Watch out Mt Buller, Xavier’s on its way! The Ski Trip began on the middle Saturday night of the holidays with a great deal of expectation, although a 14-hour bus trip went some way in dampening the excitement. Stopping at Macca’s for breakfast early Sunday morning was new for some of us, but others seemed right at home as they ordered their hotcakes with lashings of maple syrup. Greg Hamilton did his best at fitting down the children’s slide, lucky not to be stuck half way down.

We arrived at Mt Buller around 12 and were then ferried by 4WD taxis to our ski lodge with our bags on top.

The lodge soon became very homely as we spent the afternoon organising rooms and getting our bearings. We also had a talk at the Ski Patrol office about safety on the slopes. Just before tea we made the short walk into the village to collect our ski/snowboard gear. The mood was very jovial until we began to make the ascent back to our lodge. Ski gear is not the easiest equipment to carry and some of the group wondered why they had bothered with this trip at all. This was the first chance to show some Xavier spirit and teamwork as the stronger walked back to help those in need. Our chef, Amy, whipped up a great meal to replenish the energy lost.

The first group to have dinner clean-up weren’t ready for the onslaught of washing vast numbers of dishes by hand. I think they made their way out of the kitchen around 8pm to join in the activities. The first night our activities were mainly ‘getting to know you’ games, giving each other nicknames and the chocolate game (somehow Mr Searle kept rolling 6’s). During this time, while everybody was enjoying themselves, Ms Schuit was giving herself a nickname-Mum. It’s staggering the number of times magazine piles need to be straightened, cushions placed upright on couches and tables cleaned.

Monday was the first day of skiing and we all hit the slopes ready for our lessons. Although the lessons were for the complete beginner, we all gained something out of them and this helped in the afternoon as we tackled the chairlifts and real ski runs! The group contained a few ‘gun’ skiers who were more than happy to gloat Monday night about the steep runs they completed without falling (Bec Pierotti, Sonya Rowell, Ms Schuit). This was hard to take for many of the beginner skiers but strengthened our resolve to improve on Tuesday (we might try the magic carpet!).

Tuesday and Wednesday involved lots of skiing and lots of stacks. Ms Spencer provided a couple for the archives while Mr Searle’s was downright embarrassing.

Cont’d page 3
From the Principal

I hope staff and students enjoyed a refreshing holiday break and I welcome everyone back for Term 3. In particular I welcome Mr Michael Hennessy from long service leave and I am also delighted to introduce 3 new members of the teaching staff, Ms Bronwyn Stone (Maths/Science), Mr Adam Lewis (PE/Science) and Mr Andrew Whiteman (PE/Science), each are impressively prepared young teachers who will make a significant contribution to the life of the College.

The new term begins with a number of important events that occur over the course of the first few weeks:

- This week South Australia has hosted a meeting of the Salesian Principal’s Association of Australia. On Thursday the visiting principals spent 2 hours at Xavier looking over the College facilities and programs. Each were impressed with what they saw; they were particularly taken by the new Music Technology suite and the new ICT hardware dispersed across the College (LCD screens, tiny Wyse terminals, laptop laboratory and the electronic whiteboards).
- Parent/Teacher interviews in week 3.
- Also in week 3 we celebrate the Feast of Mary MacKillop, an occasion when the whole school community will gather to celebrate Mass, followed by an assembly at which Semester 1 Academic awards will be presented.

Towards the end of August we hold our annual Xavier Day celebrations.

Each of these occasions is very significant in the life of the College, as is of course the normal day to day teaching and learning that will be occurring during this time. In fact the importance of this core school business is only heightened as we move into the real business end of the school year. For Year 12 students they will soon face Trial Exams, SATAC applications will soon be called for and in all, their school days are almost over! Students in each of the other year levels will also begin the process of course and subject selections for next year and to varying degrees be called upon to contemplate future pathways.

With global events as they are I feel that I can’t finish these few comments without encouraging the school community to pray for peace in the Middle East. Included below is a prayer written by Melissa Jones and it provides a good starting point.

