



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.



Coming up...

Week 5

200 Years of Catholic Education—Darwin Service
(1 March)

Clean Up Australia Day (3 March)

World Wildlife Day (3 March)

Week 6

International Women's Day (8 March)

Precinct Mass (9 March)

Week 7

Tiwi Football Grand Final (21 March)

Week 8

Palm Sunday (28 March)

Week 9

Holy Thursday (1 April)

Good Friday—**Student Free Day** (6 April)

Easter Sunday (4 April)

Week 10

Easter Monday—**Student Free Day** (9 April)

Activities Week

CFF Awards Assembly (8 April)

Prayer for Loss

Embrace in your loving arms all who are grieving the loss of family and loved ones through tragic circumstances;

Where lives are in turmoil, hope turns to despair and pain is all that's felt.

Be with them in their sorrow, uphold them with your strength, and through the generosity of love shown by others and your presences within their hearts, may they know they are not alone, in their struggle through today.



Weekly

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



Principal

Dear Families,

We have had a very strong start to the school year with large numbers of students coming in to enrol and coming to school every day! Solid learning is happening in our classes and students are getting used to the routines we use at Xavier to settle students and to make learning clear.

Teachers use learning intentions and success criteria to show students what they will learn and what they will be able to do in a particular lesson. Teachers use word walls to help students learn the English and Tiwi words that they need.

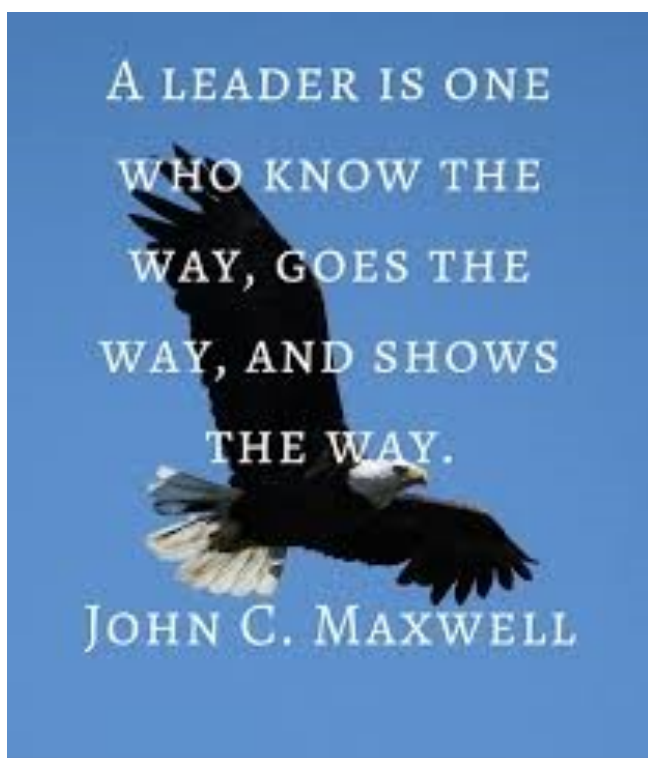
In Memory of the Leadership of Mr G. Orsto

Xavier is very sad this week after the funeral of one of our great leaders and teachers, Mr G. Orsto. This man was the first and only male Tiwi Principal on the Tiwi Islands from 2003-2007. This man continued to support and inspire Tiwi youth through his recent work at Red Cross and he came to every assembly where he gave very strong messages to DREAM BIG and to COME TO SCHOOL EVERYDAY.

Mr G. Orsto wanted to see a student from this school end up Australia's first black Prime Minister. It would be wonderful if this happened one day!

In assembly this week, I spoke to our students about the good leader this man was. He was a leader who used words to heal and to bring people together. He only wanted the best for the community. He was a leader who turned up for young people, day after day. He was gentle and strong, a great combination in a man.

May his family be consoled in this sad time and may his legacy live on through the work of his son, Angelo and everyone whose lives he touched in Wurrumiyanga.



Mr O'Mullane, the Director of Catholic Education NT gave an address at the funeral and his words can be read on the next page.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend, stay strong in these times of loss and reach out to us at school if you or your children need any extra support. You are not alone.

Warmest blessings,

Andree Rice
Principal

In Memory of Mr G Orsto

I would like to pass on the condolences from everyone at Catholic Education for your loss. I have been asked to say a few words about this man's work with catholic education and thank you for the opportunity.

