



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

The Lord is good,
A refuge in times of trouble.
He cares for those who trust in him.
(Nahum 1:7).

Dear loving God,
In all that life brings, we know you are walking with us.
We pray for our whole community.
In joyful times, we rejoice in you,
In troubled times, we turn to you,
And in all things, we trust in you.
Grant us your gift of peace
Today and always.
Amen.



Coming up...

Week 8

Year 6 Transition (Wednesday)
Year 7, 2022 Family Orientation (Wednesday)
Feast Day of St Francis Xavier Liturgy (Thursday)
MCPS Christmas Play (Friday)

Week 9

Family Report Distribution Night @ Bistro (Tuesday)
Tiwi Plantation Visit (Wednesday)
Half day for students—11.00am finish (Thursday)
Curriculum Planning Day / Student Free Day (Friday)

Week 10

Precinct Christmas Mass (Monday)
Last Day of Term 4 (Friday)

Weekly

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



Principal

Dear Parents and Families,

We have so much to celebrate at Xavier right now. **Leash Giles, Acting Curriculum Coordinator** has won a very prestigious award called a **NEITA** award for being an outstanding and exemplary teacher. Only a small number of these awards are given each year in Australia and New Zealand and Leash has won it for her work in writing a reading program for Xavier based on Synthetic Systematic Phonics that uses Tiwi resources to teach reading. Leash has written 30 Tiwi Readers that teach students how to break sounds open then blend them together to read unknown words, and she has trained Xavier staff in how to teach in this way. As a result, **our students' reading has improved dramatically**, most students showing growth of two or three years in one year! Leash has done similar outstanding work in Maths and has taught our teachers how to better teach Maths, using hands-on activities and relevant Tiwi contexts to help students' understanding of Maths. Leash will use the prize money she has won to do further study in Indigenous Literacy and Reading. We cannot wait to see what Leash's future holds and we know that it will continue to build the educational outcomes for Aboriginal young people. Congratulations Leash!

We have been excited to welcome MCPS Year 6 students to Xavier for a transition to High School Program that runs for three weeks. Our students are thrilled to have the younger students here on Thursdays and they are showing them the best things about high school. **Please consider Xavier Catholic College as a first choice for your child if they are in Year 6 currently.** We have very high quality teachers who are bringing their talents to Bathurst Island for your children!

I believe you should choose Xavier because:

- **We know how to improve your child's reading and maths levels! We have expert teachers in this area.**
- **Tiwi and Non-Tiwi Teachers work as one at Xavier to support your child every day, to help them feel safe and happy.**
- **We have beautiful grounds, state of the art classrooms and a great program of subjects including Smart Skills (Computers and Science), Wellbeing and Culture.**
- **Your child will be educated in their own community where they feel at home.**
- **We have a proud track record of Year 12 Graduates. Students graduate from Xavier every year, getting jobs here on island or going to study in Darwin.**

Congratulations to **Ephrianna Tipungwuti** and **Taluhla Turner**, Stage 2 Graduates this year! Unfortunately the Darwin NTSDE graduation was cancelled due to Covid and mask issues but we are holding an island graduation on **Tuesday, 7 December at 11 am** and all family and friends are invited to this event at Xavier.

I was very grateful yesterday for a beautiful Mass and day of celebrations held at school to say goodbye to me and Justin, my husband. Thank you to everyone who came especially Bishop Charles, the Strong Women, Sr Anne, Fr Francis, CENT leadership and staff, and many community members. I will not say goodbye in this newsletter but I wanted to share with you what a moving and memorable day it was. Every day here, I am grateful to the Tiwi community for welcoming us, supporting us and for allowing me the privilege of educating your young people, the most precious gifts in the community.

Sr Monique extended this lovely blessing in the Mass and I share it with you today, mindful of the many losses and grief in the community this week:

May the Lord bless us
All the days of our lives
Bless us, lovingly,
All the days of our lives.

Andree Rice
Principal

Deputy Principal

Hi everyone,

Welcome to our second last newsletter for Term 4, 2021.

On Tuesday, 23 November, we had a Farewell Mass, Assembly and Lunch for Andree Rice, our Principal who is leaving the Xavier family at the end of the term. The feelings yesterday were a



mixture of happiness and sadness all rolled into one. Andree will be missed by all the staff and students at Xavier Catholic College. During her time as Principal, Xavier students have grown both academically, spiritually and student wellbeing has been a high priority for Andree and all staff.

