



# XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

7 March 2023

Issue 1



*Stage 1 & 2 Child Studies Excursion*

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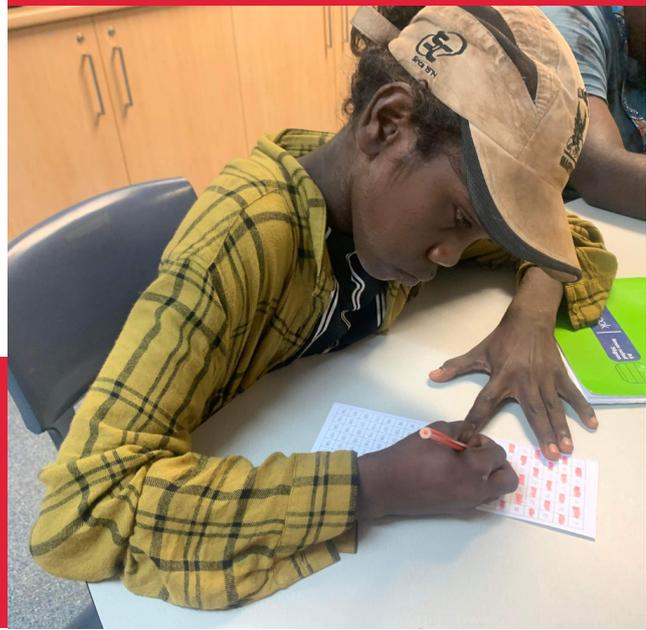
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## Welcome Back

We are so excited to start the new year with such fantastic attendance so far. Our Year 7 students are settling in well at high school and their senior peers are setting excellent examples both in and out of the classroom.



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# Principal's Message



Thank you to Xavier Catholic College and Wurrumiyanga for welcoming me and my wife Helen. We are very happy to be here and look forward to becoming a part of the community, both at school and in the community. Our daughter, Imogen, visited Wurrumiyanga a few weeks ago, but, unfortunately, she had to leave us again to go and continue to study in Melbourne.

It has been a really positive start to the year. We have been averaging 75 students each day and we are seeing a lot of excellent learning and teaching. I thank the leadership of our staff - particularly our Deputy Principals, Angelo Orsto and Josh Leane, for creating such a strong start.

This is a word I keep seeing and hearing - '**STRONG**'. **Strong in Culture, Strong in Faith, Strong in Learning ... STRONG**. It is a great word. We must be strong in our hearts, minds and bodies in order to face the challenges of learning and living everyday - and I have seen us all trying to do this!

Well done to all at Xavier for the **STRONG** start to the year.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know all our families as the year progresses. Thank you again.

**Rhett Bowden**  
**Principal**



## Prayer

Loving God,  
You always call us into  
newness of life.  
Help us to hear your voice  
and see your love in every  
little moment that helps us  
grow. May this season of  
Lent draw our hearts  
closer to yours.  
In Jesus name.  
Amen

# Deputy's Message



Awana mamanta, I am really excited and proud to be in the Deputy Principal position and helping to develop strong future Tiwi boys and girls.

Due to the excellent increase in student numbers and attendance, Xavier has hired a number of new Tiwi Teachers and staff this year. Our male Tiwi teaching staff include myself, John, Peter, Ross, Valerian and Raphael while our female Tiwi teaching staff include Jericka, Mara, Gypsy, Ephrianna, Marietta, Noreen and Simone.

We also have other important school roles being done by Tiwi staff. In the office, we have Bertram and Antonio who help work with families and students and do our admin work. In the canteen, we have Dulcie and Raelene who assist with making our students their breakfast, recess and lunch. Finally, we have Stellastina and Katrina who help keep the school clean and tidy for our students.

As you can see we have such a large and brilliant team, and I am looking forward to watching our students grow under these Tiwi leaders. 2023 looks to be a great and exciting year and I hope you continue Staying Safe, Learning Everyday and Respecting Everyone.

**Angelo Orsto**  
**Deputy Principal**

*Middle Boys Pastoral Care Group*



# Deputy's Message



It is hard to believe we are already in Week 5, but there is a saying I like - 'Time flies when you're having fun'. When I walk around the school and see all the smiling faces of both students and teachers, I am proud to say that we are achieving a very positive learning environment and we are genuinely having fun at school!

