



# Xavier College

*From the Acting Principal*

**Volume 12 Issue 6**  
**30th April 2010**

*The Companion*

*On Thursday we had our first assembly for Term two and it was inspiring to see representatives from the Red Cross, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and Salvation Army. Mason Grady and Christopher Micallef were presented with their scholarships by Flying Officer Joshua Buggy from Richmond RAAF base. It is very unusual to have more than one scholarship winner and this exemplifies the nature of these two students.*

*Samantha Shakespeare from the Red Cross presented Xavier College with the 'Vampire Shield', an award for the greatest number of blood donations from a school in the greater Penrith area. As one donation can save up to 3 lives this is exceptional. As Mr Lette pointed out, that the donations from Xavier College could save the lives of all of Year 11 and 12 and half of Year 10. I strongly encourage any eligible student over 16 years of age to join this wonderful group of blood donors.*

*The Red Shield doorknock appeal will be held on Sunday May 30th and representatives from the Salvation Army spoke at the assembly to encourage students to volunteer to help for two hours collecting donations. Further details will be provided to students who put their names on the list. Any other student who would still like to volunteer please see Ms Kallianiotis.*

*Our Year 7 2011 Information Night will be held on Monday night (May 3rd) and I would like to thank all the students that have volunteered their time to assist on the night. Your help is what makes Xavier College the great school that it is!*

*Recently I attended a conference in San Diego and in my presentation I spoke of Xavier College and our students. I was a very proud educator when I described to the audience the generosity of our students as evidenced by my previous comments and the many other contributions which have made to the community.*

*The musical 'Grease' is almost upon us with tickets now on sale for \$15. Please be quick to purchase tickets as we would not want anyone missing out on a performance. I have seen some of the acts in isolation and am very excited about seeing the entire show.*

*Yours in Xavier*  
*John Ley*  
*Acting Principal*

**Dear Parents/ Guardians and Students**

We have started Term Two with the students in a transition period to full winter uniform. From Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May students in Years 7, 8, 11 and 12 need to have College blazers and wear them to and from school every day. The students have been reminded several times about this requirement as part of their role in the Xavier Community.

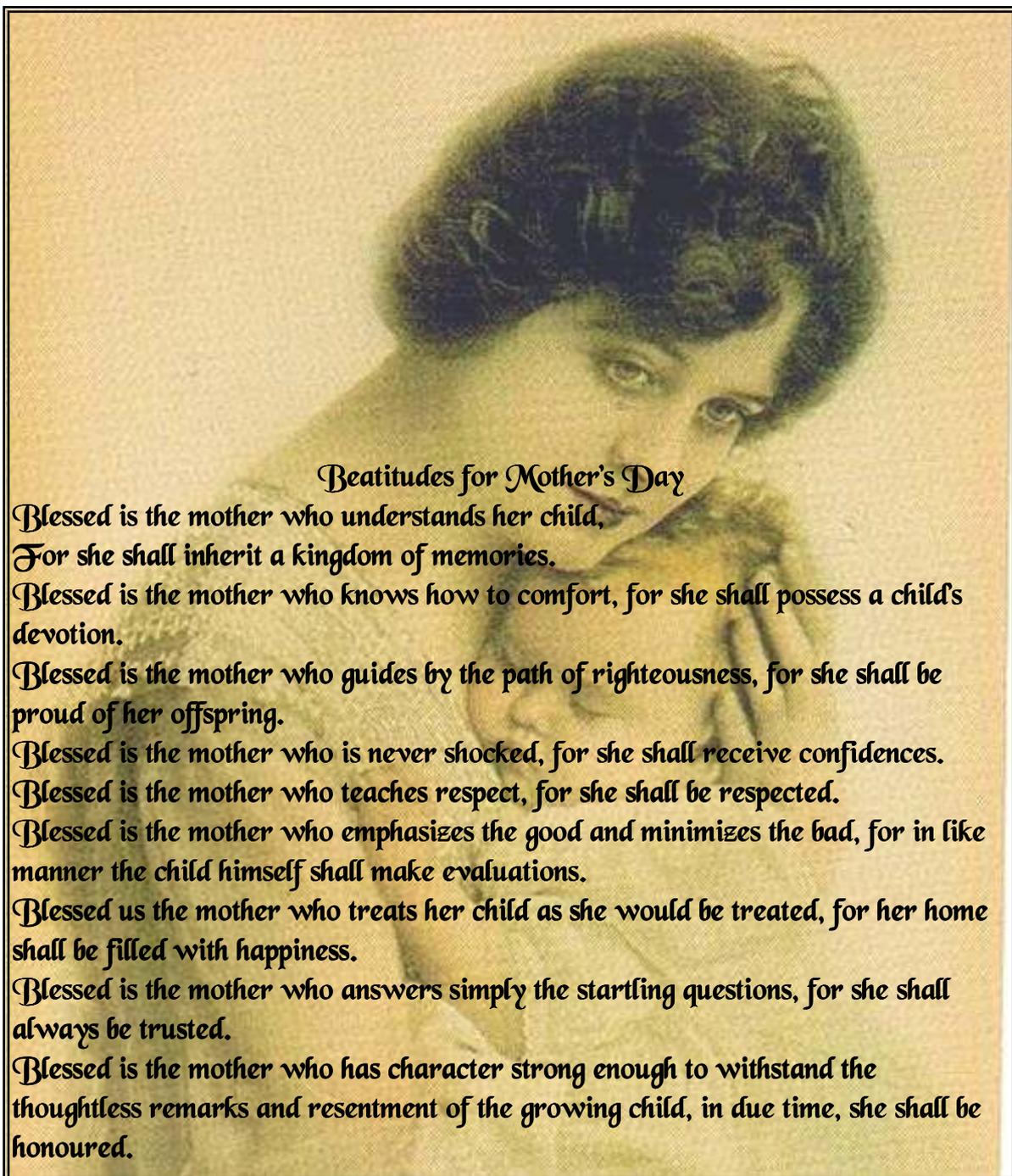
Last week we have been working through a change in the bus services to Corpus Christi. This has caused some overcrowding in buses, and this is being monitored by Westbus. Parents and students are reminded that bus passes are for free travel directly from school to the bus stop nearest to the student's home. Travel along another route on other days – for instance to Penrith Plaza — is not permitted on the pass and a fare should be paid.

