

XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE, WURRUMIYANGA

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

2023 proved to be a positive year on many fronts for Xavier Catholic College and for me. Starting as the new Principal at Xavier Catholic College, after 6 years as Principal in Darwin, I was excited and nervous about the change and challenges ahead. Thankfully, our entire staff, led by our two Deputy Principals were welcomed, guided and supported to ensure that we were able to learn quickly and settle in with confidence.

At the start of the year, there were five new teachers from off island but we needed three more. There was some creative timetabling and shuffling of the deck, but we managed to welcome all students back and then recruit more teachers to the team.

Our Teaching and Learning continued to be grounded in a pedagogy of Tiwi 5 Ways learning. We maintained the structure of having four classes of Year 7, 8 and 9 combined (Junior School), one VET senior class and one NTCET senior class (which completed Year 11 and 12 subjects). The curriculum delivery was challenging at times however, our teachers, Tiwi teachers and all staff worked with energy and resilience to ensure that we could foster progress.

Led by our Curriculum Coordinator, we ran a project that focused on student engagement at school. Many students were attending school, yet not attending classes. Teachers collected data on the students that were not engaged in class, times when students walked out of class, where students were walking around etc. This data helped us to make the decision for 2024 that we would split the Year 8 and 9 girls and boys into different classes. We hope that this will enhance and support engagement.

The main highlight of the year was the Graduation of six of our Year 12s - four achieved their Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training. After six years of Secondary School and Primary school at MCPS, it was a proud moment for the students and their families and community.

Other highlights were the Opening School Mass, Bush Camp, immersion visits by other Australian schools, Clontarf visit and AFL match, Culture lessons and much more.

We had two report nights, when academic reports were distributed, and they were very well attended by parents and carers. After speaking about student progress, we also asked for a survey to be completed that would give us feedback on our school. This will also help us to plan for next year. (Following the Catholic Education NT initiative, we will be introducing the survey 'Tell Them From Me' in the future.)

It was heartening to find that after a solid year of teaching and learning, our enrollment was 100 at the time of statistics collection by the NT Government in August. This was up by 24 compared to 2022.

VISION, MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENT

Xavier Catholic College is an Aboriginal Catholic Community School that provides a holistic education; one that develops the personal, social, spiritual, cultural, physical and intellectual capabilities of its students. It does so by recognising that these capabilities are grounded in community and culture and based on the inherent dignity of the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God.

By offering an education that synthesises Tiwi culture and spirituality, Catholic teachings and values and a robust and relevant curriculum; Xavier Catholic College can grow young Tiwi people who are strong in faith and culture. This allows them to be able to transform their homes, communities and this great nation. As the Uluru Statement from the Heart says, “When we have power over our destiny, our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country”.

SCHOOL CONTEXT AND HISTORY

Xavier Catholic College, located in Wurrumiyanga on Bathurst Island, Northern Territory, is an Aboriginal Catholic Community Secondary School for young Tiwi people administered by Catholic Education Northern Territory (CENT). It was established by Bishop Francis Xavier Gsell MSC in 1932 and was originally a Boys’ School but is now co-educational.

Wurrumiyanga (formerly Nguiu) is the largest community on the Tiwi Islands and is located on the south-eastern coast of Bathurst Island. It is acknowledged as the ‘capital’ of the islands and houses the main administrative and finance divisions of the Tiwi Islands Local Government.

Together with Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic Primary School (MCPS), the two schools form one Catholic Education Precinct and provide a quality Catholic Tiwi education for students from Preschool to Year 13. Xavier Catholic College works in partnership with the Wurrumiyanga community and with many other training providers and partners to grow the next generation of Tiwi leaders by equipping students with a strong sense of self-efficacy and a suite of tertiary and work-ready set of skills. Xavier Catholic College has been extremely successful in achieving these aims, having produced 41 NTCET Graduates in the past ten years.

SCHOOL WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

Xavier employed 13 Registered Teachers, 24 Tiwi (Assistant) Teachers and 7 school officers.