Bishop Charles presided over the Mass and Greg O'Mullane, Director of Catholic Education NT and Directors and Education Officers who all came over from Darwin. We were blessed with the presence of the strong

women of the community and the Wurrumiyanga Police who attended the Assembly.

A beautiful lunch was enjoyed by everyone and there were many comments from the visitors on how respectful and amazing the Xavier students were at both the Mass and Assembly. A big 'congratulations' to all the Xavier students who made good choices on the day and every day.

Students and staff have all be very busy completing assessments and continuing on with the great learning that is occurring in all the classrooms. There will be many more opportunities for families and friends to celebrate the achievements of our students at Xavier Catholic College. Some events coming up are:

- Y7 and Y10 2022 Parent and Student Orientation—Wednesday, 1 December 2021.
- Cathy Freeman Foundation Assembly—Tuesday, 7 December 2021.
- Report Distribution Night at Nguui Club—Tuesday, 7 December 2021.
- Combined Schools Precinct Christmas Mass—Monday, 13 December 2021.

I hope to see lots of families there.

God Bless,

Anne-Maree Fewtrell
Deputy Principal



All Souls Day

In November, the Church remembers in a particular way all the faithful who have gone before us. At Xavier Community we paid special respects to loved ones who have passed in the All Souls Day liturgy. While the weather meant we had to do things a little differently, we prayed for the deceased at the MCPS hall in a combined Precinct service. Xavier students were very respectful and were great models of good behaviour for the younger students. On the following Tuesday, we went as a school to the cemetery to clean and arrange decorations such as paper flowers and messages around the graves.

Sr Monique Singh
Religious Education Coordinator

Senior Careers Expo

On Tuesday of Week 5, Xavier hosted the first Wurrumiyanga Careers Expo organised by the Yellow Shirts and Xavier staff. The Stage 1 & 2 and EP students had the opportunity to hear from a range of local employers about the jobs available in Wurrumiyanga and what kind of skills are needed for different jobs.

There were representatives from the Wurrumiyanga Police, TITEB, the Council, MCPS, BIHA, NUA shop, Xavier, the mechanic and other business around community. Students and staff from Tiwi College also visited for the day.

Our senior students showed high levels of independence when speaking to the staff from the different organisations and some students handed out resumes to the employers they would like to work for in the future.

It was a great day and all students left with some goodie bags from the Yellow Shirts and the girls all were gifted a bag from 'Share the Dignity'. The Yellow Shirts also provided a delicious lunch flown in from Darwin to finish the great event.

Thank you to the Yellow Shirts and Xavier staff that helped make the day such success and all the local providers for being involved on the day.



Kat Knapp
Stage 1 & 2 Teacher



Stage 1 Maths

The Stage 1 Maths students have been working extremely hard to complete their Maths assessments in Term 4. We have had five 'Maths Intensive Days' for the students to have extra time to focus on their Maths work, with many Xavier staff members helping the students and providing lots of snacks and treats to reward all of the hard work in class.

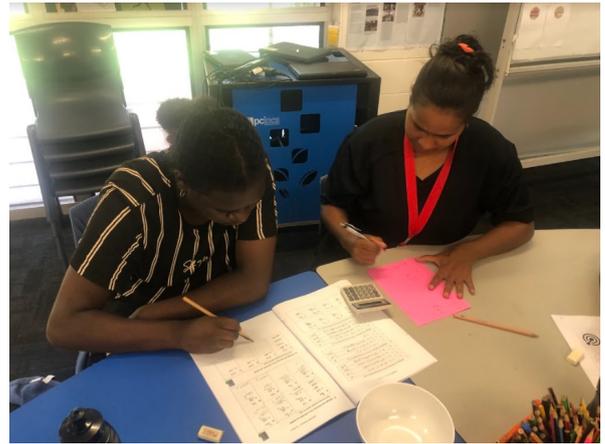
Our incredible Tiwi teachers have supported the Stage 1 students as well as the Xavier teachers, assistant teachers and even staff from the Catholic Education office in Darwin!

Rochelle, a Year 11 student, says: "Maths is important because you need Maths in your life to calculate your money and your hours when you are working".

Claudia, a Year 10 student, says: "Shapes is my favourite topic because it is fun with Chris".

