



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.

Indigenous Voice



Prayer

God of love and freedom,

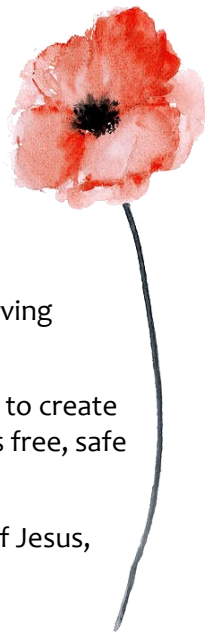
We remember everyone who has helped to keep Australia safe, especially during times of war. We remember their courage, their hard work and their sacrifice.

We pray for everyone currently serving in the Australian defence forces.

Please help us all to work together to create a community where everyone feels free, safe and loved.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, who gave his life for us.

Amen.



Coming up...

Week 4

Year 7 Michael Long Learning and Leadership Camp (Monday—Friday)

Week 5

DriveSafe NT (Monday)

Week 6

200 Years of Catholic Education Mass (Monday)

Reconciliation Week (26 May—1 June)

Weekly

- Mondays: After School Activities
- Tuesdays: Assembly/Activities (P5)
- Wednesdays: Pastoral Care (P5)
- Thursdays: Cultural Program (P4-5) After School Activities



Principal

Dear Families,

Professor Tom Calma and other visitors from Canberra came to Xavier this week to hear from our students about their hopes and dreams for this community. This was part of a national consultation called Voice for Parliament; all around Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are being encouraged to speak up and make their thoughts and feelings heard.



We were proud that our strong and smart students were able to speak up about their lives and how they would like their community and their lives as young people in Wurrumiyanga to be better. We were also proud that they named SCHOOL as one of the best, good things in the community. We know we are doing a lot right when this happens!

Indigenous Voice

Xavier teachers are also trying to improve themselves all the time so that they can be better teachers. You might be interested to learn that one of the ways we are doing this is to record ourselves teaching and to then study the recording, seeing if we are talking too much and not engaging our students enough! Are our students learning enough from the way we teach? Can we teach better? Please ask your young people if they have noticed this happening at school! I am going to tape myself talking on assembly to see if I talk too much and too quickly!

Our numbers have been brilliant and are remaining high and we are grateful for the work of our Yellow Shirts Team led by Brenda Ryle and Robbie Doran. We are also happy that Shane Ponter is supporting our students who have trouble getting to school. Have a look at our Senior Boys Homeroom class who are making a great effort to come to school every day.



Please know that you can come in at any time to talk to us about how to get your child to school and how to keep them here. Everything can be fixed up by talking and you are very welcome at Xavier. Shona, Bertram and Caitlin will look after you and make you welcome.

Have a lovely weekend enjoying the cool nights and the beautiful days.

Warmest blessings,

Andree Rice
Principal



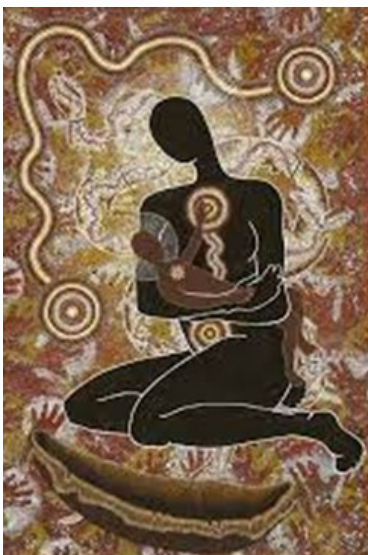
Deputy Principal

What a wonderful couple of weeks we have had since our last newsletter. There have been so many great moments to celebrate the successes of all the hard work our staff and students have been doing. This newsletter is such a great testament to this!

Last week we were blessed to have Sr Melissa Dwyer (Delegate Leader of the Canossian Sisters of Australia) and Sr Monique (Canossian Sister) visit the Island with Bishop Charles. It was a great time to reconnect, share our common stories and vision. We look forward to many more visits throughout the year and continuing to build a strong relationship with the Sisters.



Tuesday, 4 May was World Asthma Day and we were very fortunate to have Leanne from the Asthma Foundation NT work with our staff and students to learn about what we can do to help someone who has 'short wind'. REMEMBER 4x4x4.



This weekend we celebrate all the wonderful women in our lives, our grandmothers, mothers, partners, aunts, sisters and cousins. We hope you have a wonderful Sunday and are spoilt by everyone around you.



God Bless,

Liz Moodey
Deputy Principal

Curriculum Coordinator

What a great start to Term 2!