QUALIFICATIONS, OCHRE CARDS AND REGISTRATION

All staff have their Ochre Cards (Working with Children) and all Teachers have their NT Teacher Registration.

STUDENT PROFILE

98% of the student population is Tiwi.

There were 100 students at the August Census, with 36 in the Senior School (Years 10 to 12) and 64 in the Junior School (Years 7-9).

Year Level	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Total
Enrolment Count	22	20	19	17	10	12	100

Year Level	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Total
Year 7		22	22
Year 8		20	20
Year 9		19	19
Year 10	1	16	17
Year 11		10	10
Year 12		12	12
Total	1	99	100

CURRICULUM, LEARNING AND TEACHING

Xavier has both Junior and Senior classes. Junior is Years 7, 8 and 9, and Senior is 10, 11 and 12.

Junior classes follow the ACARA curriculum, while the Seniors engage in the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) curriculum. The NTCET follows the South Australian Curriculum. Seniors were enrolled in either Stage 1 or Stage 2 subjects. This year, there was a lot of success and achievement in the subjects, with four Year 12s gaining enough 'credit points' to pass and achieve the NTCET.

Our Year 7, 8 and 9s were in four main classes and were enrolled in Literacy, Numeracy, Art, RE, Smart Skills (Humanities and Sciences) and Health and Physical Education. In the timetable, the students also engaged in Culture, House Spirit, Whole School Sport and Pastoral Care.

Literacy and Numeracy are a main focus at Xavier and the XCC Reading Program was used to enable increased participation and progress for all students. Training and other professional development programs are accessed by our teachers in order to continue to upskill in the program. It will be a continued focus next year.

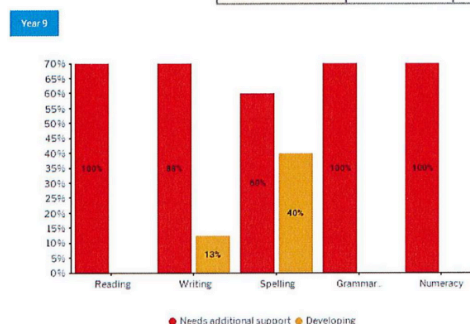
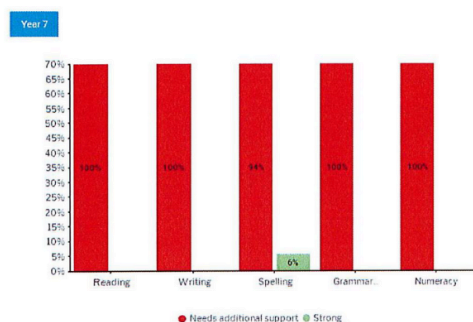
STUDENT PERFORMANCE - NAPLAN

Xavier Catholic College

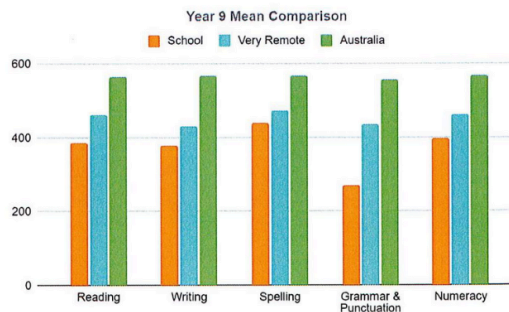
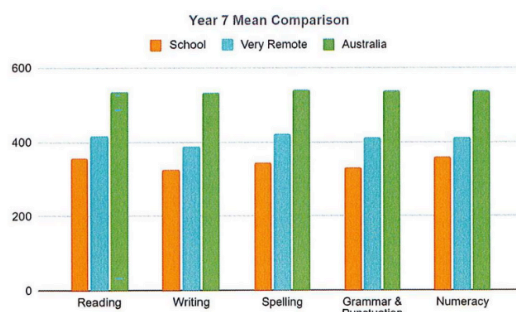
Year 7	Year 9	Year	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
22	14	2023	31 100%	24 100%	22 96%	23 100%	27 100%
		Students	Not Proficient	Not Proficient	Not Proficient	Not Proficient	Not Proficient
		36					
		Schools	0 0%	0 0%	1 4%	0 0%	0 0%
		1	Proficient	Proficient	Proficient	Proficient	Proficient