Students are reminded that they need to show their bus passes to the driver every day and when requested, to inspectors. Any poor behaviour will result in consequences from the school and could result in the loss of the free travel pass.

We hope all students travel to and from school safely and correctly and that they wear their full school winter uniform with pride.

**Yours in Xavier**

**Paul Hocking (Acting Assistant Principal)**



*Beatitudes for Mother's Day*

*Blessed is the mother who understands her child,  
For she shall inherit a kingdom of memories.*

*Blessed is the mother who knows how to comfort, for she shall possess a child's  
devotion.*

*Blessed is the mother who guides by the path of righteousness, for she shall be  
proud of her offspring.*

*Blessed is the mother who is never shocked, for she shall receive confidences.*

*Blessed is the mother who teaches respect, for she shall be respected.*

*Blessed is the mother who emphasizes the good and minimizes the bad, for in like  
manner the child himself shall make evaluations.*

*Blessed is the mother who treats her child as she would be treated, for her home  
shall be filled with happiness.*

*Blessed is the mother who answers simply the startling questions, for she shall  
always be trusted.*

*Blessed is the mother who has character strong enough to withstand the  
thoughtless remarks and resentment of the growing child, in due time, she shall be  
honoured.*

# Getting the Best Possible Result

The National Assessment Programme in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN tests) will be held in Week 4 of this term. These tests are compulsory for all Year 7 and Year 9 students throughout Australia. Year 7 and Year 9 tests are conducted on the same days.

The dates for these tests are set by the government and are as follow:

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May ..... Language Conventions and Writing Tests.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May.... Reading Test.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May..... Numeracy (Calculator) and Numeracy (Non-calculator)

Closer to the NAPLAN Testing period, students will be given more detailed information regarding the timetable for these days and what to bring, etc.

Preparation for these important tests began at school early in Term 1 and, as the testing period is now closer, we strongly encourage all Yr 7 and 9 students to supplement this preparation at home. Appropriate preparation for the test situation will enable your child to more accurately demonstrate their skills and knowledge. Whenever our students are representing the College they will always try to give of their very best. Sample questions and the 2008 and 2009 NAPLAN test papers are available at [www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au) and [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/naplan/testing/testpapers.html#H2N101D4](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/naplan/testing/testpapers.html#H2N101D4)

As with usual homework tasks, students should consult their teacher if they find aspects of their preparation difficult and need assistance.

