

TERM 1 2018

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

# COMPANION QUARTERLY

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



Welcome to our first edition of the Companion Quarterly for 2018. In response to the ever-increasing digital communications via social media, we have decided to embrace these technologies in a positive and productive manner. Currently we use (i) Our Skoolbag App to 'push out' instant and daily messages to parents, (ii) Our Official Facebook Page to showcase learning, extend invitations to College events, share stories of student success (academically, culturally and on the sporting field), (iii) Parents Forum for each year groups, (iv) Week 5 Parent Council Meetings and Parent Learning Forum and (v) Tutor teacher calling home in Week 9 and Week 10 of each term. We know from our Parent Council Meetings, parents expect the latest information delivered to their devices at 'point of need'. This being the case we have introduced the Companion Quarterly to be delivered via email and social media to each family once a term.

Currently, we are enjoying the many gold medals Australian athletes are achieving at the Commonwealth Games. These games are a timely reminder of the hard work and dedication of athletes and their families. In many ways these modern day heroes give us an insight into how to exceed our expectations.



There is a saying that supposedly came down to us from the ancient Greeks that goes something like this: "Tell me whom you admire and I'll tell you who you are". The ancient Greeks ensured that their people had suitable models to admire by focussing on the deeds of people such as Hercules, Ulysses, Achilles, Perseus, Theseus, Jason and turning them into heroes. We might understand heroes to be symbols for us, of all the qualities we would like to possess and all the ambitions we would like to satisfy. Because the ideals to which we aspire do much to determine the ways in which we

behave, our choice of heroes is of great importance.



Our children's choice of heroes usually follows a fairly predictable pattern. Young children often choose their parents as heroes because parents are their immediate providers and caretakers. As children grow and begin to question their parents' influence, they choose peers as heroes, often someone close to their own age who had "made it big" as a rock star or sports person. Older teens usually admire people who can think for themselves and act individually.

Nowadays, the media have made it all too easy for us and our children, to confuse celebrity with excellence. In a celebrity age, we need to caution our young people about worshipping fame and beauty. Celebrities can become heroes to our children mainly because they are attractive, rich and famous and not for any redeeming qualities they may have.

Today's popular culture worships the "anti-hero", as some of today's entertainers, athletes and other popular "icons" exemplify everything that is unheroic. These anti-heroes encourage unheroic values such as selfishness, dishonesty, disrespect, irresponsibility, greed, cruelty, violence and promiscuity – hardly the types of values we want to see expressed by our children; we need to impress upon our children how unheroic such behaviours are.

So, what do we tell our children? We can start out by telling our children what a difference people of courage, noble qualities and genius have made to our world. We can tell them that these heroes are people like us, that heroes, too, are human and so what was possible for them is possible for us. They stumbled, wavered, even made fools of themselves, but they rose and accomplished



something of great importance. Heroes instruct us by rising above the negative aspects of their lives and triumphing over their weaknesses. Heroes inspire us and push us towards our better self. Being a hero is the sum of life, not just an event that happens; mistakes we make are just as important as the successes if we learn from them.



Helen Keller, who was blind for most of her life, has these encouraging words for us: "I long to accomplish great and noble tasks, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest person."

We have arrived at the end of a remarkable term of academic excellence, sporting prowess, and cultural precision. Xavier College is a place of high expectations coupled with quality learning and teaching. As we reflect on the words of Nelson Mandela ' Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world', we will continue to uphold our focus on learning and attendance throughout the year, so our Xavier graduates can change the world for the greater good!

There were a plethora of events this term, here are but a few!

