Last Thursday night (3/6/04) an extremely successful vocal concert was held in the Bosco centre. The performers were all vocal students of Sandy Brittain who is the vocal teacher here at Xavier College. The students performing ranged from those who had only had 15 lessons, right through to senior students who had been learning with Sandy since Year 8.

The standard of all of the performers was outstanding and the evening was thoroughly enjoyable as a whole. It was great to see those who had been singing for five years really get behind and encourage those who had only just started. The encouraging and positive atmosphere throughout the concert was a great reflection of the ethos of the Xavier College.

Congratulations to all those who performed and a huge thank you must be said to Sandy Brittain for working so hard with all of the vocalists. The

Louise Chapman  
Danielle Alba  
Susan Bloodworth  
Asheligh Drumm  
Kelly Noble  
Katrina Pedler  
Ellen Lane  
Bernadette Rollison

Jade Buckley  
Chloe Russell  
Amy Songer  
Kimberly Parker  
Caitlin Ripley  
Rebecca Tucker  
Amy Morcom  
Gabryell Smith
From the Principal

This edition of the Xavier News has been delayed waiting for me to include my regular article. I am in the midst of 2005 Year 8 enrolment interviews and these have preoccupied my attention over the last couple of weeks and will continue to do so for a while longer. Whilst time consuming, I have enjoyed meeting families and it has been very informative to hear the reasons why parents and students want to join the Xavier College community. I have also enjoyed listening to their excitement about what they imagine life at Xavier might be like. The sad part of the process however is the reality that the College has received in excess of 280 applications for the available places and will not be able to accept many who wish to come. What is now very evident to me is the way Xavier College is perceived within the wider community and the positive impression that staff and students have created.

Last week I made reference to the Government’s recently released document ‘The National Education Framework for Schools’, which outlined a 10 point agenda for schooling. The 10-point agenda focuses on the need to strengthen all schools, by:

1. supporting the professional standing of teachers;
2. attracting the best people to become teachers;
3. ensuring national consistency in schooling;
4. giving schools autonomy to meet community needs;
5. ensuring that all our schools are performing well;
6. providing meaningful information to parents;
7. focusing on the values that young people need;
8. creating safe and supportive school environments;
9. accelerating education outcomes for Indigenous students; and
10. ensuring seamless transitions from school to work or further education.

I chose two points, 7 and 8 from the agenda to make particular mention of last week. This week I would like to write briefly about the first two points that focus on the profession of teaching.

Recent research by Professor John Hattie compared the relative impact of key variables on student’s educational performance. The variables identified as being fundamentals were; Student Ability; Home Influences; School Structures; Peer Influence and the impact of Teachers. His findings, as outlined at the 2003 Australian Educational Research Conference, showed that whilst a student’s inherent ability accounted for approximately 50% of the variance of achievement, by far the next most significant variable is the impact of teachers. In Hattie’s own words, “It is what teachers know, do and care about, which is very powerful in this learning equation”. Similar research in the form of a national survey of community views of ‘What makes an effective school’ conducted by McGraw, Piper, Banks and Evans, found that the most frequently mentioned factor was the quality of teachers, 65% of all responses.

How then do we ensure that we have great teachers and that great teaching is occurring in schools? The three most significant ways are to recognise and value the teaching profession, to reward teachers well and to commit more resources to professional development. To this end I think the way teachers are perceived and spoken about at home has an important part to play in the way students engage with teachers in class and value the learning opportunities provided for them. Recent negotiations for a new enterprise agreement for teachers will bring about improved conditions for teachers and represents a better acknowledgement of the value of their work. I am sure this will only spur them to work even more productively and with greater spirit.

Governments and educational institutions are challenged to provide more resources for the ongoing professional development of teachers to turn the rhetoric into reality!

TRAFFIC CONCERNS - Safety is our main concern and parent and student support is essential!

* Parents are requested not to pick up students along Mallala Road. The section of road adjacent to the school has two intersections and an 80km speed limit. At busy times this makes for a very dangerous environment and the practice of collecting students along this section places them at great risk.
* The circular drive through area in front of the school has been designed to make the collection of students efficient and safe. All students being picked up are required to wait in this area. Students should not be picked up on Kentish Road, this prohibits the free movement of the buses.
* Buses need to be given a clear opportunity to exit the school without cars being parked along Kentish Road.
* Cars leaving the school car park should turn right if the intention is to access Mallala Road. It is inconsiderate to turn left if the intention is to use the back streets to cue jump at the Kerr/Kentish Road intersection.