Good Luck Yr7 and Yr9

**Deborah Hartfield**  
**Curriculum Coordinator**

## NAPLAN tests for 2010 in Catholic Schools

Dear families

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests will be held for all Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 students in Parramatta Diocesan Catholic Schools from 11 to 13 May 2010.

As you may be aware, the Australian Education Union (AEU) and some teachers' unions representing teachers in government schools have voted to boycott these tests in public schools in some states, including NSW. This is predominantly due to concerns that the NAPLAN data published on the My School website could be used to draw unfair comparisons between schools.

Catholic educators would agree that the use of NAPLAN data to focus on a school's overall performance in comparison with other schools is a very limited measure, and does not take into account the broad differences between students and schools.

However, as a measure of a student's performance on a range of basic skills, NAPLAN can provide a very useful perspective for teachers and parents on a student's progress, but by no means should this be the only measure.

Parents already have access to a much deeper, richer perspective of their child's progress through their day-to-day learning, assessments and in-school tests, school reports, parent-teacher interviews, and so on.

While we do not support a ban on NAPLAN tests, because we do believe they offer a valuable insight for teachers and parents on a student's performance, I caution against using the data on the My School website to provide the only measure of your school's performance.

Our Catholic schools provide a wealth of learning opportunities and development experiences for students well beyond the limited set of skills measured by NAPLAN, and these must also form part of your assessment of the performance of your school.

Yours sincerely

**Gregory B Whitby**  
Executive Director of Schools  
Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta

## Defence Technical Scholarships

Last year the Australian Defence Force established a technical scholarship program for students in Years Eleven and Twelve. The scholarships range in value from \$2500 for Year Eleven students to \$3000 for Year Twelve students and are designed to raise awareness of technical trade opportunities within the defence force and to provide financial support to students interested in pursuing an ADF general entry technical trade career.

Whilst there is no obligation for scholarship recipients to join the ADF, recipients may have the opportunity to experience a range of defence activities, including open days, and visits to ADF bases and defence industry locations to learn about the variety of career pathways offered by the military.

With tens of thousands of students from thousands of schools across the nation eligible to participate in the program, competition for scholarships is highly competitive. For any school to receive a scholarship offer for a single student is commendable. It therefore gives me great pleasure to announce that Xavier College received not one, but two scholarship offers. This is an impressive achievement, to say the least.

I would like to publically congratulate two of our Year Twelve students, Mason Grady and Christopher Micallef, on their successful application to the Defence Technical Scholarship program. Mason's and Christopher's efforts were publicly recognized during an assembly on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, when their scholarships were presented to them by Flying Officer Joshua Buggy from the Royal Australian Air Force.

**Mr David Lette**  
**Career Advisor**



**Social Justice News:**

For those new to the college, each term students and staff from Xavier College make regular donations of blood at the Red Cross Blood Bank. To encourage donations, the Red Cross hold's an annual competition amongst Western Sydney schools for the most donations by students during the year. This competition is known as the Vampire Shield and, as many of you would already be aware, last year Xavier College took out this prestigious award.

Students from Years Eleven and Year Twelve made enough donations throughout the year to save the lives of all Year Twelve, all Year Eleven and half of Year Ten combined! This is a remarkable achievement and in our minds there is no better way of living out our College motto and making a difference for the greater good.

The efforts of our students were publically acknowledged during an assembly on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, when Ms Samantha Shakespeare from the Australian Red Cross Blood Service presented the Vampire Shield to our College captains, along with certificates of appreciation to our Year Twelve blood donors. Certificates for the donors amongst last year's Year Twelve have been posted.

Our current position within this year's Vampire Shield is a disappointing third place. We would therefore like to encourage students, parents and staff who are not blood donors to consider joining this inspirational group. You just need to be at least sixteen and feeling healthy.

Some basic facts about blood donations for you to consider are:

\*One person out of every three people in Australia will receive blood or a blood product during their life, yet only one person out of every 30 in Australia regularly donates blood.

\*To meet clinical needs we need to collect 21,000 blood donations every single week.

\*Donating blood is free, takes about one hour of your time, up to four times a year and each donation can save up to three lives.

\*Over 30% of all blood is used to help people fighting cancer.

