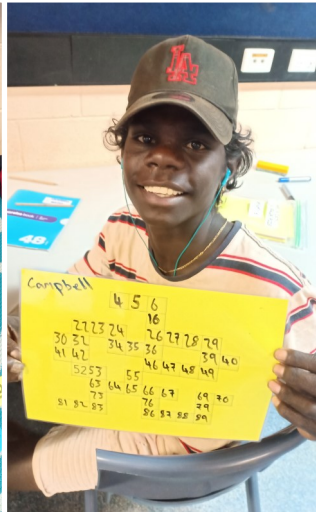
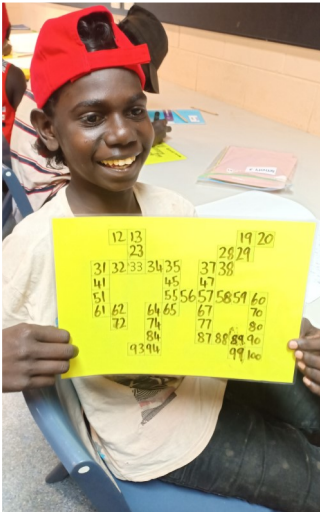




# Xavier Catholic College Newsletter

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 7

Tiwi Football Grand Final (21 March)

### Week 8

Palm Sunday (28 March)

### Week 9

Holy Thursday (1 April)

Good Friday—**Student Free Day** (2 April)

Easter Sunday (4 April)

### Week 10

Easter Monday—**Student Free Day** (5 April)

Activities Week

CFF Awards Assembly (8 April)

## Weekly

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

## Prayer

Gracious God,

We pray for ourselves and all women around the world.

Strengthen us to stand together with our sisters who are suffering because they are poor or treated unfairly.

Open our hearts to listen and help.

Give us the courage to hope and work for a better future for all women.

Awaken us, that we may fully realise our connection and responsibility to our one global family.

Guide us with your Spirit, to welcome stand up for and joyfully love each other.

Amen.





## Principal

Dear Families,

Thousands of women marched this week to ask the Government for equality and justice for girls and women – particularly in relation to sexual abuse and sexual assault. This protest was in response to the many stories coming out in the news about women who have been sexually assaulted.

1 in 5 women in Australia are survivors of sexual assault. In Aboriginal Australia, the rates are tragically much higher.

I spoke to all our students on International Women's Day to tell them about Australian of the Year, Grace Tame, who was sexually assaulted as a teenager and who has since become a voice for all survivors of child sexual assault and abuse.



Grace says that we must start having conversations about these issues everywhere, in homes, in schools, in workplaces, in Parliament, because where there is silence, evil thrives.

At our assembly we had many community members with us who stood up to show their support for our young women – Strong Women, Yellow Shirts, Police, Clinic, Tiwi Teachers.

Xavier will continue to let our girls know that school is a safe place for them and there is always someone here who will listen and believe them. We are teaching our young men that violence is never ok

and that good men are gentle and respectful as well as strong.

This weekend will be a joyful one as we prepare to celebrate the Grand Final. Good luck to both teams but especially to the Walama Bulldogs because Toby and Rodney are playing for them!

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend here on Tiwi. Mana!

Warmest blessings,

**Andree Rice**  
Principal



# Curriculum Coordinator

Awana mamanta,

What a great start we have had to the year. So many students are coming to school ready to learn and if you take a look into the classrooms around the school, students are working really hard to listen and help each other.



It is great to walk around the grounds at school and be greeted by the smiling, friendly faces of students happy to talk to each other and to teachers. Talking to different people is a really important skill for students to have when they finish their schooling and Xavier is the perfect place for them to practice having lots of conversations with lots of different people.

Thank you to all of the families who are encouraging kakujuwi to come to school every day – don't forget to ask them what they have been learning and maybe they can read you or their little brothers and sisters a story!

**Gabrielle Lindsay**  
Curriculum Coordinator

# Religious Education

Students in Yilinga have been learning important words connected to Lent and Easter.