Xavier Catholic School had a total of 36 students eligible for NAPLAN 2023. This included twenty-two Year 7 students, fourteen Year 9 students. However, not all students completed each NAPLAN test. The participation numbers for each test domain are listed in the table on the right. Overall, students who completed the testing have demonstrated the highest proficiency in *Spelling*. The below graphs show the proficiency achievements of the Year 7 and 9 students across the test domains.

Test domain	Year 7	Year 9
Reading	20	11
Writing	16	8
Spelling	18	5
Grammar & Punctuation	18	5
Numeracy	18	9



The below graphs show the school's achievement compared with the Very Remote mean and Australia's mean results in all test domains.



Students' Proficiency in Reading and Writing

Proficiency	Year 7	Year 9
Reading and Writing	0.0%	0.0%
Neither	10.5%	72.7%
Completed one test but not the other* 5 students Yr 7 3 students Yr 9	3.5%	27.3%
*proficient in	Writing = 0/5 Reading = 0/5	Writing = 0/3 Reading = 0/3

Students Proficiency in Numeracy and Reading

Proficiency	Year 7	Year 9
Numeracy and Reading	0.0%	0.0%
Neither	75.0%	54.5%
Completed one test but not the other* 5 students Yr 7 5 students Yr 9	25.0%	45.5%
*proficient in	Numeracy = 0/5 Reading = 0/5	Numeracy = 0/5 Reading = 0/5

PASTORAL CARE AND STUDENT WELLBEING

Our Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing programs and approach influences the overall school culture. Led by our Deputy, Josh Leane, the PC programs focus on promoting our school values and developing resilience and self awareness that is so important for our students. The leadership team supports Josh with the development and focus on this important area of schooling, and the College is guided by our Catholic values. Sr Monique, our Assistant Principal Religious Education, plays a key role in this work.

Students have a Pastoral Care class and teacher. They are in four groups - Junior Boys and Girls, and Senior Boys and Girls. Each group may focus on slightly different topics or issues that are suited to their age level. This year there was a strong focus on healthy living, relationships and lifestyles, and there were a number of visits from professional health services and outreach programs from Darwin.

The school employs a Social Worker/Counsellor and a School Nurse to help care for all the students. These were new appointments to the College and they are making a very important and beneficial contribution to the lives of our students, staff and community.

Close and positive contact with families of our students has been very important for their Pastoral Care and Wellbeing.

PARENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

Semester 1, 2023

How do you find out what is happening at school?		What do you want your child to learn at school?	
Own child	18	Non-specific responses	30
Word of mouth	17	<i>Everything</i> (20)	
<i>Word of mouth</i> (8)		<i>Anything</i> (9)	
<i>Local staff</i> (5)		<i>Something new</i> (1)	
<i>Teachers</i> (2)		Subject specific	21
<i>Yellow Shirts</i> (2)		<i>Literacy</i> (7)	
Newsletter	6	<i>Maths</i> (3)	
Social Media	2	<i>Culture</i> (3)	
<i>Facebook</i> (1)		<i>PE/Football</i> (4)	
<i>Other</i> (1)	3	<i>Geography</i> (1)	
		<i>Science</i> (1)	
		<i>Hunting</i> (1)	

Other		Religion (1)	
Posters at the shop (2)		Behavioural	5
Walking past the school (1)		Respecting Others (1)	
		No fighting (1)	
		No smoking (1)	
		Skills for after school (1)	
		Stay in class (1)	
Do you check the school Facebook page?		Other	1
No	30	Conservation in wildlife (1)	
Yes	11		
Sometimes	2		