\* One leukaemia patient will need 45 blood donors per month to donate blood for their treatment. A leukaemia patient is usually treated for eight months. An additional 9000 leukaemia patients will be diagnosed this year alone.

To join the Xavier blood drive, or simply to find out more information, please speak with either Ms Kallianiotis or Mr Lette.

Ms Kallianiotis & Mr Lette



# Open Boys Football Gala Day

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, the Senior Boys Football Team played in the PDSSSC Gala Day. The team consisted of players from Year 10 through to Year 12, and really only came together a week before the competition. Considering this, the boys achieved very well.

The competition consisted of two pools, ensuring Xavier played 4 round games. To make the final, you had to be the winner of your pool. The results were as follows:

- Xavier v St. Mark's – Xavier won 4 – 0 in a convincing win. Good passing and plenty of speed resulted in 4 quick goals being scored. The opposition rarely got into our half, with the goal keeper Jason only touching the ball once.
  - Xavier v St. Columba's – Xavier won 4 – 0 again in a strong performance against a good team. Great play in defence meant our opposition was left scoreless, while in attack, the boys made every opportunity count.
  - Xavier v Loyola – Xavier lost 1 – 0 in a scrappy game. This was the "final" of the pool. Both teams knew they had to win and this pressure made both teams play panic football. In the end a mistake lead to Loyola's goal being scored.
- Xavier v OLOL : with the final out of sight, this game was purely for fun. Game time was evened up amongst players, and players got the chance to change positions. However, the Xavier boys, as competitive as ever, pushed for a win. This game built in excitement and players generally made their way back into their preferred positions. Tired and hot, both teams got opportunities but nothing eventuated and a 0 – 0 draw resulted.

Well done to all players involved: Dean Stevens, Aaron Casmiri, Andrew Fletcher, Adam Stofmeel, Dane Taylor, Brad Brown, Ryan Azzopardi, Dylan Thomas, Blake Latta, Richie Tomlinson, Joey Fabiano, Malachy Milligan, Luke Hall, Spencer Meharg, Jason Hollingsworth. With many Year 10 students in the team the future looks bright.

The following players deserve commendation, Blake Latta and Aaron Casmiri were outstanding in defence ensuring only 1 goal all day was scored against us. Ryan Azzopardi proved himself performing very well all day and distributing the ball well. Dylan Thomas, Dane Taylor and Joey Fabiano scored many good goals demonstrating speed, skill and accuracy in putting the ball in the back of the net. Dean Stevens played most of the day on the field, but pulled off a great save in the last game as goalkeeper.

Thanks to Mr. Latta, Mr. Fletcher, Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. Milligan who all came along and supported the team. Finally, to Mr. Gardiner who acted as a referee for our school, his skill and ability resulting in his being asked to referee a number of other games also.

Well done boys, now onto the Knock-out competition.

Mr. Kennedy

## **ENROLMENTS FOR YEAR 7 2011**

If you have a child who is currently in Year 6 and you would like them to attend Xavier College in 2011, please obtain an Enrolment Prospectus from the school office.

Enrolments close Friday 28th May 2010.

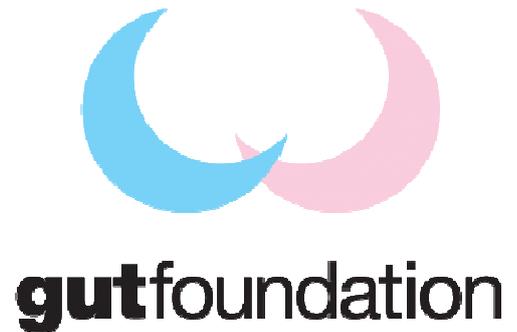
**Even if you have siblings at the College you must complete an Enrolment Form for your Year 6 child and forward it with relevant documentation to the College by the closing date.**

Important Dates:

**Information Evening on Monday 3rd May 2010 from 5.00pm**

**Closing Date for applications Friday 28th May 2010**

**Enquiries please contact Mrs Heterick on 4777 0900.**



In Australia, 12 men and women die from bowel cancer everyday. This is more than breast cancer, making this our second most deadly cancer. It is also said that most people don't experience symptoms prior to diagnosis; this is because no one wants to talk about it.

