



Xavier Catholic College Newsletter

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.



Term 1, 2021

First Day of School (Monday, 8 February)

Week 1

CFF Walk to School and Barbeque (Monday)

National Apology Anniversary (Saturday)

Week 2

World Day of Social Justice (Saturday)

International Mother Language Day (Sunday)

Weekly

- Mondays: Senior Study Club
Junior Book Club
- Tuesdays: Assembly/Activities
- Wednesdays: Pastoral Care
- Thursdays: Cultural Program

Advent Prayer

God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is Your
greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of Your love.
Help us walk in that love
during the weeks of Advent,
as we wait and prepare
for His coming.
We pray in the name of
Jesus, our Saviour.
Amen.





Principal

Dear Families.

2020 was a very tough year for everyone and we were lucky to escape the full impact of COVID-19 here in Wurrumiyanga.

Despite some of the unintended social consequences of COVID -19 such as decreased school attendance, the Xavier community had a fantastic year with much to celebrate and much achieved. We stayed true to our main drivers of improving student outcomes, growing staff capacity and working through community partnerships to enhance community and family engagement in the life of the school!

Our External Validation was very successful and the panel members were impressed by our culture of high expectations, a commitment to continual improvement, the integration of culture, life, faith and learning, empowerment of Tiwi staff and a strong, vibrant work ethic amongst students. All staff and students deserve congratulations for their hard work and enthusiasm this year. In particular, I would like to thank the Leadership Team comprising of Elizabeth Moodey, Justin Brennan, Pam Brown, Angelo Orsto and Bertram Tipungwuti for their dedication to the school this year and being such an inclusive and unified team.

I would also like to thank Shona Strong, Business Manager and Caitlin Rankine, School Officer for their outstanding work this year in keeping the school organised and highly efficient!

Quite a few staff are leaving us to return home and to other work opportunities. Sincere thanks and all our best wishes go to Justin Brennan, Pam Brown, Iman Abdulkader, Yolanda Lombardo, Leila Flannery, Ash Webb and Jonathon Munkara. May the beautiful and good spirit of the Tiwi people continue to be a source of inspiration to each in their future lives.

Wishing all our families a peaceful, joyful and happy family time and Christmas. We look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Monday, February 8, 2021. Until then, God bless and take care of each other.

Warmest blessings,

Andree Rice
Principal



Health & Physical Education

In Health and Physical Education lessons, students are beginning a unit on the human body. Some of the theory lessons include learning about the bones, the muscles and the organs to understand how and why the body works.

It is also important for students and young adults to engage in physical exercises other than sport to help them be active throughout their lives. Some of these other activities include walking, running, dancing, cycling or going to the gym. During class time students have come up with the following physical and mental benefits for participating in exercise:

Physical:

- Heart gets stronger
- Lungs get stronger
- We live longer
- Bones get stronger
- Less chance of heart attack and cancers

Mental:

- Makes us feel happy
- Better sleep and deeper sleep
- Brain function improved so we do better at school
- Less tired
- Increased confidence.

Josh Leane
HPE Coordinator



Thank You to the Smith Family

On Thursday we received a shipment of donations from the Smith Family.

Leila and I were planning and thinking that we might need to buy some new work boots and casual shoes. A few hours later, Tom and Jordan knocked on our door. We were so surprised, it was like Christmas had come early. There were work boots, runners, t-shirts and work wear. The EP students will be able to use this gear when they are going on work experience next year.

We cannot wait to sort through everything with them. Thank you to the Smith Family and Meredith who organised the donation.

Cynthia Pereira
Teacher

International Men's Day

On the 17th of November we celebrated International Men's Day. I thought it would be a good opportunity to celebrate the young men at Xavier and the leaders that they are growing to be.

We invited men from the community to celebrate with us. Leila and Andree told us about how they have raised boys and some of the difficulties that their sons have faced. Rodney told us about how he has faced many challenges and is now wanting to help young Tiwi men to avoid the same challenges in their lives. Francis Xavier told us how to be a Tiwi leader and politician.

After the speeches the female students left to make cards for the men in their lives and the boys sat with the male community members and teachers. They went around in a circle and everyone shared some stories and advice about growing up to be a strong man. The male community members joined us for lunch and afterwards we played a game of basketball.

Thank you to Teddy Portaminni and Matt for refereeing the basketball

Thank you to Deb and Cecilia for cooking a delicious lunch.

