John Bosco was born in 1815 in the small town of Becchi in Italy. John’s father died when he was only 2 years old and as soon as he was old enough to do odd jobs, he did so for extra money for his family. John Bosco loved to go to circuses, fairs and carnivals, he practiced the tricks he saw magicians perform, and then present his own one person shows. After performances, while he still had an audience, he would repeat the homily he had heard earlier in church.

John Bosco worked as a tailor, baker, shoemaker, and carpenter while attending college and the seminary. He was ordained a priest in 1841. He soon became acutely concerned by the plight of the young uneducated and poor boys, who had come to the city to find work and who were often unfairly exploited. John set about working with these youth, finding places where they could meet, play and pray. He began teaching them catechism, along with employment skills to the apprentices and orphans. He also took on the role of chaplain in a hospice for girls. He also began writing short essays aimed at explaining the faith to children, and then taught the children how to print them. Some of those he taught wanted to continue to support the work that he was doing. By 1854 there were 17 men assisting him in his work and he named this small group, Salesians. The number of assistants continued to grow so he founded the Salesians of Don (father) Bosco (SDB) in 1859, an order of priests dedicated to working with and educating youth.

In the years to follow many more joined the Salesians, such that by the time of his death, on January 31, 1888 at Turin in Italy, there were 773 Salesians spread throughout the world continuing the work that John Bosco had begun.

John Bosco was declared a saint in 1934 and 1989 Pope John Paul II pronounced Don Bosco as the Father and Teacher of Youth. Today, over 400,000 people work in various capacities in support of the work of the Salesians.
From The Principal

I have watched the start of the school year unfold with a great deal of interest and have been impressed with what I have witnessed. I think the following observations say a lot about who we are as the Xavier College community.

Upon returning to the College I was immediately taken by how well kept the buildings, classrooms and grounds looked, it was obvious that those who had been maintaining and caring for the property over the holiday break had done so with a great amount of care, attention and pride. In the days leading up to the return of students I watched Mr Flaherty walk the staff through the new Pastoral Care program and was impressed at how willingly teachers embraced a new and challenging program, confident that it would be of benefit to students. As the students returned I gave particular attention to the 233 new students (207 year 8’s), many of the younger ones were wide eyed as they tried to take in everything they were confronted with. It was pleasing to see and hear of the many incidences where older students provided help and guidance to those who seemed lost or confused. There was a genuine sense of welcome that seemed omnipotent and so appropriate for a Salesian school.

As is indicated on the front of the newsletter, the Feast of St John Bosco falls on January 31. This year we gathered as a whole school community on the Friday of week one to celebrate both the Feast of the founder of the Salesian Order and the start of the new school year. The community celebration of the Eucharist was another clear indication that the inspiration of Don (Father) Bosco is evident here at Xavier.

Welcome
I extend a special welcome to all the new students and their families who have joined the school community.

I also have much pleasure in welcoming and introducing twelve new members of staff;

Susan Bentley : College Accountant
Margit Blythman : Office Manager
Diana Docherty : Adaptive Education
Martin Docherty : RE, English and SOSE
Charmaine Fenech : ESL Consultant
Catherine Laughlin : English
Trevor Nicolai : Mathematics and Science
Tatiana Overduin : RE, English and SOSE
Daniel Searle : Sports Administrator and Science
David Smith : ICT Manager
Louise Smith : Counsellor and SOSE
Khua Tran : Mathematics and Science

Induction of College Leaders
At the conclusion of Mass on Friday, Fr Germano blessed and inducted the College Leaders for 2005 (the full list of College leaders is included later in this newsletter).

The challenge for these young leaders is no different to the challenge presented to each us, we all have the potential to impact on the lives of others – of doing memorable things. The things we do that touch the hearts of others are the things that will be remembered and this is what really matters.

St. John Bosco dedicated his life to working with young people, particularly those who were poor, believing that; by providing them with an education, in an environment where there were friendships, kindness, reasonableness and a recognition of the presence of God, then this would result in the formation of people who could be positive influences on their local community and the world. That is a model of leadership we hope all students at Xavier College will aspire to.