Congratulations to the Stage 1 students who have completed so much of their maths work in Term 4!

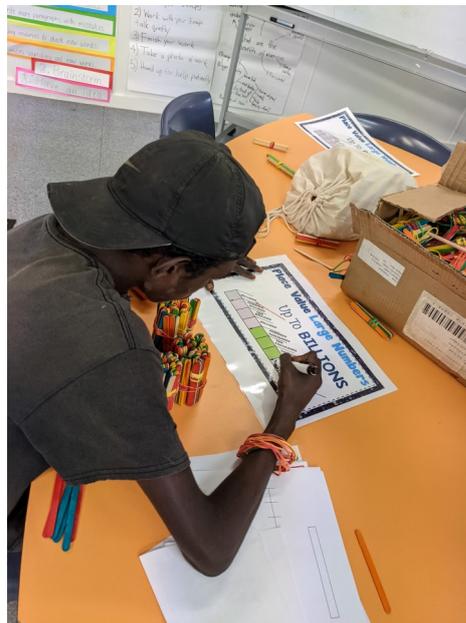
Kat Knapp
Stage 1 & 2 Teacher



Jarrakalani Maths

During Term 4 in Jarrakalani Maths we have been revisiting and extending our knowledge on skip counting by 5s, 10s and 3s. We have been also looking at 'reading, writing, saying' using base 10 block numbers up to the billions.

In the last week we have been practicing counting decimal numbers and reading and writing them.



We are really proud of the work and achievement of the Jarrakalani group in this term so far.

Jack Hewson
Maths Teacher



Mayimampi English

Mayimampi English students have been learning to write reports in Term 4.

So much good learning has been occurring in the room as students have been sharing their Tiwi knowledge about the different animals on the Tiwi Islands. They described what they were used for and how they were hunted and prepared for eating.

As their teacher I have learnt a lot this term and enjoyed immensely listening to students share their knowledge and are very proud of their 'Tiwi Culture'. Students wrote about Mayimampi, Jarrakalani, Mantuwujini, Dugong and Wuninga.



Anne-Maree Fewtrell
Deputy Principal

Christian Ministry & Theology

In class, Tamsin has been reading stories from the Bible and thinking about what they mean to her and how they may be relevant to the community.

She was inspired by the character of Elizabeth who she thinks would be a good role model for the Xavier community.

Belinda Pereira
CMT Teacher



Elizabeth

Be strong and faithful like Elizabeth.



She prays to God all the time and one of the prayers was for a child.



CONGRATULATIONS LEASH!

Acting Curriculum Coordinator at Xavier, Leash Giles has been awarded an 'Apple Award' by the National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA) Foundation, acknowledging her outstanding efforts in teaching and for going above and beyond for her students. Congratulations Leash!



The
NEiTA
Foundation Est. 1994

Culture

In Culture, the female students have been participating in a Weaving Project, organised by Karina at Starwin and run by Frances, Marie Carmel, Jacinta and Sandy.

The goal of the Project is for the students to learn the Tiwi way of weaving and to create a display for the office. Along the way, we've had fun telling stories and learning together.



Session 1:

We collected the pandanus and helped to strip, boil, dye and dry it.



Session 2:

We practiced weaving the pandanus using a needle.



Session 3:

We learnt how to weave a "bellybutton" which is the small circle used to start weaving.



Session 4:

We continued weaving our "bellybuttons" into bigger circles.

On Thursday in Week 8, we will have our last session when we will finish our weaving and put the circles together to make an artwork.



We are very thankful to Karina and the Strong Women for supporting our Culture Program at Xavier!

Belinda Pereira
Culture Teacher

Year 6 Transition

Last Wednesday, 22 students from MCPS visited Xavier for the first of three transition sessions.

Being in Year 6 means these students are in their final term of primary school and are about to make the important decision of where to attend school for their secondary education.

Having transition days allows for the MCPS students to get to know Xavier staff and also talk to some of the senior and junior students who they might go to school with next year.

During the first session the MCPS students got the chance to participate in a Health & Physical Education class or an Art class. They then joined the Xavier students for lunch followed by a complete a tour of the school grounds in small groups with some of the Xavier senior students.

This was a very successful day and many of the Year 6 students told us how much fun they had and that they were looking forward to coming back for the last two sessions of transition.

Josh Leane
Pastoral Care & Wellbeing Coordinator

