A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

It has been pleasing to see that in each year of the College’s short history of Year 12 classes, results have improved. In 2004 we had 152 students complete Year 12. Of that group, 98% met the requirements to achieve the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). This is a great result and one that is a credit to the students who worked so hard to achieve success and also to the teachers who supported and encouraged them throughout the year.

Three students achieved Merit Awards and were presented with those awards at Government House on Tuesday. The Merit Award winners were: Erin Leahy for English Communications; Andrew MacGregor for Broadcasting and MultiMedia VET; and Todd Lamont for Broadcasting and MultiMedia VET.

116 Year 12 students applied for a Tertiary Entrance Rank. The breakdown of TER scores was as follows:

- TER >90: 6%
- TER >80: 16.4%
- TER >70: 38%
- TER >60: 58%
- TER >50: 78%
- AVE: 64.3

Again it is pleasing to note the overall improvement in TER scores.

The universities and TAFE colleges have made 136 offers to Xavier College students across a very broad range of courses. College graduates who have accepted positions at TAFE or University will be beginning their studies over the next couple of weeks and we congratulate them on their
From the Principal

I am determined to improve the effectiveness of the Xavier College Newsletter. As indicated in the last edition, it will now be issued weekly and will be distributed each Thursday. Parents and students will be able to rely on the Xavier News for important reminders about up and coming events, brief reports on significant occasions, information about school policies or relevant issues, along with some special interest stories. In keeping with this approach stories will be informative and to the point.

Year 8 and Year 12 Parent Information Nights
Both these information sessions were well attended and very successful. My message to parents of students at both year levels was surprisingly similar – stay involved in your child’s education throughout their secondary schooling and including during their final year. Often parents sense the adolescent inclination to distance themselves from parents during this time of their lives. Whilst this is a natural part of their growing up it does not mean that parents have to shrug their shoulders and remain at arms length. Don’t be discouraged from continuing to communicate, even when your words seem to fall on deaf ears. To parents my advice is to remember this anagram that I believe holds the keys to success:

Relationships  keep talking no matter what
Interest       always show interest in what they are doing
Positive Presence  keep in contact and always instil positive possibilities or alternatives
Expectations  have reasonable expectations and remind them of what is achievable
Reassure  help them see the ‘big picture’, so small problems don’t become major obstacles

I hope all families have a RIPPER year!

TRAFFIC HORROR STORIES – too close to home!

I urge parents to re enforce the following URGENT traffic issues:

Throwing objects at moving vehicles – despite the media awareness campaign about the tragic consequences of this type of action and the likely penalties imposed on perpetrators, there have been several incidents of this nature involving Xavier College students over the course of the last week. An apple hitting the windscreen of a ‘B-double’ semi-trailer travelling at 90km on the By-pass road could have catastrophic consequences.

There have been incidences of student drivers travelling at excessive speed in local streets and obviously without due care. They put at risk not only their own well-being, but also the lives of passengers and other road users.

The section of the Mallala Road adjacent to the school is a particularly dangerous section of road at the busy times at the beginning and end of the school day. There have been numerous incidents of major breaches of road rules; often involving U turns undertaken in illegal locations. Parents are the major culprits!

Mr Lynn Martin
Principal

Second Sunday of Lent
Genesis 12: 1-4; Timothy 1: 8-10; Matthew 17: 1-9
There are many reasons people leave their homes and go to settle elsewhere. Mostly it has something to do with a desire for a better life for themselves and their families. Abram is told he has to move in order for his people to be fruitful and to find peace. It’s strange, but true, that once we learn to let go, there is a whole new life presented to us that we never dreamed possible. Paul in his letter to Timothy, notes that life awaits those who move through the things of death with Jesus. In the gospel we have a reminder of the things that lay beyond our present world. Peter, James and John, find themselves caught up in a whole new world they didn’t know was possible, and had the sense to recognise that “it is good for us to be here.” In order to taste the new life of God’s kingdom, we need a profound surrender that transfigures our whole way of being in the world.

Let us pray for one another for the free heart that can let go in order to embrace the next step of the journey. We know that in letting go we are in good company as we remember Jesus’ ultimate surrender on the Cross, and of course that wasn’t the end of the story!
YR 8 and YR 9 PERFORMANCE – VERBAL COMBAT
A Play about Bullying and Harassment

On Wednesday 23 March, Brainstorm Productions will present “Verbal Combat” to all Year 8 and Year 9 students. This is a play about bullying and harassment. The performance makes it clear to students that certain behaviour (such as excluding people, spreading rumours and sending unwanted text messages or emails) is in fact bullying and will not be tolerated at our school.

This is an entertaining way to promote discussion and give students strategies to avoid being a bully or a target.

Brainstorm Productions have won the Frater Award for Best Feedback from Schools for the last 6 years. We hope you will support this important program to assist in creating a safe, harmonious environment for students and staff. The cost of the performance is $4 per student. This can be paid to the Bookroom by Monday, 21 March. Please return the money and permission slip as soon as possible.

If you have any queries regarding this performance, please feel free to contact me at the College.

Ms Michelle Rawady
Director of Students

REFLECTION

We have bigger houses but smaller families;
more conveniences but less time.
We have more degrees but less sense;
more knowledge but less judgement;
more experts but more problems;
more medicines but less healthiness.

We’ve been all the way to the moon and back,
but have trouble crossing the street to meet our neighbour.

We built more computers to hold more information than ever,
but have less real communication;
we have become long on quantity,
but short on quality.

These are times of fast foods but slow digestion;
tall men but short characters;
steep profits but shallow relationships.

It’s a time when there is much in the window
but nothing in the room.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

February 2005

Hi! My name is Fr Dean Marin and I work in the Vocations Office in the city.
My office is next to the Cathedral.

I am looking forward to talking with you about Diocesan Priesthood.
In the meantime, you may be thinking about the future and wondering what’s in store for you. Perhaps God has a special Plan for your life as a Catholic Priest in the Archdiocese of Adelaide?

Each month you will see an advert about Priesthood in this Newsletter.
In the meantime, you might want some more information about Priesthood. Ring the Vocations Office on 8210 8244 (Tuesdays) or email me at vocations@adelaide.catholic.org.au for a confidential chat.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Rebecca Ramsbotham and Elizabeth Rex for your superb efforts to raise $211.20 for the MS Readathon.
Barossa District Football Club—Season 2005

FOOTBALL/NETBALL REGISTRATION DAY
Sunday 27th February from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm

The Barossa District Football Club, situated at the Williamstown Oval, welcomes players in all age groups and offers skills development by high quality, dedicated coaches and staff. Junior Football teams consist of mini-modified Grade 2 and 3 team, 2 modified teams (Grades 4 and 5), 2 Little League teams (Grade 6 and 7), an U15 team and an U17½ team.

There will be a joint Football/Netball Registration Day for all Junior Team players 11.00 am to 2.00 pm on Sunday 27th February 2005 at the Club.

Register on the day to reserve your place on a team. Also enjoy a sausage sizzle lunch provided by the Club.

SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Host families are needed for the many students wanting to come to Australia on exchange. It is difficult to find enough families for the large number of students applying from other countries. The next arrival date for students is July 2005 and students are expected from, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Holland, Italy, Japan, Sweden and the USA. These students will be staying for 5 to 10 months, they are between 15 to 17 years old and are required to attend school. Host families do not have to have a child of similar age, only a willingness to bring different cultures closer together.

Interested families should contact Jenny Hanson on 83274126.

THE SOUT

RO-TARY YOUTH