



XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Issue 1, February 2025

Newsletter

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COMING UP THIS TERM

Week 6 Wednesday: Ash Wednesday Liturgy - 10.00am

Week 10 Monday - Wednesday: Mackillop Catholic College
Immersion

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PRINCIPAL & ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Rhett & Angelo



Welcome to the 2025 school year!

We hope that everyone had a restful and peaceful Christmas and New Year holiday and feel excited about this year.

It has been a very good start at Xavier. Angelo and I have been impressed with the way our students have approached school so far. We are particularly pleased with the leadership that is already being shown by our Seniors.

There have been a few changes in our staffing:

- Angelo Orsto is our Assistant to the Principal (AP).
- Ally Lehane is our Deputy Principal (while Josh is on leave).
- Jessica Tassone is our Curriculum Coordinator.
- Shannie O'Shannessy is our Inclusion Support Coordinator.
- Donnacha (Don)Quinn is our PE/Health and Sport Coordinator.
- Henri King is our VET Coordinator.

And we have four new teachers – Morag MacTaggart, Mike Benham, Sarah D'Arcy and Brad Taylor – and a new Grounds man, Travis McKenzie.

We welcome them all to their new positions and jobs at Xavier.

At Xavier, we are all committed to quality Tiwi Catholic Education and are really looking forward to a lot of progress in all aspects of our schooling this year. Most importantly, the progress in our students' learning! We also look forward to working with all our families, friends and the community to ensure we have a successful 2025.

All the best!
Rhett and Angelo



ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL Ally



Welcome back to another year at Xavier! I hope everyone had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and New Years. I went back to Ireland over the holidays to see family and experience some snow and frost again. A big change from the weather here in Tiwi.

Although the weather didn't allow our back-to-school walk to take place, Xavier was still filled with excitement, laughter and the energy of students eager to start a new year. Returning to school means reuniting with classmates and teachers, sharing stories of being out bush or into town, and creating new memories.

Xavier is a place where students are safe, learning happens, and everyone is respected. These rules form the basis of our school while also teaching the students life lessons.

As I'm sure you have noticed, many of last year's teachers enjoyed working at the school, teaching the students and living life on the island so much that they are back again for another year. However, we do have some new faces also; Sarah, Brad, Mike and Morag who we hope enjoy their time at Xavier and experience the joy of Tiwi Catholic Education.

With new opportunities, exciting programs and a strong sense of community here at Xavier, 2025 is set to be the best year yet!



IDENTITY & MISSION

Sr Monique



On Thursday 13th February, MCPS joined Xavier on the basketball courts to celebrate the Combined Opening Mass. Bishop Charles Gauci was the main celebrant and he was accompanied by Fr Niran Veigas, our Parish Priest. It was a lovely celebration and special thanks to our seniors for being strong leaders by joining CALT in the Entrance Procession (the Wunjaka Song) as well as some joining the choir and reading the First Reading (Numbers 6:22-27)



We enjoy some of the season known as 'Ordinary Time' at the start of the year, before we mark the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on the 5th March. We will have a school liturgy to mark this change of season and start preparing ourselves for Easter.



PRAYER

Dear God,
We ask for your blessing on our new school year.
Help us to be strong in our school values and be kind to everyone. Thank you for being with us and for the promise of peace in you.
Amen.





Y7G LITERACY Annie

The Year 7 girls have made a great start to their time at Xavier Catholic College. They are getting used to their morning routine of teeth cleaning, prayer and checking the timetable for the day. Then we are ready to begin our daily Literacy lesson.

It's great to see the girls helping each other around the learning table.



Y7 HEALTH & PE Matt

Year 7 students have been busy in Health & Physical Education (HPE) diving into a mix of sports such as basketball, soccer, and the fun-filled Chaos-ball! They've also been hitting the gym, building their strength and fitness.

In Health, they've joined the whole school in focusing on good hygiene, especially keeping those smiles bright with daily teeth cleaning! The HPE department is very impressed with their energy, teamwork, and commitment to healthy habits. Great job, Year 7!