- Over 400 awards at our Academic Awards Ceremony
- Outstanding HSC results in English, Biology, Modern History, Studies of Religion, Industrial Technology, Visual Arts, Engineering Studies
- Year 7 Peer Support – a 10-week program facilitated by Year 10 students
- Information Nights for all Year groups
- Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Project Compassion, and Easter Liturgy
- Korean Cultural Visit and Performance
- Chinese Cultural Visit and shared learning experiences
- Year 12 Music concert

- New Parent Meet and Greet
- Year 7 Camp
- Open Night – sharing our learning at Xavier
- Work Placement for students undertaking VET courses
- Presentations on Anti-Graffiti and Anti-Bullying
- National Day of action against Bullying  
see our video on Facebook
- Cross Country Carnival
- Xavier Inquiry Learning
- Indigenous Program with Western Sydney University
- House Meeting, SRC BBQ's Inter-House Competitions
- Opening College Mass and Induction of Year 7 2018
- College Walkathon
- PDSSSC Sporting Competitions
- NSW Independent Fencing Competitions
- Year 12 Study on Tuesday evenings
- Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- School Reports – digitally delivered to parents

On Behalf of the Leadership Team and members of the teaching staff, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement as we strive to ensure that education is the best provision for the journey to old age. Have a wonderful holiday with your children.

For the greater good,

*Mr Michael Pate*

Principal Leader



The first term of the year has come and gone and we now have time to reflect on the opportunities and challenges we have experienced. Students have different subjects, teachers, rooms and higher expectations for classwork bringing with it opportunities to improve on their knowledge and skills and overcome any new challenges.

We believe in the teachings of Jesus and are called to use our talents not only for our own benefit but for all we encounter. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and not all the members have the same function, so too we, though many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. Each of us have talents or gifts that differ and it is my hope for 2018 that all students have had opportunities to develop their talents and persevere to overcome challenges.

I thank all families for your ongoing support in the Catholic education we provide your children. I will be on leave during term two and three and know Mr McCrorie will do a fine job in serving our community in my absence. I hope all students and families have a restful and safe break and look forward to working with you when I return.

*Mr Greg Malone*

Assistant Principal







### BREANNA GREEN YEAR 8



As a member of the U/ 16 NSW Girls Baseball team, Breanna travelled to Geelong, Victoria to compete in the Australian Youth Baseball Tournament. Her team made the grand final but unfortunately lost to Victoria 2-0. Breanna either plays 2nd base or pitcher but the most surprising fact is she is U/13's playing with and against U/16 girls. She is now in the process of completing the forms for a Xavier Sporting Blues Award.

## Learning and Pedagogy

Since the commencement of the 2018 school year, there have been many important events already for our school community. When each year starts students receive Report Criteria from each subject teacher. This is a very simple document which your son/daughter has been asked to paste into their workbook that teachers will refer to as a guide and direct the learning of students. As well as this, students will be assessing their performance during the semester or in class time, in relation to their learning to gauge their progress. Please ask your son/ daughter to show you the criteria in their workbooks, so you are able to appreciate the nature of what they will be learning during this particular semester. At the end of the semester, the criteria is then used for reporting purposes and each aspect of the course will be awarded an E-A grade based on what has been demonstrated in terms of the knowledge and skills of a given course. These are now the reports for all students from Year 7-12 at Xavier College.

For the Year 11 students this year is about experimenting with different studying routines, in order to select the most appropriate for them. You can help your son or daughter by ensuring they have revision folders for each course with the following suggested materials in each, in order to be able to study effectively:

- Preliminary syllabus
- Summary sheets for each topic
- Study cards for each topic

Your son/daughter will need guidance on how to organise their time with other commitments and demands such as work, sport and social activities. Please ensure that they have a balance of all these things including time for physical activity each day. As well as this, a healthy diet and at least 8 hours sleep each night are critical to achieving success. Good organisational skills and time management are essential, as well as a commitment to reducing any distractions, such as social media, are all important to achieving the very best in all set tasks and assessment tasks.

All Learning Booklets from Years 7-12 are available on Moodle. The Learning Booklets outline the assessment schedules for each course, assessment processes, the responsibilities of students and include the Application for Special Consideration form. Students from Years 10-12, who wish to make an Illness/Misadventure appeal must submit the appropriate Application for Special Consideration form with all relevant documentation to their classroom teacher on the day of return NOT the next lesson. The Learning Booklets allow students to be organised, by using the given assessment dates to plan and prioritise assessment tasks throughout the year.

