2006 Senior House Leaders

**BOSCO**

Brendan Moore
Brittney Connaughton
Katrina Pedler

**McCORMACK**

Chevonne Craker
Candice Butler
James Williams

**POLDING**

Heather Lee
Tom Prokopec
Melissa Barker

**MacKILLOP**

Stephanie Moore
Ryan Mills
Russell Pascoe

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**CALENDAR DATES**

Mon Nov 21st
Year 11 Exams commence

Tues Nov 29th
***DATE CHANGED***
End of Year Mass & Presentation Night

Mon Dec 5th
Year 8, 2006 Parent Information Night

Wed Dec 7th
Year 8-10 Final Day

Thurs Dec 8th
Year 8, 2006 Orientation Day

Wed Dec 14th
Year 12 Graduation Mass & Dinner

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

This week there has been a significant focus on leadership. On Monday Premier Mike Rann and Minister for Education Jane Lomax-Smith visited Xavier College and the Premier spoke to year 11 students about the enormous potential that each student had to play a leadership role within the community. Mr. Rann also emphasised that our world was reliant on young people who were prepared to step out from the crowd and show a willingness to serve the community.

The Premier’s remarks were a timely reminder to students about the role leaders play in our community. Over the course of the last week a number of Year 11 students nominated for senior house leadership positions and each addressed the students in their respective house. Elections were then conducted on Wednesday and the newly elected leaders adorn the front page of this newsletter. I congratulate each of these students on their appointment and wish them every success over the course of the next twelve months; I have every confidence in their ability to use their talents for the benefit of the Xavier College community.

In announcing the new senior leaders to a school assembly this morning I was able to remind students that all the great leaders have been peacemakers. Society has an inherent capacity for conflict and tension, as a consequence influence over others is first born out of the act of bringing peace. In order to succeed as House Leaders each of these young men and women must bring the element of reason to the every day events of school life.

Mr Lynn Martin
Principal

Shaun Hull — Good Samaritan

Recently, a call was received from a member of the public in relation to a Xavier student, Shaun Hull. She spoke glowingly of Shaun and asked, if it were possible, that he be given our equivalent of a Community Service Award. On Xavier’s pupil free day she was desperate as she had a call to say that her daughter who was on a school camp in Victor Harbor had broken her arm on the way home. She has a four year old son and finding that Shaun was home asked for his help. He agreed without hesitation, to care for her son, asking if he had any food allergies etc. and has since followed up to check that everything is ok with the family and offered further help. Good work Shaun, an example we can all follow.

ACER Language Certificates

This year has been very busy for students of Indonesian, in particular the senior students who have been involved in a range of activities both in the school and in the community.

In July of this year students in years 10,11, and 12 participated in the ACER Language certificates. In year 12 Brent Bloffwitch and Hannah Murdoch received distinctions for the reading and listening comprehension tasks and were in the top 10% of students in Australia. Also receiving distinctions were Rosanna Afford and Heath Varcoe.

Our year 11’s also had success with Emily Callander, Sarah Gavini, Samantha Kondraciuk, Kathryn Koslowicz, Bonnie Marsland and Kamlini Pulandran all were in the top 10% in the reading and listening sections. While Melissa Barker, Ashleigh Drumm, Laura Kellond, Heather Lee and Ninette Noto received distinctions in both sections. Ashlee Bloffwitch received a distinction in the listening component while Rachel Gavini and Clare O’Reilly received distinctions for the reading comprehension.

Our year 10 students also had pleasing results with Holly Staehr, Casey Suridge, Keira Turner receiving distinctions in both sections and Emily Konicek received a distinction in the reading component.

K. Hatch and A. Hinsliff
Indonesian teachers

Year 12 Subject Winners
(Omission from last week)

Last week we announced the Year 12 Subject Winners for 2005. Unfortunately we missed James Mannix. James won the award for Music (HESS Restricted), while Jack Lambert won the award for Music (HESS General). Apologies to James and his family, and congratulations again to all subject winners.
National Safe Schools Framework

In July 2002, the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) agreed to the development of a national framework for ensuring safe and supportive learning environments. The National Safe Schools Framework (NSSF) was endorsed by MCEETYA in July 2003. The NSSF recognises that significant advances have been made in schools in relation to safe and supportive learning environments and that many schools already demonstrate excellent practice. However, as our understanding of the impact of bullying, harassment, violence and child abuse and neglect grows and changes, we need to keep our responses to these issues under review. The NSSF will assist us to monitor the effectiveness of current strategies as new understandings are developed.