At Xavier, we value a learning environment where students feel happy and safe. Our three school rules say it all - **Stay Safe Learn Everyday Respect Everyone** And for those familiar with our Xavier X Red Dust 2021 hit - *keep a smile on your face!*

We are so proud of how students have been coming to school with a positive attitude and ready to learn.

I would like to take this time to remind families and the community that at Xavier Catholic College we have zero tolerance to violence at school. This means that if any student is involved in physical or play fighting during the school day, we will be communicating with their family. Xavier is a safe place and it is everyone's responsibility to keep it that way.

Keep up the great work,

**Josh Leane**  
**Acting Deputy Principal**

*Senior Boys Pastoral Care Group*



## Pastoral Care

This year Pastoral Care has been divided into four groups - Middle Girls, Middle Boys, Senior Girls, Senior Boys. We have seen very high attendance for these lessons so far which has been excellent. Students have had a chance to work on setting their goals for the term, as well as learning about the importance of regular hygiene which they can access at morning and afternoon Homeroom. This term we will also continue working with the presenters from the Community Spirit Foundation every fortnight to teach students about a variety of topics.

**Josh Leane**  
**Acting Deputy Principal**

# Our 2023 Teaching Team



**Rhett Bowden**  
Principal

*Stage 1 & 2 RE*

Rhett has joined Xavier from O'Loughlin Catholic College in Karama, Darwin, where he was Principal for 6 years and taught for 19 years. He was born in Country Victoria but moved to Central Australia (Pukatja) in Year 7 and completed school in Alice Springs. He loves AFL and Cricket - he played AFL for Port Melbourne and East Fremantle, and Cricket for Melbourne Cricket Club and Scarborough Cricket Club (Perth).

Angelo has recently stepped up into the role of Deputy Principal after almost 8 years at Xavier, working in the classrooms, with a strong focus on student well being. Outside of work, Angelo is also a strong leader, having coached the Tiwi Bombers and currently coaching the Tuyu Buffaloes.

**Angelo Orsto**  
Deputy Principal



**Josh Leane**  
Acting Deputy Principal

*Stage 1 & 2 IL: Sport*

Josh has been working at Xavier since 2017. Originally from Adelaide, he was doing relief teaching in a number of schools and managed a gym. Josh plays for the Tuyu Buffaloes on the weekend and hopes to win the premiership this year.

*Jarranga RE*

**Sr Monique Singh**  
Assistant Principal Identity & Mission

Sr. Monique is a Canossian Sister and has been working at Xavier since Term 4, 2021. Before that, she lived in Brisbane, though her family is in NSW. This year she is coordinating Catholic Identity and Mission across both Xavier and MCPS.



**Jodie Meares**  
Curriculum Coordinator

*Yilinga Literacy  
Yilinga Numeracy  
Mayimampi Art*

Jodie is from Sydney. She is a mother of 3 sons and grandmother to 3 little girls. She has mostly taught in Western Sydney and in 2011 & 2015 volunteered to deliver teacher training in East Timor, living in a village which had no running water or electricity. Jodie has always been interested in teaching in the NT and was extremely excited to join Xavier last year.



**Marietta (Rayma) Puautjimi**  
Tiwi Teacher

Rayma graduated from Xavier in 2020 and went on to study at Charles Darwin University, completing her Certificate II in Sport and Recreation. This is her second year now working with the Xavier team. Rayma travels to Darwin on weekends to play in the NTFL for Tiwi Bombers as a mid-fielder.

Peter has been working at Xavier for 2 years since he finished his schooling at Rostrevor in Adelaide. He is focused on being a good role model for our students and enjoys supporting them in their learning. Peter is a great musician and loves playing guitar and singing, and he calls himself the #1 Carlton supporter!

**Peter Orsto**  
Tiwi Teacher



**Shakira De Vincentiis**  
Indigenous Workforce Coordinator

Shakira first came to the Tiwi Islands as a teacher in 2004. After that first visit she knew she would come back to Nguiu/ Wurrumiyanga one day. Shakira came back in 2018 and taught at MCPS for four years before joining Xavier in 2022. This year Shakira is working closely with Tiwi Teachers to promote Tiwi Culture.

*Yilinga RE  
Jarranga Numeracy  
Jarranga Art  
Culture Facilitator*

Mara started at Xavier as the bus driver, and then found her passion in the classroom as a Tiwi Teacher, encouraging students to reach their potential and work toward a great future for themselves. Mara's skin group is Sun and she enjoys spending time with her young family, and watching her partner play football.