The Mayimampi and Jarranga classes have been learning the Tiwi Creation story and the Creation story from the Bible and talking about how they belong.

In Compass, the Year 10s are learning about important Catholic ideas such as “the Trinity” and “the Incarnation”.

The Year 11s and 12s in Stage 1 have been studying the Book of Jonah in the Old Testament.

Jonah is a son of Amittai.  
Jonah didn't listen to God.  
Jonah's job is to tell people what God wants.  
- Jimmy, Year 11

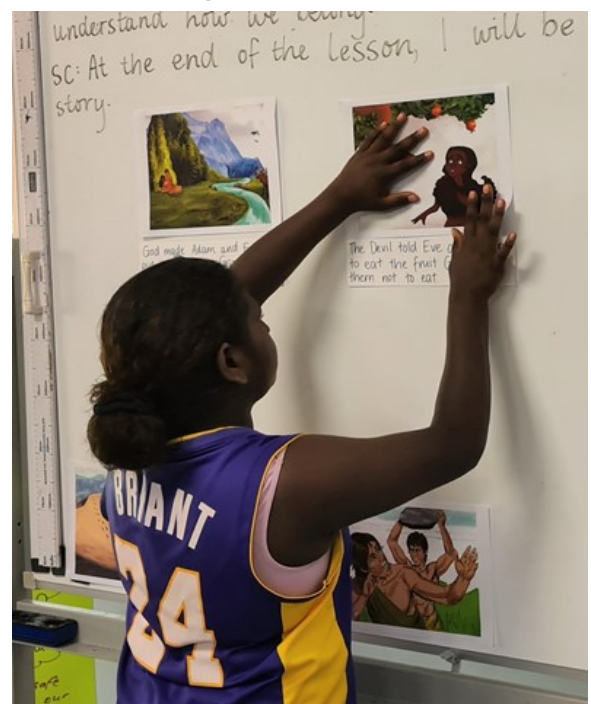
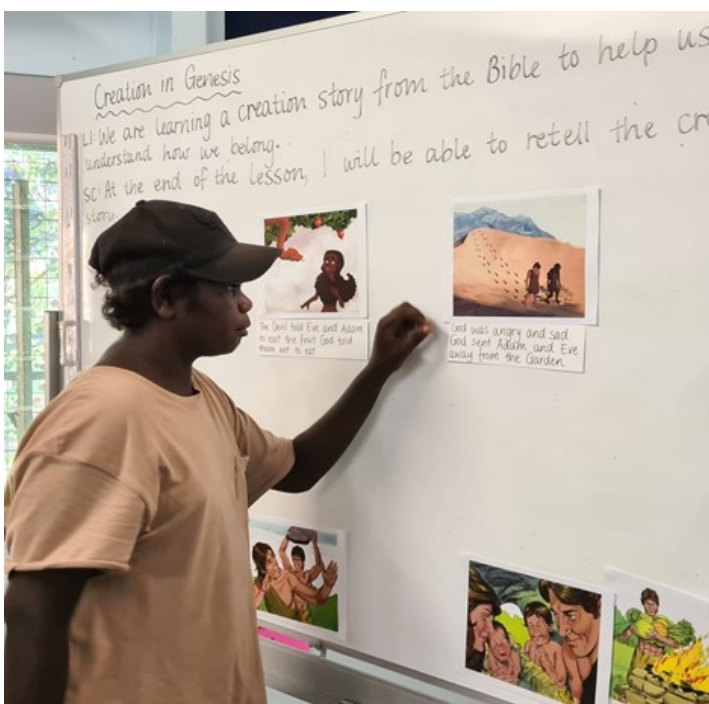
God uses Jonah to speak to the Assyrians, not the Israelites.  
Jonah is a Hebrew prophet.  
He is the son of Amittai.  
- Tamsin, Year 11

Jonah was the son of Amittai.  
Jonah means truth.  
Jonah wanted God to destroy the people in Nineveh.  
- Stanilisha, Year 11

The Stage 2s are learning more about how to make good choices.

