

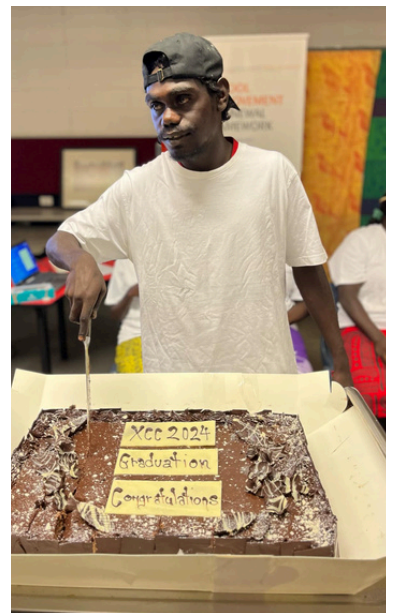
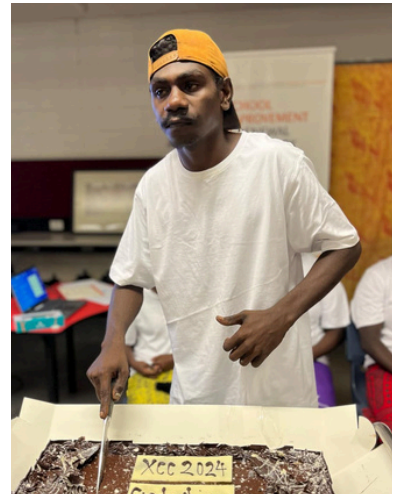


# XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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## Newsletter Issue 8, 2024



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Rhett



What an amazing year it has been for Xavier Catholic College.

There have been so many highlights, and we can all be proud of the way that we have worked together, supported each other and continued to build our strong culture of learning.

As my second year as Principal comes to an end, I now know a bit more about life on the Island and feel so lucky to be surrounded by incredible students, staff, families and friends.

Life is not all smooth sailing – there are many challenges for us all – but what makes Xavier special is that no matter what the challenge, we want to overcome it and seek to be better and stronger for the experiences.

Thank you to our students for their efforts this year. We have seen so much progress! A special congratulations to our Year 12 Graduates – Jeremena, Jelena, Mickayla, Rebecca, Wayne, Robbie, Kevin and Tanya. Graduation is a wonderful achievement. Thank you also for your admirable leadership of our school.

Thank you to our Xavier staff. Our Leadership Team of Josh, Angelo, Aaron and Sr Monique have led us with wisdom and poise, and our other CALT members – Bertram, Simone and Peter – have guided us so well. Huge thanks to all our staff, who always demonstrate resilience, good humour and great care for all!

I am excited about 2025 and really look forward to ongoing progress, fun and highlights next year.

Have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year holiday.

Rhett Bowden  
Principal



## DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

Josh & Angelo



It feels like only yesterday we were gathering down at the New Church for the Back to School Walk, looking ahead to what we knew was going to be a very busy but also very exciting term.

The end of Term 4 is a period with lots of celebration but also a touch of sadness as it is bringing to close the journey at Xavier for some students and some teachers.

On Thursday 28 November, four of our Year 12 students who completed their NTSDE Certificate participated in their off-island graduation at the Darwin Convention Centre. Alongside other distance education students from all over the Northern Territory, Jeremena, Jelena, Mickayla and Rebecca were joined by families and friends to celebrate their hard work and achievements.

The following week, the four girls joined four other students Kevin, Robbie, Tanya and Wayne for the on-island graduation and family lunch. We wish all the Year 12s the best on their next steps in their journey and look forward to hearing about their success in the future.

While it is the end of the journey for some, Term 4 begins the journey for a new set of students as we welcomed the 2025 Year 7s to the school through three sessions of the transition program. During these times, the MCPS students were able to meet teachers, see their classrooms for the following year and get a small experience of what high school is like. There was lots of positive talk from everyone and I know they are excited about being part of the Xavier community in 2025.

Another highlight at the end of the year was hosting the Semester 2 Parent and Caregiver Report night at the bistro. This was a good time for staff and parents to have a conversation about how students were travelling at school and how to continue to improve in their studies in the future.

As always it has been another busy term and all staff and students are looking forward to the upcoming break. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe restful New Year. See you back in 2025 for the Back to School Walk.

Josh Leane & Angelo Orsto  
Deputy Principal



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# IDENTITY & MISSION

Sr Monique

Happy Advent! A time of waiting in hope for Jesus to come to us as a newborn baby. It's a time of preparation for Jesus and for ourselves too, so we can be ready in our hearts to celebrate Christmas and to be like Jesus to others.



On Tuesday the 3rd December, we celebrated the Feast Day of the patron Saint, St Francis Xavier. We had a special liturgy in the library, where we looked at his travels and the reminder that we cannot do great things really well without doing small things really well.

The last main Identity & Mission event for this year is the Christmas Mass. It was held for both schools in the MCPS Hall. This was also the first time our new Tiwi Nativity set has been in public view. Thank you to the carvers at Ngaruwanajirri (The Keeping Place), they are just incredible!



