From the Principal

Don Bosco believed that Salesian schools should be places of joy and celebration and there has been a lot happening at Xavier that is really worth celebrating!

On Wednesday, June 15, the entire College Staff spent the afternoon and evening working with Sr Edna Mary MacDonald, Provincial of the Salesian Sisters in Australia. The purpose of this professional development session was to deepen our understanding of the Salesian Charism and to explore the implications of the inspiration of St John Bosco for a Salesian school in the 21st Century. Sr Edna Mary provided us with an insightful look at the life of Don Bosco and challenged us all to reinterpret and enliven his educational philosophy. Sr Edna Mary reminded us that, “We cannot repeat the life of Don Bosco. However, we can speak with the heart of Don Bosco to the heart of the life and culture of young people today.”

This week all Year 12 students spent three days in Victor Harbor involved in a Retreat experience under the direction of Fr Mick Court. This experience is often the highlight of the year for many students as it provides an opportunity to reflect on the positive relationships that are central to their lives. It also challenges them to see things with a vision which is penetrating and delves beneath the surface of things, in order to see real meaning and value.

Fittingly the week concluded for Year 12 students with their ‘Senior Formal’. Held at the Stamford Plaza, this occasion was a celebration of all that has bound the cohort together throughout their secondary education, yet at the same time recognises that they are on the cusp of venturing into a much broader social forum.

All Year 11 Students have been engaged in exams throughout this week, which is a strong reminder of the academic imperatives that students must face as part of their senior education.

Knockout sport has been in full swing over recent weeks and I am pleased to see the high level of student participation across a range of sports. This represents a valuable chance for students to represent their school and the opportunity to develop team work capabilities, whilst in the company of their close friends and class mates.

Obviously the presence of the Adelaide Crows at Xavier on Wednesday was an exciting occasion for most football supporters. This was the Crows’ major training session for the week and we were fortunate to see the team complete an intense training program. Accompanying the team was ‘Camry Crow’ who also provided additional entertainment. After the training session players made themselves available for autographs and many students were able to have their supporter gear signed by their favourite players.

I hope all students found something to celebrate over the course of the last week.

Mr Lynn Martin
Principal

PS: This edition of the newsletter is a ‘bumper’ edition combining two weekly editions. Technical issues related to incorporating photos from the visit by the Adelaide Crows delayed production last week and resulted in the combined editions.
Communicating more by saying less – the art of biting your tongue and feeling no pain!

"Communicating more by you saying less will provide your child with an opportunity to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas at whatever stage of development those thoughts are in and feel validated and not judged"

Do the kids want to be told what to do or simply have someone listen to them?

As parents, one of the most natural instincts is to protect and provide for our children. However, what we often actual do is prevent them from finding solutions to their own problems by failing to give them the opportunity to consider or discuss various options or ideas without giving advice. This is how you can achieve those results:

- Invite them to a quiet and interrupted place and space for dialogue where you and they will not be interrupted by mobile phones or other people.
- Set the scene by saying that you would be really interested to know what your child is thinking and feeling about the situation.
- Don’t interrupt them while they talk to you – unless they choose to have your comments. You will be there simply to listen and be a sounding board for what is going on in their minds and for when they feel ready to discuss the issues in greater detail.
- Suspend judgement, and see it through their eyes.
- Ask your child how you can be of best help to them.

Communicating more by you saying less will provide your children with an opportunity to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas at whatever stage of development those thoughts are in and to feel validated. Communication is a process – not an event and so is the evolution of their ideas. The most effective way you can assist them to come to their own conclusions is by having a conversation that steers the questions to help them find the answers themselves.

Resist the temptation to fill the gaps, to rush in and solve problems, which ultimately changes their dialogue into your monologue. The unintended consequences of this can mean your child stops talking to you about their issues, stops asking for your help, or worse still, loses confidence in his own ability to problem solve.

Article by Ricky Nowak, consultant in communication

The Southern Cross

The July edition of the Southern Cross has been distributed along with this newsletter. Headlined in this edition are:

- What's Up? Column – we are asking kids across the Adelaide archdiocese to connect with our new monthly column What's Up? for advice on the little (and not so little) dramas faced inside and outside the classroom. There is also a helpful tip box for teachers and parents on how to address some of the problems raised. While the new column is aimed at children, parents and teachers can write in about children's problems too.

What's Up? this month's issue – mum has problem with high school friends.

