Xavier News

Issue Number 30  Thursday 29th September 2005

Rock Eisteddfod
Award for excellence in Drug Awareness!

CALENDAR DATES

Fri Sep 30th
Last day of Term - 2pm Dismissal

Mon Oct 17th
Term 4 commences

Fri Nov 4th
Last day for Year 12 students

Wed Nov 9th
Student Free Day
(Staff Professional Development)

Wed Nov 30th
End of Year Mass & Presentation Night

Wed Dec 14th
Year 12 Graduation Mass & Dinner

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STUDENT ABSENTEEISM PHONE LINE: 8521 4537
Ring any time before 9am and leave a message

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

In a sporting context the 3rd quarter is often described as the premiership quarter, implying that it is generally the hardest period, the time that is likely to test the resolve of the combatants. This analogy could also be likened to Term 3 in a school setting, it is the longest term and it falls during the winter months. During this time schools often experience increased incidences of illness and psychologically it is that time when the freshness that came with the start of the year has long passed and any thoughts of the celebrations that come with the end of a school year seem a long distance away. It is also the period during which students consolidate their academic preparation and a time when a number of significant extra-curricula activities come to a conclusion.

As Term 3 comes to an end we can reflect on how well we have performed during this testing time. End of term reports will provide students and parents with an opportunity to reflect upon whether academic results are commensurate with ability. I commend those students that have strived hard to reach their potential. To students who are yet to fulfil their true potential, a challenge is issued to review their goals and to return to Term 4 with higher expectations and with work routines that will engender success.

I hope staff and students all enjoy a restful holiday break and return refreshed for the final term, it will pass very quickly! For Year 12 students there are only 15 school days remaining, they will provide a final opportunity to clarify, review and to consolidate.

‘No Life Without Community’ and the 2005 Social Justice Statement

I draw your attention to the reflection I included in the newsletter last week, ‘No Life Without Community’ and the implications it has in the context of the Social Justice Statement ‘Jesus Light for the World’, released by the Australian Catholic Bishops on the occasion of Social Justice Sunday.

We live in a fragile world where human relationships are often strained and where community life would appear to be diminishing. In all it would seem that our quality of life is threatened.

“The scope of some of the major problems of our world, from environmental degradation, to violence, to refugees, can leave us feeling stunned and overwhelmed. We find ourselves either too tired to care, or turning against causes because we do not have the time or energy to respond, the affluence of our society can also obscure these harsh realities of our world. Yet the world and especially the poor need the light.”

Social Justice Statement 2005

In keeping with the earlier sporting analogy, the advice from Michael Jordan in the reflection from last week, in which he makes clear that great teams are formed by individuals who are prepared to make sacrifices for the greater good of its members, says something about what is required to ensure the survival of our society and our obligations as Christians. To renew life in our world we must build community by making personal sacrifices for the sake of our neighbours, both immediate and distant. The Social Justice Statement draws on words from one of the documents from the Second Vatican Council, “The Church in the Modern World”, which reminds us that our obligation is to be a neighbour to every single individual, whether he or she be old and abandoned, a foreign worker, an exile, an illegitimate child or someone who is starving. It reiterates our obligation to defend human life itself and the integrity of the person.

Jesus opens our perspectives on the experience of the hungry, the poor, the imprisoned and estranged. The wastefulness and ‘busyness’ prevalent in our society turn our minds to questions of values, environmental degradation, recycling and patterns of ill health. This is an elementary part of the ongoing challenge to bring the Gospel to the world.

As the people of God and the disciples of Jesus, we are to bring hope in our actions for justice, our advocacy for the poor, our care for the earth, our encouragement of our brothers and sisters, and our rejection of pessimism. In this we build the Kingdom of God and are privileged to gaze on God’s face in the poor, the hungry, the imprisoned, the naked and the stranger.

Social Justice Statement 2005

Mr Lynn Martin
Principal

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VET Student of the Year

Congratulations to Haley Batholomaeus who has received the award of ’Adelaide Plains VET Student of the Year’.

Haley has been rewarded for her dedication and achievements in Certificate 1, VET Hospitality Kitchen Operations.