Website address: www.xavier.sa.edu.au  email address: secretary@xavier.sa.edu.au
Xavier College’s Year 9 Soccer team got away to a brilliant start in the Knock-out first round match against Faith Lutheran College, putting a goal into the back of the net within the first 2 minutes of play. Playing at Faith, a free kick taken by Callum Irvine found the foot of striker, Kieran McNally who found the back of the net inside the two minute mark. The Xavier defence, led very well by sweeper, Callum Irvine and goal keeper, Kieran McGiervn, proved to be rock solid throughout the first half, allowing Faith only a couple of shots on goal. The midfield, controlled by the extremely skillful and thoughtful, Aaron Fox and ably supported by Scott Lenten, Michael Abdilla and Sam Mullen, set up many opportunities for strikers, Kieran McNally, Shane Taylor-Hall and Daniel McKenzie. So much so that Kieran McNally had bagged all 5 goals scored by Xavier College to half time. This match winning lead enabled coach, Rick Drewer, to make many and varied substitutions during the second half, so as to experiment with the squad playing in different positions. The highlight of the second half came in the 21st minute when a lovely cross was finished off by Shane Taylor-Hall finding the back of the net. This gave Xavier a lead of 6-0. Faith scored their only goal within the last minute of the game. All 15 members of the Xavier squad contributed in a very impressive win.

GOAL SCORERS: Kieran McNally 5, Shane Taylor-Hall 1
XAVIER COLLEGE BEST PLAYERS: Aaron Fox, Kieran McNally, Callum Irvine, Scott Lenten, Kieran McGiervn

Xavier College experienced mixed success in the SASSSA Knock-out sports competitions during the week. The Year 10 netball girls led the way with an extremely impressive win over King’s Baptist College 53 goals to 18. The match was played in the gymnasium at Xavier. The King’s Baptist side, giving away considerable height all over the court, were in trouble from the start and were 16 - 6 down at quarter time. That basic gap occurred during each quarter, resulting in a comprehensive victory to the Xavier team. It was a very sound overall performance from the Xavier girls, with Clare O’Reilly, in both attack and defence, Alix Stanton in the centre and Brittny Connaughton at wing-attack quite outstanding. They will play the winner of Paralowie High School versus Thomas More College match in the next round. Score: Xavier College 53 : King’s Baptist College 18. Xavier College Best Players: Clare O’Reilly, Alix Stanton, Brittny Connaughton

The Xavier College Year 9 netball side met a very well drilled and stronger Pedare College side at Pedare College and were convincingly defeated 47 goals to 31. Although defeated by a better side, there were some very promising performances for the future with a fine performance from Katie Jackson at goal attack, Rebecca Pierotti extremely impressive at goal defence and Leah Hollis, extremely creative and providing excellent drive in the centre. Score: Pedare College 47 : Xavier College 31 Xavier College Best Players: Leah Hollis, Rebecca Pierotti, Katie Jackson

Xavier College’s Open Boys basketball team went down to Paralowie High School 53 to 40 in a very entertaining match played at Paralowie. After a very slow start from Xavier, finding themselves down 31 - 11 at the half way mark, they settled down in the second half to outscore Paralowie 29-22. Some remarkable if not freakish, 3 pointers from Paralowie, prevented the scoreline reflecting the closeness of the match and much credit must be given to the team on their second half comeback”. Brett Maksimovic top scored for Xavier with 13 points. Score: Paralowie High School 53 : Xavier College 40 Xavier College Best Players: Brett Maksimovic, Jarryd Woods, Ryan Mills, Michael Krawczyk.
For all uniform enquiries please phone the Uniform Shop direct on 85-214547. If not attended, please leave a message.

OPENING HOURS FOR TERM 2 (Please note, in the event of a Public Holiday Monday, the Uniform Shop will be open on the Tuesday between 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm )

Mondays 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Thursdays

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SAIL TRAINING VOYAGES

South Australia’s Sail Training Vessel the One and All has berths available on two seven day voyages in July and August, which sail from Port Adelaide. We particularly recommend these Voyages for Year 10 students as the group that gains the most benefit.

These voyages are intensive work and social experience, as well as being fun and exciting, in which trainees are presented the challenge of sailing the ship 24 hours a day in almost any weather, until they are capable of taking over the sailing her for themselves. The skills required are simple and varied, providing inclusion for all team members. All trainees start from a zero knowledge base and the step by step acquisition of knowledge as part of a team whose goal is to take over the ship, is a challenge which proves to be a life changing experience to many.

If you would like to know more about opportunities for a berth on one of these voyages, please contact Ms Michelle Rawady, Director of Students, Xavier College.

Ms Michelle Rawady
Director of Students