Sister Irene McCormack worked as a missionary with the Sisters of St Joseph in Peru. On May 21, 1991, Sister Irene was executed by terrorists in the mountain village of Huasahuasi, Peru.

Her ‘crime’? Feeding the poor. Irene was born in Kununoppin, Western Australia in 1938. She grew up on a wheat/sheep farm and received her schooling from the Sisters of St Joseph. She entered the Sisters of St Joseph in 1957 and after a number of years teaching in Australia she was sent by the Order to Peru, to be a gospel presence among the people of Huasahuasi. Her pride and joy was the simple school room/library where she taught the village children to read and write.

The risks of living at Huasahuasi were well known to Irene and her companions. The threats and violent activities of terrorist groups were a daily reality in that part of the countryside. Despite warnings, Irene chose to stay. On the evening of May 21st 1991 a terrorist group known as Shining Path invaded the village and subjected Sister Irene and four local men to a sham trial in the village square. Irene was accused of being a ‘Yankee imperialist’ because she managed the distribution of the foodstuffs provided by ‘Caritas’ (the Australian aid agency that organizes Project Compassion). Then Irene and the men were made to lie down on the ground and the terrorists shot each of them in the head.

Each House at Xavier College has a patron after whom the House is named. The patrons were each chosen because of the example and inspiration that they might bring to the students at Xavier.

Each Term we celebrate a significant memorial for one of the respective House patrons. As a College community we celebrated the Feast of St John Bosco at the beginning of the school year (The anniversary of his death and the official Church feast day is on Jan 31).

Last Tuesday a full school Mass was conducted as a way of bringing the whole school community together to commence Term 2 and to celebrate the life of Irene McCormack (The anniversary of her death is May 21). In Term 3 we celebrate Blessed Mary MacKillop on August 8 (the anniversary of her death is Aug 8) and in Term 4 Bishop John Polding on October 19 (the anniversary of his birth is Oct 18).
From the Principal
I would like to welcome all families back for the commencement of Term 2. In particular I extend a special welcome to two new members of staff. Mr David Smith joins the teaching staff from Stella Maris School, he is also an old scholar of Salesian College, Brooklyn Park, and will be teaching RE, PE, English and Sustainable Futures. I also welcome Alexandra Trus who will be working as the laboratory assistant for the next two terms.

As the front page indicates, the start of the new school term was marked by a significant whole school Mass. This celebration not only recognised the community aspect of school life but also enabled us to celebrate the life of Sister Irene McCormack. As the brief overview on the front page indicates, her amazing commitment to caring for her fellow human beings is an inspiration to us all. The fact that she made the ultimate sacrifice by laying down her life for those she loved, makes a celebration of her life very fitting in the period immediately after Easter.

Irene McCormack might inspire us all to be more courageous people, I pointed out to students during the assembly that followed Mass, that to be courageous didn’t mean that we needed to literally risk our lives, but rather it means that we need to show sufficient courage to always act justly and for the betterment of others in the every day things we do. However, doing this can often involve the risk of criticism or ridicule from others. I raised the following examples as ways individual students could act courageously:

- speaking out for a student who is being bullied at school
- being forthright in telling friends not to drive recklessly, especially when travelling in cars being driven by friends
- being seriously committed to academic work during class time and encouraging others to do the same
- being prepared to wear the school uniform correctly
- volunteering to support community service projects

These are just a few examples of ways we can act in with courage and for the betterment of others.

Wanted: Basketball Referees
If you are currently refereeing basketball matches or have a coaching certificate and would be willing to umpire at Xavier College, please ring Dan Searle on 8523 0088.

Parenting when life gets busy
by Michael Grose

Australian parents currently rate work-family balance as one of their greatest parenting challenges. Approximately three quarters of Australian parents say they have difficulty finding time to do the things they enjoy with their children.

Current research indicates that busy parents can be successful raising kids as long as they make children their number one priority. According to Ellen Galinsky author of the landmark book about work and parenting, Ask the Children, the key to success as a working parent is knowing what is going on in the lives of children and young people. Gaining this knowledge comes from spending time with kids, in their school and from knowing their friends.

Galinsky urges parents not to think in terms of quality and quantity time but in terms of ‘focussed time’ and ‘hang-around time’. The former refers to time we spend purposefully with kids such as hearing them read, while the latter refers to just being there with kids so that natural interaction occurs.

Children and young people value the every day encounters they have with parents, above all else. It is the chats with parents over the kitchen table, the lively conversations they may have in a bedroom, bathroom or living room and rituals such as bed-time reading that means most to kids.

Galinsky maintains it is important to maintain rituals such as mealtimes so that families have something to bring them together even during busy periods.

Research by Australian Institute of Family Studies fellow Virginia Lewis supported this view of family time. Lewis found that many children of working parents wanted to play more and interact informally with their parents. They didn’t mind if their parents worked reasonably long hours but they resented it if their parents came home stressed or grumpy. It seems that many parents need a wind-down time so they can switch from work mode to parent mode.

Lewis also found that adolescents gained in confidence from not having parents around as they were given very real responsibilities.

All the available evidence suggests that parents who work hard at parenting make their children their number one priority are successful in the difficult task of parenting while they work.
Annual Interschool Gymkhana results

The following is an excerpt from a letter from David Fawcett MP, Member for Wakefield on the 28th April, 2006.

