WE WISH YOU
A
HAPPY AND HOLY
CHRISTMAS

Important Dates for 2006
Term 1 Start for Year 12
Term 1 Start for Year 8
Term 1 Start for Year 9, 10 & 11
Feast of St John Bosco Mass
Year 8 Camp
College Sports Day
Tuesday, January 31
Wednesday, February 1
Thursday, February 2
Friday, February 3
Wednesday — Friday March 1, 2, 3
Wednesday, March 8

“a school of the future in the present”
From the Principal

Annual Report as presented at the College Presentation Night, Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Fr Germano Baguini, Fr John Shanahan, Mrs Margaret Sankey, Chair of the College Board, past and present Board members, colleagues on staff, parents and students.

Tonight is a celebration of all that it means to part of a community, people sharing life’s experiences side-by-side.

To commence this celebration with Mass is very appropriate, the Eucharist, that is the breaking of the bread and the pouring of wine to become the body and blood of Christ, presents to us the essence of life itself. It encapsulates the humanness of our personal interactions, the tears and laughter we share through the relationships that are forged as part of daily living, working and playing. The distinctive nature of a Catholic school is to be found in the recognition that life is about being: close to people; passionate about life itself; and committed to everyone’s happiness. In this context learning becomes significant.

During the course of this year there has been extensive consultation around the preparation of a new College Development Plan that will direct us over the course of the next 5 years. The information that was gleaned from the College community has been categorised into four Dimensions in preparing targeted goals for the future. The key directions the community has given the College can be summarised as:

In the Religious Dimension
— to be committed to its Salesian Identity, with a conspicuous commitment to Pastoral Care
— to strengthen the links between school and parish
— to look for further opportunities to hold community celebrations
— to develop in students a commitment to community service and leadership

In the Education Dimension
— to provide authentic learning opportunities for all students
— to have high expectations of the potential of each student
— to ensure the provision of an innovative curriculum that embraces contemporary technologies
— to provide a broad range of Career and Transition Services
— to make community service and leadership part of the educational experience

In the Community Dimension
— to enhance the well-being of staff and ensure their ongoing professional development
— to expand parent and community involvement in the College
— to expand the opportunities for leadership

In the Administrative Dimension
— to review the College Master plan in the light of the targeted development goals, in order to ensure a contemporary learning environment is maintained and enhanced
— to ensure the College is a safe environment through attention to all OH&SW requirements

In 2005 much has been achieved which is in keeping with the goals I have just alluded to, some examples include:

• The extended Pastoral Care initiative which has been an overwhelming success, both in terms of increased exercise time, increased House activities and positive interpersonal interactions.
• The new Religious Education scheduling has brought the study of RE in line with all other subjects and enhanced curriculum development in that area.
• The inclusion of a Year 11 Retreat day and the holding of additional whole school mass/ assemblies have both been successful initiatives.
• Significant curriculum innovations are currently being developed for introduction into year 8 next year. ‘Sustainable Futures’ will become a new double line subject which will see the integration of Science, SOSE and Technology. This will be a relevant thematic course based around our Horticulture facility. It will also incorporate the development of various water and land use developments on the College site. We envisage the construction of an energy efficient building and the use of a range of new technologies. I imagine this having a significant impact on teaching and learning across all Key Learning Areas. This project will also extend the opportunities for involvement with and in the local community. It has already sparked considerable staff Professional Development.

I think this curriculum direction towards a Futures Education is particularly significant.

Global realities, not the least of which are the growing fragility of the environment, the globalisation of the world’s population and the apparent social disparity that exists in the broader community, suggests that the sustainability of the world our children will inherit will depend on their ability to be socially responsible citizens.

Increasingly society is becoming aware that the future of our world hinges on the quality of the education programs received by our students, who will be the custodians of the future. These programs need to be rich in problem solving, involve deep thinking, and challenge students to make connections to the world beyond the classroom and to accept the responsibility of being good citizens.

This approach to education is consistent with the inspiration of St John Bosco, who constantly reminded the Salesians that the secrets to effective education were to be found in; Reason, Religion and Loving Kindness.

Finally, at this time of the year I have the somewhat sad task of farewelling a number of members of staff:

- Mr. Doug Gerow, who has been at Xavier for 6 years, leaves us to take up the position of a House Director at Kildare College
- Ms. Cate Jacka, who has been at the College for 4 years, has accepted the opportunity of Ministry work and teaching RE at Glesson College
- Ms. Catherine Laughlin, who has only been with us for 1 year has been appointed Coordinator of English and SOSE at Bowral Christian College
- Mr. Grant Rehn, who has been at Xavier for 6 years, leaves us to take up the position of Year 10 Coordinator and Geography Coordinator at Endeavour College
- Ms. Leanne Skeers, after 2 Years at the College, is relocating south of Adelaide and will be undertaking TRT work in the first instance next year.

Mrs. Stephanie Margatich, who has been on leave from Xavier for 2004, has accepted a position at Glesson College.

