Salesian Mission Tetere
Solomon Islands

Swaghi Village

During the months of October and November, we are encouraged to support the Missionary work of the Catholic Church throughout the world. This year, we will be continuing to support the Salesian men and women working with the people of SWAGHI in the Solomon Islands. Over the past couple years we have managed to raise just under $7000 AUD to help the work of the Salesians in this region.

The village of Swaghi is found in the North Eastern region of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. The Solomon Islands are in the Pacific region, to the North-East of Australia. Swaghi is one of 9 villages that make up the Salesian Mission at Tetere. There are about 150 families who live in the village of Swaghi. Over half are involved with the local Catholic community and school administered by the Salesians.

Many of the things that we take for granted: fresh water, reliable electricity, roads, cars, access to doctors, hospitals and education are in most cases just dreams for these people. The work of the Salesians in Swaghi, begins to provide the much needed educational and health services that many in Australia take for granted. Without the work of the Salesians in Swaghi, many of the young people of the village face a very uncertain future, with many facing death through diseases like Malaria.

The financial aid that Xavier College has sent to Swaghi in the past has been used in two ways. Initially some of the funds raised went to support the building and furnishing of a new classroom in the Parish primary school. However most of the money sent by our students to Swaghi has been used to help the mothers of the village provide uniforms for their children. In the beginning, through purchasing 3 sewing machines, the women were not only able to provide uniforms for their own students, but also establish a business supplying uniforms and clothing to the other villages in the Mission.

Xavier College has helped create one of the first businesses within the Swaghi village economy. The business has been so successful that mothers now have more machines and a permanent building to work in. More importantly, the money raised through this business has helped to establish a much needed Medical and Educational program for treating the disease of Malaria, a disease which still kills many children in the Solomon Islands each year.

In the time that we have been supporting the establishment of the

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

Welcome back for the commencement of the shortest and generally the busiest of the school terms. During this time students will be required to give considerable emphasis to the demands of end of year assessment and to further contemplate on their direction for next year. I certainly hope all students strive to achieve as much as possible during this period and have all established clear goals for the remainder of the year.

At the same time, I also encourage students to continue to recognise the many learning experiences that will occur beyond the confines of subject specific content matter. All of the events of daily school life provide students with opportunities to develop their human potential, discover themselves more deeply and to begin to recognise their directions in life. During Term 4 we will again focus our community service efforts in support of our friends in the village of Swaghi, in the Solomon Islands. The feature article in this newsletter highlights the benefits that have accrued from our past efforts and where our help is still needed. Special focus is also given to Student Leadership during this term, as consideration is given to the selection of the 2006 College Leaders. It is also a period of great celebration as we acknowledge all that has happened in the life of the Xavier College community during 2005. The feature events being:

- Year 12 Final Assembly, Friday, Nov 4
- End of Year Family Mass/Presentation Evening, Tues, Nov 29*(date change)
- Year 12 Graduation Mass/Dinner, Wednesday, Dec 14

Developing a ‘Safe School’ Environment

The Federal Government has established a National Safe School Framework to ensure that schools and teachers are committed to working to ensure the well-being of all Australian students. The Framework incorporates existing good practice and provides an agreed national approach to help schools and their communities address issues of Bullying, Harassment, Violence, Child Abuse and Neglect.

During the first week of Term 4, Mr Flaherty and I conducted year level assemblies with students in years 8-10, every student was re-issued with a copy of the school’s ‘Harassment’ and ‘Hands Off’ Policies and they were all reminded of their responsibilities in these areas.

The assembly also provided an opportunity to emphasis two issues that have become more significant in recent times:

- The potential of modern technology, through the medium of email, SMS texting and mobile phone cameras, to facilitate breaches to the policies. Whilst the rapid advance of technology has many positive benefits it has also lead to new and sophisticated forms of bullying and harassment.
- Inappropriate sexual behaviour was also given special attention in the context of the College ‘Hands Off’ Policy. The mixed messages that are often conveyed to students via the media (video clips, DVD’s and TV etc) can cause considerable confusion about what are appropriate boundaries between unwanted advances and inappropriate physical contact.

