We are family.....

Every Year, following a tradition started by Saint John Bosco, the Rector Major sends a Strenna (an Italian word for ‘gift’) to Salesians around the world. He can’t afford to send everyone a box of chocolates, so instead the Strenna is a motto, asking us to focus on an idea during the coming year.

This year Fr Pascual Chávez (that’s him in the middle!) asks us to give special attention to the FAMILY;

"the cradle of life where we first learn to become human"

Fr Chávez has provided a commentary on his Strenna which we will refer to as 2006 unfolds. In summary however, his commentary reflects on the dangers to the family in present day society and on the family context of the life of Jesus. In his commentary the Rector Major also refers to the life of Mamma Margaret, Don Bosco’s mother, and her motherly influence in the Oratory (the name Don Bosco gave to the home they established together as a meeting place for the young homeless boys from the streets of Turin). He also proposes practical implications for our life and work as a Salesian school.

The importance of family was emphasised at both the Year 8 and the Year 12 Parent Information meetings held last Monday evening. Research confirms a high correlation between the level of student success and effective family support.

The ‘Parenting Feature’ that was included in most editions of the Newsletter last year will continue to feature in 2006 and is designed to provide professional guidance and support for families.

School Fees

Dear Parent / Caregiver,

The fee account you receive this Term shows the total annual Tuition Fee for 2006. Please note that this does not mean payment for the whole year being required now. Unless an alternative agreement has been made with the school or fees are being paid by direct debit, only Term 1 fees are due at the moment. Accompanying your fees account is a Fees Information brochure which explains the new billing process and dates when Term fees are due. Statements will also be sent at the beginning of each Term which will list the transaction history for the year, balance, outstanding and payment methods.
I can see clearly now...

Very soon ‘Xavier News’ will begin to be filled with news and information about the events of daily life at the College. The editions sent home in the first couple of weeks of the school year however, provide for me a little more space to focus attention on some of the characteristics of Xavier College that make it a unique school. Whilst teaching and learning is central to the purpose at Xavier, as it is in all schools, there is a slightly different flavour to the way we go about the process. The vision we hold for the people who form part of this community is also unique. This is as a result of being ‘a Catholic school in the Salesian Tradition’.

As a Catholic school we have a vision that involves a commitment to:

“educate young people for participation in the Church and world communities today”

This vision clearly refers to educating young people in all dimensions of life; through a focus on the whole person, the search for truth and on servant leadership. It also involves inviting young people to join in the Church’s Mission; to journey to personal Christian faith, to reflect on the Church’s wisdom about education, and to understand faith in the context of the world in which we live.

As a Salesian school we have a vision inspired by St John Bosco, whose work with the uneducated homeless young people of his time ultimately led to the establishment of the Salesian Order. He described his approach to education explicitly as being based on “reasonableness, religion and loving kindness”. Salesian schools in Australia today have interpreted this as a challenge to be:

“a home that welcomes, a parish that evangelises, a school that prepares for life and a playground where friends meet and enjoy themselves”

With these things in mind the Xavier College vision statement becomes meaningful when it says we will:

- Be responsive to the needs of the Regional Catholic Community
- Strive to provide an education that encourages personal excellence
- Strive to empower young people with Gospel values so that they can mature as caring members of society
- Strive to provide an environment where Faith and Culture meet in a technological world
- Accept the traditions of the Salesians and make these part of the traditions of the College

Mr Lynn Martin, Principal

A little bit of trivia!

Winter Olympics, Turin 2006

The eyes of the world have turned to Turin, site for the 2006 Winter Olympic Games.

After Australian Dale Begg-Smith claimed gold in the freestyle skiing moguls competition on Wednesday I did a quick search on the internet for information on the Games. As I was scanning the list of sites my attention was drawn to a reference about the Salesians! I noticed a reference to a Salesian Printing/Graphic Arts College situated in Valdocco, Turin. The College had won the official contract to print the Winter Olympic Games posters.