The students in EP have been learning the Exodus story from the Old Testament and talking about bad things they want to leave behind and good things they look forward to in their future.

**Belinda Pereira**  
Religious Education Coordinator



# Catholic Identity

On Tuesday last week, Bishop Charles, together with Father Francis, celebrated Mass with MCPS and Xavier. During Mass, Bishop Charles spoke about the importance of being kind and forgiving towards each other.

Students from MCPS and Xavier participated in the Mass by carrying up items in the Entrance Procession and the Offertory Procession and leading the Prayers of the Faithful. Everyone joined in singing the Community Song at the end.

Bishop Charles has said that he would like to see more young people participating in Mass more often and we are happy at Xavier that our students feel comfortable and confident enough to be involved.

Over the next few weeks, we will be getting ready for Easter, which starts on Sunday, 4 April.



# Culture

This term, in Culture, students have been drawing designs which will be made into their own t-shirts. The designs connect with culture, family and the College's theme for this year "Be Strong".

At Xavier, we want our students to be proud of their culture and proud of who they are; proud enough to wear their work on a t-shirt.



There is still a lot of work to be done before the t-shirts are complete but the designs already look amazing.

Art work by Jimmy (left) and Tahni (right)

## Student Voices

International Women's Day was amazing. We drew pictures on the ground outside the office using chalk. I wrote 2021 Women's Day.

At the Assembly Sr Anne spoke about Marie Carmel falling into the water when she was little. Fiona, Ancilla and Maggie were there, they told us about Parlingarri. At the end of assembly we ate cake.

**Jelena, Year 9**

At school we have work to do, so we can have good education. Smart skills, so we know how to type, and learn how to write, reading, about maths. We learn about religion, about our God Jesus how he teaches not to fight, not to believe in the devil. We can help little children in MCPS by telling them not to fight, we can teach them about religion and how to read and write, so that everyone can get a job.

**Yvonne, Year 7**

**Last week it was International Women's Day. It's about respecting girls, respect our mothers, grandmothers, aunties, and sisters. It's a very special day, we celebrate together, being strong, speaking up, we help everyone when they are stuck. Andree, Liz and Cynthia organised a special event where our sisters were telling stories about the past. It was interesting, that was my favourite part, especially hearing about the school, when our parents were small.**

**Elizabeth, Year 7**

I have been going to school since I was a little kid, I never missed a day. My mum brings me to school when I was a little kid, now I bring myself. My favourite class is Health/PE. I like learning about sport, learn about American football, Hockey, and Soccer. We learn about eating the right food (veggies), not the wrong foods (cake, lollies). I sometimes like to do art, drawing on paper especially superheroes! Last year I was not good at basketball, but this year I'm good at basketball because Matt and my friends helped me. Next year I want to be a Leader, tell kids to do the right thing and help each other. Sometimes people make mistakes and the leaders help them.

**Hazem, Year 7**

We went to MCPS hall for Mass with the Bishop. We listened to the talking and the singing. I felt happy. I saw my family at Mass. They were sitting quietly with the MCPS teachers.

**Hubert, Year 7**

Hello my name is Troy, I'm from the Tiwi Islands. I like playing football and basketball.

My AFL team is the Gold Coast Suns. My favourite player is Izak Rankine. I am very excited for the new AFL season to start.

I play for the Waratahs U14 in Darwin. I have fun, I am on the same team as Hubert. I am a defender and Hubert plays on the wing.