Our Stage 1 and 2 students are well into their studies this year and with the help of Robyn Craig from Catholic Education NT, they have jumped straight into Term 2 with two CMT Intensive days in Week 1 and again in Week 3. With the support of Belinda and their other teachers, students are working hard to get ahead and complete the required tasks.

We also have NAPLAN coming up in Week 4 and 5. Year 7s and 9s will complete their literacy and numeracy tests in Week 4 and Week 5. Come with a good attitude, ready to try your best!

We say goodbye to our Year 7s on Sunday as they head off on their first camp of the year in Darwin—the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Camp. This will be a jam-packed week of lessons, activities and excursions, but most of all—FUN!

Year 7s—don't forget to have your bags packed and be ready for pick up on Sunday afternoon for the ferry! Josh and Toby will be driving the bus to your houses.

We continue to see lots of students coming to school! Remind your brothers, sisters, friends, cousins about all the great things we are doing at school. We can't wait to see you soon!

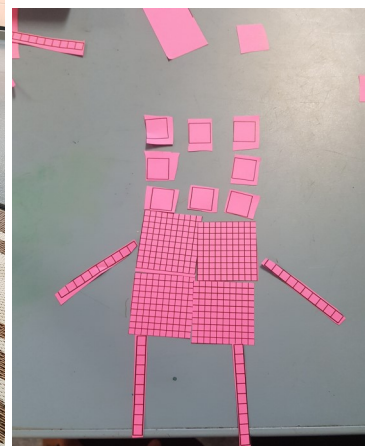
Gabrielle Lindsay
Curriculum Coordinator

Maths

We started Term 2 by revisiting Place Value which was our topic for Term 1. For the last 2 weeks we have been learning about addition. We are using different strategies to add numbers, such as number lines, doubles, bridging to 10, adding 10 and friends of 10.

We have been doing activities on whiteboards, playing games and completing worksheets. It has been a lot of fun!

Cynthia Pereira
Math Teacher





English

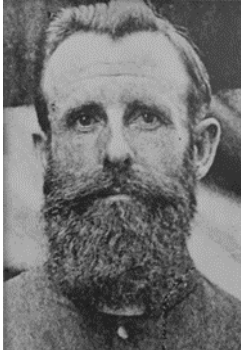
Yilinga students have been reading and writing every single day and are showing some great progress! We have studied the importance of character and setting in stories. We have also been researching the Black Lives Matter movement, analysed some anti-racism songs and shared our opinions about racism in Australia. It has been fabulous to see the students working so hard each day on mastering their literacy skills.

Leash Giles
Junior Curriculum Coordinator



Culture

In Culture, we have been learning the story of Tiwi people and World War Two. We looked at photos and stories from the Museum and the Australian War memorial to help us understand the important role Tiwi people played in keeping Australia safe.



Fr John McGrath, who saw the Japanese bombers flying over the Bathurst Island mission on February 19, 1942 and used the radio to call Darwin to warn them.



Tiwi men from Melville Island who served in the Navy during World War Two.

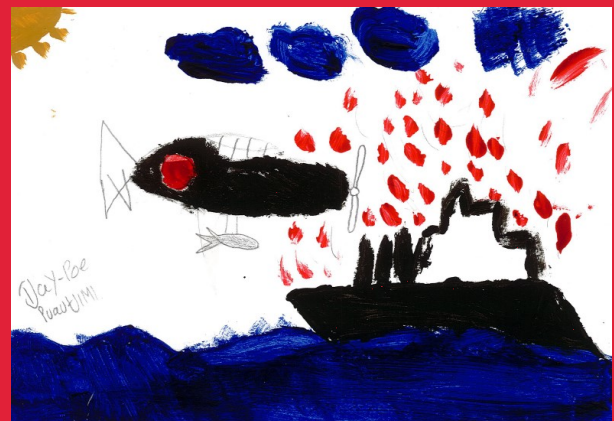
Matthias Ullungura, who captured the first Japanese soldier on Australian soil.



Sammy, from Melville Island, worked as an orderly in the 74th Australian camp hospital.



Students reflected on the stories told and were inspired to create pieces of art, shown below.



Catholic Identity

May is the month of Mary and the junior classes have started to learn more about Mary of Nazareth, Jesus' mother.

At the start of the term, one of the students asked "What is believing?". A simple answer is that believing is trusting without knowing. Mary is an important role model for Catholics because she trusted God without knowing. As a 14-year-old girl, Mary said yes to having God's child without knowing God's plan but she trusted that God would look after her and her child.

During May, we should try to be more like Mary and trust that God loves us and wants us to be happy.