Handley Medal – 2004 Dux
At the whole school assembly that followed Mass on Friday, the 2004 Dux of Xavier College and recipient of the Handley Medal was presented. I would like to publicly congratulate Daniel Keane, who achieved a TER (Tertiary Entrance Rank) Score of 96.8, on being Dux of the College in 2004. Daniel plans to begin a course in Journalism at the University of South Australia in 2005 and I am quite sure he will be as successful in this endeavour as he has been with his secondary studies at Xavier.

I would also congratulate all of the other year 12 students who achieved academic results commensurate with their abilities. In particular it is appropriate to mention the other students who achieved TER scores in the top 15% of the state: Lauren Barker (89.6), Jessica Botting (92.3), Sarah Drake (93.6), Tracey Gajewski (87.15), Megan Gum (89.6), Luke Howard (91.95), Ellen Lane (88.3), Sarah Nicholas (86.35), Annette Pogas (92.3), David Reece (91.3) and James Tauchnitz (88.3). In all, 85.3% of all grades achieved by students at Xavier College were a 'C' grade or better, compared with the state wide average of 81.8%. These results were achieved as a result of the strong commitment and dedication of the 2004 Year 12 cohort and the wonderful support provided by their teachers.

Mr Lynn Martin
Principal

Website address:- www.xavier.sa.edu.au   email address: secretary@xavier.sa.edu.au
I Love Australia Because

They call Australia “The Land of Opportunity” but I never really understood why. What is it that makes Australia so great? We don’t have anything like Hollywood. Bonython Park is hardly Central Park and there is not a single Krispy Cremes or Taco Bill franchise in the whole of the country. So what exactly do we have that sets us apart from the rest of the world?

Maybe it’s the fact that we have no need for metal detectors in the entrances of our schools. No security guards prowl the corridors confiscating metal nail files. We don’t even have corridors in some parts of our schools – instead being able to walk out in the fresh air, with greenery all around us. We don’t have super-size, we don’t have seven hour, nine o’clock grid lock traffic, we don’t have acres of solid concrete.

Maybe it’s the things that Australia doesn’t have that make it so great.

Louise Chapman (Mr Drewer’s Yr 11 Australian Studies)

What is it like starting at a new school?

Harley Martin (Mrs Duregon’s Yr 8 Art)

A Gift for Your Marriage

When was the last time you took time out to appreciate your wife or husband?

Our busy life styles, the stresses of our work, maybe our children requiring our attention - all these may leave too little time to appreciate the most important person in our life - our spouse.

Where are we going if our relationship is always last in our priorities to receive care and attention?

We would like to invite all married couples to a Marriage Enrichment Afternoon. Come along and spend the afternoon together to help rekindle the spark that first led you to your marriage.

Date: Sunday 8th March 2005
Time: 1.00pm – 5.00pm
Venue: Our Lady of the Manger School
176 Crittenden Road, Findon SA
Cost: $10.00 per couple donation
Afternoon tea will be served.
Payment can be made on the day, but prior registration is required to:

Contact: Charlie & Joy Saba 8387 2408
Paul & Marie Haydon 8281 6567
The Season of Lent

On Wednesday, the college community celebrated Ash Wednesday by attending a liturgy led by Fr. Germano, Mr Martin and our Junior House Leaders. Ash Wednesday signifies the start of Lent, a 40 day period of prayer, reflection and good works in preparation for Easter.

During the Ash Wednesday liturgy our students were marked by a cross of ash on their foreheads as a reminder of our human frailty, the need for God in our lives and our desire to return to God.

During the season of Lent, Christians are challenged to be as much like Jesus as possible.

The word “Lent” comes from Old English, meaning “Spring”, as in the Northern Hemisphere it is now a time of new life and growth within nature.

For Christians, the word Lent still means a time of new life and growth, but on a spiritual and personal level.

We often look to Lent as a time to “give something up”, usually something that really isn’t essential like chocolate or fast food. We should also be looking for ways in which we can take on new things in order to grow personally closer to Jesus.

As part of the period of growth why not spent time reflecting on the scripture readings from the First Sunday of Lent? Genesis (2:7-9, 3:1-7), Romans (5:12-19), Matthew (4:1-11)

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Gareth Watson
Religious Education Co-Ordinator

STUDENT ABSENTEEISM

When a student is absent from school PHONE 85214537

The safety and well being of students is our highest priority. In order to ensure accurate communication between school and home, the following procedure for notifying the College has been adopted:

Notification of student absences via the designated parent phone-in line.