Years 7-12 Parent/Teacher/Student conferences have recently occurred and this was a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and assist them to exceed their own expectations throughout the year. Many thanks to all parents and guardians who attended these conferences, it is in partnership that greater understanding and learning takes place.

Lastly, the Year 9 Mentoring program has started and continues in Term 2, with the focus continuing to be on preparation for the upcoming NAPLAN examinations and the Subject Selection process. During Term 2 Subject Selection begins for Years 8, 9 and 10. Please be aware of information regarding this, particularly the Subject Selection Market which is on Tuesday 29th May from 4.30-6pm.

Best wishes for a wonderful year of learning in 2018.

*Mrs Alexei Hawkins*

Director of Learning and Pedagogy

### CHRISTIAN HLIOUNAKIS YEAR 10

Christian competed at the National Freestyle Kayaking Championships held at the International Regatta Centre. Christian finished 2nd in Australia in the Junior Men's K1 class with a personal best score for a single ride. He has already been travelling all over the world for this event and we are hoping one day he will make it to the Olympics!





## Mission and Formation

2018 marks the 'Year of Youth' and Xavier College has embraced this concept on a number of significant levels throughout term 1.

There have been three major liturgical celebrations during this term and each has been led or involved active participation by the youth of our community. The beginning of lent was heralded with the Ash Wednesday liturgy where the students of Xavier College assisted in the distribution of ashes among their peers.

The whole school then proceeded to demonstrate its commitment to the welfare of others less fortunate than themselves through donations to CARATAS, a Catholic charitable aid organisation, that uses lent as a motivating force to encourage selfless financial assistance to those in struggling countries. The Xavier community generously donated a total of \$2,406.35, to this very worthy cause.

The Easter Liturgy was a solemn re-enactment of the death of Jesus Christ, performed by our Year 11 and 12 HSC drama students. The talented singers in our choir set the tone for a truly spiritually reflective performance. My sincere thanks goes to all these students who were available for recess and lunchtime practices amid their daily HSC study commitments.



Extending the focus of "Year of Youth", Holy Week was concluded with a Good Friday walk which involved the younger members of our teaching who represented our college ( Miss Fatu, Mr Buhagiar, Miss Mazella, Mr Faccin, Miss Angeli and Miss Raslan) together with some Of our students, walking from St Patrick's church, Blacktown to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. They visited seven churches along the way, while completing the Stations of the Cross. The "pilgrimage" started at 10.00pm Friday night, finished at 7.00 am Saturday morning and served as a living testimony to the passion of Christ.

Our RE week was aligned with Catholic Schools' Week and proved to be a success, since it incorporated units of work being studied in religion with practical activities carried out in the classroom.

The final liturgical event of the term was our mass which took place last Friday in commemoration of the birth of St Francis Xavier(1506). It was an excellent way to conclude a very productive and enjoyable beginning to 2018.

God Bless you all.

*Ms Christine Bainbridge*  
Acting Director of Mission

### PAIGE MANNING YEAR 9

Paige is a very talented soccer player and recently got selected to represent Australia in a tour of the UK and Scotland as a member of the Australian Futsal U/14 Girls Team.

Paige leaves on the 12th April for a 3 week tour all over the UK, playing matches, training and sightseeing. She will also have the opportunity to watch Liverpool and Manchester United play a Premier League Match.



The Xavier Mission Team (XMT) would like to announce the formation of X-RAY (Xavier Reaching All Youth). This is a voluntary student-driven youth group that aims to deepen and enrich our students' connection to the Catholic Faith.

The Australian Bishops have named the liturgical year of 2018 to be the national Year of Youth. In response to this call, and following the great success and enthusiasm of over 80 students voluntarily representing the College at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2017, the XMT have launched the X-RAY Youth Group to create an engaging platform for students to explore and celebrate their faith.

Term One has been an extraordinary start to X-RAY and the Year of Youth.

## Palm Sunday Procession

Our College Captains represented the College at the Palm Sunday Procession and Mass from Parramatta Town Hall to St. Patrick's Cathedral. Led by Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, the procession was a symbol of our students' outstanding commitment to forming stronger connections with the Church and community within the Parramatta Diocese.