In these types of situations there exists the potential for legal repercussions!

Whether student bullying and harassment occurs while at school or outside of school, we have a responsibility to deal with it if interferes with anyone’s ability to effectively engage as a member of our community.

As a Catholic school we strongly believe that each person has the right to feel safe and welcome at all times. Harassment and bullying of any kind is contrary to the underpinning philosophy of Xavier College. As a community, which believes in the intrinsic worth of each individual, we will not tolerate harassment. We strongly believe that people are responsible for the choices they make and the consequences that result.

We ask that parents take some time to go through these issues with their children and continue to support our expectation of providing a very safe and supportive environment for all members of our community.

Uniform Policy - Hair

As a school community we are proud of the presentation of our students and appreciate the continued support of families in the implementation of school policy. During the first week of term several students have been spoken to in regard to their hairstyle, which is not in line with our current ‘Uniform Policy’. The policy states:

The hair of all students must be clean, neat and kept out of the face. The following rules apply:

1. If hair is longer than the collar or not tied back, a hairnet or safety cap must be worn in practical classes for safety reasons.

2. Unusual cuts, colours or styles shall not be allowed. The Principal or person’s appointed by the Principal will be able to make a judgement on what is or is not permitted.

Teachers have been speaking to students who need to alter their hairstyle and contact has been made with some parents. It would be appreciated if parents could ensure that their son/daughter’s hair is within the school guidelines.

Finally, this term we welcome Mr Anthony Sutton, Mr Ashley Clarke and Mr Michael Coad to the teaching staff, along with Mrs Di Main and Ms Glenda Stuckey to the administration staff, as they undertake replacement positions for the remainder of the year.

Mr Lynn Martin  
Principal

email address: secretary@xavier.sa.edu.au
Academic Merits

Congratulations to the following students who achieved academic merits for term 2, 2005:

**YEAR 8**
Aimee Nixon
Alexandra Heys
Christina Conte
Erin McAuley
Kate Cummings
Kyra Middlemiss
Luke Stockdale
Naomi Tucker
Tyler Jenke
Tyson Whitelaw
Zac McIntee
Andrea Musolino
Ashleigh Trainor
Cody Harrison-Price
Danielle Stevens
Elizabeth Hatcher
Emily Bettison
Ethan Nankivell
Gemma Alexander
Kate Drinkwater
Kate Powell
Lauren Drumm
Lauren Houthuyzen
Melissa MacWilliams
Mitchell Brimage
Natalie Simpson
Peter Mylonopoulos
Rebecca Watkins
Rosa Shackley
Shana Worrell
Stephanie Mitchell

**YEAR 10**
Tara Behen
Leanne Gajewski
Caitlin Hennessy
Rebecca Butcher
Holly Staehr
Courtney Suridge
Kimberley Tauchnitz
Stefanos Kiparoglou
Mitchell Jennings
Lisa Grillo
Kateena Teusner
Jessica Grima
Hayden Stevens
Cassie Holness
Candice Hudson
Rebecca Pierotti
Leonie Turrell
Lauren Smith
Kerri Flindall
Kiara Redden
Katie Jackson
Elizabeth Neef
Belinda Thai

**YEAR 11**
Victoria Lewis
Ashleigh Drumm
Courtenay Trainor
Stephanie Moore
Ryan Holt
Rachel Kilpatrick
Ashlee Hall
Amy Van Loggem
Kelly Lamont
Brendan Moore
Bonnie Marsland
Philipp Nahr
Luke Wedding
Amy Morcom
Taryn Ovenden
Samantha Kondraciuk
Russell Pascoe
Nicholas Pogas
Michael Krawczyk
Chevonne Craker
Caitlin Ripley
Bethany Crossman
Laura Kellond

**28 students achieved all ‘A’ grades.**

Career News

RAAF Base Edinburgh
Thursday 29th August, Week 10 Term 3

The following students were selected to participate in the RAAF Base Edinburgh 2005 Careers Day on Thursday 29th August.

