



11th March 2016

Diary Dates:

15Mar16:

- Year 9 Information-Night 6-7pm

16Mar16:

- Year 7 Vaccinations (Round 1)
- Year 10 History excursion

17-24Mar16:

- PAT-R Testing, Years 7-10

18Mar16:

- PDSSSC Swimming Carnival, Homebush

22Mar16:

- SRC lunchtime BBQ

24Mar16:

Holy Thursday

- Cross Country Carnival (competitors only)

25Mar16:

Good Friday
Public Holiday

27Mar16:

Easter Sunday

28Mar16:

Easter Monday
Public Holiday

29Mar16:

- Senior School (Years 11 & 12) Parent-Teacher Interviews 2pm-7pm

30Mar16:

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From the Principal

Giving service is an important value in our community where, all too often, individualism and incivility tend to catch all the headlines. Actively appreciating the needs of other people and contributing to their wellbeing in a compassionate, caring and humble manner is evident at Xavier College.

Reaching out in kindness and understanding to people who are perhaps unlike ourselves, helps us to be more open-minded and sensitive to the situations of other people. By sharing our skills or good fortune, we are able to *“give back”* and make a difference to the quality of life of other people who maybe did not have the opportunities in life that we had or, for one reason or another, were not capable of developing opportunities they may have had.

As Christians, we should be the *“doers”* in our community for we believe that our life was not meant to be spent solely on gratifying ourselves but to be shared generously with other people as Jesus did. Jesus did not anchor Himself in a synagogue but went out amongst the people, experienced their problems, listened compassionately to their needs and then acted in a favourable manner towards them.

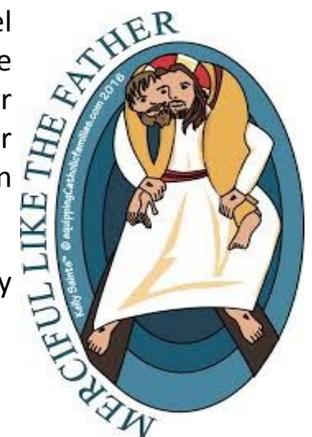
Since the beginning of term we have been a community of ‘doers’! This is evidenced though our work for *Project Compassion, Support for the missions in the Philippines, our students writing about ‘children in detention’ and sending these letters to our local members* and, finally, I must thank our highly motivated Parents and Friends who are working with our Year 9 students to fund raise for Matthew Mallows. We deeply appreciate your support and donations.

There is truth in the saying that *“A little selfless service tends to make selfishness go away”*, and there is truth in the fact that service to others ennobles us. Introducing your child to the concept of service by say volunteering to weed the garden of an elderly person who is no longer able to do the weeding, is an example of a simple way to develop the concept.

As leaders, teachers, and parents, we need to model service to our children and so teach them to be thankful for what they have and to express their thanks in a sincere and meaningful manner. This Year of Mercy is yet another way to focus our attention on others.

I ask you to continue to keep Matthew and his family in your prayers.

For the greater good
Mr Michael Pate



From the Assistant Principal

Social Networking: Very Important

Top tips to prevent being vulnerable:

- Make sure you set the privacy settings correctly to protect your privacy and to protect yourself from strangers. If you set your settings wrong, people can still access your photos and information even when they are not your friend.
- Ask your friends and family to have a look at your profile to check that you aren't giving out too much personal information or posting inappropriate photos/films because they might see something you've missed.
- Keep your passwords and secret security questions to yourself.
- Never leave your device accessible to another person.
- Never loan your device to anyone.
- If you use a school computer always log out.
- If you are unlucky enough to have a bad experience online, report it to the service provider and tell an adult.

Cyber bullying is NEVER acceptable. If you or someone you know is targeted by bullies online tell them to tell an adult and, most importantly, keep evidence of the bullying behaviour and never reply.

Some Important Reminders...

- 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.
- 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 ensuring that your child arrives at school by 8.30.

If you have a question or a concern regarding the education of your child please make contact with their Dean of House. It is always better to ask rather than wait.

Thank you for your continued support,

Patrick Finnerty

From the Director of Mission and Formation

Listening and the Year of Mercy

"Help me O Lord that my ears may be merciful. I want to be attentive to the needs of my neighbours; who are my brothers and sisters so that I will not be indifferent to their cries for help." (Sr Faustina)

"We need to practise the art of listening, which is more than simply hearing.

