Last Wednesday, March 8th was the Xavier College Athletics Day.

The weather made it a fantastic day with not a cloud in the sky.

The enthusiasm shown by students on the day was magnificent, especially during the relays when athletes powered down the track as we cheered them on. Everyone participated really well on the day and there were over 20 records broken!

We could have had a best-dressed competition because many people looked amazing and put lots of time into preparing their costume. We had superwoman and superman, also a green hulk too.

At the end MacKillop came out on top with Bosco 2nd, Polding 3rd and McCormack 4th.

Thanks to everyone who helped with preparation for sports day, it was great.

Go MacKillop!

Kristie Goznick
& Molly Thackray (yr 8)
From the Principal
This week the space available to me is severely restricted, an indication of all that happens in a ‘normal’ week at Xavier College. I will need to be brief but would like to highlight 3 specific issues:

Recent Events and Xavier College Open Day
A number of significant events have occurred in recent weeks and I would like to express my gratitude to the large number of staff members involved with the organisation of; Liturgical celebrations, Parent Information Nights, Year 8 Camps, Sports Day, Parent/Teacher Interviews, ‘Knockout’ sport and numerous excursions that have enhanced the learning experience at Xavier.

This Sunday is the annual Xavier College Open Day and once again the College staff has worked tirelessly in preparation for this important occasion.

The State Election and funding for Non Government Schools.
On the eve of the State Election I will reiterate the responses from the respective major political parties to the Submission made by the Non Government Schools for greater funding equity for our schools. I encourage you to consider the respective responses as you deliberate over how to cast your vote on Saturday.

Labour Party Promises:
Provide an additional $4 per annum funding to those students in the non government school sectors who are in greatest need.
This $16 million investment over the next 4 years will be targeted to students with special needs, Aboriginal students, students on school card and students who have English as a second language.
Further collaborative work with the non government school sectors, which includes better sharing of resources and facilities across SA.

Ongoing discussions regarding the future of non government school funding and how it can best meet the needs of students.

Liberal Party Promises:
Grant an additional $32 million over the next 4 years to the Non Government School Advisory Committee for distribution according to its Needs Based formula.
Continue to support the current formula for funding to Non Government schools.
Provide access to speech pathology, psychological testing and transport arrangements for children with special needs including students attending special schools.
Increase closer links between the sector for special education support and service provision.
Establish an inquiry to facilitate school bus transport for children in Non Government schools in the country.

Xavier College Board AGM
The Annual General meeting of the College Board will be held next Tuesday evening, March 21, at 7pm. This will provide the community with the opportunity to hear reports from the Chairperson of the Board, from the Principal and from the Finance Committee. These reports will highlight the achievements of 2005 and reveal directions for 2006. It is also the occasion when positions become vacant on the Board and elections held to fill those vacancies.

I encourage parents to consider nominating for a position on the Board. Membership of the Board requires a commitment to the Xavier College community and is not dependent upon having specific skills.

A nomination form was printed in the newsletter last week and they are available from the College reception.

A big thank you ...
To my hard working volunteers on Sports Day: Liza Cavanagh, Gill Chammen and Beverley Lange.
Karen Stacey, Canteen

If you have 3 hours to spare once a week, once a month or once a term, the school canteen would appreciate your help. Please telephone Karen on 8523 0088 or leave your details at the front office.

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.

Enrolments, Year 8 2007
Applications for enrolments into Xavier College for Year 8 2007 are now being accepted. Application Forms and Prospectus can be obtained by phoning the College Registrar, Jane Montgomerie on 8521 4545.
Applications close at the end of Term 1, 2006.

Open Day
Sunday March 19th
Tours of the College will be conducted on the Open Day, Sunday March 19th, 11.00am - 1.00pm.
Xavier College takes the issues of bullying and harassment very seriously. Recent Australian research (from RMIT) suggests that up to 50% of young people who are bullied may not always tell adults as they are afraid or ashamed. This may result in a student being victimised for a prolonged period of time before it is discovered and carries the potential for serious short, medium and long-term side effects.

In order for the school to carry out its duty of care of providing all students with a safe environment in which to learn, grow and develop, the school seeks to enlist the cooperation of all parents in the school community. In addition to our normal preventative measures that we have in place at Xavier College, the school is committed to working in a proactive manner with parents.