Sr Monique Singh  
Assistant Principal Identity & Mission

## PRAYER

God of love,  
We thank you for all the gifts you have given us  
throughout this school year.

Thank you for the fun times we have shared, for the happy  
times of being together and learning, for being close when  
we have felt sorrow, and for the gift of one another. Keep  
us safe over our holidays.

As we celebrate Christmas, and remember the birth of  
Jesus, help us to show your love to everyone. Amen.



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## Y7 RE & ART

Annie

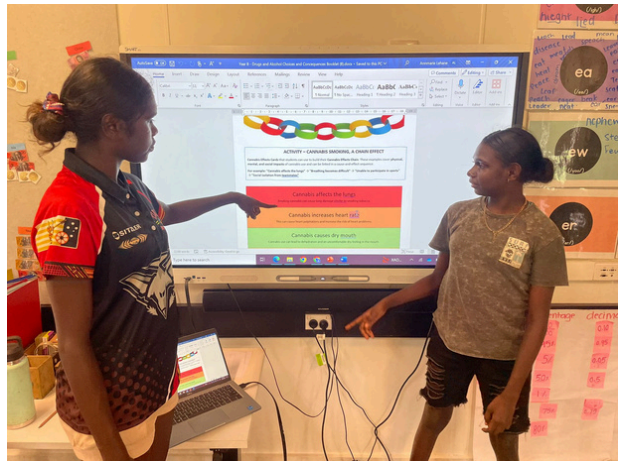


The focus of Junior RE and Art has been the Joyous Mystery of the Rosary. The students have enjoyed and explored a few artistic responses to The Nativity of the Birth of Jesus using Tiwi art and shells for wind chimes. They have also designed their own story drawing on inspiration from their totem, skin group, symbols and dance. We look forward to the coming weeks as we prepare for the birth of Jesus.

## Y8G HPE

Ally

The Year 8 girls have learned a new invasion game this term: hockey. They practised, passing, dribbling and shooting. The girls have even modified the popular game of chaos ball to make it their own and practise their footy kicking skills!



In Health, the girls are learning about the choices they make and their corresponding consequences. For example, we are learning about the effects of alcohol on the liver, the effects of smoking on the lungs and how a vape actually works. They also learned about 'Socktober' and made a soccer ball from recycled materials to better understand how children who are not as fortunate live.



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## Y9G SCIENCE

Jess

At Xavier Catholic College, students have been diving into the fascinating world of chemistry, connecting scientific concepts to real-life and cultural practices. Over the past term, our Science classes have been buzzing with curiosity and discovery as students explored atoms, chemical reactions, states of matter, geology and more!

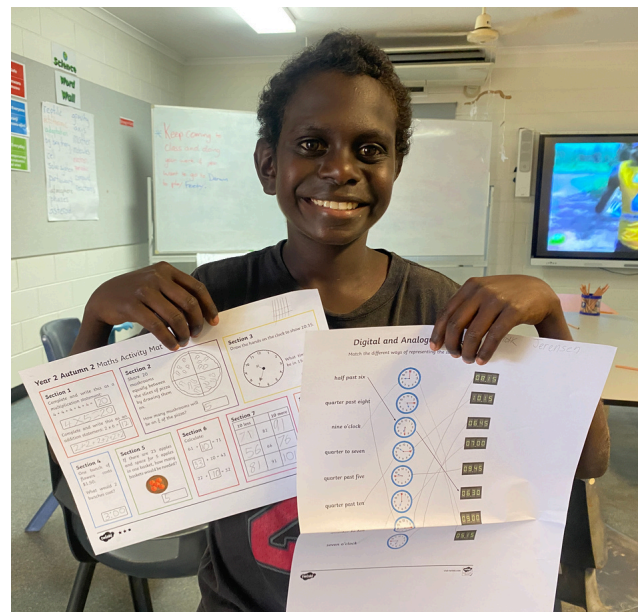


## Y8B LITERACY & NUMERACY

Matt

The Year 8 boys have demonstrated exceptional writing and storytelling skills, particularly in their weekend recounts. They have been able to describe in detail their experiences, from spending time with family to watching the Bombers play on the oval during a storm.

In Numeracy, the Year 8 boys have made significant strides. They have honed their mental maths skills, almost mastering their multiplication and division tables. Additionally, they have developed a strong understanding of time, accurately reading clocks and interpreting time intervals, as well as learning to navigate maps of both the Tiwi Islands and Australia.







## STAGE 2 RELIGION

Sr Monique

Our four Year 12 Graduates finished strong in Religious Education. They each completed an investigation into an issue of their choice for the External Assessment. All four are to be congratulated on their great efforts to submit meaningful, researched investigations, and sincere reflections on the impact of suggested actions for advocacy or transformation.

The students with their chosen investigation titles are as follows:

- Jelena - Tiwi Connection to Country and Culture: richness that can't be captured in a day.
- Jeremena - Tiwi Identity
- Mickayla - The Walk: Drawing attention to make non-Aboriginal people see our issues.
- Rebecca - Tiwi Islands: the importance of ceremony.