Belinda Pereira
Religious Program Coordinator

Welcome to Shane Grasso

My name is Shane Grasso from Craigieburn in Melbourne, Victoria.

My AFL team is Essendon Bombers, Rugby team Melbourne Storm, NBA teams Dallas Mavericks/ Golden State Warriors.

I grew up playing and loving sports such as Basketball, AFL, Netball, Swimming, Tennis and Cricket. I represented Victoria for basketball and travelled the country. I played footy for Craigieburn, Assumption College Kilmore, Essendon Bombers under 19's and Western Jets in the TAC Cup.

I was recruited to play basketball in America at a young age and finished my high schooling in Texas, USA, then went on to play at Ranger College. I also played professional basketball in Beijing, China.

I have a 16-year-old daughter who lives in Sydney with her mother, and is currently studying at university. I have an older brother who played AFL for Carlton.

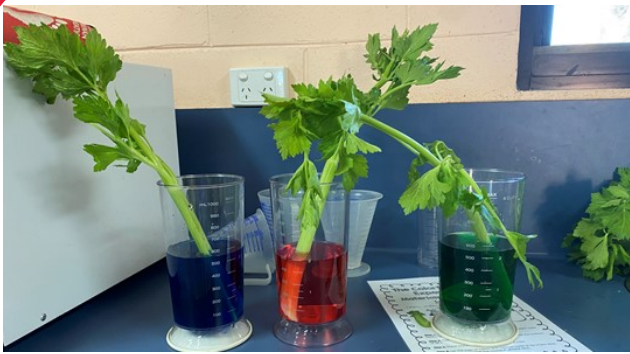
I have an Applied Science Physical Education and an International Business degree along with an Associate of Arts degree. I teach Humanities and Physical Education/ Health.

I have been teaching for 8 years in Victoria and I am so pleased to be here on Bathurst Island in the Tiwi Islands.

I am excited to learn about the Tiwi culture and its history. Specifically, ceremonies, dancing and hunting.

Shane Grasso



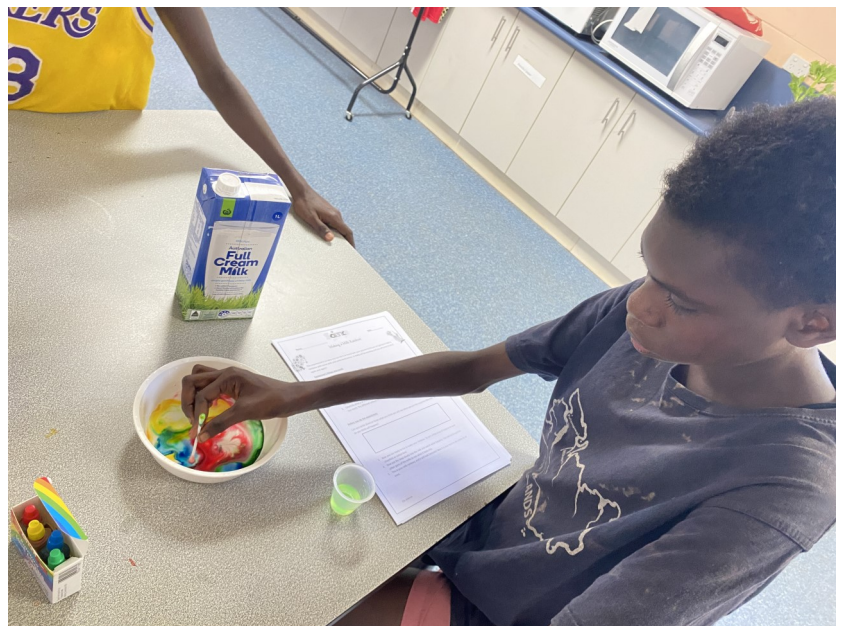
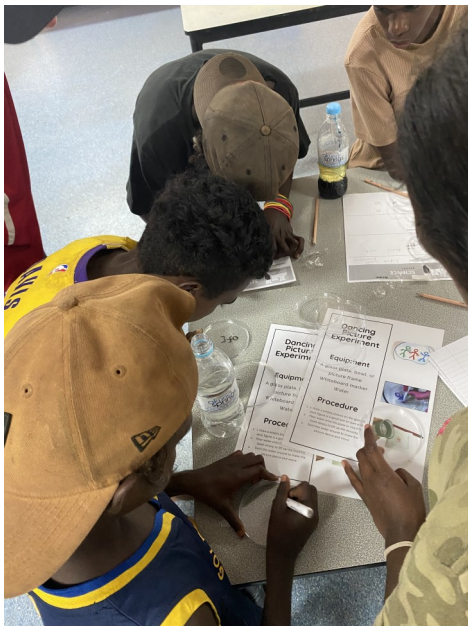


Science

This term students in Years 7 to 9 have been exploring the exciting world of science! These young scientists have conducted a range of experiments including the 'Colourful Celery', the 'Rainbow Milk' and the 'Volcano' experiments.

