Our new Sport Coordinator, Mr Searle, the House Directors and Deputy Principal Mr Flaherty have been working on ways to improve the healthiness of students. They have come up with a new program involving lots more activities. Now each week we do House Activities, ‘Be Active’ (a fun fitness program), House Sport rotations and an Extended Tutor period for completing assignment work. I have found our new Pastoral Care program interesting and fun and I have heard that it is much better than what it was before. Now everyone is having fun while being active.

Sarah Pitt (Year 8, Ms Rowett’s Tutor Group)
From the Principal

I am pleased to report that staff and students have settled well into the new school year. I sense a very positive feel around the College and it would appear that the general tenor around the place is one of engagement in school life.

Fundraising requests

Over recent weeks I have been approached by numerous people, including students, staff, parents and the general public, about the possibility of the Xavier College community supporting various worthwhile fundraising projects. Barely a day would pass without a request being made in one form or another. There have been proposals to sell a range of items, shave heads, colour hair, wear temporary tattoos, hold casual days etc etc. At the same time there has been considerable discussion in the media about the varying degrees of effectiveness of different fundraising strategies and the proportion of funds that actually reach the desired destination.

Being reluctant to place excessive demands on the generosity of families, cause excessive disruption to school practices or engage in debates as to the merits of alternative causes, the College Executive has agreed to focus our community fundraising efforts towards two major projects:

1. Term 1 (in the lead up to Easter) - Project Compassion — via the Caritas Organisation (Catholic Aid Agency) that is renowned for having the lowest administration costs of all aid agencies.
2. Term 2 — Winter Can Appeal — to support St Vincent de Paul Society work with the homeless.
3. Term 4 - Salesian Missions Appeal - where funds raised can be directed quite specifically in support of one of the Salesian missions, most recently the Swagi community in the Solomon Islands.

I don’t like Mondays but I love Wednesdays

Like only a few other schools in South Australia, Xavier College structures classes for years 11 & 12 over four days per week. There is no doubt students’ love these arrangements but at times parents are a little unsure. Every now and again I think it is important to reassure parents of the merits of this structure and to dispel some of the myths that tend to develop around what has motivated this innovative arrangement.

Firstly it is important to point out that senior students at Xavier receive the same amount of instruction time as most other secondary schools in South Australia. We believe students are advantaged by the structure in place for the following reasons:

- reduced disruption due to VET arrangements being centred around Wednesdays
- reduced student free days – Xavier started up to a week earlier than some other independent schools
- Other activities eg Athletics Carnival, subject excursions and staff PD days held on Wednesdays
- It is a flexible response to the reality of many students out of hours work commitments and provides them with potentially very effective study time
- fewer ‘free’ periods at school means Xavier does not have the problem common in many schools

On Wednesdays students have access to a supervised study facility at Xavier (inc. ITC)

Mr Lynn Martin

Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8;
John 4: 5-42

In today’s Exodus reading we hear the people grumbling against the Lord and against Moses as they become more desperate in their desert wanderings. They come to doubt that God is with them at all. From a position of comfort it’s easy to sit back and moralise. It’s easy to be pious when I have a full stomach and a safe place to live.

Jesus in his encounter with the woman at the well presents us with a wonderful model for responding to people in special need. He comes to her, not to fix her, but rather as a beggar. “Can you give me something to drink?” Through Project Compassion, we seek to find a way to a new fruitfulness in people’s lives, through a re-establishment of their own dignity, freedom and autonomy. The way we approach them in their need is all important.

RIP

The College community extends condolences and prayers to:
Mr Peter Foley (staff) and his family on the death of his father;
Mr Maurice Foley,
Mrs Kimberly Casey (staff) and her family on the death of her Mother-in-law, Mrs Dulcie Casey.
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

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

Xavier College takes the issues of bullying and harassment very seriously. Recent Australian research (from RMIT) suggests that up to 50% of young people who are bullied may not always tell adults as they are afraid or ashamed. This may result in a student being victimised for a prolonged period of time before it is discovered and carries the potential for serious short, medium and long-term side effects.

In order for the school to carry out its duty of care of providing all students with a safe environment in which to learn, grow and develop, the school seeks to enlist the cooperation of all parents in the school community. In addition to our normal preventative measures that we have in place at Xavier College, the school is committed to working in a proactive manner with parents.