Prayer for Peace

Dear God,
I pray for peace in our world.
For all countries to get along and not let things like money and land get in the way of happiness and peace.
Even today, right now, there are people suffering from war. They are threatened to leave their homes, and know that there is a chance they will die.
Countries fight over the silliest things. Why can’t they find a way to solve their problems in a way that doesn’t involve violence and suffering?
I pray also for the people who have nothing to do with it, but they are still killed.
I pray for the people who start the wars. That they understand that the correct way to solve their problems is to talk, and listen. Not go blowing up cities and killing people.
Amen
Melissa Jones, Year 8 Religious Education Class

MacKillop House Profiles

House Leader

Stephanie Moore - MacKillop Senior House Leader
Age: 17
Interests: Dance, art and being with my girls.

Why did you want to be a House Leader? Because it is great to be able to interact and get to know everyone in the school which you wouldn’t normally do on a day-to-day basis.

What is the best/worst thing about being a house leader? The worst thing is that everyone expects you to know everything that is going on, when we usually find out last!

What do you love the most about being a student at Xavier College? I love the atmosphere of the school, especially in the senior years - the teachers become less like teachers and more like friends.

What do you want to do when you leave school? I want to study Interior Design at University.

What is your favourite subject and why? Art. It is great to forget about things for a while and just create something.

What word or phrase describes you best? Fun and approachable.

Teacher

Kirsty Hatch - MacKillop Assistant House Director
Age: 26
Interests: Watching Port Adelaide Magpies/Power.

Why did you want to be a teacher? Something I’ve always wanted to do.

What is the best/worst thing about being a teacher at Xavier? The worst thing is students being taller than me.

What do you love the most about being a staff member at Xavier College? Being in a school environment that is friendly and welcoming.

Did you ever consider not being a teacher? If so, what were you going to do? Interpreter/translator.

What is your favourite subject to teach and why? Indonesian, because it is interesting and I love the culture.

What word or phrase describes you best? Organised.

What are the biggest differences in schools now compared to when you were a student? More subject choices for students.
From the Careers Office

Open Day for Adelaide Universities
Sunday - 20th August 2006
Adelaide University
University of South Australia
Flinders University

Open Day for International College of Hotel Management
Sunday - 20th August 2pm – 4.30pm

NIDA – National Institute of Dramatic Art
Applications for full-time study in 2007 are now open

TAFESA Animal Industry – Career Information Evening
Wednesday - 16th August 2006, 7.30pm at Gilles Plains TAFE

TAFESA Arts, Design, Fashion, IT & Multimedia Open Day
Tuesday – 22nd August 9am- 3pm and 5pm- 8pm
At Adelaide Centre for the ARTS, TAFESA

Year 10, 11 & 12 SATAC Applications for University and TAFESA
Open on 8th August and close 30th September
Application are to be submitted on-line

TAPS Plumbing – Trainee and Apprentice Placement Service
Aptitude Test – Thursday 10th August

SAVVY – University of South Australia Year 10 Information Session
Wednesday 9th August – Period 2 for all Year 10 students

Gawler Region Education Employment & Training (GREET) Employers Breakfast held at Xavier College
Wednesday 16th August 7.00am – 8.15am
Hosted by Mr Reto Gasser and Stage 1 & 2 VET Hospitality students

Transition Plans for Year 10 and 11 students
Commence Term 3 in Careers Office

Xavier College Inaugural Ski Trip cont’d.

As most of the group waited at the bottom of a run, Mr Searle was on the last part of the slope and thought he had conquered it. As he went to raise an arm to the awaiting crowd, disaster struck and 5 forward rolls later, all he could hear was the sound of Mr Footner’s distinctive laugh from the bottom of the slope.

Other activities which occurred during the week were table tennis championships, which David King and Mr Footner were locked in an engrossing battle over a few nights. Also, a snowman making competition occurred on the mountain one night. The girl’s team of Bridget Cox, Nadia Bassanese, Emily Griffiths, Leyla Spencer and Rebecca Pierotti were the winners with a very impressive snowman, complete with carrot and skittles. It must have been a good one as it was still standing the next day when skiers dodged around it on the popular Burke Street run. We had a surprise visitor one night as Mr Martin walked through the lodge door. Fortunately, a phone call was made ahead and the lodge was in immaculate condition for his arrival.