**Troy, Year 9**

**My name is Jennifer. In English we do reading and writing with Leash and the Yilinga class. Maths is with Cynthia and we do counting and finding the missing number. With Kat, Josh and Chris we do sports, soccer. We use computers with Clare and we are talking about messages. We do art, we are writing about animals and we are drawing and colouring our pictures.**

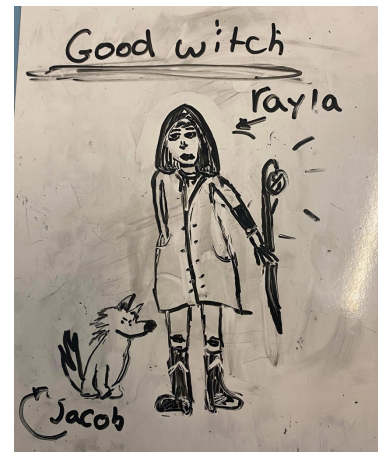
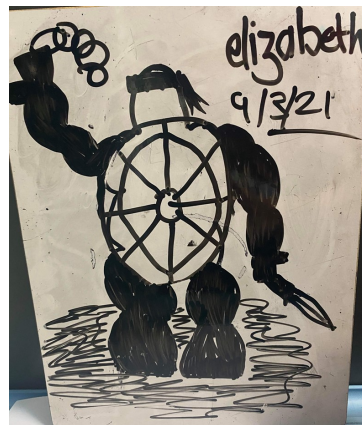
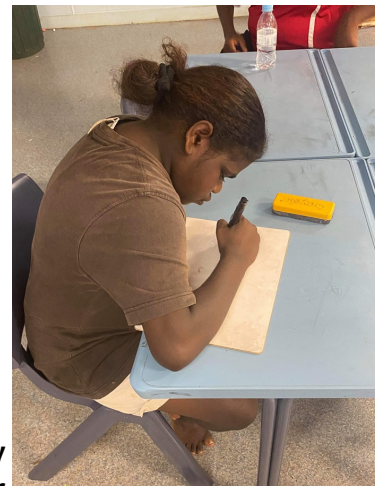
**Jennifer, Year 7**

# English

In Jarranga English this term we have been developing our understanding of characters. We have unpacked the main characters from Fantastic Mr Fox and written detailed descriptions of each of them. Just this week we started our writing project, which will use the skills we have learnt, help us develop strong characters and to write interesting stories.

These pictures are of us creating our own characters.

Clare Kearney  
English Teacher



## Artwork for International Women's Day

For International Women's Day, students wrote cards for all the important women in their lives. Tiwi Teacher, Cosimira, created the artwork shown below, with an explanation of each symbol included.

- The tunga bag represents all strong women.
- The dove brings peace of the deepest kind. It soothes and quiets our worries or troubled thoughts, enabling us to find renewal of the mind.
- The Tree of Life symbol represents our personal development and unique, individual beauty. Just as the branches of a tree strengthen and grow upwards to the sky, we too grow stronger striving for greater knowledge, wisdom and new experiences as we move through life.

Art by Cosmira Tipiloura



# INTERNATIONAL

Today we honour women all over the world, sisters in our one human family.

We honour their courage, as they overcome the challenges of living in extreme poverty.

We are thankful for their care for our common home.

We admire their dedication to the common good.

We learn from their commitment to the progress of their whole community.

We are enriched by their passion and generous sharing of their cultures.

We honour their open hearts and feel so privileged to hear their stories.

We pray for women who spread joy and nurture hope throughout struggles.

We support their determination as they strive to attain new skills and expertise.

We honour the extraordinary roles they have in their communities.

We stand with women as they open new horizons for the next generation.

We celebrate women as mothers, sisters, wives, friends, leaders, champions, advocates and world changers.

## *Caritas Australia, International Women's Day Reflection*

### *Gypsy's Speech*

Today I will talk about 3 women who have supported me during my schooling and early life. The first is my mum, she grew me up and looked after me. When I was young she encouraged me to go to school but as I got to the senior years she encouraged me to finish my schooling and finish Stage 2 and graduate. It is easier to go to school when you are in primary and the junior school but as you get older it can be challenging to come to school everyday.

Another women who I always looked up to is my aunty, Claudia. She used to work for Territory Families. It was an important job and I used to love visiting her at work. It made me want to get a job helping Tiwi people.

The last woman I will speak about it Tahnee, Tahnee was a teacher at Xavier when I was in my senior years. She pushed us to attend and work hard at school. She helped me and I know that she



helped a lot of my friends as well. She looked out for us and would check up on us when we didn't come to school.

