Knights of the Southern Cross Sports Carnival

Last Friday all year 8’s at Xavier College competed in the annual Knights of the Southern Cross Sports Carnival, involving students from Thomas More, St Columba and Xavier College. Year 8’s were excited at the prospect of competing against other schools in round-robin competitions in soccer, football, basketball, netball and table tennis. Xavier held the girls’ soccer and netball trophies and again we were favourites to win. Our 4 Xavier netball teams rarely lost during the day and Xavier won the netball trophy quite convincing.

Of the other shields contested on the day Xavier won both the combined Boys’ and Girls’ Football and also the Table Tennis. Thomas More finished the day with 2 shields but Xavier won the overall shield as the best performing College. It was a fantastic performance after losing the shield last year to return to the winner’s circle. Special mention must go to the year 10 students who acted as umpires and coaches, they all performed their jobs admirably, setting a fine example for the year 8’s. Thanks must also go to the staff who helped out on the day. Well done Xavier!

Mr Dan Searle
Sports Administrator
From the Principal
What does education really mean for young people today? What opportunities are available to them?
Perhaps some of the recent Xavier College success stories are indicative of exactly what is possible if students engage in this fertile learning environment.

Year 8 Sustainable Futures
This year the College started an innovative curriculum initiative at Year 8 level. ‘Sustainable Futures’ was introduced as a double length subject, designed to integrate all the learning outcomes from the key learning areas of Technology, Science and SOSE, into one relevant course. The photos of Tom, George, Tom, Zhan and Dylan proudly displaying the energy efficient houses they designed reflect some of the outcomes generated. The focus of the course has been on utilising the skills acquired to make important and relevant responses to real world issues.

“Students have researched how much energy they use in their daily lives and the cost of this to the environment and their parents. They analysed their own homes and discovered how much energy is used to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures and what this contributes to global warming. The energy efficient homes that students designed and constructed were developed in response to their critique of passive solar design principles. This is just one aspect of the course but it does reflect how students are learning to apply sustainability to various fields of study” Mr Bruce Hall, Sustainable Futures Coordinator

VET Hospitality
Recent issues of Xavier News have highlighted some of the projects undertaken by the VET Hospitality classes (Certificate 1 & 2 in Kitchen Operations) under the direction of Mr Reto Gasser. One of the students from the Certificate 2 class, Hayley Bartholomaeus, was recently acknowledged as one of 5 finalists in the South Australian Vocational Student of the Year Awards. This was to the amazement of organisers as Hayley was the only high school student amongst the finalists (the eventual winner was 55 years of age). Hayley had already won the 2005 Vocational Student of the Year award for the Adelaide Plains area.

Graduate Achievements
2005 Xavier College graduates Greg Oats (College Dux with a TER of 99.8) and James Harvey (TER of 99.75) were recently recognised by the Australian Government for outstanding academic achievement. They were each presented with cheques for $2000 by the Federal Member for Wakefield, David Fawcett as winners of a 2005 Australian Student Prize. Both are currently studying at Adelaide University, Greg is undertaking a chemical engineering degree and James is undertaking a mechatronic engineering degree.

Congratulations
To Mark Hawkins and his wife Kathy on the safe arrival of bouncing baby girl D’arby Jane from all the Xavier College community.

R.I.P.
Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mark (Year 11) and Thomas (Year 9) Harris on the recent loss of their Grandfather. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Harris family.
MacKillop House

Profiles

House Leader
Kia Llewellyn - Junior House Leader
Age: 14

Interests: I love all kinds of arts and I do Tap, Jazz and Classical dancing outside of school, and my best mates.

Why did you want to be a House Leader? To prove you don’t have to be perfect to be a leader.

What is the best/worst thing about being a house leader? Worst: people looking at your chest for your badge. Best: all the experiences and opportunities I have been fortunate enough to have.

What do you love the most about being a student at Xavier College? That we’re not like Trinity. Everyone knows each other and you can have a good laugh together.

What is your favourite subject and why? I love art and English - there’s no certain way to do anything and it’s all about expressing yourself.

What word or phrase describes you best? One of a kind, drama queen.

Tutor Teacher
Adele Justice - MacKillop Tutor Teacher
Age: 26

Interests: Painting, photography and watching movies.

Why did you want to be a teacher? So many different things to do and people to meet plus young people are the coolest.

What is the best/worst thing about being a teacher at Xavier? The worst is everyone thinks teaching is easy and just got holidays.

What do you love the most about being a staff member at Xavier College? Love the people, fun place and it’s a very supportive place.

Did you ever consider not being a teacher? If so, what were you going to do? Still considering writing and illustrating children’s books.

What is your favourite subject to teach and why? Definitely art because I love helping others create beautiful interesting things.

What word or phrase describes you best? Happy and discombobulated!

What are the biggest differences in schools now compared to when you were a student? Emphasis on being active.

On Sunday 10th September, seven students from Xavier College competed in the Tournament of Minds (TOM) at Flinders University. TOM is a highly respected competition promoting teamwork and problem solving. This year, approximately 1300 students were involved in TOM, from around 80 different schools.