For each experiment, they make predictions of what they think will happen and then, having conducted the experiment, they record their results. They particularly enjoyed the eruption of the volcano experiment! It has been great to see the students approach their learning with enthusiasm and an open mind. Be sure to ask them about other experiments they have conducted!

Matt Cullen, Clare Kearney and Kat Knapp
Science Teaching Team





Health & Physical Education

Welcome to the start of Term 2 in HPE!

FAIR PLAY

Respect for the rules and being honest when playing.

We had such a great time in Term 1 and are thrilled to see all the Xavier students coming back to school so early and ready to learn. The energy in HPE classes is very exciting, with everyone participating and giving it their best shot.

Also, this term we are thrilled to announce a new staff member joining the HPE team. Shane has recently been teaching in Victoria and is looking forward to the opportunity to work at Xavier. Here are some of the exciting things coming up in Term 2:

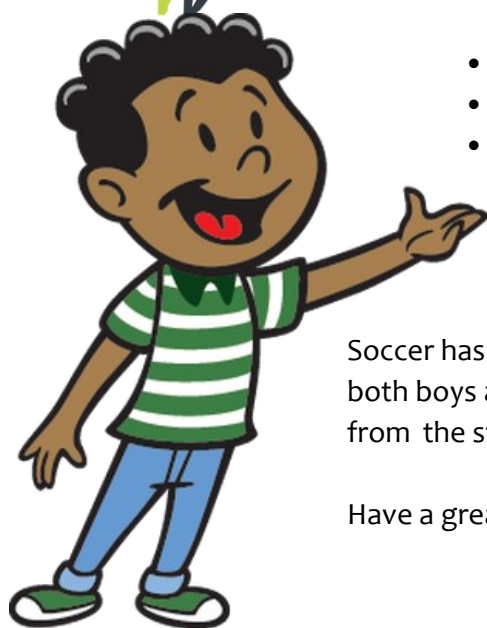
- Learning about Hockey and Lacrosse during HPE lessons
- Week 4 - Michael Long Camp in Darwin for Year 7's
- Week 9 - Precinct Athletics Carnival

We would also like to acknowledge how well everyone has adapted to having no basketball hoops at recess and lunch.

Soccer has become the sport of choice and everyone from Year 7 to Year 13, both boys and girls, have been playing harmoniously together, or watching from the stands, supporting their friends and peers. Well done!

Have a great start to Term 2 everyone!

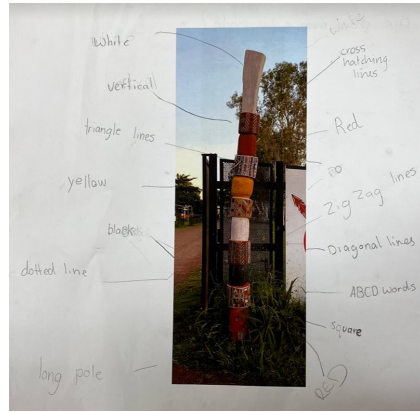
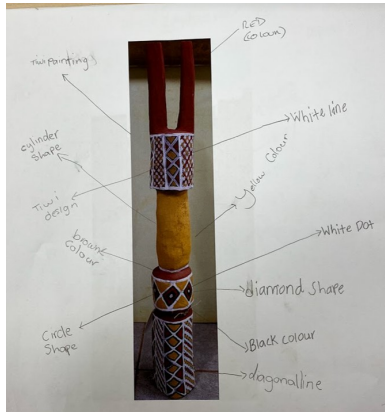
Josh Leane
HPE Coordinator



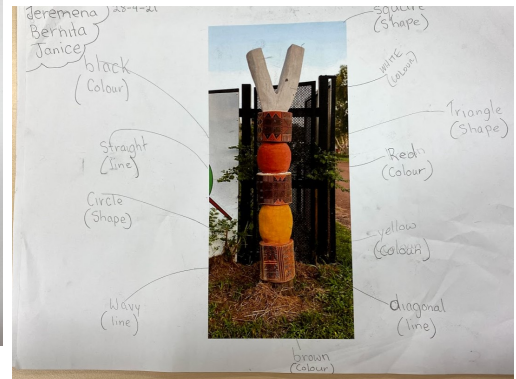
Art

Junior Classes

In Art this term junior classes have been learning how to describe what they see. We have been looking at Pukumani poles and writing about line, shape and colour in groups. As a class we have been talking about what we know about Pukumani poles and what they mean for Tiwi people.