Thank you to Francis Xavier, Rodney, Leila and Andree for sharing their stories.

Thank you to Clare, Josh and Belinda for helping me to plan this event.

Finally, thank you to Jake and James who were MCs for the assembly, and thank you to Dwayne, Jason, Max, Mathias and Jimmy who were all involved in planning. I hope next year the celebrations are even bigger.

Cynthia Pereira
Activities Coordinator



Register:
downpourdarwin.com

DOWNPOUR
A dynamic retreat
for families,
young adults and the
young at heart
14th - 17th January
Inquiries:
0404955170
downpourdarwin@gmail.com

Renew Refresh Revive

 CATHOLIC
Diocese of
DARWIN

Employment Pathways

Term 4:

Term 4 has been a busy term for our Employment Pathways Students. Our focus has been literacy across all classes. We want our students to continue to improve their reading, writing and listening skills. The Employment Pathways class has investigated a unit of work for Safer Driver Education, which will be revisited in 2021.

New Employment Pathways Coordinator:

It is with great sadness that I finish up as Employment Pathways Coordinator and my time on the Tiwi Islands. I have had the most amazing time – the best of it being the Employment Pathways students. The students make my day, when I see them all in class. Your smiles, your enthusiasm, your willingness to listen to me sing. I am really happy to be handing over the Coordinator role for Employment Pathways to Cynthia Pereira. I believe her understanding of the Tiwi Culture, knowing the students and her determination will see the subject of Employment Pathways continue to grow. I look forward to zooming in from my class on the Sunshine Coast to see what is happening and how everyone is going.

Recycling:

At the beginning of Term 4, we sent another four large bags of recycling to Envirobank, Darwin through the support of Auriga (what was Barge Express). The class earned \$443. We sent off 3,096 cans and 1,300 plastic bottles. The money raised from the recycling will go towards the Employment Pathways activities for 2021.



We were able to use some of the money we had already earned to support our Activity Week – from Monday 16 November – Thursday 19 November 2020. More to come about that below.

Construction:

Week 7 of Term 4, saw Bruce come over from Darwin and work with our students in Construction. We had a mix of students (Employment Pathways, Stage 1, Mayimampi and Jarranga) who worked with Bruce to build a large picnic table.

The students who were involved were: Canisus, Jake, Dwayne, Marcus and Damon. They learnt about risk assessments, planning for a project, measuring a template for the project, the use of different power tools, cutting the materials needed and the actual building of it.

MORE TO COME....



Work Experience

Week 7 of Term 4 also saw a number of students go out to work experience. Una went and worked at the Preschool, Debbie and Emma worked at the New Shop, Carmina and Teresina worked at the Old Shop. The girls were excited about the week ahead. They all learnt new skills that they will be able to use in future employment.

Leila Flannery
Employment Pathways Coordinator

Employment Pathways

A word from the students...

Activity Week:

A very successful week! Students were able to use some of the money they raised for a number of activities and lunches.

Monday was culture dance, pizza lunch and swimming.

Tuesday was our highlight with the hairdressing flying out from Darwin and cutting and styling hair. We also indulged ourselves with pampering, and an amazing feed on seafood.

Wednesday saw many of our students sit the test for their Learners or Provisional Licences.

Thursday saw our students head to Tarrtippi for some fishing, relaxing and fun. They returned and had some lovely chicken and chips for lunch.

Below are some articles written by students about the activity week, as well as work experience.

Seafood lunch By Trenton

On Tuesday 17 November 2020, I was lucky enough to have seafood lunch. I ate fish, chips, oysters, scallops, lobster, prawns and salad. The food I didn't try included calamari and crocodile tail. The seafood was flown in from Darwin and it was really good.

I would like to have a day like this again, maybe next year.

The Employment Pathways class was able to pay for this because of the recycling we do.



Work Experience by Emma

It was great working on the till serving customers. Other jobs I did was cleaning the store and stacking the food in the shelves.