The walk of shame was labelled when you fell over and had to walk back up the slope to gather your skis and poles. Adrian Costa had to complete this walk a number of times early in the week to the cheers and laughter of the ‘professionals’ but he got his own back later in the week as his skiing had improved so much that he was usually leading the others down the mountain. Other big improvers throughout the week were the snowboarding crew (Kieran Wigley, Greg Hamilton, David King, Mr Footner) plus Jenna and Shane Farrelly (when coaxed away from the heater, mobile phone and laptop), Daniel Costa, Remy Low and Mark Harris. Bridget Cox, Nadia Bassanese, Emily Griffiths and Leyla Spencer were also skiing down slopes at the end of the week which they wouldn’t have dreamed of on Monday.

On the Thursday, Rebecca Pierotti and Sonya Rowell competed in the SA Ski Championships on a slalom course. Both performed extremely well with Bec coming 6th (the top 5 were selected for the SA team) and Sonya coming 14th from about 60 competitors. Well-done girls!

Unfortunately on Friday we had to return our ski equipment as well as pack and clean the lodge. The week had flown by and it was time for the long bus trip back. We all had a wonderful time away and the 17 students were a pleasure to take on the trip. They all deserve plenty of praise for the way they took on challenges during the week and also how well they represented Xavier College.

Mr Dan Searle (Ski Trip Coordinator)
School Sport Australia Boys Football Championships

Congratulations to Kieran McNally (Yr 11 PGWE2) who has been selected to represent Secondary School Sport SA at the forthcoming School Sport Australia Boys Football (Soccer) Championships to be held in Canberra 12th to 18th August, 2006.

Managing the impact of separation, helping your children cope

Making it Work for the Kids

A workshop for separated men and women wanting to improve communication with their child’s other parent.

1. Learn to separate parenting issues from partner issues.
2. Learn about respectful communication in a safe environment.
3. Identify blocks to communicating with your child’s other parent.
4. Develop strategies to deal with the blocks.

When: Wed. 9th August 2006 from 6.30pm to 9.30pm
Where: Emmaus House, Centacare, 33 Carey St., Salisbury
Cost: $20 ($10 concession)

R.I.P.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Sarah Wharton (Year 11) on the recent loss of her Grandmother. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Wharton family.

Our deepest sympathy is also extended to Hayden Theunens (Year 8) on the recent loss of his Grandmother. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Theunens family.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal

31st July – 11th August

Every year the College holds a Winter Appeal as part of its ongoing support for the vital work carried out by the Gawler Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, in this region. During weeks two and three we are asking members of the entire College community to donate at least one tin of canned food towards the Appeal. It is hoped that through the Appeal we will be able to collect 1000 tins of canned food to aid the work of St. Vinnies. Donations can be left at either the Front Office or taken to your child’s Tutor Group. St. Vinnies have asked, that donations be non-perishable and tinned only.

Thank you

Gawler Poetry Competition

The closing date for entries in the Gawler Poetry Competition 2006 is Thursday 31st August.
Cash and/or book prizes will be awarded in the following categories.

Junior – up to and including 12 years
Youth – 13 – 17 years inclusive
Adult – 18 years and over.

Entry is Free. Open theme.

For entry form and more information please contact staff at Gawler Public Library on 85229213.

Are you considering

• Baptism
• Reconciliation (Confession)
• Confirmation
• First Eucharist (First Holy Communion)

For your school aged child within the Catholic Church?

The 2006/2007 Family Faith Formation Programme for families in the Elizabeth South and Elizabeth North Parish commences with a Family Faith Formation Information Meeting for parents and caregivers, which will be held on

August 2nd 2006

At St Thomas More Catholic Church
19 Laverstock Road Elizabeth North

Please contact Eileen Patterson
Coordinator of Family Faith Formation
Catholic Parishes of Elizabeth North & Elizabeth South,
Phone: 8255 1191

"a school of the future in the present"