- Archbishop Wilson is among the first Australian Bishops to meet Pope Benedict – A shy, gentle and profound communicator is how Archbishop Philip Wilson has described Pope Benedict XVI.
- Student contact guidelines – will be issued to education staff and priests with clear guidelines on appropriate conduct with students as part of the Church’s wide-ranging child protection platform.
- Allan Dooley – travelled overseas recently with a group of Catholic leaders to undertake some work and visited several Catholic schools surrounding London.
- World Youth Day – The "Hot Phase" has begun.

Have you ever thought that God may have a plan for your life?

Could you imagine being called as a Diocesan Priest?

If you have been thinking about it then give us a call on 8210 8244.

Young people can be inspired by the future. Let Jesus inspire your life.

Consider Diocesan Priesthood as you consider the future.

For more information about Diocesan Priesthood contact

Fr Dean Marin on 8210 8244 (Tuesdays) or by email vocations@adelaide.catholic.org.au

Why would you want to go on a Marriage Encounter Weekend?

Modern couples know that marriages, just like jobs, need to be worked at. Some of the things that a weekend can achieve are:

- an acceptance that we all have our ups and downs
- getting you talking and listening constructively to each other
- a reminder of how much you appreciate each other
- a sense of how important you are to each other

CONTACT: Peter & Cathy Van Linden: 8298 8428, vanderlinden@internode.on.net
One of the highlights of Year 12, for many of our senior students, is the Year 12 Retreat. This Year’s Retreat took place at the Encounter’s Conference Centre, Victor Harbor.

The Retreat allows for our Year 12 students to break from their hectic school and family situations, in order to take time to look at possible future directions for their journey through life.

Once again, Fr. Michael Court, a member of the Salesian community, facilitated this Year’s Retreat.

Through Fr. Mick’s unique ability to combine human spirituality and renewal with a hint of magic, all those who attended the Retreat, were challenged to either realise or rediscover the possible connection between self, others and God.

During one of the sessions, the following students: Peter Coleman, Daniel Havelberg, Monique Dare, Karlee Taylor and Ashleigh Collision displayed a great deal of personal courage and strength to share with their peers, the “call, struggle and gifts” they have experienced as part of their life journey.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the other members of staff who either helped with the preparation or took part in this Year’s Year 12 Retreat.

Mr Gareth Watson
Religious Education Coordinator
The Adelaide Crows in Full
Flight at Xavier College
On Saturday 25th June, the Year 12 Formal was held at The Stamford Plaza Hotel in North Terrace. This event completed a very special week for our Year 12 students. After spending 3 days together on Retreat at Victor Harbor, the students came together on this night, to celebrate as a group of senior leaders in the College.

The Year 12 House Leaders welcomed both students and staff that attended the function. Karlee Taylor and Tyson Hamilton, our College Captains and Mr Lynn Martin, formally welcomed everyone in their opening address. This was followed by a sumptuous 3 course-banquet, which included a very tempting array of desserts!

After dinner, a humorous Awards Ceremony was organised and presented by the Yr 12 Leaders. The House Leaders presented a variety of certificates to individuals that deserved recognition for their efforts on Retreat and throughout the year. At the conclusion of formalities, the dancing and fun continued until the close of the evening at 11.30 pm.

It is safe to say that all students had a wonderful time. Many thanks must go to the Year 12 Leaders that assisted in the organisation of this event – Karlee Taylor, Tyson Hamilton, Monique Dare, Kieran Sankey, Lauren Calandro and Brent Bloffwitch. Thanks must also go to the many staff that attended. The students very much appreciated the opportunity to share this special occasion with them.

Ms Michelle Rawady
Director of Students
Indonesian Dance Performance

On the 6th of June, all Year 8’s saw an Indonesian performance performed by the ORISHA Company. We saw two people performing a cultural dance that involved Barong, a good spirit fighting to save the forest from destruction by Rangda, the evil spirit. We also saw the wayang kulit, a shadow puppet performance. We also saw the wayang golek play that was about Princess Dewi who was kidnapped by an evil creature.  

Shaun Scott  
Year 8

Year 10 Dance Workshop

On Tuesday of week five, the Year 10 Indonesian students attended a dance workshop run by a Queensland dance Company, ORISHA. We were taught the basics for an Indonesian dance drama. During this workshop we were taught how the dance movements change to suit the music and the character we were representing. Towards the end we were given the opportunity to use traditional Indonesian Masks to make up our own dances with various story lines.  