**Mara Munkara-Murphy**  
Tiwi Teacher



**Jericka Mungatopi**  
Tiwi Teacher

Jericka has worked at Xavier for 5 years, and has recently come back from maternity leave after welcoming her beautiful daughter to her family. She choose to come back because she loves the students and want them to get the best education.



**John Tipiloura**  
Tiwi Teacher

John is back working at Xavier after playing football for Wynyard in Launceston, Tasmania where he almost won the premiership. His goal at Xavier is to set a good example for students and to be someone they can look up to as a strong Tiwi male role model.

*Jarranga Literacy*

Jo is new to Xavier this year. This is not her first time working with Indigenous students, she also worked in the Kimberley. This year she is the Inclusion Support Coordinator and also the Literacy Teacher in Jarranga.



**Jo Mitchell**  
Inclusion Support Coordinator



**Simone Munkara**  
Tiwi Teacher

Simone graduated school two years ago in Darwin and started as a Tiwi Teacher in Term 3 last year. She has a huge family and loves being with her siblings and cousins in her free time. Simone is really enjoying one-on-one work with students in her class, Mayimampi.

Noreen graduated in 2013 from Xavier and was one of six of the first Tiwi students to graduate. She returns to Xavier as a Tiwi Teacher this year, and wants to help our students reach their goals. Noreen has 3 beautiful children keeping her busy, and also plays the back line for the Tiwi Bombers on the weekend.

**Noreen Mungatopi**  
Tiwi Teacher



**Meet the rest of our  
2023 Teaching Team  
Newsletter Issue 2, followed by  
2023 Support Staff in Issue 3!**

# Catholic Identity

Staff of both MCPS and Xavier commenced their on-Island Orientation week with a Mass on Monday, 30 January. We prayed in a special way for all new staff as they commenced their time here in Wurrumiyanga, with a blessing and candle. The candle is a symbol of Jesus' light with us.

On Ash Wednesday, Xavier students gathered in the library for a liturgy to mark the beginning of the season of Lent. Fr. Niran Veigas came to celebrate the liturgy. One key symbol on Ash Wednesday is the mark of ashes on the forehead, in the shape of a cross. It



reminds us that this time of preparation for Easter is a special moment to pray, think of others and perhaps make some changes to be more Christ-like. We prepare our hearts for Easter by bringing ourselves in front of God and being open to what God wants to whisper to our heart.

**Sr Monique Singh**  
**Assistant Principal Identity & Mission**

## Religious Education

Jarranga RE have made a strong start to our year together! We have looked at what it means to be a part of a cultural, school and faith community. We have had the chance to learn something new about each other. We are also preparing for Easter through our learning, exploring the season of Lent.

**Sr Monique Singh**  
**Assistant Principal Identity & Mission**

**Jarranga**



# Yilinga Literacy

Yilinga students have been brainstorming ideas, to help us write our stories, using visual images as a starting point. Everybody then wrote their own story about the Ogre and his friend Bat.



# Numeracy

Yilinga students have been exploring addition and subtraction using number lines to check their calculations, finishing off with a game of 10 more or 10 less bingo.



**Jodie Meares**  
Curriculum Coordinator

# Smart Skills Mayimampi

So far this term in Smart Skills, Mayimampi are learning about 'Challenges' and how to deal with them. We've learned about some really interesting people, like Lionel Messi, William Kamkwamba, and Cathy Freeman. All of these people faced

challenges in their lives, and overcame them. Next week, we'll be learning about how the Yolngu boys from Black As deal with the challenges of being out bush. Can't wait!

**Henri King**  
Teacher



# Outdoor Ed Jarrakarlani



This year, Jarrakarlani has the chance to learn about the outdoors through Outdoor Education. During the last few weeks, we learnt about camp set up, hunting tools and learnt about bush cooking. During week 4, Jarrakarlani kids went to the front beach to go fishing with handles. One student caught one of the big tadpole fish and another student caught a sea snake! Sadly, we had to cut the line because it would not come off. There is plenty more things happening in this class so watch this space!

**Riana Giroletti**  
Teacher



## Child Studies

### Stage 1 & 2

Stage 1 and 2 students have made a strong start to the year in child studies. Students have been learning about the importance of reading to children. Students are currently making educational story books for preschool children using different resources to illustrate their books. One student is using materials to create a sensory play counting story book.

**Meagan Carey**  
Teacher