What will help your child to come to school every day?		What stops your child from coming to school every day?	
Sleep related	14	Sleep related	16
Going to sleep earlier (9)		Sleeping in/tired (9)	
Waking up early (3)		Staying up all night (7)	
Curfew (2)			
Yellow Shirts/ RSAS/School Bus	4	Distractions	5
Not walking around	4	Walking around (2)	
		Doesn't feel like it (2)	
		On their phone (1)	
Support	4	Other Issues	4
Family encouragement (3)		Family Issues (2)	
School encouragement (1)		Teasing (1)	
		Sick (1)	

What can we do as a school community to support your child?		What does your child want to do when they finish school?	
Encouragement	17	Find a good job	22
Encouragement (15)		Further study/university	11
Help them (2)		Career specific	9
Pick up/collection	5	Navy/Police (3)	
Nothing	3	Mechanic (1)	

Community support	2	Land Ranger (1) Fisherman (1) Hunting (1) Work at school (1) Football (1)	
Tell them to stop fighting	1		
Breakfast	1	Graduate	2
Use a bell or siren	1	Leave the Island	2
		Unsure	2
		Be independent	1

What are your hopes and dreams for your child?		What else will help us support your child in their learning?	
Educational	12	Support them	6
Graduate school (12)		Other	8
Come to school every day (1)		Feels angry a lot (1)	
Learn more (2)		Only interest in sport (1)	
Career specific	10	Finds school interesting (1)	
AFL/football/sport (4)		Having problems with other kids sometimes (1)	
Nurse (2)		Give them a challenge (1)	
Teacher (1)		Finish the year before moving to Darwin (1)	
Police (2)		Come to school every day to learn (1)	
Ranger (1)		Keep building teacher/student relationships (1)	
Find a good job	8		
Further study/university	5		
Follow their dreams	3		
Become a leader/role model	3		
Have a better life/future	2		
Try living in Darwin	2		
Be able to have their own money	1		

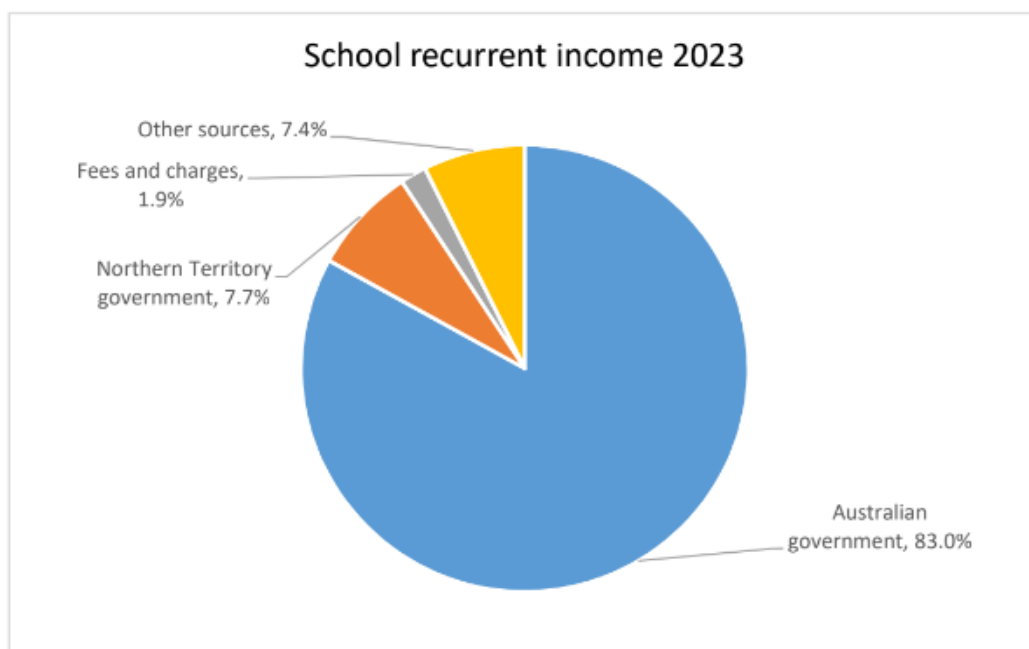
Be happy	1
Not really	3

FINANCE, FACILITIES AND RESOURCES *

Xavier Catholic College School Annual Recurrent Income 2023

School recurrent income 2023

Source	Amount	Proportion
Australian government	4,522,478	83.0%
Northern Territory government	421,412	7.7%
Fees and charges	102,853	1.9%
Other sources	400,435	7.4%
Total	5,447,178	100.0%