Georgia Irvine
Art Teacher



Employment Pathways



EP students have continued to work together to paint picnic tables which were made during construction last year.

Everyone has been working really hard to create bright and detailed patterns on the tables.



Employment Pathways

There have been many changes for the Employment Pathways class this term.

The first big difference is that we have two new teachers joining the EP team. Leash is now teaching our students English, and Shane (who is new to Xavier this term) is teaching Community Connections.

The second big difference is the changes to the learning space.

At the end of last term the EP teachers got together and removed a lot of the clutter that had been accumulating in the room. We removed some of the extra tables and arranged the remaining tables into blocks. This is better for group work and collaborating with friends.

We have a section of the room dedicated to reading and have a selection of books that students can read at the beginning of each lesson.

Our birthdays are now displayed on the wall so that we can celebrate together.

We have a new mat for our quiet break-out space and an oil diffuser which makes the room smell nice and welcoming.

So far, EP students have loved the changes made and we continue to look for ways where we can improve our learning environment. Many students from the Junior School have come to check out the new space and have commented on how great it looks!

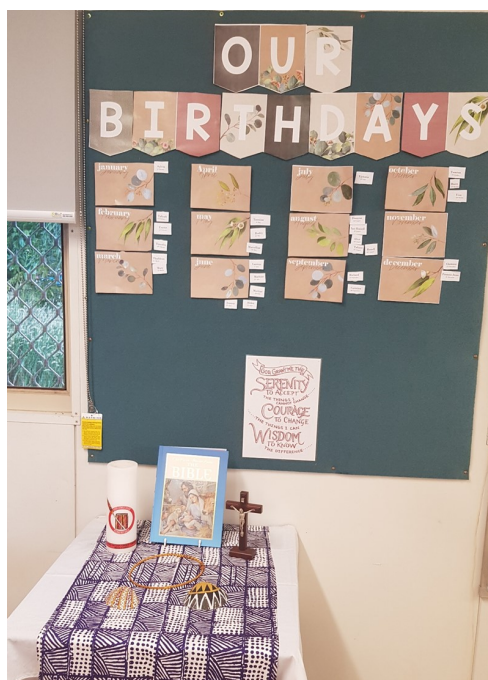
The EP students have been working very hard to return things to their original spot after each lesson so that the classroom stays neat and tidy for the next day.

Hopefully EP students who have not been to school yet this term will see these photos and join us back soon!



Cynthia Pereira

Employment Pathways Coordinator



Australian Army Cadets Taluhla Turner, CUO

I joined the Army Cadets when I was 13 years old, which is the age you are allowed to enrol, and I have been a serving member for almost 5 years.

My current rank is CUO, which stands for **Cadet Under Officer**. It is one of the highest ranking cadets and I report directly to the Officer in charge.

I joined the Cadets when a friend encouraged me to come along and try it—I ended up loving it! I have met people from other indigenous communities and been able to take part in activities that have **pushed me out of my comfort zone**. I really enjoy the self-discipline part of it too; it has been hard work, but the senior officers are there to support us and help us through the training programs. As I climbed the ranks, training is more difficult, but I have more responsibilities.

My best memory as part of the Cadets was last year, when I was an instructor at a camp, rather than a participant. I created programs for the younger cadets and got to use my **leadership skills** and direct others. I had a lot of responsibility and had to prepare for situations when things might go wrong, but overall it was a great experience and really fun! Also the food at the mess halls is always delicious—everyone agrees!

I have completed many courses through the Cadets including first aid, robotics, leadership courses, etc. Once you've completed a few, you are eligible to be promoted. We have also taken part in camps that teach us skills in orienteering and map reading, target practice, bush camps, etc.

The Army Cadets are a fantastic **confidence-building** opportunity. Before I started I was very shy and quiet, and it boosted me up a lot and gave me a voice! We are always working as a team and looking out for each other—**no one is left behind!**

The Cadets can help lead you straight through to a career in the Australian Army. The courses throughout Cadet training may also give you credits towards your high school certificate or help towards other career paths.



Taluhla Turner
Stage 2 Student and CUO, Army Cadets

If you are interested in finding out more about the Army Cadets, please contact Debra Marshall at TITEB on 8941 5988 or email debra@titeb.com