Holly Staehl  
Year 10

Australian Red Cross First Aid Courses  
July 2005 School Holidays

Baby Sitting Course

This course is part of the Red Cross First Aid program and is designed to teach young people, 15 years and over, the skills and knowledge needed when caring for children.

The course runs over two days, Tuesday and Wednesday July 19 and 20 from 9.00am to 4.00pm at the Red Cross Training Centre, 229 Marion Road Marleston. The course costs just $65.50 (including GST), which includes First Aid Notes and Baby Sitting Starter Kit.

Senior First Aid Course

This course (for anyone over 14 years of age) teaches the fundamental principles, knowledge and skills of first aid to enable you to give competent emergency care until professional assistance is available.

This course meets the requirements of employers, Federal and State Government Departments and Statutory Authorities.

The course is run over 3 days Monday/Tuesday/ Wednesday July 18/19/20 from 9.00am to 4.00pm at the Red Cross Training Centre, 229 Marion Road Marleston. The cost of the course is $75.50 (including GST), which includes First Aid Notes.

If any students would like to enrol for either of these enjoyable and practical courses, they can call our Training Department on 1300 367 428 or 8293 9200 for enrolment details.


As part of the College’s ongoing support for the work of the local Gawler conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, we once again held our annual Can Appeal during weeks 5 to 7.

It was decided this year to make the Can Appeal a competition between the Houses.

The final results for this year’s competition were:

- Mackillop 617 cans
- Polding 609 cans
- McCormack 280 cans
- Bosco 273 cans

Combined College total of 1779 cans.

This year’s overall result is the most successful to date. Who knows we may be able to break the 2000 can mark next year.

We would like to thank all the members of our College community who generously donated cans of food to help those most in need in the Gawler region.
Super Clinics 2005

Coaching Clinics for students aged 5 to 15 years
At Prince Alfred College, Dequetteville Tce, Kent Town
12 – 15 July (Tues-Fri)
19 – 22 July (Tues-Fri)
Choose from: Football / Netball / Basketball / Soccer / Combo
Guest appearances from Simon Goodwin, Josh Francou, Martin Mattner, Stuart Dew and Michelle den Dekker.

Emphasis is on skill development and maximum participation. Low player/coach ratio, abundance of equipment, enthusiastic and caring coaches.

Features:
FREE – T shirt, Wallis Movie Pass, McDonalds Voucher and Encouragement Award
Combo – rotate sports every 45 minutes, using modified equipment
Sportswap – chance to try another sport and game play
Cost of the 4 day clinics either 9am-12noon $130, or 9am-3pm $180
For more information and to enrol please call 1300 134 154

Open Girls Knockout Badminton

On Thursday (16/6/05) our girls badminton team had a near flawless victory over the Salisbury Plains High School girls. The girls only lost one match out of the 8 that they played. Well done to Chloe Russell who won both of her doubles games, considering that she only started playing this term, and Charlotte Berrill (Yr 9) who won all of her games. Brittney and Nikki Connaughton were outstanding players, as their smashes left the opposition cowering in fear. The final scores were 113 to 61. All girls had fun and enjoyed themselves.

Mr Daniel Searle
Sports Administrator

Open Boys basketball

The Open Boys basketball team had another record-breaking win against Gleeson getting up by 21 points. The score 50-29 reflected the fantastic movement that our boys displayed in offence. The passing, cutting and rebounding was outstanding with co-captains Brett “Magic” Maksimovic and Jarryd “Manute” Woods leading by example. With a team decimated by injury we were very lucky to have Feddie Quiniones come in off the bench. With Michael Krawczyk and Sam Harnett bringing the ball down and Ryan Mills shooting from everywhere the team can take a lot of confidence into its next match against Thomas More next term. Good luck boys.

Mr Lawrence Pascale
Coach

South Australian Sporting Team Representatives

Sam Farren (Year 12) has been chosen to compete for South Australia in the U18 Australian Schools Rugby League Championships. He will leave on Friday for Geelong, where the Nationals are taking place. Well done Sam and good luck!

Jason Delfos (Year 12) has been chosen to represent South Australia in the at the forthcoming School Sport Australia National Soccer championships to be held in Cairns, Queensland from 13th to 19th August. Congratulations Jason.

“a school of the future in the present”