The following is taken from the web site of ‘KBA-Print’ the business who manufactured the printing press used at the College.

The Scuola Grafica Salesiana, a graphic arts college founded by Don Bosco, a priest; in 1861 and located in Via Maria Ausiliatrice in Valdocco, a district of Turin, will be used to print seven-colour posters commemorating the history and venues of the Winter Olympics from Chamonix in 1924 to Turin in 2006.

Valdocco is where, in 1859, Don Bosco (1815 to 1888) lay the foundations of his life’s work by establishing a religious order named after Saint Francis of Sales (hence the name Salesians)—his great role model—its patron saint.

Don Bosco used to equip his workshops, especially the printing plant in Valdocco, with the most advanced machinery and equipment on the market. We used the vintage Koenig & Bauer press to print a special publication about his life, and even by today’s standards the print quality is very good. Winning the contract to print the posters for the Olympics in Turin was a real honour for us.”

SACE Update!

Students in year 11 and 12 have received their Statement of Results from SSABSA. This document is the official record of results for subjects studies in Semester 1 and 2 of 2005 and, after the details are checked by the student, should be stored safely at home.

SSABSA has three standards of achievement for subjects studied at Stage 1 - Satisfactory Achievement, Recorded Achievement, and Requirements Not Met. Students must achieve the standard of Satisfactory Achievement in at least 16 of the 22 units required for SACE (each semester subject is equivalent to one unit).

IMPORTANT SACE DATES
 Semester 1 Examinations (Term 2, Week 8)
 Year 11 Students : 19 - 23/6/2006
 Year 12 Students : 19 and 20/6/2006 (Mathematical Applications and Business Studies ONLY)

Rebecca Donnon
SACE Coordinator

www.xavier.sa.edu.au  email address: secretary@xavier.sa.edu.au
Xavier College Old Scholars
Where Are They Now?

Craig Bergen
Student @ Xavier College
2000-2004
House: Polding
Tutor Teacher: Wendy Martin

Craig is studying at the International University Bremen in Germany below is a transcript from an email he sent to Xavier just prior to Christmas.

Guten Tag!
Well I must firstly apologise for not writing earlier, it has been far too long and I suppose the year is nearly over for Xavier College, when it has only just begun here in Bremen. I hope the year 12s were successful and they go onto much bigger and better things, what ever they might be!

As for me, I am studying at the International University Bremen. Wow, I have been here already since August & it feels like just yesterday I was sitting in E1 every morning. The weeks are just flying past me so quickly its just unexplainable. I am living here on campus, along with all the other undergrad students. Together there are over 800 students from around 90 different countries, only being ONE Australian... me! I have made some really cool friends already and have some really tight friendships, I guess that happens when you live so close to everyone. I have made many German friends which has helped me with getting to Paris, Berlin, Hamburg and Mainz, connections are very handy with seeing Europe.

Life here at IUB is incredibly intense academically and socially. I have around 7 classes (my major being History) which we have 2 lessons per week. There are also various extracurricular activities such as debating and sporting events like soccer (of course, its GERMANY!) and even cricket. So the time your not in class you are playing sport or hanging out with friends.

It’s rare that we ever get to bed before 1am in this place, then its up at 7am for the 8:15 class. I make it sound so difficult, but I love it. The University is really well set up with common rooms equipped with sofas, TVs, pool tables, table tennis tables and table soccer tables, so there is plenty to do to pass the time you should be studying!

I would love to hear about things back home. How is Xavier College and the old tutor group? I hope everything is great and everyone is looking forward to the summer coming and not the winter like me! Looks like there will be snow this weekend.

Liebe Gruessse,
Craig Bergen

SA Country Swimming Championships
Between the 14th and 16th of January, the SA Country Swimming Championships took place in Renmark with Xavier students featuring prominently.

All students competing swam personal best times during the championships and they helped Gawler Swimming Club achieve 3rd place overall.