## Good Friday Night Walk

On Good Friday, students and teachers of the College, joined Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen and 1500+ youth of the Parramatta Diocese to walk overnight from 10pm-7am, journeying through seven Parishes in prayer, solidarity and reflection. This was a night to remember, as students and staff heard moving testimonies, participated in prayer and had the opportunity to connect with other young faith-filled youths within their Diocese.

We would like to give a special thanks to following students and staff who shared this amazing experience with us:

Year 12: Najwa Beydoun, Gabrielle Brebner, Justin Davies and Maea Fonua

Teachers: Tanya Angeli, Michael Buhagiar, Michael Faccin, Henanita Fatu, Bridget Mazzella and Bianca Raslan

## Year 7 and Year 8 Disco



The 7 and 8 Disco launched X-RAY for our College. A total of 150 students enjoyed a social night of good company, good food and of course, good dancing. This was our juniors' first opportunity to engage with a Catholic Youth event and has sparked excitement to become involved in X-RAY. The students created great new friendships and loved the opportunity to make lasting connections with friendly faces. We cannot wait to share X-RAY's upcoming events for this year with you soon!

God Bless,

*Mr Michael Buhagiar,  
Miss Tanya Angeli,  
Mr Michael Faccin,  
Miss Henanita Fatu*

Xavier Mission Team







## Xavier Inquiry Learning

Our ongoing commitment to learning that is authentic, relevant and rigorous has led us to the launch of Xavier Inquiry Learning (XIL) Projects for Year 7 and 8.

Research indicates that in the future, our students will have 17 possible jobs in 5 different fields. It is for this reason that XIL Projects are underpinned by students investigating and responding to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge.

Key enterprise skills are also integrated throughout each XIL project. Students will develop a sense of their own personal character, learn how to collaborate, think critically, be creative, communicate soundly and be informed global citizens.

During Term 1, Year 8 commenced their first XIL Project on 'The Polynesian Expansion Across the Pacific'. Students were presented with an authentic driving question, which was, "How can we, as news reporters, create an engaging and informative news interview to enlighten a general audience about a Polynesian society?"

This XIL Project was launched by Amelia Adams from Channel 9. Amelia is an expert in the field of journalism and news reporting and played an active role within the XIL Project. Amelia provided students with unique insights, answered many of their 'wonders' and viewed their end products.

Throughout 2018, students will continue to complete a range of XIL Projects in HSIE, English, Religion and TAS. XIL Projects will contribute to our students being confident and competent learners who have a growth mindset and can transfer their knowledge to a variety of new situations.



## Parent update on Attendance Awards criteria

At the end of Term 4 Last year we had approximately 165 students who were up for perfect attendance awards. However, on the last day when they were due to be handed out we had a significant number away from the swimming carnival. The College has been endeavouring to keep our school community events away from the middle of the school term. However, we believe that these events such as Xavier day, Swimming and Athletic carnivals are events that build our school community and our relationships within the school.

After reflection and discussion, the school will not award attendance certificates to students who miss the last day of term when these events are run unless, there is a valid reason for their absence.

A valid reason will be one of the following;

1. A medical certificate.
2. A pre-approved leave from the principal
3. Evidence of the emergency that needed them to miss the day.

If this cannot be provided, then those students will not be awarded an attendance cert.

We ask for your support and understanding on this issue as we strive to improve our student attendance and build a fair and vibrant school community. In addition to attendance certificates students who improve their attendance over time but do not yet meet the attendance certificate criteria will be awarded merit points and be acknowledged by the Dean of House. We have several students in this category this term.

### ISABELLA MARSON-LAUER

YEAR 11

Isabella participated in the NSWCCC swimming carnival at Homebush Aquatic Centre. She performed extremely well in her category and returned with 5 medals. She was placed 1st in the 50m breaststroke and butterfly, 2nd in the 100m freestyle and 3rd in the 50m freestyle and backstroke.

Isabella goes onto compete in the NSW All School Carnival at Homebush.