We gather here today to recognise and celebrate the contribution that this man made to community and especially to Tiwi Education and in particular secondary education at Xavier Catholic College.

This man began his association with Catholic Education as a Teaching Assistant at Xavier Boys' School. In this role, he was greatly respected for his calm, caring and gentle manner. Everyone looked up to him as a real leader.

Always with a great love for learning, this man returned to more study at Batchelor College to complete his training as a teacher.

This man was committed to his students and was always looking at new ways to engage with them and teach them.

This man was also very keen to see ongoing growth of Tiwi leadership in the schools. He became a key driver within the Xavier leadership group.

This man's passion for Tiwi Education and his role in leadership at Xavier Catholic College was recognized when he was appointed Co-Principal with Brian Clancy of the college in 2003.

The director of the day Bill Griffiths wrote 'It confirms the trust that the community at Wurrumiyanga has in your capacity and your potential as a school leader for the youth of the township'.

To this day, he is the only male Tiwi Principal of a school on the Tiwi Islands.

This man continued in the role for the next four years. During his time as a Co Principal he maintained his focus on giving students every opportunity to learn and become good role models and community leaders.

As Co Principal this man was also part of the NT Catholic Principals group that met every term. At those meetings he was always a strong advocate for improving the educational and leadership opportunities for those in Aboriginal education in remote communities.

After finishing at Xavier in everything he did, this focus was continued by this man. Working for the good of all Tiwi, and always trying to make things better for young people

This man continued to be a great friend and loyal supporter of Xavier Catholic College, attending every assembly he was invited to and always speaking to the students in an inspirational manner. He was strong and gentle and just what the young men in community needed.

The principal told me that this man's last few speeches at Xavier assemblies focussed on students' dreaming big and working hard for their futures by coming to school every day.

And that this man's music and band B2M is much loved by the students at Xavier and is used by teachers to settle students in the morning, and to give positive messages about being healthy and in control of your emotions through staying strong in culture and community.

This man also told Xavier students on two occasions that he wanted to see an Aboriginal prime minister of Australia coming from Xavier Catholic College! Perhaps this could be his legacy!

This man will always be remembered for his passion for Tiwi Education and the strong leadership he offered, especially as Co Principal of Xavier Catholic College.

May he rest in peace.

Mr O'Mullane
Director, Catholic Education Northern Territory



Deputy Principal

At the end of last year, Pope Francis appealed for a “culture of care” in his message for the 2021 World Day of Peace. He said that “The culture of care ... calls for a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance.”

This is so true for what Xavier Catholic College stands for and tries to achieve every day. We work together, with each other and alongside each other to provide the best and most relevant education and opportunities for our students. Our Tiwi Teachers are the backbone of our college and are highly respected by all students. Many of our Tiwi Teachers graduated from Xavier and are great role models for everyone.

I am looking forward to a fantastic year walking alongside such a great team of staff and students.

God Bless,

Liz Moodey
Deputy Principal

Curriculum Coordinator

Welcome back to school for 2021! It has been fantastic to see so many students coming to school this year already, including some new faces.

School is really important for the future of our Tiwi Leaders and a good education is one of their rights. But with rights come responsibilities. Here are some of the rights and responsibilities here at school:



- ⇒ Students have a right to a good education and a responsibility to come to school ready and willing to learn.
- ⇒ Students have a right to a safe school and a responsibility to stay safe by not fighting or behaving dangerously.
- ⇒ Students have a right to a beautiful clean school and a responsibility to put rubbish in the bin and keep classes tidy.
- ⇒ Students have a right to be treated with respect and they have a responsibility to treat everyone else with respect too.

If we all meet our responsibilities we can have a clean, safe school where everyone can learn together.