Listening is an openness of heart which makes possible that closeness without which genuine spiritual encounter cannot occur.

Listening helps us to find the right gesture and word which shows that we are more than simply bystanders."

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

Kellie Robinson



From the Director of Learning and Pedagogy

The importance of a “room of one’s own”

The Xavier Centre has been a hive of activity these past weeks. I am particularly impressed with the number of senior students taking advantage of the extended opening hours to complete learning preparation, to study and prepare for formal assessments. Committing this time to their learning will have exponential benefits for their understanding and, ultimately, their results. For many, the option to stay at school to study relieves the pressure of finding a space, both physical and mental, for working and ensures that they complete the learning required to be successful in their studies. Virginia Woolf, in her seminal text *A Room of One’s Own*, espoused the importance of a quiet space to write. For a number of students that’s what the Xavier Centre is, a room of their own, though shared with a few of the like minded.

Although I have just reflected on the senior’s use of the Xavier Centre, junior students are more than welcome. It would be excellent to see all our students, particularly Year 10, taking advantage of this space.

Information Evenings

Tuesday, 15th March is our Year 9 Parent-Student Information Evening. During the presentation we will discuss the importance of NAPLAN, learning and assessment, our new Year 9 Mentor Programme, the effect of absenteeism on learning and elective selection for Year 10, 2017. I look forward to seeing all our Year 9’s parents.

Many blessings,

Alyssa Roach

From the Director of Student Growth and Administration

A reminder that next Wednesday, 16th March, those Year 7 students who have returned their signed consent forms will receive their first round vaccination as part of NSW Health’s *School Vaccination Program*.

If you have any queries in relation to this program, please visit the following site:

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

Any questions or comments regarding this program should be directed to the Immunisation Team at NSW Health on 4734 2022.

Additional information in relation to immunisation is also available at www.health.nsw.gov.au

Lee McCrorie

From the School Fees Officer

Term 1 school fees are now overdue. If you have not yet paid your outstanding fees, or negotiated a payment arrangement for the current year, please contact me as soon as possible on 4777 0924 or email shackett@parra.catholic.edu.au

All discussions are strictly confidential.

Steven Hackett

“What makes mastery is not the absence of failure but the absence of giving up.”

Robin Sharma



DID YOU KNOW?

Enrolment for Year 7 2017

Applications close

Friday

1st April 2016

Download your application form from our [website](#)

XAVIER COLLEGE
Uniform Shop

Thursdays

8am-4pm

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Student Representative Council Update ...

The annual swimming carnival went really well, with Bradman House coming out on top. We were really happy to see everyone participating and having some really good races. In respect to that, Year 12 is currently celebrating their 1-0 victory over the teachers. Both the girls and boys won their respective races, with results of both being very close.

In other news, the water dispensers are on their way for both outside the VAT and for each house. These are just in time for the huge heat waves that have hit our school. Everyone, please make sure you drink lots of water to keep hydrated!

The SRC ran a BBQ on Friday, February 26th, with the proceeds going to Project Compassion. Other fundraisers will continue to be held. Keep raising as much money as you can for this worthy cause!

*Kenneth Fuller (Year 12 Bradman) and
Sophie-Ann Brebner (Year 8 Loyola)*

A Xavier BMX Sport Star.....

On March 5th, *Brad Shaylor* of Year 10 competed in the 2016 Australian BMX National Championships against 80 riders from across the country. The competition was held at Mt Panorama in Bathurst and involved a full day of mottos, quarter finals and semi finals. The goal of winning these was to secure a place in the grand final as one of the top eight riders.

On the day Brad won all of his mottos to make it through to the grand final. He then raced an awe inspiring, extremely fast final and took out first place to achieve the title of 15 Year Boys Australian National BMX Champion.

As National Champion, Brad will now have the honour of representing Australia in the 2016 World BMX Championships this coming May. This event is to be held in Columbia.

Brad's dedication to his sport sees him train both morning and night, six days a week. This is what is required to compete at the elite level within this sport.

Brad's long term goal is to compete in the 2024 Olympic Games.

We congratulate Brad on attaining the title of National BMX Champion and wish him every success in achieving both his short term and long term goals.

Daniel Whiley
Director of Sport