**The Catholic Trade Training Centres are enrolling now for 2019. All Year 10 families are invited to attend an Information Evening to learn more. Information Evenings:**

**Loyola CTTC 15 May 5-7pm  
McCarthy CTTC 30 May 6-7:30pm**

**A reminder to all our parents and carers ahead of the break at the end of Term 1 that school zones remain in place for the safety of our children and families. School zones operate on all gazetted schools days, which are all days the school is open, even pupil free days.**

## XAVIER COLLEGE LLANDILO

NINTH AVE

LLANDILO, NSW 2747

<http://www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au/home>



[www.facebook.com/xavierllandilo](http://www.facebook.com/xavierllandilo)





GBW:vt

29 March 2018

Dear parents and carers

In 2018 Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta moved to a new centralised billing system for the issuing of school fees statements to parents and carers. This initiative was implemented to take the burden off school administration.

Regrettably, many of the fee statements were late in being sent or contained inaccurate information. This was despite the significant planning and preparation that went into developing this new process.

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta apologises to anyone who was inconvenienced by the mistakes made with the rollout of the new system. A comprehensive review of the new process is currently underway; this will continue in the weeks and months ahead.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Yours sincerely

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

9<sup>th</sup> April 2018

## Xavier College

Dear Parents and Students,

As part of our program to improve public transport for Western Sydney, the Busways are pleased to announce the introduction of a new school bus service for Xavier College students residing in North St Marys, Tregear, Ropes Crossing and Shanes Park. These trips will commence on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018**.

The details of the bus services are as below :-

### Morning Service – School Bus 4157

Departing St Marys Station at **7:32am** via Station Street, Lethbridge Street (L)Phillip Street (L)Glossop Street (R)Debrincat Avenue (R)Aurora Drive (L)Luxford Road (L)Hatherton Road (L)Rymill Road (**7:42am**) (R)Ellsworth Drive, Susannah Drive (R)Pulley Drive (L)Hollows Parade (R)Ropes Crossing Boulevard (R)Beston Drive (L)Australis Drive (L)Palmyra Avenue (R)Shane Park Road (**7:52am**) (L)Whites Road (L)South Creek Road (R)Eighth Avenue then express to school.

### Afternoon Service – School Bus 4657

Departing school at **3:10pm** then express to Eighth Avenue & South Creek Road (L)South Creek Road (R)Whites Rd (R)Shanes Park Road (L)Palmyra Road (**3:20pm**) (R)Australis Drive (R)Beston Drive (L)Ropes Crossing Boulevard (R)Hollows Parade (R)Pulley Drive (L)Susannah Drive, Ellsworth Drive (L)Rymill Road (R)Hatherton Road (**3:30pm**) (R)Luxford Road (R)Aurora Drive (L)Debrincat Avenue (L)Glossop Street (R)Phillip Street (R)Lethbridge Steet, Station Street to St Marys Station.

The new service has also been designed to offer a transport option for Xavier College students residing in Claremont Meadows, St Clair, St Marys and Oxley Park with a transfer St Marys Station from existing route services.

For further information please contact Busways Customer Service on **9497 1878** or **9497 1887**. Alternatively visit our website at [www.busways.com.au](http://www.busways.com.au)

Yours sincerely

BUSWAYS BLACKTOWN PTY LTD  
(1957i) SB 4157 (200Z) & SB 4657 (396Z)

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T (02) 9625 8900	T (02) 4721 9900	T (02) 4574 9200	T (02) 4368 2277	T (02) 4392 6666	T (02) 6583 2499
F (02) 9625 4703	F (02) 4732 6160	F (02) 4577 9054	F (02) 4368 2077	F (02) 4392 5831	F (02) 6583 2388
150 Glendenning Rd	47-53 Mullins Rd	91 Mulgrave Rd	42 Empire Bay Dr	9 Arizona Rd	6-8 Denham St
Glendenning NSW 2761	Penrith NSW 2750	Mulgrave NSW 2756	Kincumber NSW 2251	Woongarra NSW 2259	Port Macquarie NSW 2444