



Xavier Catholic College Newsletter

12 December 2019
Issue 14

Strong in Faith • Strong in Culture • Strong in Learning

Xavier Catholic College is committed to the safety, wellbeing and empowerment of all children, young people and vulnerable adults. Drawing on Tiwi traditions and the teachings of Jesus Christ and Bishop Gsell, we recognise and uphold the sacredness of our young people and the need to protect all children from abuse and exploitation.

Prayer for Community

Tuesday, 3 December
Feast of St. Francis Xavier

God of all creation,

As St Francis Xavier spread the Word of God to people all around the world, may we be an inspiration to those around us by the way in which we live our lives.

Strengthen our hearts and spirits so that we may always do your will. We ask this through Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen.

Important Dates: 2020:

Week 1

Staff resume: Tuesday, 28 January
Students resume: Monday, 3 February
Cathy Freeman 'Walk to School'
Community Barbeque Breakfast

Every Week

- Mondays: Study Club/Book Club
- Thursdays: Cultural Program 12.30—2.30pm
- Wednesdays/Fridays: Afternoon Activities Program





Principal

2019 draws to a close this week and what a fantastic year it has been at Xavier! We have six Year 12 graduates (4 with their NTCET, 1 with an ATAR and 2 graduating from Employment Pathways). This brings our tally of graduating Stage 2 students to 29 over 7 years and we believe that we might be the remote school with the largest number of Stage 2 Graduates in the NT!

I would like to congratulate our Stage 2 students: **Damascena Kerinauia, Laressa Munkara, Laike Pateriki** and **Raphael Poantimului**. Damascena who graduates with an ATAR score has been awarded Top Achieving Aboriginal Student by Northern Territory School of Distance Education and The Karmi Sceney Remote Aboriginal Excellence and Leadership award. Raphael has won the Year 12 Hardy's Aviation All Rounder Award.

Samara Purantatameri and **Rosemary Woolley** have been persistent and disciplined this year, coming to school every day and completing the Employment Pathways Curriculum. We are very proud of their efforts.

It is great to finish the year on such a high but what is most important about these students is what they represent for the rest of the school. They show everyone that you can get a fantastic education at Xavier and on Bathurst Island. You do not have to leave family and community to achieve success. Young Tiwi are able to become the best young men and women they can possibly be at Xavier.



In conclusion, a big thanks to our committed staff who believe in the potential of every young person at Xavier. This positive regard is unconditional and I see it every day when I walk around the school and see the wonderful interactions between staff and students. Thank you to our parents and family members for without your support and encouragement, we would not be able to grow our young people as they deserve to be grown. Thank you to all the friends of Xavier who have supported us in 2019 and will continue to walk with us into 2020. We could not do it without you.

Finally, thank you to our STRONG, SMART and COMPASSIONATE students who make our school the amazing learning community it is.

Stay safe over Christmas and we look forward to seeing your smiles as we return on MONDAY, 3 February, 2020.

May the peace of Christmas be with you and your families.

Andree Rice
Principal



Deputy Principal

What an amazing year we have had!!! I still can't believe it is December and we are all about to move into 6 weeks of holidays. We have achieved a lot this year from combined end of term assemblies and sport carnivals with MCPS, lots of leadership camps in Darwin, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. Tennis camps in Darwin and many students representing the NT in AFL across Australia.

We have continued to develop our overall teaching pedagogy and positive wellbeing strategies and seen the benefits of these in a drastic reduction in the number of days students have been absent from school and increased social, emotional learning of our students.

It has truly been an honour to work at Xavier Catholic College this year and I look forward to returning in 2020. I hope everyone has a peace filled Christmas and I pray that the joy of Christ bring comfort to all those who may be struggling.

God Bless,

Liz Moodey
Deputy Principal



Curriculum

As we approach the end of the year, it is a particularly exciting time for our school community as we celebrate the contributions that our Year 12 students have made to Xavier over their time here.



On Friday of Week 7 we celebrated the achievements of our Stage 2 students at Mindil Casino. This ceremony was in partnership with Northern Territory School of Distance Education (NTSDE). This year we have 4 Stage 2 graduates: Laressa Munkara, Damascena Kerinauia, Laike Pateriki and Raphael Poantimilui. These students have had a very difficult year, so we are delighted to see them finishing their studies and making the whole Tiwi community proud!

A special mention needs to be given to Damascena, who was awarded the top Aboriginal student at NTSDE, beating many other students from other communities and Darwin as well. She also completed extra subjects and qualified to receive an ATAR. An ATAR is like the AFL draft for university, and Damascena is only the second ever student to qualify for an ATAR while studying on the island - Go Brandy!

Justin Brennan
Curriculum Coordinator

Religious Education

Christmas is only a few weeks away and we are now starting the time of Advent. Advent means the coming of Jesus. Christmas is about God becoming flesh.

Advent is a time of preparing the way for a deeper connection with our God, with people in our lives, with ourselves and the world around us. We get so busy doing many different things and it is so important to stop and reflect.

Advent is a gift, a reminder for us to actually stop and look at what's happening in our lives, to reflect and come to some decisions. Is there a relationship in my life that I can do better in? Do I need to improve my listening skills with my wife, husband, children, my parents, work mates?

So let's make this a good Advent. A time of more prayer, a time to stop and think and a time of action.

This is all about God being with us and his absolute and unconditional love for us. It's about relationships, embracing new life and being renewed.