The message bank will enable messages to be left at anytime overnight through to 9am. After this time it will be necessary to phone the College Reception using the normal College phone number.

After 10am, if a student is absent without notification, a parent will be phoned by the Youth Worker regarding the absence. If a student arrives to school late, failure to sign the late book may result in a parent being phoned.

PASTORAL CARE

AT XAVIER COLLEGE IN 2005

The well being of adolescents has become an issue of global concern in recent years and at Xavier we are treating the issue seriously. An innovative new Pastoral Care Program has been designed and will be introduced this term. Additional time has been added to the Tutor Group to enable the introduction of a structured program of House activities, fitness, sport and for extended tutor interaction.

The program is a holistic programme approach aimed at meeting the emotional, social, physical, cognitive and spiritual needs of the individual student.

The Tutor group Program is made up of:
- Short 9 minute administration lessons on Monday and Friday morning for the primary purpose of prayer, absentees, notices etc.
- On Tuesday and Thursdays Tutor groups rotate through FOUR 36 minute periods where the following activities will be undertaken on a rotational basis:

  Sport Class
  Students participate in different sports with students in their Year level and from their House under the direction of their Tutor Teachers

  Be Active class
  Students participate in activities that have an emphasis on increasing general fitness. Students will rotate in tutor groups through a number of activities. The activities will be formulated with student input and the formal program will start after the College Athletics carnival day. Some suggested activities from students so far are; martial arts, circuit training, aerobics, walking, cycling etc.

  House Activities
  Mass, House Assemblies, debating etc

  Extended Tutor group
  Students are expected to study or work on constructive classroom based work while the tutor teacher has the opportunity to help students with specific pastoral and academic needs. Tutor teachers will encourage a mentor program with older students helping younger students with their studies. The Adaptive Education team will also work with students during this time slot.

  On Wednesdays students in years 8-10 have an additional Extended Tutor Group period.

Lunch time activities (including House sport) are also being introduced to complement this program. The competition will allow all students to compete and the Houses will be awarded Points for Participation and Performance. These points accumulate over the year as a variety of sports across all year levels are completed. At the end of the year the winning House will be awarded the Xavier College House Cup.
WHAT MAKES A PERSON A LEADER?

- Leaders inspire enthusiasm in people
- The leader says “We” instead of “I”
- Leaders work hard to fix a problem
- Leaders make time for things that matter
- Leaders are concerned with people
- Leaders also look at tomorrow, not just today
- Leaders work ahead of time
- Leaders build on trust
- Leaders welcome new ideas and develops them
- Leaders work “with” people and “for” people

The students selected to represent the student body at Xavier College in 2005 have demonstrated these qualities. They are an outstanding group of young people who will be able to work with both students and staff throughout the year to uphold the Salesian ethos of the school.

XAVIER COLLEGE LEADERS 2005

The House Leaders and College Captains for 2005 are:

**BOSCO**
Year 10 – Junior House Leaders
David King
Adelle Cockayne
Year 12 – Senior House Leaders
Kieran Sankey
Karlee Taylor (*College Captain*)

**McCORMACK**
Year 10 – Junior House Leaders
Jackson Dare
Vittoria Cavallaro
Year 12 – Senior House Leaders
Monique Dare
Luke Liccione

**MacKILLOP**
Year 10 – Junior House Leaders
Reece Woods
Jessica Firka
Year 12 – Senior House Leaders
Kasey McVicar
Brent Bloffwitch

**POLDING**
Year 10 – Junior House Leaders
Kieran McNally
Leanne Gajewski
Year 12 – Senior House Leaders
Tyson Hamilton (*College Captain*)
Lauren Calandro

Ms Michelle Rawady
Director of Students

VIRGINIA CATHOLIC PARISH
SUNDAY SCHOOL: Enrolments for 2005
Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption—Virginia
Corner of Penfield Road and Leach Street—Virginia

ENROLMENTS
Pre-Reconciliation, Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation
Sunday 6th March 2005 following 10am Mass
For further details please contact Parish Priest on 8380 9029
or Parish secretary on 0417 062 605.
New in 2005, there will be a weekly edition of the newsletter. Each edition will be issued to students on Thursdays, so that parents can readily rely on the newsletter as a means of receiving current information about issues and events that are occurring at the College.

Remember the Year 8 and Year 12 Parent Information Nights, next Monday evening, February 14.