* Note: All figures based on school income (excludes system allocations)

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

The highlight of the year was the Graduating Class of 2023. Four students achieved their NTCET and joined the growing list of Xavier graduates.

Other achievements are the progress of our student cohort in Literacy and Numeracy. With dedicated teaching blocks of time, the improvements are occurring.

The Bush Camp was a wonderful achievement and experience for all. Once again, the whole school ventured to Tarntipi Beach for the camp.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Throughout 2023, the theme 'many parts, one body' set the scene for a strong movement towards One Precinct in Catholic Identity & Mission at Xavier Catholic College (XCC) and Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic Primary School (MCPS) The Catholic Aboriginal Leadership Teams (CALT) of both schools guided the new staff through a welcome smoking ceremony and All staff Mass during the On Island orientation week.

Culturally responsive material for the classroom prayer tables were updated for the new year. The material was screen printed at BIMA wear, which supported this local business.

Semester One included several liturgies including Ash Wednesday, The Passion Play on Holy Thursday, One Precinct Mass on 3rd April, The Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Feast Day and another One Precinct Mass on the 20th June, celebrated by Bishop Charles Gauci. Active student leadership in Catholic Identity has taken the form of the Senior students designing and participating in the Mass on the 3rd April, including the devising of Prayers of the Faithful and having them translated to Tiwi. A XCC student joined the MCPS students for the Sacrament of Confirmation in a culturally rich Mass. The semester concluded with a One Precinct Staff Spirituality Day that moved between the two schools, and outside to front beach.

Our Religious Education assistant for XCC assisted with the planning of Religious Education units and the implementation of the program throughout the school. CALT primarily assists with liturgy. There was a prayer for St. Mary of the Cross (Mackillop), Australia's first Canonised Saint, in

August. The school patron Saint Francis Xavier was also celebrated in a liturgy in December. Bishop Charles returned for a One Precinct Mass on the 19th October. Also as One Precinct, All Saints and All Souls were remembered at the cemetery with a liturgy and tidy up of the graves of family and friends. The Feast Day of school patron Saint Francis Xavier was also celebrated in a liturgy in December.

In prayer, XCC has also shown reverence for the people that have fought in war, to bring peace to the world. There was a liturgy for both ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day - the Tiwi involvement in World War II was particularly acknowledged.

The year concluded with a whole school Christmas Mass in Week 10, and a staff reflection prayer together on the 15th December.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE



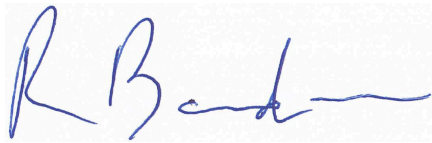
The Tiwi 5 Ways of Learning guides our Community and Culture programs and approach to learning. The Culture program was very well led this year and there were many exciting, inspiring and powerful activities and experiences shared by those involved. Going out 'on country' was important and we spent a number of culture sessions away from school and getting back to the natural world. The trip to the Ranku waterhole was a highlight.

We were very grateful to many elders of the community for joining us for the Culture sessions. The Strong Women's Group were very supportive and spent a lot of time with our students and staff talking and teaching about culture and life.

ENDORSEMENTS

The Principal of Xavier Catholic College Wurrumiyanga endorses to the Director of Catholic Education NT, the 2023 School Annual Report.

Rhett Bowden
Principal, Xavier Catholic College



Date: 21 March 2024

Approval

Paul Greaves
Director, Catholic Education Northern Territory