Haley was highly recommended by her Work Placement supervisor at Qantas and by her teacher Mr Gasser.
How to live with your parents when they are busy

At different times of the year regardless of their occupation your parents are run off their feet with work. They come home late and their minds seem to be elsewhere. For all those kids with a parent who is a teacher you know exactly what I am talking about. Twice a year we seem to lose our parents for a couple of weeks as they rush to finish their reports. When our parents are busy they are often more stressed and agitated so to relieve some of the pressure this is the time when you need to show maturity and initiative.

Here are five steps to help keep your parents sane while they are going through this busy period:

1. Keep your attitude positive
   This may seem hard at times, as your parents’ moods may not be pleasant. If they see you making an effort to get along their mood will also ease and the atmosphere may be more lively. If you are constantly nagging or yelling this will not help the situation and your parents are likely to get more angry and agitated. Keep everything relaxed and calm and hope the busy period will end quickly.

2. Get on with your brothers and sisters
   If you don’t normally get along all that well with your siblings this is an important time to set aside your differences for the sake of some peace. Your parents do not need you and your little sister arguing about whose turn it is to do the dishes. If you do have an argument with a sibling go some place where your parents can’t see or hear you. If you cooperate and share the load around the house, your parents will see how mature and responsible you are and you may be able to use that to your advantage at a later stage. This has always been a winner for me!

3. Help out around the house
   No one likes doing the dishes or hanging out the wash-
   ing, but if you don’t do it then who will? We want the busy period to pass as quickly as possible and if your parents are constantly interrupted then it will just prolong the time. Take initiative and don’t wait to be asked. If you see the basket of dirty laundry is full then put a load on. It will definitely score brownie points in the future.

4. Turn up for family time
   When your parents are busy it often means they are spending more and more time at the office or away from home. Family time can become very sparse and it is something they tend to value! Make yourself available for dinner or when you know they will be home. This may mean missing some time with friends but that can always be made up. Your parents will want to see you once in a while to escape from their work and to make sure everything is running smoothly in your life. As they are busy you will have to be more flexible and fit in around them. Don’t expect them to drop everything for you if their lives are busy and hectic.

5. Work at staying in touch
   Remember to keep in touch with your parents as they may not stay all that close to you. This may be as simple as sending a text message or giving them a quick call. If they know you are safe they will have one less thing to worry about and be able to concentrate on their work.

For most parents busy periods are just phases and that they don’t last forever. You need to try and do everything you can to make the time pass quickly and harmlessly?! Remember, that if they do get angry and agitated it is not always you they are stressed about and it will be pass. Good luck?!

Article by Lucy, who has just finished her secondary schooling and has spent many years honing her parent-taming skills. She is about to start her psychology degree so she can add some theoretical background to her practical people skills.

“When our parents are busy they are often more stressed and agitated so to relieve some of the pressure this is the time when you need to show maturity and initiative.”
Lunchtime House-Sport

Throughout this year all students have had the opportunity to participate in house sports that occur on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes. There have been a variety of sports played, ranging between tennis, netball, soccer, badminton and 9-a-side football.

It has been enjoyable to watch the skills displayed by many students, some who do not even play the particular sport. I congratulate all those who have come out to ‘have a go’ and win points for their house.

At the end of the year a Sport Honour Board will be established, displaying the houses that have won Athletics, Cross-Country and House Sport for the year.

I would particularly like to thank the following students for their effort during the year, giving up their lunchtimes to umpire/referee on numerous occasions: Elizabeth Rex, Thomas Menzies-Harris, Lachlan Greenhalgh and Becky Couznier.

Next term will consist of tennis, volleyball and table tennis to complete the year. The standings at present read:

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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>MacKillop</td>
<td>64 points</td>
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Marriage Encounter News

- Fr. Austin Kenny CP will be sadly missed in our community. We will be holding a memorial Mass to celebrate the joy he was in our lives at Hamley Bridge Church, Hospice Rd. Hamley Bridge @ 10.30 on Oct 16th followed by a BBQ lunch. Please bring your meat, salad to share and some chairs.
  Further information Paul & Marie Haydon 8281 6567

- Now is the time to nurture your marriage and spend some quality time with that special person in your life. The next Marriage Encounter WE will be held at Nuyuara Retreat Centre, Belair on Nov 18-20. We only have space for 8 more couples. Contact Peter & Cathy van der Linden 8298 8428 for registration or further detail, prior to October 28th.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Marie & Paul Haydon, Charlie & Joy Saba,
Fr. Jack Boog