Lachlan Martin, Kieran Meaney, Kelly Dunstan, Stephanie Williams, Keith Weatherley, Bonita Tolcher and Clarissa Hermann were our seven dedicated team members. This team had already begun refining their teamwork and stretching their imaginations solving practice spontaneous challenges in April! For the past six weeks they have met during most lunchtimes to compose a creative solution to the long term Maths / Engineering challenge. This involved writing a ten minute script and assuming different characters to present a story about the Birds of Paradise – including a demonstration of their own replacement Bird of Paradise made of balsa wood performing two spectacular manoeuvres. After 2 ½ prototypes had been built and tested, their efforts were rewarded on the day with a polished and successful performance. The gasps from the audience as the bird completed each flight, and the spontaneous applause, were affirmation of a job well done. The confidence of our team, and their obvious team spirit, was a credit to each team member and to the College. The team could wear their uniforms very proudly as they overheard comments about their ingenuity and professional approach.

The team was also required to solve a spontaneous challenge. Teams were escorted into a room under great secrecy – not even facilitating teachers were allowed to accompany them – and given a challenge to solve in 4 minutes. While nerve-racking, the spontaneous challenge is an opportunity for teams to display their teamwork skills, and their ability to think “outside the square” under time pressure. This year’s challenge required the team to think of the perfect additional button for a calculator.

After a long day together, TOM concluded with a presentation ceremony. After a fantastic performance, the team was a little disappointed not to win the day. Despite this, the team is to be highly commended for their dedication, superb representation of Xavier College, and excellent team spirit. A huge thank you is extended to the supportive parents of these students who spent their full Sunday at Flinders University cheering, enjoying the day’s entertainment and keeping the students in good supply of French fries. Well done on a top effort!

Mrs Kirsty Moore
**AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS NOW RECRUITING**

Looking for a challenge? Want to push yourself to the limits? Thought about flying an aircraft before you drive a car? Want to try gliding or parachuting? Enjoy teamwork? Consider yourself a future ‘leader’? Are considering a military career? Are you aged between 13 and 18?

If you answered YES to ANY of these questions, then come to our:

**RECRUIT INFORMATION NIGHT**

Tuesday 19th September 2006, 6.00pm
613 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets, RAAF Base Edinburgh
For more information please contact FLIGHT LIEUTENANT (AAFC) LINDA PULIS 08 8393 2335
Tues Evenings
Email: 613sqn@cadetnet.gov.au
Check out our National website at www.aafc.org.au

**Open Girls’ Badminton**

Team Members: Brittny Connoughton, Nicky Connoughton, Courtney Trainor, Alix Stanton, Charlotte Berrill, Catherine Cretni, and Jenna Farrelly.

In the finals of the statewide Open Girls’ Badminton competition the Xavier team faced three very competitive teams, so the girls were up for a really tough challenge. Brittny, Nikki, Charlotte and Catherine were all fiercely determined to win. Thomas More put up a good fight but fortunately went down to Xavier 8 games to 0.

The girls had two weeks of training before they faced their second opponents, Oakbank High School. The Xavier girls were determined to pass into the third round, so they went in, after having a convincing win over Thomas More with a home ground advantage and high in confidence slammed the opponents 7 games to 1.

The girls had a 5-week break before the third round. Norwood Morialta was next, so the girls were very nervous, hoping that 2005 didn’t come back and haunt them. They were all very determined to beat Norwood. Norwood put up a very good fight but went down to Xavier by only the one game, the scores were 5 games to 3. All the girls were very excited getting into the finals.

Finally the day of the finals arrived. The girls were very nervous on the day. Seven members of the team traveled to Lockleys to the South Australian Badminton Association. The first team that the girls faced was the strongest team, Adelaide High, coached by Mr. Tran’s sister. Adelaide High is known for their badminton skills and their team includes some state players. Taking this into consideration, it was reasonable that a more experienced team beat the girls, 15 games to 0. Jenna, in her first match for the team, managed in her singles to steal 9 points off of a more experienced opponent.

They were surprised by the attendance of Mr. Martin which gave them a boost of confidence for their next game against Streaky Bay, their second opponent. Mr. Martin was rewarded with an impressive win, considering the level of the competition, 6 games to 2, with the help of Alix Stanton and her natural badminton skills. After this match we were sitting in third place and going into the third match, with eyes on second place. In the next match, Xavier was seeking revenge, as Unley High was the team to knock Xavier out of the competition last year. Unfortunately we went down 3 games to 5.

Mr. Tran was very proud of the whole team who held their heads high and congratulated the other teams for their experience, and is looking forward to next year’s competition. Therefore, at the end of the day, the girls found themselves with a third position. This is really good considering the lengths that they went to, to get there and the standard of the competition on the day. Well done to all of the girls and good luck to the year nines who are set to play in the coming weeks.

Written by Jenna Farrelly, Charlotte Berrill and Mr. Tran.

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**Youth Group - Sunday 24th September**

If you are in years 5 - 9 at school, come along for some cooking and games. We will meet outside Saints Peter and Paul Church after 10am mass and pick up time will be 1pm. Cost is $4 and includes lunch. Hope to see you there!

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