Remember— **“Reading is to the brain as exercise is to the body”**

Gabrielle Lindsay
Curriculum Coordinator

Health & Physical Education

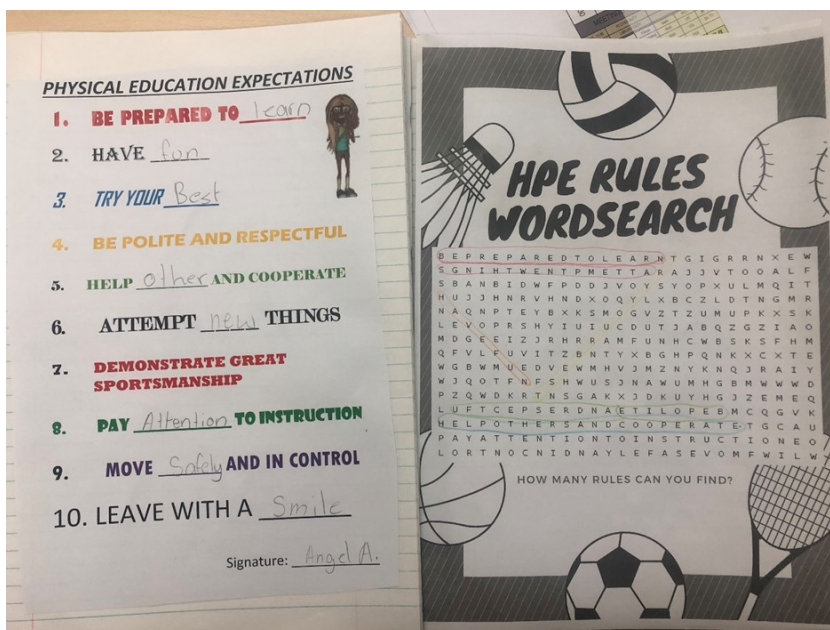
Welcome back to Term 1 of Health and Physical Education, it was so good to see so many students in class this week!

In week 1 of HPE we have been having a good time getting to know each other, setting rules and expectations for the subject, and learning how to work as a team.

This term we are going to be learning how to play frisbee, lacrosse and hockey. We started the week discussing what rules are important when learning about health and playing sports and then practiced remembering our rules through different word games throughout the week.



We played lots of games including rock-paper-scissors-traffic lights, where we practiced our balancing skills; electric fence where we used teamwork to problem solve; speed ball where we practiced our coordination and quick teamwork and communication skills, and lava rescue where we problem solved as a team to retrieve objects out of the 'lava circle' using skipping ropes.



Some of the highlights this week were using communication skills to work as a team and achieving our goals in our teambuilding games. In the next few weeks we will be following our class rules and using our teamwork skills to learn the new sports.

Kat Knapp & Josh Leane
HPE Teacher and Coordinator

Stage 1 & 2

It has been a busy start to the year for Stage 1 and 2 as we begin our new NTSDE courses.

We welcomed the incoming Year 10s to the class who join our Year 11, 12 and 13 students.

We also welcomed Kat to the team who will be the new teacher for PE and English.

In English we have completed a text study of the TV Show Redfern Now and in PE began studying Basketball. Students have enjoyed learning the technical language of the sport and developing their skills.



Coming up later in the term we will have visiting teachers from NTSDE on island, as well as VET Certificates in White Card and Tourism being offered.

Keep coming to school everyday Stage 1 and 2, so that you can stay on top of your work.

Emily Peacock & Kat Knapp
Stage 1 & 2 Teachers

Student Articles—Back to School Reflections

On Monday we walked down from the new church all the way to school. When we got to school we ate bacon and eggs. After breakfast we had an assembly and I won an award.

Lionel, Year 8

During my holiday I had great time with my friends and family. I had a great time playing with my friends, we always hang out at the Rec-hall and at night we always go to the disco to enjoy ourselves. I am happy to be here at Xavier College attending my first Year 7 middle school. I have met new teachers and students and I feel happy and safe here at Xavier.

Loretta, Year 7

I am feeling a bit nervous to be at middle school because it is my first day attending Year 7 at Xavier Catholic College. Today I enjoyed meeting new teachers and students at Xavier College. It was a happy moment for me to remember and I feel very supported during learning by all the teachers, and also Tiwi teachers helping me. At Xavier College I enjoy having fun.

Janice, Year 7



On Monday morning I woke up and it was raining. My parents and I walked down to the new church. After that we gathered around and then we all started to march down together to the school. It's good to be back at school and getting to know the Year 7 students, they are very friendly and kind.

Stanalisha, Year 11

Student Articles—Back to School Reflections

On Monday there was a back to school march. We marched from the giveaway to Xavier Catholic College. After we made it to the high school, we had bacon and eggs with toast for breakfast. Some of the Year 7 students were a bit nervous but I spoke with some of them to help them feel brave. As for me, I took a picture with the police and my friends and with the Principal of the high school.

