



# 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.*



## Prayer

Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history so that we may build a better future for our nation.

Teach us to respect all cultures.

Teach us to care for our land and waters.

Help us to share justly the resources of this land.

Help us to bring about spiritual and social change to improve the quality of life for all groups in our communities, especially the disadvantaged.

Amen

## Coming up...

### Week 9

Public Holiday (Monday)

Sports Carnival (Wednesday/Thursday)

Sister Anne's 90th Birthday (Friday)

### Week 10

CFF Awards Assembly

### Term 3

Starts Tuesday, 20 July 2021

Red Dust Music Program, 20-26 July

## Weekly

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



## Principal

Dear Families,

Xavier and MCPS had special visitors from NCEC (National Catholic Education Commission) last week who wanted to see how our schools are keeping Tiwi culture, learning and faith strong and how students and staff are learning to walk confidently in two worlds. Some of the feedback we received was:

“Thankyou... Our visit was humbling, inspiring and uplifting and we were truly impressed...” - Joanna Mackie, Senior Education Adviser, NCEC

NCEC also said that:

- The relationship between Tiwi and non-Tiwi staff is very respectful and two way; each learns from the other and staff work in genuine partnership to support students.
- There is high quality teaching and learning happening in classrooms and it is very often “place based”, relevant to community, culture, family and faith.
- The culture program is very successful at keeping Tiwi language, traditions and identity strong.

Congratulations to Casimira Tipiloura, Angelo Orsto and Bertram Tipungwuti (Xavier Catholic College Leadership Team Members and CALT members) for their presentations on the day. Casimira, Angelo and Bertram were articulate and passionate about their role as Tiwi Teachers and Leaders. Students Dwayne Kerinauia, Gertrude Kantilla and Monica Timaepatua met and greeted the visitors on the day and were polite and welcoming hosts.

Xavier School Community should be very proud of what it is doing every day to improve the life, educational and cultural outcomes of our students. Our commitment to this vision was evident during the NCEC visit, just as it is every day.

Thanks to Brother Daniel Hollamby and NCEC for arranging the visit.

Enjoy the long weekend and I hope some of you get out on country to connect with family and culture and to gain energy and inspiration. Our sympathy and prayers to everyone who has lost family during this time.

Next week we celebrate with our combined Schools' Sports Days on Wednesday and Thursday, and with Sister Anne's 90th birthday celebrations on Friday, 18th June.

Warmest blessings,

**Andree Rice**  
Principal







## Deputy Principal

What words do you use to say goodbye to your second home and family? In all honesty I have struggled to verbalise any, and instead shared many tears of sadness and joy, and lots of extended hugs. I leave this College and amazing community at the end of this term to return home to my family and friends in Sydney and then spend some time travelling around our beautiful country for a few months. I leave with a humbled heart and so many amazing memories.

I have truly cherished every moment I have shared with all people of the Tiwi Islands, from school activities, camps, hunting and camping on country, watching beautiful sunrises and sunsets and most of all being privileged and honoured to learn from my Tiwi family and friends. I will miss you all and am extremely grateful to have been able to walk with and alongside the staff, students and community. I am also extremely grateful for the strong, strategic, compassionate and dedicated leadership of Andree Rice, our College Principal and all the staff at Xavier Catholic College who are so inspirational and passionate.

God Bless and ngiya kukunari

**Liz Moodey**  
Deputy Principal





## Catholic Identity

On Monday, 24 May, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians and the 200 Year Anniversary of Catholic Education in Australia with a Mass together with MCPS and Father Francis.

During the Homily, we were reminded of the special role Mary played in bringing Jesus to others and we were encouraged to share God's love and forgiveness with others in our community.

It was great to see students confidently participating in the Mass and volunteering to be more involved as part of the Entrance and Offertory processions and as readers of the Prayers of the Faithful.

We finished our Mass with a joyful rendition of the Community Song.

On Tuesday, 8 June, the MCPS and Xavier communities joined together again to celebrate Bishop Gsell and the Bathurst Island mission.



Catholic Education  
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS  
*Faith in the future*

**Belinda Pereira**  
Religious Program Coordinator



## Culture

During the last few weeks in Culture, we have been enjoying the start of dry season by spending time singing, dancing, painting and fishing at the front beach and going out to Tarntipi to hunt in the mangroves and tell stories on country.

**Belinda Pereira**  
Religious Education Coordinator



# National Reconciliation Week

To mark National Reconciliation Week 2021, the Tiwi Team at Xavier organised a special afternoon at the Patakijiyali Museum for all staff and guests from TITEB. Divided into men's and women's groups, the Tiwi staff led tours of the galleries and the gardens. We listened to stories about country, culture and law. We learnt about the importance of the Kurlama ceremony.



There were also opportunities for everyone to practice Tiwi hand gestures and language. After the tours, we all came together in the gardens for singing, dancing and light refreshments. Tiwi Teachers welcomed new staff into their families and taught them the dancing of their Dreaming. It was an incredible privilege and honour to share in these activities. The Tiwi Team are to be congratulated for providing such a rich cultural experience!

**Matthew Cullen**  
Indigenous Workforce Coordinator

## Prayer for Reconciliation

Holy Father, God of Love, You are the Creator of all things.