Dear Mr Martin,

I write to congratulate Xavier College on its successful participation at the Annual Interschool Gymkhana held on Friday 7 April 2006 at the Gawler Racecourse.

This is a unique event on the college calendar and the young equestrians who represented Xavier College are to be commended. I was particularly impressed with the grand parade, where individual riders were judged as members of the college team as well as events such as the show jumping and hacking where individual skills were gauged. Students of your college acquitted themselves splendidly.

For Xavier College, the result was an outstanding points total of 39 and fifth place honours for 2006.

The dedication of all of your young riders to the sport and representing the college, displayed in their preparation, enthusiasm on the day and contribution the college’s excellent result was outstanding and I congratulate them all.

Special mention goes to Katie Clarke for taking out Ring D Open Show Jumping and Champion Mount in Ring B Encourage Hank on her mount Domino and Samantha Wyatt for being awarded Reserve Champion Rider in Ring B Encourage Hank.

My congratulations also go to the teachers who assisted behind the scenes and dedicated their time and organisational skills to make the event such a success.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID FAWCETT MP
MEMBER FOR WAKEFIELD

Parent/Teacher Interviews

for all year levels will be held in week 4 of term 2.

Wednesday May 24th

2.00pm – 5.00pm

and

6.00pm – 8.00pm

Students have received a letter and booking sheet and will be making appointments with teachers during class over the next two weeks.

For sale

Complete Keyboard Package

Hardly been used and still in brand new condition

Includes: Casio keyboard—2004 model (CTK-731), has an in-built floppy drive, keyboard stand and bookstand, dust cover, sustain pedal, original box and instruction manuals.

$500 ono

If interested or have any questions, contact: Stephanie on 0412 713 238 (after school hours)

R.I.P.

Please pray for the eternal repose and happiness of Karyne Jenke, wife of Rod and mother of Tyler. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family.

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.

SACE Update!

SACE 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

FOR SALE

Complete Keyboard Package

Hardly been used and still in brand new condition

Includes: Casio keyboard—2004 model (CTK-731), has an in-built floppy drive, keyboard stand and bookstand, dust cover, sustain pedal, original box and instruction manuals.

$500 ono

If interested or have any questions, contact: Stephanie on 0412 713 238 (after school hours)
**Women of Strength**

**“The Heart of a Woman”**
with Roz Bond

Hewett Community Church of Christ
Kingfisher Drive, Hewett
Tuesday 16th May, 7.30pm

Roz will be sharing on relationships, spirituality and friendship. Explore how women find strength and joy in everyday living

Contact phone 8522 5142
Gold Coin Donation

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**ACE Coaches Runs - A, B & C**

**Barossa Valley Run - Wednesday afternoon to Angle Vale, Virginia and Two Wells**

Students using these bus runs are advised that a new type of ticket is now being used for travel on these buses. Please note there is no price change. These tickets are available from the College Reception (ACE & Barossa Valley tickets), Book Room (ACE & Barossa Valley tickets) and Uniform Shop (ACE Coach tickets only). The transitional period from old tickets to the new tickets will occur over the next 2 weeks with only the new type of ticket being accepted from the beginning of Term 2. Credit for the old style ticket to purchase a new ticket is available from the College Reception or the Book Room. Please note that tickets will be sold only as whole tickets – i.e. ACE 10 tickets $27, Barossa Valley 4 tickets $10.

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**Snow Ski Trip 2006**

Xavier College is pleased to announce an inaugural ski trip to be held this year if numbers permit.

This exciting venture takes place during the second week of the July School Holidays (Sat July 15th --- Sat July 22nd). We will leave on the Saturday night and return on the following Saturday morning. Any College students from years 10-12 have the opportunity to attend.

Students have this opportunity at a greatly reduced cost, generally unavailable to them other than through a school-based trip. Mt Buller will be the venue for this year’s trip. Many activities are set-up for South Australian students during the time of our proposed trip. The South Australian Interschool Snow Sport Championships will be held at Mt Buller on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th July. This competition enables many novice skiers the chance to compete at a level they are comfortable, with many prizes up for grabs.

However, the main emphasis of the trip is to encourage student participation in an activity they would not normally have the chance to try, enjoy the exciting Alpine environment, and to have fun. Full details of the trip are included below and it is hoped students and their families will support this activity.

The Cost of the Ski Trip is $989 for College Students. This price includes;

- 5 nights ‘in snow’ accommodation, use of all resort facilities.
- Return coach transport
- All mountain fees
- Breakfasts and Dinners daily
- 5 days Ski Equipment Hire (Snowboard hire Extra $75 for 5 days)
- 5 days all mountain lifts and lessons

If students are interested in this trip or require more information, could parents/guardians please contact Dan Searle at Xavier College on 8523 0088. Otherwise, please fill in this expression of interest form below and return to the bookroom by Friday, week 2, 12/5/06.

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**2006 Ski Trip Expression of Interest**

I /We ____________________________ (print students’ name/s). of Year___________ and Tutor Group ______________ Would like to attend the 2006 Ski Trip.

Home Address ____________________________

Post Code ______________ Contact Phone Number__________________________

Parents / Guardians Name:__________________________ Parents / Guardians Signature ____________________

Please Return By Friday (12/5/06)