In light of the RMIT research, we would like to share with parents some of the signs that they need to be aware of. Young people who are bullied may display one of (usually) several of the following signs:

- Not wanting to go to school and finding excuses to stay home (for example, feeling sick)
- Being very tense, tearful and unhappy after school
- Talking about hating school or not having any friends
- Refusing to tell you what happens at school
- Do not bring classmates or other peers home and seldom spend time in the homes of others
- May not have a single good friend to share free time

These signs may not necessarily mean your child is being bullied or harassed at school. However, if you do notice these signs, it is necessary to check out what is worrying them. If you are worried about your child, you may wish to discuss these issues in the future. The House Director about the situation. In the meantime, parents should be assured that the school is committed to continually reviewing its policies and practices on bullying and harassment.

Xavier College strives to be a safe environment where everyone in the community can feel secure and comfortable. Each student has a copy of the Harassment Policy and Hands-Off Policy in their diary that states very clearly the steps to follow. Unwelcome behaviour can be stopped if this process is followed. Please telephone the school and ask to speak to your child’s House Director about the situation. In the meantime, parents should be assured that the school is committed to continually reviewing its policies and practices on bullying and harassment.

Yr 8 and Yr 9 Performance

The Hurting Game

A play about peer pressure and being “true to yourself”

On Wednesday 22 March, Brainstorm Productions will present “The Hurting Game” to all Year 8 and Year 9 students, a play about peer pressure and being “true to yourself”. The performance is an entertaining way to promote discussion about friendship, body image, teasing, alienation, alcohol, playing the fool and wearing a mask to hide your true self.

Brainstorm Productions have won the NSW Performing Arts Frater Award - ‘Best Feedback from Schools’ category, for the last 5 years. This show will assist students to recognise and resist peer pressure and help create a more positive school environment.

We hope you will support this important program to assist in creating a safe, harmonious environment for students and staff. The cost of the performance is $4.50 per student. This can be paid to the Bookroom by Monday, 20 March. Please return the money and permission slip as soon as possible.

If you have any queries regarding this performance, please feel free to contact me at the College.

Ms Michelle Rawady
Director of Students

Foster Carers Day

March 19th is Foster Carers Day. There is an urgent need for Foster Carers throughout South Australia. There are many children and young people in our community who need the care of a person like you. All kinds of people are needed to become Foster Carers. Call Foster Carer Recruitment on 1800 210 145 or visit the website at www.fostercarers.org.au.
SSSSA Swimming Championships

Last Monday night our team of 17 swimmers competed in the SSSSA Swimming Championships for the first time. As we have never competed in these titles before, it was a guessing game as to how well we would fare against other schools. Xavier’s team was outstanding, not only in their swimming but also in their attitude to competing in a rigorous amount of events. We finished the night 4th in the Girls and 5th in the Boys events. Our improvement will come with a few more swimmers to even the load and allow us to compete in all relays. Overall, a superb performance and a good warm-up for the Catholic Schools event, to be held next Monday 20th March at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre.

Thank you to Barbara Greenhalgh and other parents for helping out during the night as officials.

Mr Dan Searle
(Sports Administrator)

CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Aaron Bain: 2nd – Breaststroke, 3rd – Backstroke, Freestyle
Hayley Butler: 3rd – Breaststroke
Stephen Butler: 3rd – Breaststroke, Freestyle
Tom Farren: 1st – Freestyle
Lachlan Greenhalgh: 2nd – Backstroke, Freestyle, 3rd – 100m Freestyle, Breaststroke
Kalvin Moore: 1st – Backstroke, Freestyle, 3rd – Breaststroke
Lachlan Martin: 1st – Breaststroke
Kyra Middlemiss: 2nd – Breaststroke, 3rd – Backstroke
Shamika Moore: 1st – Backstroke, Freestyle, 2nd – Breaststroke, 3rd – 100m Freestyle
Rebecca Pierotti: 1st – Breaststroke, Freestyle, 3rd – Backstroke
Alix Stanton: 1st – Breaststroke, 3rd – Backstroke, Freestyle
Sam Stanton: 1st – 100m Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke, Freestyle
Jacinta Whaite: 2nd – Backstroke, Freestyle, 3rd – Breaststroke

Triathlon

Sam Stanton (yr 10) competed for Xavier College in the State Triathlon Championships, held at the West Lakes Canoe Club. After a fantastic swim, where he came out of the water in 1st position, he was slowly pegged back by the field to finish in a credible 11th position.