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
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<td>6th</td>
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<td>Lachlan Greenhalgh (yr 10)</td>
<td>1st</td>
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<td>Sam Stanton (yr 10)</td>
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Sam Stanton (yr 10) competed in the State Swimming Championships during January and recorded the following results:

4th: 50m, 100m, 200m backstroke, 50m butterfly
5th: 50m, 100m freestyle, 200m butterfly, 200m individual medley
6th: 200m freestyle
7th: 100m butterfly

Well done to all swimmers! They will all compete in the Secondary Schools Swimming Championships and Catholic Co-ed Carnival in the coming weeks.

Mr Dan Searle
Sports Administrator

Bus Information
Booklets and flyers detailing information regarding bus services available to students attending Xavier College may be collected from Reception between the hours of 8.15am and 4.30pm.

Accompanying the Newsletter next week will be a survey on current and potential bus usage. The survey is designed to assist us in reviewing the current bus services provided by the College.
Parenting Feature

**Help children to handle rejection and disappointment**

Generation Z kids don't handle social rejection very well. A knock back in the playground flummoxes many children these days. Most children experience some type of rejection from their peers throughout childhood. Even popular children are rejected about one quarter of the time when they approach other children in school.

Resilient children recover from social rejection. They move on and form constructive, worthwhile relationships but some children need help as they often take rejection personally and blame themselves. It is useful for parents to challenge children’s unhelpful thinking and encourage them to look for new friendship opportunities elsewhere. It is also essential to help children understand that rejection may happen for any number of reasons that are unrelated to them.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the current group of children give up easily when confronted with a variety of challenges. This places many kids at a disadvantage as children experience many setbacks during the day. They may struggle with some schoolwork. They may not do well in a test and they may not be picked for a game that they wanted to play. Many parents I work with refer to these types of experiences as negative and to be avoided at all costs. It is useful to reframe such as experiences as opportunities for children to learn and develop skills to cope with disappointment. The challenge for parents, teachers and caregivers is to build and maintain children’s confidence to help them get through these rough times.

A parent or teacher’s attitude can make a huge difference to how a child reacts to disappointment. If the significant adults in their lives see rejection or disappointments as problems then children will be hamstrung by this view. If they see them as challenges then children will, in all likelihood, pick up their upbeat views and deal with disappointments more easily. Confidence is catching!

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**Teach kids to persist**

The gap between Generation Z’s wanting something and actually having it has shrunk to almost zero, consequently many children are losing the ability to stick at a task. If they can't achieve success after a short time many Gen Z's give up and try something else.

Yet, the ability for a child to persist at a task and see it through to the end is one of the most important success skills he or she has. A toddler learning to tie shoelaces must persist. A primary aged student must show determination to finish tasks and a secondary student needs to work through difficulties, particularly those that don’t understand or complete right away. They need to be able to persist when work gets hard or life gets tough. They need the ‘stickability’ to work through difficulties and hang in there when things don't go their way.

Parents and teachers of Generation Z need to challenge them more and teach children to persist by encouraging them to keep going and not give in at the slightest hurdle or difficulty. One simple strategy is to continuously link effort with success. In fact, Generation Z needs to learn that by trying hard they will more than likely experience more success. The ability to persist in the face of difficulties maybe an old-fashioned quality but it is one of the best success attributes that this generation will ever develop.

Parents can be a sounding board for children's gripes but they should show confidence in their ability to cope and get through their difficulties. “You can do it” is far more powerful in terms of promoting an attitude of persistence than “If it is a little too hard then try something else.”

*By Michael Grose*

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**I've just gotta get a message to you!**

Parents are asked to avoid asking the College Reception to pass on messages to students, except in emergency circumstances. There are no afternoon Tutor periods at Xavier so it is not possible for teachers to collect and deliver messages after the commencement of lunch at 1:30pm.

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**Uniform Shop**

The Term 1 opening times for the uniform shop are Mondays and Thursdays, 2.30pm to 4.30pm

**Phone: 8521 4547**

Opening times during Term 1 holidays will be advised in the next newsletter.