## CULTURE

Shakira

Students worked in gender groups to develop their cultural skill set around bush tucker, spear making, kinship, skin groups and right relationships. Students had the opportunity to develop their knowledge around Tiwi plants and animals and how they can be used for food and medicine. Students engaged with word games, stories and quizzes that also promoted language development.

# VET INTEGRATED LEARNING

Lara



Senior VET students have been developing their skills in working 'on Country' through building, carving and adding Tiwi art designs to clapping sticks. The students have also established a partnership with the Tarntipi Farm. Every Tuesday, students have been heading to the farm and learning about horticulture and agriculture techniques. We have started a farm back at school and the pumpkin seeds that the students planted have started to sprout! Hopefully we will have pumpkins growing by the time we return to school in 2025.





# XCC AFL TEAMS EMBARK ON DARWIN ADVENTURE

In Week 7, our Xavier Catholic College AFL teams embarked on an exciting trip to Darwin, packed with opportunities for competition, in a footy battle between Haileybury Rendall School (HRS). Here's a recap of their thrilling three-day journey:



## Day 1: Thursday – Arrival and First Match

The adventure began with the selected 24 students setting off on a Sea Darwin Charter. We sailed across to Darwin dodging wet season storms.

The action kicked off at 4:45pm with a girls' AFL game against HRS, showcasing their skill and determination on the field.

Afterward, both teams came together for a shared dinner and played basketball with the HRS

boarding students, fostering friendships and sportsmanship.



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## Day 2: Friday – Water, Sports, and Community

Friday morning allowed for a relaxed start with breakfast and some free time. With a trip stopping past the Darwin Cenotaph, the teams then cooled off at Leanyer Water Park before returning to their accommodation for lunch and preparation for the boys' AFL game against HRS in the afternoon.

The boys brought their A-game, playing a spirited match full of energy and teamwork. Following the game, both teams were treated to a Clontarf BBQ, a perfect way to refuel and connect with peers. The evening featured an exciting game of AFL where 7 of our female students participated in the U18 Wanderers vs. Waratahs girls' game, rounding out a day of sports and entertainment.

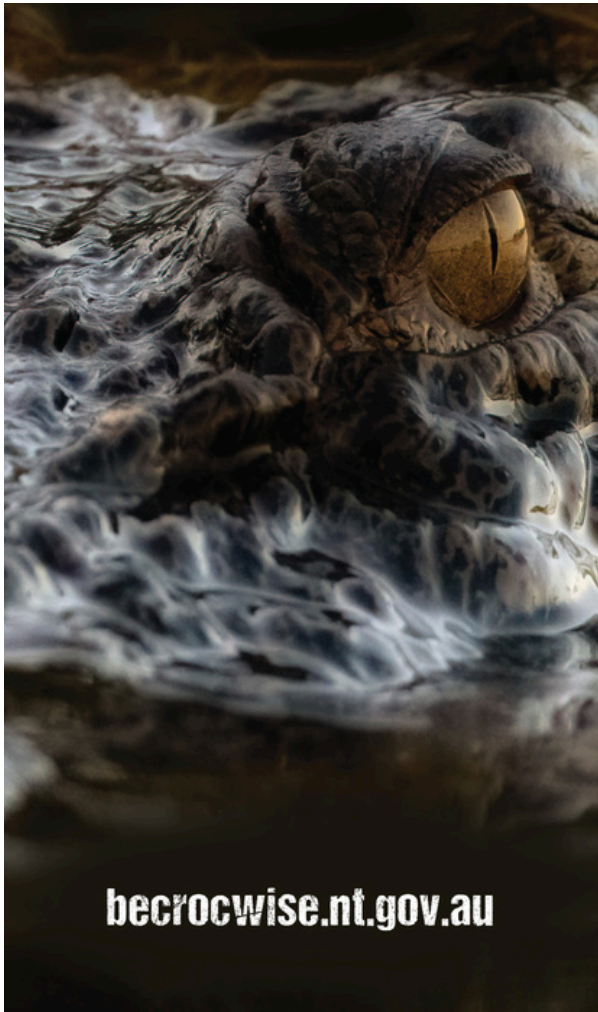
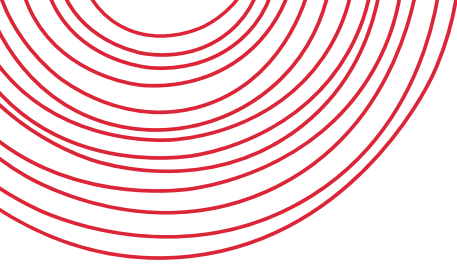
## Day 3: Saturday – Farewell Darwin

Saturday morning saw the teams checking out after breakfast and heading to Stokes Hill Wharf for their return journey. The trip was a fantastic opportunity for our students to develop their skills, build friendships, and represent XCC with pride.

We extend our gratitude to the staff, HRS community, and everyone who made this trip a memorable experience for our students. Go XCC!







[becrocwise.nt.gov.au](http://becrocwise.nt.gov.au)

**DON'T LET  
YOUR MATE  
BE BAIT** **BE  
CROC  
WISE**



**Any body of water  
may contain large and  
potentially dangerous  
crocodiles.**



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