God bless you all, Bishop Charles Gauci

(Adapted Advent speech, December 2019)

Pam Brown
Religious Education Coordinator

Literacy

Nazareth College visit

On the 25th to the 27th of November, we were privileged to be visited by Nazareth Catholic Community school from Adelaide. Nazareth have been visiting the Tiwi Islands and Xavier Catholic College for the last 8 years. Over this time Nazareth have positively contributed to the Xavier community through significant financial donations. These donations have led to many upgrades in our school, including the new Serenity Space.

During their short stay Nazareth participated the opening of the Serenity Space providing wonderful live music. They also joined Xavier students in a range of lessons and activities. The next morning, our proud Employment Pathways students taught Nazareth about Tiwi culture, skin groups, dances, language and dreaming at front beach. This was a very special time for both the visiting and EP students as Tiwi culture was shared with admiration and respect.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Nazareth Catholic Community for their ongoing support of Xavier Catholic College and the quality Tiwi education we provide. We look forward to their return in 2020.

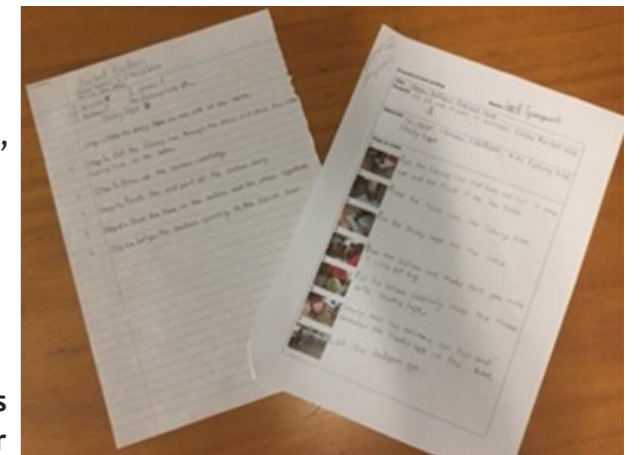
Emily Peacock
English Teacher

Balloon Rockets

Junior Secondary English have been working on Procedural Text this term, using recipes and instructions for making fun things. For assessment, Jarranga made and raced balloon rockets made with straws. After doing the activity they each independently wrote their own text, using correct structural and language features.

We think they did an awesome job!!

Tatiana Rhodes
English Coordinator



Congratulations Employment Pathways Graduates!



Employment Pathways Graduation Dinner

On Monday, 3 December we celebrated the graduation of Samara and Rosemary. This is the first graduation dinner that has been held on the island for any Year 12 graduate from Xavier Catholic College. Most of the planning for the evening was done by Rosie and Samara with their Employment Pathways teacher which has had been a goal they were working towards all year. Both girls used the opportunity to wear their best dresses and celebrate with their families. It's always great to have families and Xavier staff working together to support our students as they finish school. Before dinner there were a few speeches by staff and family members. Kim Puruntatameri spoke about how the two families have always been connected which has led to such a strong friendship between Samara and Rosie.

Samara and Rosie always brag about how they have been friends since childcare and graduating together shows how powerful friendship can be. These two young women are now role models for every student who studies Employment Pathways because those students who finish Year 12 know they can now have a graduation dinner.

A big thank you goes to Leila, Andree, Justin, Belinda, Edwina, Cynthia, Josh, Yolanda, Tania and Shona for all their help to make the night a success.

Sadly Leila could not attend the event but spoke of how proud she was of the two graduates.

Cynthia Pereira
Teacher



Essendon Camp

Hi, my name is Samara Puruntatameri and recently I went down to Melbourne to train with Essendon and try out for the Women's Victorian Football League. We flew from Darwin on Sunday and arrived later that night. I travelled with Jamie-Lee and two other Tiwi Girls.

When I got there it was really cold and it was freezing when we did training. When we were at the Essendon Hangar there was big mob trying out but I tried my best and hopefully will get some good news about next year.

What I liked best about the trip was:

- Visiting Essendon Football Club and meeting all the players
- Training hard and pushing myself to do things I didn't think I could
- Walking around the Art Gallery and seeing the sights of Melbourne
- Using the gym to get stronger and fitter

I want to say thank you to Essendon for giving me an opportunity to try out and my family for supporting me when I went.



Samara Puruntatameri
Employment Pathways Graduate 2019



'Quick Q' with Employment Pathway Graduates Rosie and Samara

What has been the best thing about school?

Rosie – I love coming to school because I can socialise with my friends and teachers. Also it allows me to get more knowledge

Samara - I guess everything. I feel safe here and I get to learn with all friends.

What is your favourite subject?

Rosie – Maths because it makes me think and English because it improves my ability to speak.

Samara – Physical Education because I like sports and I get to learn new things.

What will you miss the most about school?

Rosie – I will miss my teachers mostly, and having good conversations. Most of all I will miss the funny teachers.

Samara – I will miss seeing my friends every day.

What was your favourite recess/lunch?

Rosie – Grapes and Water

Samara – Burger

What is the most important thing you have learnt while at school?

Rosie – How to respect people the way I way I want to be respected.

Samara – I have learnt a good work ethic.

How has coming to school helped your future?

Rosie – Coming to school has helped me improve my manners for the future and how to behave like an actual adult.

Samara – Coming to school and playing sport has helped me achieve my goal of playing football at a higher level. If I didn't come to school, I would not be able to be successful next year.





Congratulations Stage 2 Graduates!