Mia, Year 8



On Monday I woke up and walked to school. I had breakfast at the canteen and we went to class. When we heard the bell ring we went to the canteen for recess and after that, we went for a tour around Xavier Catholic College with the Xavier teachers.

Angel, Year 7



We did a march with the whole school on the first day. When we got to school we had a BBQ with eggs and ham. After that we had a Cathy Freeman Assembly, then we did some learning and had recess. When we marched down in the morning, cars had to drive around us and it was great.

Tahni, Year 7

All of us kids were happy because it is the first day of school. We marched to school and ate breakfast together. We had an assembly and the teachers welcomed us back to school. It was a special day.

Yvonne, Year 7

On Monday morning, I woke up and I came down to the new church. I walked with my friends to school. Then we ate some breakfast. I was feeling very nervous but now I am feeling only a little nervous. I am feeling less nervous because I know my teachers and where my class is. I am looking forward to the rest of the year.

Dictated by Zacharina, Year 7



MEET OUR

Leash Giles

Junior Curriculum Coordinator

My name is Leash Giles. I am from Bendigo in Victoria where I taught at a T-12 school. I also taught hip-hop at a local dance school.

I moved to Tiwi last year to teach at MCPS and have loved getting to know the Tiwi people, culture and country.

I enjoy teaching everything but am most passionate about teaching reading, maths, science and the arts.



Kat Knapp

Health & Physical Education Teacher

Hello everyone, I am Kat and I am originally from Adelaide but I have lived in many parts of the world including Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, The Netherlands, France, Madagascar and Romania. My family have come to Australia from many parts of the world includes the USA, Armenia, Russia, France, Germany and Norway. I love to travel and spend time in the places where my family are from.

I originally studied Journalism and Sociology but I have also completed postgraduate studies in Forensic Psychology as well as completing a private pilots license and I am currently working towards my Masters in Teaching.



Before coming to Wurrumiyanga I worked in tourism as a tour guide for G Adventures and National Geographic. In my last job I spent a lot of time doing outdoor adventure sports including hiking, cycling, kayaking, horse riding, skiing and sailing. I am very passionate about health and outdoor activities as well as English and History.

In my spare time I love reading, cooking, doing yoga, running, camping and spending time with my friends and family. I am looking forward to getting to know all the students at Xavier and helping everyone learn this year.

NEW TEACHERS

Janet Purje

Inclusion Support Coordinator

Hello everyone. My name is Janet Purje and I have joined Xavier College this year from the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

I moved up here with my husband and youngest daughter Chiara who most of you would have seen already. Charisa (in black sunglasses) also lives on the Sunshine Coast is a teacher too. My eldest daughter Chelsea lives a long, long way overseas so we do not get to see her that often.



My family and I are very happy to have joined your wonderful community!

I have the pleasure of teaching English to our Employment Pathways students and also work with teachers and students in Inclusion Support.

I have been to many other schools in Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. I look forward to working with families and have appreciated your warm welcome.

Georgia Irvine

Art Teacher

Hi, my name is Georgia and this year I am teaching Art. I am from Melbourne.

I like to draw, play guitar, go to the gym, practise karate and grow plants. I listen to a lot of music and my favourite band is AC/DC.

I hope teaching at Xavier will make me a wiser person and a better teacher. I'm looking forward to doing everything I can for the students of Xavier and I hope that the art room is a safe place for everyone to express themselves and create art they are proud of.

I'm looking forward to meeting everyone, so please come up and say g'day, I'll always make time for you.



safeTALK

On Tuesday, 16 February, Rodney and May attended a safeTALK workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness about people's suffering and help prevent suicide in community. Workshop leaders talked about the reasons why people hurt themselves and how to support them before they do hurt themselves. We want to stop suicide and support people who are hurting.

They both now feel confident to support people who are feeling worried, sad, stressed or left out.

If a student needs to somebody to talk to or if you are worried about a friend or family member, May and Rodney are here to help.

If a student wants to speak to someone who doesn't know them, there are also some hotlines that can help, offering students and community 24 hour assistance:

- ⇒ **Beyondblue 1300 224 636**
- ⇒ **Kids Helpline 1800 551 800**
- ⇒ **Lifeline 13 11 14**
- ⇒ **Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467**



safeTALK

STEM Challenges



Ash Wednesday



Shrove Tuesday



Screen Printing in Art