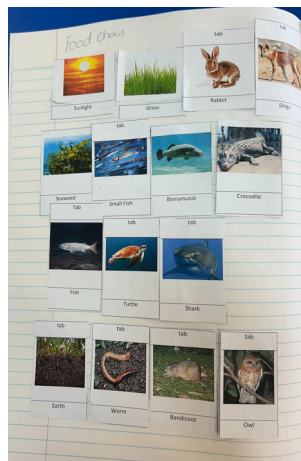
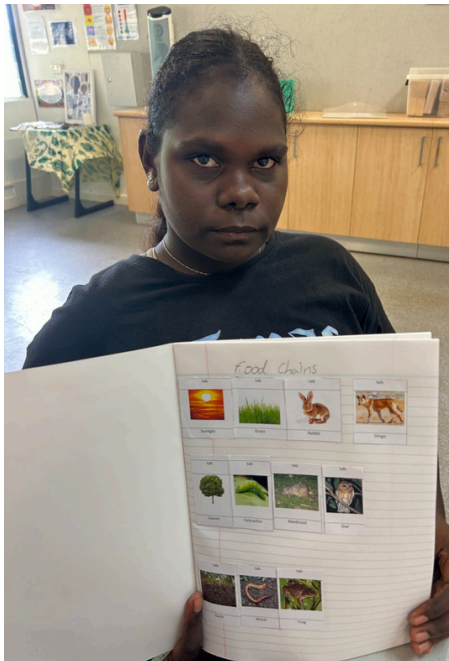
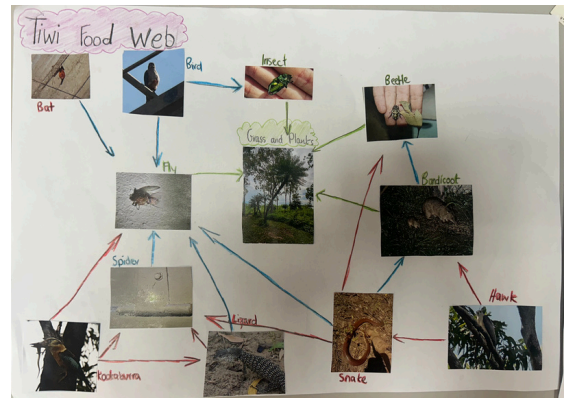
Y8G SMART SKILLS Sarah

This term, Year 8 girls have been learning all about plants, animals, and the connections between them in Smart Skills. They've explored how scientists classify animals into groups, such as mammals, fish, birds and insects, based on their features.

They've also studied food webs and food chains to understand how energy flows through ecosystems. The girls created their own food webs, showing how plants, herbivores, and

carnivores are all connected. By learning about these connections, the Year 8 girls are understanding how all living things in nature depend on each other!

Keep it up, Year 8!



Y8B WOODWORK & RE Brad

This term the boys have been learning about Woodwork and Religion. In Woodwork they have been exploring different types of tools, parts of trees and safety in the workshop. They have been designing a small timber bow which they will be building over the rest of the term.

In Religion, students have been working through the topic '1 Heart Journey: Identity'. They have been exploring their identity, the community and their families. Students will be using the workshop to make timber crosses for their families.

It has been great to see the boys working hard in most lessons. Keep up the good work!



This term the boys have been learning about the six main classes of animals on the planet. They've explored how scientists classify animals into groups, such as mammals, fish, birds and insects, based on their features.

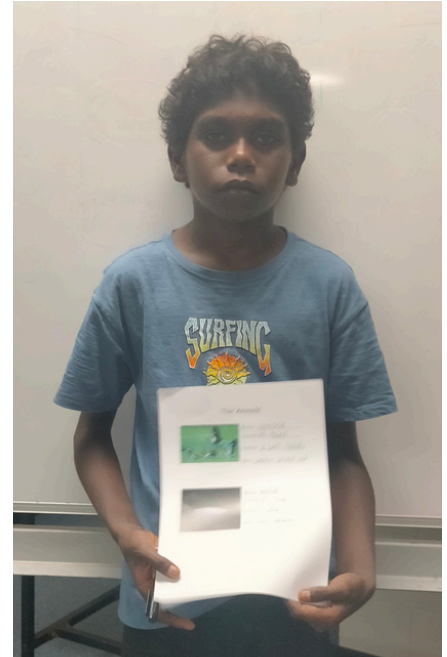
They have also studied food chains and webs. They have learnt to distinguish between Producers, Primary Consumers, Secondary Consumers and Apex predators. The boys have constructed food chains and webs to understand the connections between animals.

We are now starting to examine cells and their functions in living things.

A big shout out to those staying in the room and learning!

Y9B SMART SKILLS

Mike



VET WORK READY

Henri

So far this year, senior VET students have been working with TITEB to complete their Certificate II in Community Services. This is a great certificate for helping students to get a job after school at organisations like Catholic Care, Shire Council, Territory Families and TITEB.



We have been learning about how to work with people from different cultural backgrounds, or who may not speak the same language, so that they feel safe and supported. Well done senior VET students!



STAGE 1 ESSENTIAL MATHS Ally

We are very happy to have such a large number of students doing Stage 1 Maths this year! They have all had a great start.

This term we are focusing on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division questions. We are using this knowledge to help us with things that will happen in real life. We are also preparing for continuous assessments to make sure everyone is staying on top of their work! Well done to all students so far.

STAGE 2 ART Sr Monique

Our Stage 2 Artists have made a great start to the year, being very brave and trying lots of new media and techniques in their first few weeks of the school year.

The first task is to grow their experience and understanding of different 2D media, needing to reflect on their experiments and document their progress. So far this has included a variety of graphite pencils, chalk pastels, compressed charcoal, water soluble oil pastels, monoprints with block ink, unfamiliar watercolour techniques, perspective drawing and inversion of lights and shadow with still life drawings on black paper. They will continue to build up their 2D art skills and then use them to collaboratively illustrate a book towards the end of the term.