- Kathryn Koslowicz
- Taryn Overden
- Shane Farrelly
- Shannon Leyland
- Reece Woods
- Lauren Allen
- Chris Jamieson
- Terry Russell
- Ross Cowan
- Lana Tiss
- Troy Sorensen
- Marlon Hampton
- Sarah Hedges
- Amanda Smyth
- Zac Jamieson

Xavier College was only one of eight South Australian schools to be invited to participate in the Career and Information day. Students were given the privilege to wander through the RAAF Base and Aircrafts.

Flight Lieutenant Stuart Wheal from the Defence Force Recruiting Team coordinated each session for the 120 students involved. Various hands-on activities provided our students with an insight into how an Air Force Base works and further information about future career and education opportunities available within the Defence Force once they leave school.

Ms Emma Schult
Career & Transition Services Coordinator
Violence Against Women
– Australia Says NO

The ‘Violence Against Women, Australia Says NO’ campaign is an Australian Government initiative. It includes awareness raising through advertisements on TV and radio and cinema, as well as immediate practical support with a national dedicated, confidential counselling Helpline and an information booklet sent to every household about identifying and avoiding abusive relationships.

Xavier College has been sent the ‘Violence Against Women, Australia says NO’ Education Resource Pack which is available for Year 11 and Year 12 students. It is primarily a preventative education tool for teachers to communicate directly with young people about the early warning signs that can lead to physical violence and sexual assault in relationships.

What can Parents do?
Finding the right time and courage to talk about these issues is important as relationships are a key part of our lives. The relationship experiences of young people can affect their whole lives because how people treat us affects how we feel about ourselves – not only now but into the future.

If you need advice or information there is a range of services and support available. You can call the 1800 200 526 Helpline to talk with experienced counsellors. For young people, the 24 hour Kids Help Line may be a preferred choice on 1800 551 800.

You can also visit the website www.australiasaysno.gov.au
If parents would like to view the Education Resource Pack, it is available from the Resource Centre at the school. Please telephone me if you would like any further information.

Ms Michelle Rawady
Director of Students

Catholic Schools Music Festival

On Saturday 24th September, the Xavier College Vocal Group, the guitar band and pianist Emily Warren-Smith participated in their first performance in front of a large crowd at the Festival Theatre as part of the Catholic Schools Music Festival.

Students performed in the foyer prior to the main performance to a relaxed but attentive audience.

Before the Vocal Group performed their songs, the guitar band played a few of the songs they have been learning.

Mr Matthew Buckoke who devoted his free time to accompanying the group ably led them. In between the vocal group’s performance, Emily performed her songs with everybody captivated by her talent.

Everybody who participated in this performance had heaps of fun, and had the thrill of performing at the Festival Theatre in front of a large audience.

By Elizabeth Rex, year 9
Photo supplied by Andrea Delyn, year 9

Operation Flinders

On the 20th September 2005, our group of ten girls and three leaders met at 4.30am at the Abbey in Gawler, to begin our trip to the Flinders Ranges. Five girls were from Banksea Park High School; three were from Gawler High School, one from Trinity College and me from Xavier College.

We spent eight days up there with trees and hills…. rocks….. and that’s it. Our team leader was Simon. He was liked so much, that by the first morning five girls ran away 9km back to base camp. Only five of us got to go abseiling, which was fun despite the feeling that I was falling from a cliff, which wasn’t very good.

We met a man called Mick who lived in the bush. He was very weird and creeped us all out. He had a necklace of teeth (honestly) and asked if we had any unwanted or wobbly teeth. By the third day everyone had enough and all of us girls planned to not keep going……… It didn’t go to plan.

Over all I realised I hate camping and I hate being stuck with the same nine girls, but a lesson was learned – don’t annoy Mr Hennesey or you will go to naughty camp.

Kayla Stamper (Yr 10 student)