We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history and the sufferings of our peoples, and we ask your forgiveness. We thank you for the survival of Indigenous cultures.

Our hope is in you because you gave your Son, Jesus to reconcile the world to you. We pray for your strength and grace to forgive, accept and love one another, as you love us, and forgive and accept us in the sacrifice of your Son.

Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history so that we may build a better future for our nation. Teach us to respect all cultures. Teach us to care for our land and waters. Help us to share justly the resources of this land. Help us to bring about spiritual and social change to improve the quality of life for all groups in our communities, especially the disadvantaged. Help young people to find true dignity and self-esteem by your Spirit.

May your power and love be the foundations on which we build our families, our communities and our nation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Wontulp Bi-Buya Indigenous Theology Working Group 13 March 1997 Brisbane, Qld).





## NAPLAN

From the 10-21 May our Year 7 and 9 students participated in NAPLAN. The students sat four tests: reading, writing, language conventions and mathematics. During the testing period everyone was wonderful, tried their hardest and had a go at questions they weren't confident with.



It was so exciting to see the students sitting the NAPLAN test online this year, testing their typing skills and being patient with technology. The days were calm and relaxing with a lovely fruit platter each day to help power our brains. Fantastic effort everyone!

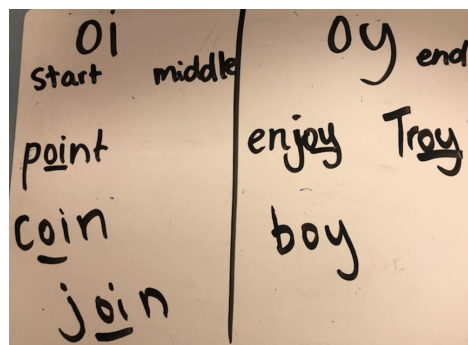
**Clare Kearney**  
Inclusion Support Coordinator

## Junior Reading

This year the English classes have been striving to help our students become the best readers they can be using research about the 'Science of Reading' to inform the activities we are doing. We have been practicing sounding out and blending words to read and spell and we are learning all about the 44 sounds that make up English words. Our students are showing great progress in their

willingness to want to read, their ability to read the words and their understanding of what they have read!

**Leash Giles**  
Junior Curriculum Coordinator





# Jarranga & Mayimampi Maths

Jarranga and Mayimampi have been working together and working hard on their Maths this term. We have been learning about addition, subtraction, shape, money and fractions, along with team-building and self-regulation. It has been great to see the students collaborating on their learning and encouraging one another.

**Leash Giles**  
**Junior Curriculum Coordinator**



## EP English

We have done a variety of things in EP English this term, including following procedures for science experiments and cooking, journal writing, boys vs. girls competitions and sharing stories, knowledge and skills.

**Leash Giles**  
**Junior Curriculum Coordinator**





# Michael Long Leadership Camp

## Sunday

16 students and 3 staff met at the Sealink Ferry and made our way into Darwin. The ferry ride was filled with very excited students looking forward to spending the week in Darwin. When we arrived, we rushed onto the Michael Long bus and made our way to the Michael Long Centre. We had a kick of the footy and played some frisbee at TIO Stadium. We stayed in bunk beds and got to watch Shrek as a whole group. Students were in bed and lights out at 10pm, all ready for a big week of learning.



## Monday

On Monday, we woke up early, had breakfast and made our way to the Education Centre where we met our teacher for the week – Amanda. We played some warm up games and learned some things about leadership. In the afternoon we went and had a tour of Parliament House and then splashed around in the Wave Pool. After a long day, we headed back to our accommodation, had some dinner and watched Shrek 2.

## Tuesday

Our third day of camp saw the students learning about healthy eating. We started the day with some mapping activities and then did a scavenger hunt race around the Centre. After we finished the race, students participated in a lesson on healthy eating and the 5 food groups. We made our own pizzas for lunch and then went to St John's College where we got to catch up with all our Tiwi friends and family. In the afternoon, we had some free time and then relaxed at Nightcliff to watch the sunset.





# Michael Long Leadership Camp ...continued



## Wednesday

Students discussed fair and unfair actions in school, community and on the field. They learnt about how to umpire and how to give first aid. In the afternoon we went to Leanyer Water Park followed by Barefoot Lawn Bowls in the evening, which we were all trying for the first time!

## Thursday

Our group was learning all about teamwork when we were graced with the presence of Michael Long himself and many people from the media. The students had a kick with Michael Long and answered some interview questions before returning to the classroom to learn about road safety. We spent some time in Menzies Health Lab understanding how our bodies work and

the impact of germs, unhealthy foods, smoking and alcohol. In the afternoon we went on a shopping spree to Casuarina then spent the night bowling and playing laser tag at King Pin.

## Friday

On Friday morning we had to get up really early to pack up, have breakfast and be at the ferry before 8:00am in the morning. Once we were on the ferry we were finally able to relax and rest. It was a very fun and exciting camp. The Xavier students did an excellent job learning and behaved very well all week. Great job.

**Josh Leane & Leash Giles**  
**HPE Coordinator & Junior Curriculum Coordinator**













Kick up your heels for  
Sister Anne's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!



Mass of Thanksgiving  
Friday, 18 June 2021  
11.00am at the New Church

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Followed by barbeque and  
dancing at the Mantiyupwi Motel