**FACT:** Bowel cancer can be curable if detected early. Most bowel cancers develop from benign polyps. If these are removed, the cancer is largely preventable

*The Gut Foundation* is about changing community attitudes and **raising awareness** about bowel related diseases. This is done through changing community views on healthy lifestyle and eating. Bowel disease effect children as well as adults, this is why The Gut Foundation assists all ages.

Bowel related diseases include;

- anal fissure
- celiac disease
- colorectal cancer
- bowel cancer
- gallstones
- gastro oesophageal reflux
- haemorrhoids
- inflammatory bowel disease
- irritable bowel syndrome
- lactose intolerance

The Gut Foundation specialises in medical research to identify the causes of gut problems, better methods of prevention and treatment, and continuing to educating the public on the latest findings.

The Gut Foundation was created by the Gastroenterological Society of Australia in 1983. It is a non-profit foundation that specialises in the study and education of all areas of gastrointestinal and digestive health, for the public and medical practitioners. The foundations main reason is the prevention of diseases through better nutrition.

There mission is to;

- To improve the management of digestive health by coordinating clinical care and research activities.
- To provide a family of support for all persons with gastrointestinal disease, their families, their caregivers and their friends.
- Prevention and cure of gastro intestinal cancers through clinical care and research.

Telephone: 612 9382 2749

Fax: 612 9382 2828

Email: [gutfound@gut.nsw.edu.au](mailto:gutfound@gut.nsw.edu.au)

Web: <http://www.gut.nsw.edu.au/>

Address: C/- Diabetes Centre

The Prince of Wales Hospital

RANDWICK NSW 2031

AUSTRALIA

<b>XAV <i>Important Dates</i></b>	
<b>Term 2 2010</b>	
<b>Monday 3rd May</b>	<b>Year 7 2011 Information Night</b>
<b>Tuesday 4th May</b>	<b>P &amp; F Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday 11th - 13th May</b>	<b>NAPLAN Yr 7 and Yr 9</b>
<b>Wednesday 12th - 14th May</b>	<b>Year 12 Retreat</b>
<b>Wednesday 19th—21st May</b>	<b>“Grease”, the Musical</b>
<b>Friday 28th May</b>	<b>Enrolment Applications for Year 7 2011 close</b>

**REMINDER TO PARENTS**

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



**UNIFORM SHOP**

**THE UNIFORM SHOP IS OPEN THURSDAYS 9.00AM –4.00PM Phone 4777 4068**

**Important Dates from the Catholic Education Office**

**Catholic Outlook May issue**

- \* Bishop Anthony's journey from Palm Sunday to Easter
- \* Diocese pays tribute to Bishop Kevin's ministry
- \* Federal funding for Aboriginal Catholic centre at Mt Druitt
- \* Vinnies CEO Sleepout aims to raise more than \$1m
- \* Centacare offers help to problem gamblers and their families
- \* News from our Catholic schools

**Welcome Bishops of Oceania: 12 May**

You are invited to join with Bishop Anthony in welcoming 10 bishops from Oceania who will be in Sydney for the Assembly of the Federation of Bishops Conferences of Oceania. Mass at 7pm in St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta followed by supper.

**National eConference: Mary – First Disciple Tuesday 18 May**

Fr Frank Moloney SDB will share his insights into Mary as disciple, woman and mother. An initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Broken Bay Institute. To register as an individual or as a group, go to [www.bbi.catholic.edu.au](http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au) and follow the links to Mary-First Disciple and be in the draw to win a pilgrimage for two to Italy in 2010 with Harvest Travel.

**Ecumenical Dinner: 19 May**

To celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (16-23 May), the NSW Ecumenical Council is hosting a dinner on the topic 'What is our Christian Mission Together?' Speakers: Metropolitan Archbishop Paul Saliba, Antiochian Orthodox Church, and Commissioner Linda Bond, Salvation Army Eastern Territory. Fontana di Trevi Function Centre, 53 Raymond St, Bankstown, 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets: \$55 (incl. drinks) tel (02) 9299 2215, [kmoroney@ncca.org.au](mailto:kmoroney@ncca.org.au)

**Bishop Anthony's Installation Mass DVD**

A DVD of the Liturgical Reception and Solemn Mass of Installation of Bishop Anthony Fisher OP as the third Bishop of Parramatta will soon be available. Place your order now for a special commemorative recording of this joyous event in the life of our Diocese. Price: \$19.95 (incl. GST + P&H). For an order form go to: [www.parra.catholic.org.au](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au)