One of the highlights of Year 12, for many of our senior students, is the Year 12 Retreat. Once again this year’s retreat took place at the Encounter Conference Centre at Victor Harbor.

The retreat allows for our year 12 students to take a break from their hectic school, family and work situations in order to take time to reflect upon their lives at this point in time and give them the opportunity to think about the possibilities for the future.

The retreat was led by Fr. Michael Court SDB and members of the Religious Education faculty. Students and staff were challenged to participate fully in many activities while on the retreat. The activities included; exploring the connection between ourselves and others, life and God, providing a possible four-step framework for living, the opportunity to re-discover the importance of self and positive relationship as well as a walk to ‘The Bluff’.
From the Principal

Last week there was no edition of Xavier News as all Year 11 and 12 students were offsite. Year 11 students were engaged in examinations throughout the week and were only at Xavier to sit for their specific exams. Many Year 12 students were also committed to examinations early in the week, before the entire cohort spent 3 days on retreat.

Exams continue to be the major senior secondary assessment method and students need to be adequately prepared for the demands of this style of assessment. For Year 11 students this was their first experience of an intense examination period.

For many Year 12 students last week will be remembered as one of the most significant periods in their school life. As indicated by Mr Watson on the front page, the Year 12 Retreat is designed to achieve a number of objectives, however, for students there was an added dimension. It was a unique, once in a life time, opportunity for their entire year level to spend a short but intense period of time living together. It comes of course towards the end of a significant journey in their lives and serves to bind them as colleagues and friends for life. This experience, along with their ‘Formal’ on Saturday evening at the Stamford Plaza, were precursors to their end of year Graduation, only a few weeks away!

On behalf of the Year 12 student cohort I would like to acknowledge and thank Mr Gareth Watson and Ms Michelle Rawady for organising the respective events. Both are generous with their time and commitment to students.

Students in Years 8-10 were also provided with an opportunity to reflect during the course of last week. They were presented with a motivational performance by ‘Team Impact’, a Christian group that consists of elite athletes who use feats of strength, spectacular stunts and displays of strength to inspire students to live life to the maximum.

In all, the past week has provided all students with a period of reflection that I trust will encourage them to approach the second semester of 2006 in a positive and purposeful frame of mind.

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MacKillop House Profiles

House Leader

Sam Harnett - MacKillop Junior House Leader
Age: 16
Interests: Sports, mainly basketball.

Why did you want to be a House Leader? Mainly for the experience. Seeing what former house leaders were able to do, made me want to be part of it all.

What is the best thing about being a house leader? The best thing is being able to attend functions/activities in and outside of school which are really interesting.

What do you love the most about being a student at Xavier College? The environment is really good. The teachers and students are very friendly.

What do you want to do when you leave school? Go to Uni to study science, not exactly sure which type of science.

What is your favourite subject and why? Science. It’s interesting and the practicals are fun to do.

What word or phrase describes you best? Cautious

Tutor Teacher

Ryan Jackson - Mackillop teacher
Age: 29
Interests: Travel, fishing, hiking, camping, reading.

Why did you want to be a teacher? I enjoy the subject areas that I teach and I teach in order to hopefully pass along this interest to young people.

What is the best thing about being a teacher at Xavier? Wide sample of Australian young folk.

What do you love the most about being a staff member at Xavier College? Wonderful cold mornings, first time teaching in a private school, good experience.

Did you ever consider not being a teacher? If so, what were you going to do? Yes, worked for State Government Department of Education.

What is your favourite subject to teach and why? English because it provides such a wide variety of topics.

What word or phrase describes you best? Open minded, skeptic.

What are the biggest differences in schools now compared to when you were a student? The incredible amount of choice - more computers etc.

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Congratulations

To Melissa Pham and her husband Viet on the safe arrival of bouncing baby boy Will from all the Xavier College community.

Finalist in VET Student of the Year

Congratulations to Hayley Bartholomaeus on being chosen as a finalist in the VET Student of the Year competition.

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On Saturday 24th June, the Year 12 Formal was held at The Stamford Plaza Hotel in North Terrace. This event completed a very special week for our Year 12 students. After spending 3 days together on Retreat at Victor Harbor, the students came together on this night, to celebrate as a group of senior leaders in the College.

The Year 12 House Leaders welcomed both students and staff that attended the function. Stephanie Moore and Brendan Moore, our College Captains and Mr Lynn Martin, formally welcomed everyone in their opening address. This was followed by a sumptuous banquet, which included a very tempting array of desserts! After dinner, an Awards Ceremony was organised and presented by the Yr 12 Leaders. The House Leaders presented a variety of certificates to individuals that deserved recognition for their efforts on Retreat and throughout the year. At the conclusion of formalities, the dancing and fun continued until the close of the evening at 11.30 pm.

It is safe to say that all students had a wonderful time. Many thanks must go to the Year 12 House Leaders that assisted in the organisation of this event. Thanks must also go to the many Staff that attended. The students very much appreciated the opportunity to share this special occasion with them.

Ms Michelle Rawady
Director of Students
Open Girls Knockout Netball

On Thursday 15th June the Xavier College Open Girls Netball team were defeated by Faith Lutheran, at Xavier - 36 goals to 29 goals. All girls played extremely well and were only one goal down at half time.

The team consisted of Brooke Phelps, Kaye Walton, Rebecca Pierotti, Leah Hollis, Brooke Roy, Rebecca Case, Ashlee Bloffwitch, Katie Jackson and Captained by Year 12 mid court / goal shooter, Taryn Overden.

Best players were Kaye Walton (GA), Rebecca Case (GK), Rebecca Pierotti (GD) and Leah Hollis (Mid Court). Both Rebecca's were awesome in defence, with Leah who provided excellent drive down the court.

Faith Lutheran were unstoppable in the final quarter and finished the game off with a seven goal win.

Congratulations to all the girls for their wonderful effort and participation.

Special thanks to those students who helped time-keep, score and support! We wish the girls luck and look forward to seeing them play later this term for the Father Dennis Handley Shield in Week 10, Wednesday 5th July against Saint Columba.

Good luck girls!

Ms Schuit - Coach

Weekly Celebration of the Eucharist

Every Tuesday morning at 8.10am Fr. Germano Baiguini will say a morning Mass in the Xavier Chapel. Students and staff are invited to join the thousands of Catholics around the world who begin their day by spending some time in prayer and celebrating the Eucharist together before they go off to school, work.... etc.