Ms. Elena Yianatsoras and Mr. Ashley Clarke and Mr. Michael Coad conclude contracts at Xavier and I thank them all for their...
Ancient Egypt

In year 8 History, we have been learning about Ancient Egypt. One of the tasks we worked on was creating an Ancient Egyptian Artefact.

We were to create an artefact that resembled a Primary source. We had two weeks to do this and I think that the results have been amazing.

Kailan Moore

From the Principal continued

contributions and the gifts they have brought to the College.

I would also like to acknowledge members of the non-teaching staff who will be leaving the College: In recent weeks Ms Angela Kotsopolous (also a former parent at the College) has left Xavier through ill health and I thank her for her service over a number of years. Mrs Linda Carbene has decided to take leave for 2006 and I wish her well for the venture she is undertaking next year.

I also take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at Xavier for their ongoing giving of themselves in the classrooms, offices and grounds of the College. In particular my heartfelt thanks go to the College Executive team, to the College Board and to Fr Germano for his support.

Tonight we applaud the learning that has occurred at Xavier over the course of 2005. We do this by recognising the achievements of a number of students across various areas of school life. In reality this does not come close to portraying the full breadth of learning that has occurred through all that is achieved in the course of a school year. However, the students that are presented are indicative of the successes that have occurred and I commend them to you.

Mr Lynn Martin
Principal

GATE: Cosmic Cluster Workshop

The Cosmic Cluster Schools in the local area and surrounds run workshops for students with particular gifts throughout the year. On Thursday 24th November, Kate Drinkwater, Tyson Whitelaw, Harley Shannon-Davis and Liam Connole participated in a workshop with an ICT and Chemistry focus at Faith Lutheran School, Tanunda. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to work intensively in these areas with students from 6 other schools who had similar strengths.

For the first part of the day we did a Flash animation project using Macromedia Flash MX Professional 2004. We designed a game called, "Whack the Mole" which involved hitting a capsule when it came up out of the cylinder. It was hard work trying to get it to work. The best part of the day was when we finished our games.

Liam Connole

In the second part of the day we did Chemistry. The experiment we did was to find if heating or cooling a mixture makes it react quicker. We used hydrochloric acid and sodium thiosulphate to see if the solution would become cloudier quicker with heating or cooling. In the end we concluded that heating caused it to react quicker because the particles could move faster and expand. I enjoyed the part where Liam got scared of the dead mouse!

Tyson Whitelaw
PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Gawler — St Peter & Pauls
24/12 6.00pm Children’s Mass
       7.30pm Family Vigil Mass
       11.30pm Carols
       12.00am Midnight Mass
25/12 8.00am Mass
       10.00am Mass

Elizabeth North
24/12 7.30pm Family Vigil Mass
       10.00pm Evening Mass
       7.30pm Children’s Mass
           at St Thomas More
       10.00pm Midnight Mass
           at St Thomas More
25/12 8.30am St Gerard’s
       9.00am St Anns
       10.30am St Thomas More
       10.30am St Mary Magdalene

Virginia
24/12 7.30pm Family Vigil Mass
       12.00am Midnight Mass
           at Two Wells
25/12 8.30am Mass at Two Wells
       10.00am Mass at Virginia

International Day of People with a Disability

Did you know that Saturday December 3rd is International Day of People with a Disability? The purpose of the day is to promote the achievements of people with a disability, to create awareness of disability issues and the benefits gained by creating a fully inclusive society (a society in which people with disability are involved in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life).

International Day of People with a Disability is an opportunity to unite disability and community organizations, people with disabilities, businesses, all levels of government and the wider community to promote the positive message of inclusion.

CELEBRATION OF ABILITY PRAYER SERVICE
FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH A DISABILITY AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Archbishop Philip Wilson will be leading an ecumenical prayer service for People Living with DisAbility to celebrate the gifts of the disabled in our community and those who take care of them. This service links to the International Day of People with dis-Ability on 3 December.

Sunday 4 December
Service at 3.00pm
followed by afternoon tea

CBC Gymnasium
214 Wakefield Street, Adelaide

Community Family Fun Day

Celebrating Volunteers Week
Sunday 4th December
Two Wells Oval
From 5.00pm
FREE!
Rock Wall Climbing, Face Painting, Life Be In It Activities
Sausage Sizzle, Tea/Coffee, Cordial
Entertainment all provided
Phone Paul 0414 248 732, Pam 8520 2764, Chris 8522 7613
Organised by Two Wells Uniting Church

Street Outreach Services
DRUG ARM South Australia offer SOS in your area. Contacting youth — Offering friendship, support, information and referral.
We are in need of VOLUNTEERS to help on the SOS, once a fortnight on a Friday or Saturday night. DRUG ARM run Street Outreach Services in North, Gawler, North East, West, South and South West areas of Adelaide.
You are invited to become involved in this exciting and rewarding work
Training commencing soon — for further enquiries or to be involved please contact the
DRUG ARM office on (08) 8373 5364

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