At Xavier College, we are now at the stage of conducting an audit of our current practices against the NSSF so we can then prioritise our needs and develop new approaches where necessary. As part of our auditing process, students have been involved in completing surveys on bullying and harassment during Tutor Group. Staff have also been involved in reviewing our current policies in relation to the areas of bullying, harassment, violence and child protection.

The community has high expectations that schools will continue to be both vigilant and proactive in ensuring that the most supportive learning environments possible are made available to all children and young people. The most effective way to build strong support for such initiatives in the school community is to ensure that the process of developing and implementing strategies to increase school safety engages as wide a cross section of stakeholders as possible. Hence, families will soon be receiving in the mail, a survey for parents to complete and also a copy of our Harassment and Hands-Off Policy. Hopefully, most parents will have seen these policies before, as all students in Years 8-10 have received their own copy in Week 1 of Term 4.

I have also included in this newsletter, a copy of an article that was printed earlier in the year regarding Bullying and Harassment, as a reminder to parents of some of the warning signs to look for if your child is being bullied or harassed.

I would encourage parents to complete their surveys and return them to the Front Office by Friday, 2 December. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the survey or the NSSF, 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
Youth Group

For people in years 6-9 at school
The Salesian Youth Group has started at St Peter ar Paul Parish in Gawler.
You are invited to join us for our next meeting!

Where & When?
We’ll meet in the church after 10am mass,
27th November

What will we do?
Compete in the GOOFY OLYMPICS!

Cost
$5 per person: this includes equipment needed for the event, prizes, drinks and sausage sizzle lunch.
Parents are invited to join us from 1pm for a sausage sizzle and a chat!
2pm will be time for everyone to go home.

We hope to see you there!
If you have any queries, feel free to phone Cate on 0405 420 660

Simpson Prize

Xavier students in Years 9 and 10 are invited to prepare entries for this national competition. This competition is designed to encourage students to reflect on Australia’s past and values and to develop their skill in History.

This year’s question is: “Courage, mateship, determination, resourcefulness and a sense of humour are identified as characteristics of the ANZAC tradition and spirit.”

Select one or more of these characteristics and explore its/their significance to Gallipoli and in more recent times.

The format is either
- An essay of 900-1200 words
- A multimedia presentation of no more than 15 minutes students

The prize for the state winner is a trip to Gallipoli or the Western Front (depending on travel advice) and a trip to Canberra and for the runner up, a trip to Canberra.

Interested students should talk to a Xavier History teacher for assistance in preparing their entry. Entries are due by Tuesday, 6 December.

Mrs Wendy Martin
Co-ordinator of Humanities

SUPER CLINICS 2005

(our 11th Year)
Coaching Clinics for students
aged 5-15 years
At Prince Alfred College,
Dequetteville Tce, Kent Town
13 – 16 December (Tues-Fri)
20 – 23 December (Tues-Fri)
10 – 13 January (Tues-Fri)
17 – 20 January (Tues-Fri)

Choose from:
Cricket / Tennis / Basketball / Soccer / Combo
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
$135, or 9am-3pm $185
For more information and to enrol please call 1300 134 154

Premiers’ Reading Challenge

The Premiers’ Reading Challenge was conducted recently and the following Xavier students took part in the program:

Nicole Pirri Year 9
Rhiannon Cannard Year 8
Eleanore Cockell Year 8
Jenna Farrell Year 9
Jazmin Johnston-Kenyon Year 8
Phillip Kennedy Year 9
Zac McEntee Year 8
Kieran Meaney Year 9
Sarah Pitt Year 8
Tshintia Teusner Year 8

Well done to all the students who participated.

“a school of the future in the present”