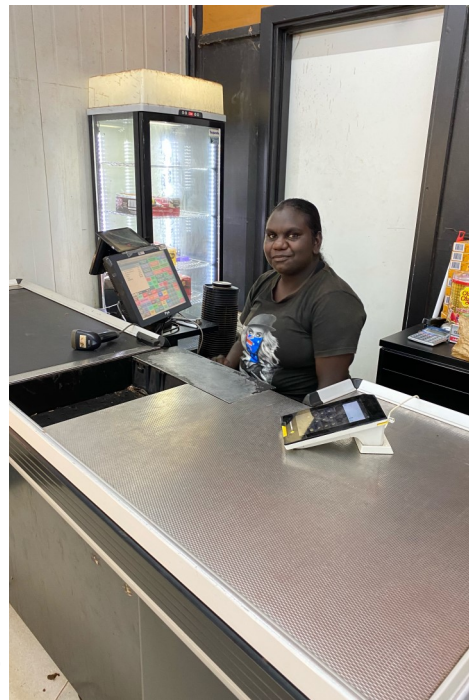
I want to thank Tai for letting us do work experience in his store and for the special gift he gave Debbie and I.

Employment Pathways

A word from the students...

Tarntipi Activity and Work Experience by Carmina

On Thursday EP students, Cynthia, Josh and Rodney went to Tarntipi. We went down to the creek for some fishing. We didn't have any sinkers so the students tied rocks to the end of the lines to make the hooks sink. We caught 4 fish altogether, I caught one Mangrove Jack. While I was fishing I lost 5 hooks, and I had to keep getting more, Josh was getting annoyed because he had to pass me hooks and bait and he said "No more hooks for you". Cynthia didn't want to touch the bait because she didn't want her fingers to smell. But she held a fish helping Alice to get the hook out. I saw a blue swimmer crab and Emma and I tried to catch it. First we tried with a stick, then we tried with bait but he took the bait and ran away. Then we got more bait for another crab but he took it and ate it and we didn't catch him. We went back to our base camp and had some cold water and icy poles to cool down. Then we packed up the bus and came back to school. For lunch we had chicken and hot chips and for dessert we had ice cream while we watched some music videos.



I went to work experience for my first time from Monday 23 November to Wednesday 25 November at NUA, Old Shop. I had a very fun time at the shop. Some of the jobs I did included: working in the post office serving customers; working on the cash register in the shop serving customers; cleaning different parts of the shop and talking to customers, as well as family. I learnt how to process card payments and recharge phones. I would like to thank Berni, Aimee and Ashley for teaching me how to use the till and letting me do my work experience there.



Culture by Russell

On Monday we did Culture and swimming. For Culture we danced and painted our faces. Francis Xavier painted the boy's faces and Marlene painted the girls faces. We did our Dreaming Dances and Marlene and Francis Xavier sang for us. The boys wore anggoju and the girls wore red skirts. For lunch we had pizza from the take-away. Then we went swimming with Justin and Belinda. We got to play in the water and have fun. Thank you to Leila for planning a great week for us.

Work Experience by Debbie

I went to work experience at the New Shop from Mon 23 November to Friday 27 November, 2020. This was my first time doing work experience. I loved it. Some of the jobs I did included: mopping the floors, cleaning the benches, stacking the groceries, working on the cash register and recharging phones. I looked forward to everyone coming in to the shop and talking with them, while I served them. I worked with Georgina and Emma. I would really like to thank Tai for allowing me to do work experience at the shop and training me up. I would also like to thank Tai for the shopping voucher. It was nice to be given it.

Employment Pathways

Cynthia's trip to Melville

On the 6th of November, Justin, Bruce and I travelled to Melville Island to look at the plantation. Sarah took us around to the different sites. We saw the areas where the trees were growing and the areas where the trees had been harvested. I could not believe my eyes when we went to the Port of Melville and saw all the logs that were ready to be shipped. There were 21,000 logs! They were pine logs and we could smell them when we drove between them. We looked at the different machinery that is used in the forestry industry such as Skidders, Graders and Feller Bunchers. It was a really great day and I am excited for all the work that the Plantation and Employment Pathways can do together next year.

Cynthia Pereira

Re-engagement Plan

Re-engagement Plans have been developed to encourage our students to attend school more regularly. The plan will be discussed with the student, parent/guardian, the Employment Pathways Coordinator and the Inclusion Support Coordinator. Attendance for particular lessons are discussed and chosen. The contract is then signed off by all parties. It is hoped that students come to school more often, but possibly for less time in a day. We are hoping that attendance improves and students can extend their day over a period of time. At the start of 2021, new Re-engagement Plans will be developed for our students. They will definitely involve discussions with students and family.

Leila Flannery
Employment Pathways Coordinator

