and teaches students, and ultimately results in individual student growth.

We have also introduced a Year 9 Mentor Programme. Each Year 9 student has been allocated a member of the College Leadership team as a mentor. They will meet with their mentor, in a group of 6, seven times throughout this year. We believe that through positive, personal conversations about learning, students will develop a positive engagement with their learning and achieve academic growth. The focus of the first two conversations is NAPLAN and understanding the importance of NAPLAN, and working to exceed expectations.

Reading and writing continue to be a key focus across all subjects. Every Year 7 – 10 student has created a blog on which they record their reading and reflections for each lesson. I invite you to share the educational journey with us by reading with your child. This may look like reading your own book beside them or listening to them read. You could create a reading blog of your own and share them with your child so you can read each other’s comments. Similarly, read what they are writing and the feedback they are receiving from their teachers. Together we are stronger and can shift the learning and achievement of every child – of your child.

Many blessings,  
*Alyssa Roach*

***“It always seems impossible until it is done.”***

***Nelson Mandela***

## **From the Director of Innovation and e-Learning**

Welcome back to the start of a new school year. We welcome those students who are new to the College and especially our Year 7 students, who are beginning their secondary education at Xavier College. For the third year in a row, Year 7 students have started the year with their new devices and we are grateful to the parents who have supported the College with the implementation of our BYOD programme. Implemented at the beginning of 2014, our BYOD programme now has all students from Years 7 to 9 supplying their own device for learning. Many students from Years 9 to 12 currently bring their own device to school to assist in their learning. This continues the tradition at Xavier that we started many years ago by welcoming the use of technology by students.

Currently, our Year 7 students are having their devices enrolled into our Mobile Management software, provided by the Catholic Education Office. The software we are using to enrol the student devices is called Air Watch. Air Watch is a piece of software used in large organisations to manage BYOD devices and devices owned by the organisation. At Xavier College, all of our own devices are enrolled in the software. The CEO has made it a requirement that BYOD devices belonging to staff and students are also enrolled into Air Watch. Though Air Watch contains many features to enable an organisation to manage mobile devices, in its implementation at Xavier College, most of the features have been disabled to protect the user's privacy and data.

### **BYOD for All Students in 2017**

As we are all aware, BYOD has infiltrated its way into just about every industry: small business, large enterprise, government and especially education. Many schools across our Diocese are implementing BYOD programs to increase the access that students have to the internet, digital content, and a range of educational opportunities. By introducing our BYOD programme, we saw a way to create workforce-ready students. When our students leave school they will be entering a workforce that will rely heavily on mobile technology. BYOD at Xavier allows students to learn with the tools they will be working with in the future and by bringing their own device to school, they will be using the devices they are comfortable with.

Schools are currently finding it difficult and expensive to maintain large fleets of laptops for student use. Since the ending of the previous Federal Government's "Digital Education Revolution" (DER) in 2013, our school has spent and continues to spend, considerable amounts of money maintaining and repairing our current fleet of aging laptops. The implementation of the BYOD programme has enabled the College to divert funds into more educationally sound programmes such as increasing the range and density of our wireless network infrastructure and the roll out of ClickView which is allowing our staff to flip the classroom.

Our BYOD programme empowers our students by allowing them to make their own technology choices with regards to the device they want to use for learning. Student-owned devices also offer more opportunities for learning to continue at home where our students can access our online learning environment, Moodle, Classm8 and ClickView, anywhere and anytime. The devices also enable students to keep work in one place, such as in the Cloud or in the device itself. We have also found that students are more likely to take better care of devices that belong to them.

BYOD is about delivering education in new ways. Technology plays a huge role in our students' everyday lives and it is an integral part of their learning. For our school and most others, it is financially unsustainable to provide every student with state-of-the-art technology. It is for these reasons we are extending our BYOD programme across all years from 2016 onwards with full mandatory implementation by 2017.

Full details regarding BYOD at Xavier College can be found in the Publications and Links section of the College Web Site.

### **The SkoolBag App**

A useful app that parents and students may wish to install on their smart phone is the Skoolbag app. This is an app available for iPhones, Windows tablets and Android phones. Our newsletter is sent out via the Skoolbag app as well as distributed via the web site. Student notices and room changes are also distributed via the Skoolbag app and it is recommended that your child also install the app onto their iPhone or Android phone. For instructions, go to:

[http://www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au/SiteData/240/UserFiles/Resources/Skoolbag%20Parent%20Instructions%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au/SiteData/240/UserFiles/Resources/Skoolbag%20Parent%20Instructions%20(1).pdf)

Important URLs for your child to remember are also shown on the next page.

## **From the Director of Student Growth and Administration**

*Parent Information Kits* from NSW Health were recently sent home to Year 7 parents in relation to the upcoming School Vaccination Program.

Consent forms must be completed and returned to the College Office as soon as possible. Signed permission forms will cover all doses of the vaccination.

For details regarding the vaccinations as well as privacy conditions, go to:

<http://www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au/SiteData/240/UserFiles/PublicationLinks/2016%20School%20Newsletter-%20Year%207.pdf>

Should you have any further questions or comments regarding this program please call the Immunisation Team on 4734 2022.

Further information regarding immunisation is also available at [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

*Lee McCrorie*

## **From the Director of Finance and Office Administration**

### **School Fees**

All school fees notices have now been sent out. If you have not yet received your invoice, please contact the College Office to request a reissue of your invoice.

Term 1 school fees should be paid in full by

**Monday, March 7th 2016**

Please note that payment arrangements need to be reset each year. Arrangements made in 2015 are no longer valid.

For updating arrangements or discussing, in confidence, fee related matters please contact the School Fees Officer, Mr Steve Hackett, on 4777 0924.

### **Some important URLs for your child to remember:**

Moodle: <http://learning.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au>

Classm8: <http://classm8.parra.catholic.edu.au>

School Web Site: <http://www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au>

## **XAVIER UNIFORM SHOP AND** **SECOND HAND SHOP**

**OPENING HOURS**

**THURSDAYS**

**8.00am - 4.00pm**