In light of the RMIT research, we would like to share with parents some of the signs that they need to be aware of. Young people who are bullied may display one of (usually) several of the following signs:

- Not wanting to go to school and finding excuses to stay home (for example, feeling sick)
- Being very tense, tearful and unhappy after school
- Talking about hating school or not having any friends
- Refusing to tell you what happens at school
- Do not bring classmates or other peers home and seldom spend time in the homes of others
- May not have a single good friend to share free time with (play, shopping, sports, chatting on the phone, etc)
- Are seldom or never invited to social gatherings and may not be interested in arranging gatherings themselves (for example birthday celebrations), because they expect nobody wants to come
- Appear afraid or reluctant to go to school in the morning, have poor appetite, repeated headaches or stomach pains (especially in the morning)
- Have restless sleep with bad dreams, may cry in their sleep
- Have bruises, injuries, cuts and/or scratches that cannot be given a natural explanation
- Come home with damaged books, folders, clothes, etc
- Lose interest in school work and get poor results
- Appear unhappy, sad, depressed or show unexpected mood swings with irritability and sudden outbursts of temper
- Request or steal money from the family (to accommodate the bullies)

These signs may not necessarily mean your child is being bullied or harassed at school. However, if you do notice these signs, it is necessary to check out what is worrying your child and to inform us as soon as possible. Please telephone the school and ask to speak to your child’s House Director about the situation. In the meantime, parents should be assured that the school is committed to continually reviewing its policies and practices on bullying and harassment. Please feel free to contact one of the House Directors or myself if you would like to discuss these issues in the future. The House Directors at Xavier College are:

Bosco House Director – Mr Jim Roberts
McCormack House Director – Mr Robert Polito
MacKillop House Director – Mr Michael Hennessy
Polding House Director – Ms Chris Dwulat

Ms Michelle Rawady
Director of Students
CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ADELAIDE
ARCHDIOCESAN FUNDRAISER
The major responsibility of the fundraiser will be as Executive Officer to the Catholic Diocesan Charities Appeal that raises funds from the public for charitable purposes and to assist charitable agencies affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church in the Archdiocese in raising funds. We are presently seeking a suitable person to direct and co-ordinate these fundraising activities. This person will have previous experience in relationship based fundraising and direct mail fundraising. The person will have excellent interpersonal skills, will be sympathetic to the needs of the Catholic Church, and will have a high level of oral and written presentation skills. Computer literacy is important and the ability to use ‘packaged’ programmes is essential. Previous experience in a not for profit organisation is desirable. Previous experience in a promotional, marketing or sales role would be an advantage but not essential. Some evening and weekend work is required. Drivers licence is essential. Salary and conditions will be consistent with the Diocesan Remuneration Policy. Written applications should be sent to:

THE DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING
GPO BOX 1364 ADELAIDE S.A. 5001
CLOSING DATE MARCH 4, 2005
ENQUIRIES TO MR J ELLIS, 8210 8234

‘It is our policy to collect information from any clergy, Religious, or Minister of Religion who may know you, as well as previous employers and/or your nominated referees. If we wish to contact a member of the Clergy or Religious, a Minister of Religion or employer not named by you as a referee, we will notify you of this prior to that contact being made.”

REFLECTION
When I pray away from public view, I exchange:
My weariness for his strength
my weakness for his power
my darkness for his light
my problems for his solutions
my burdens for his freedom
my frustrations for his peace
my turmoil for his calm
my hopes for his promises
my afflications for his comfort
my questions for his answers
my confusion for his knowledge
my doubt for his assurance
my nothingness for his awesomeness
the temporal for the eternal and
the impossible for the possible.

HEAD LICE WARNING
There have been cases of head lice reported in a number of schools in recent weeks. A conscientious parent has reported a case at Xavier and it would be appropriate to examine your child’s hair and take appropriate action if necessary.

Some Useful Background Information

Identification:
Head lice live on the scalp and deposit their eggs on the hair. The eggs, known as knits, can be recognised as small whitish to brown specks, glued firmly to the hairs, especially about the nape of the neck, ears and the forehead area.

Methods of Treating the Hair:
Effective lotions are available from the chemist eg ‘Maldison’ or ‘KP24’.

The hair is not clean until ALL the lice and their dead eggs have been removed. The use of a fine comb may be necessary as a follow-up measure.

OPEN BOYS CRICKET
The Xavier College Open Boys cricket team made a successful start in the Knock-out competition by defeating Paralowie High School 7 wickets for 110 to Paralowie’s reply of all out for 75. Xavier went into the match under-manned with a number of players unavailable and looked to be in trouble after only scoring 110 from their allotted 35 overs. After a sound start from Jamie Gneil and Kieran Sankey (both scoring 12) the innings was rescued by Rhett Mundy with a fine 38 and a very handy contribution from Brad Thomas 19 no. Although wicketless, Jamie Gneil opened the bowling with a fine performance, Paralowie only being able to take 18 runs from his 7 overs, including 3 maidens. Xavier will now play Parafield Gardens High School in the next round.

Rick Drewer-coach

Xavier Collage Annual General Meeting
To be Held In the Marian room
Tuesday, March 8, 2005
At 7pm
ALL WELCOME

Have you ever considered the possibility of supporting Xavier by serving on the College Board?
Your skills and commitment to Xavier will enhance the capacity of the College to provide an excellent education for your children into the future. Positions become vacant this year, please consider nominating yourself or someone else. Nominations must be forwarded to the Principal’s secretary by 4 pm Monday, March 7, 2005

“a school of the future in the present”