Now that I am a Tiwi Teacher, I am the one driving around and making sure that students come to school. I want all young women to be successful in life, no matter what they choose to become.

**Edmena Kantilla**  
Tiwi Teacher



# WOMEN'S DAY

On Monday, 8 March, we celebrated International Women's Day. It was an opportunity for Xavier College to recognise and honour the women in our community who are role models to all of us. We had a whole school assembly, it is important for boys and men to be a part of the celebration because in order for men and women to work together there has to be mutual respect and support. The boys support the girls on IWD and the girls support the boys on International Men's Day.

## Roberta Tipungwuti Awards:

With the support of Brian and Karlene we created two awards to honour the memory of Roberta. All the teachers who knew her wrote down all of her amazing qualities and chose a junior student and senior student who we felt shared these qualities. Congratulations to Tahni and Ephrianna for being the first winners of these awards. These awards will be given out on International Women's Day for many years to come so that Xavier teachers and students can reflect on the life of our beloved student and always remember her.



## Thank you!

Thank you to all the Community members who came to the Assembly, it was great to see so many women showing support for our students.

Thank you to Gypsy for telling us about three women who inspired her while she was schooling.

Thank you to Sister Anne for sharing her experience of Tiwi leadership, and thank you to the Tiwi women who shared their perspectives on the same stories: Ancilla, Fiona, Maggie, Gemma, Kaylene and Marie Carmel.

Thank you to the Tiwi Teachers who helped plan the Assembly so that it would be engaging for the students.

Thank you to the MCPS 5/6 girls and teachers for being a part of the Assembly.

Thank you to Belinda for baking over 100 cupcakes with me on Sunday evening and thanks to the EP students for decorating them in the morning.

**Cynthia Pereira**  
EP Coordinator

## My Mum by Rachel Puantulura

My mum, Carmelina was a teacher. Back when St Terese's school was bilingual she had her own class and was part of the Milimika group. She used to teach culture in her classroom. It was called the butterfly room, Kwaring-kwaringa. And Sr Anne told me that its where the students were sent if they were misbehaving and Carmelina would work with them. I can remember watching her planning when I was a little girl in the 80s and 90s. I even have one of her planning books and I can see all the work she was doing and all the notes she was taking. She was always a good role model to me.

My mother and father were both teachers, they went to Batchelor to study and they took all their children with them. It was good to keep the family together and we had a lot of happy times. My father didn't teach for very long. He went on to work at the garage.

Much later Oldman Tipungwuti got funding for the Wurankuwu Township which meant that a school needed to be built and a teacher needed to work there. Carmelina was the first teacher who went to work at Wurankuwu. She moved there with her partner. Carmelina named the school Pungajurruwu after Oldman's family member.

I remember visiting her classroom, the walls had Tiwi words everywhere and not much English. I am proud of my mum for going to Wurankuwu and for helping the children living there.

Outside of teaching Carmelina wrote the Tiwi song that we still sing today for First Holy Communion. She even wrote Ticket to Heaven, have a look in the green book at church you will see Carmelina's name a lot.

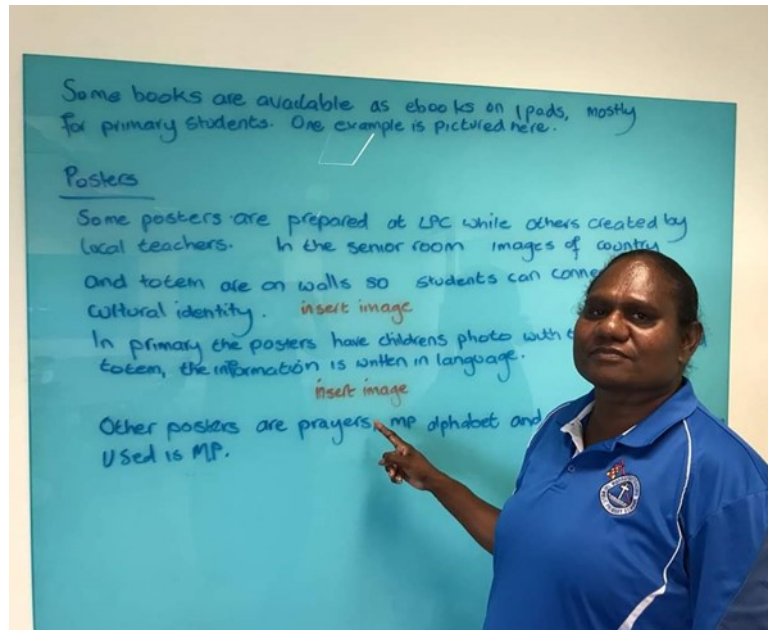
After my mum passed away I started working as a tutor at MCPS, I used to take students out of the classroom to do reading in Tiwi and English. Leah asked me if I wanted to be an Assistant Teacher. I felt frightened and I told Leah that I wasn't ready. Leah said to give it a try, she said she needed more young ones, and that I could be a teacher like my mum.

For my first week as an Assistant Teacher, I watched. Then I started to take small groups, it was scary to be in the classroom. I paid attention and learned the classroom routines.

Before Leah passed away she wrote a letter asking for funding to train more Tiwi people to become teachers.

My training started with Simone Walsh, she got the GOO students started. Anything we didn't know, Simone helped with. She took us to Darwin for PD, Annalea McCurry used to come over from Xavier to run Accelerated Literacy PD.

In 2014, I won the Leah award for the work that I have done, I was so proud of myself.



Rachel Puantulura

# Indigenous Youth Mobility Pathways Project

The Indigenous Youth Mobility Pathways Project (IYMP) is funded through the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). Career Employment Australia (CEA) proudly delivers the IYMP in 7 locations across Australia. IYMP is an innovative project which supports young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from regional and remote communities across the nation to **Dream, Learn and Lead.**

IYMP participants are supported in every aspect of life, education alone is not enough. IYMP aspires to teach all the life skills required to live an independent and meaningful life beyond IYMP support. IYMP cultivate First Nation leaders who inspire other young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to chase their dreams, take skills back to their home community and build the capacity of remote communities across the country.



With the support of IYMP, two of our 2020 graduates, Marietta Puautjimi (Rayma) and Tenisha Thompson, have engaged in study through a tertiary institution, and are living in a house with other IYMP students. Rayma has been accepted into Sport and Recreation Studies and Tenisha has applied to study Certificate III in Business.



Thank you to Kylie who has worked with Rayma and Tenisha in every aspect of their move to Darwin, from setting up bank accounts and their life in a share house, to applying for tertiary courses and Abstudy. Kylie has truly gone above and beyond for our graduates.

Xavier's Tiwi Teacher and CALT Leader, Casimira Tipiloura, is also a tertiary educated woman who moved to Darwin with help from IYMP and found her feet outside of the Wurrumiyanga community. We are so proud that Cossie has come back to her old school to teach, and she continues to motivate and inspire our young Tiwi students to do their best.

We are grateful to share this connection with IYMP and look forward to seeing more of our graduates taking advantage of all that IYMP has to offer.



# Remote Schools Attendance Strategy

The Yellow Shirts Team would like to thank all students for using their seatbelts this week. Please walk to school if it's not raining. Be ready and waiting by 8.00am if you would like a lift to school, so you can enjoy a healthy and delicious breakfast before you start your day.



## Visit from Bishop Charles Gauci

Last week we welcomed Bishop Charles Gauci to the island. He kept busy visiting Xavier, MCPS and getting out into the wider community.

On Monday, Bishop Charles visited every one of our classes at Xavier, getting to know our students and teachers, and seeing a little bit of what our students are learning this term. As you can see, our students were very happy to have Bishop Charles here and proud to show him around their classrooms and the school.

We look forward to seeing Bishop Charles back in Wurrumiyanga in a couple of weeks.

