

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Xavier College,

There is no doubt that the teaching of Jesus is misunderstood and mischaracterized in our world today. We only have to watch the news or read the newspaper to see how true that is. Everyone in the media has an opinion about the Church and it is more often than not based on some misunderstanding of her doctrine or history.

One of the most common mischaracterizations of Catholics is that, because we believe in life after death, we do not make the most of our time on earth. Instead of going out and helping people, we are waiting for Jesus to someday make everything right at the end of the world. We are more than willing to allow suffering in our lives and injustice in our world because somehow God will make up for it in heaven. We are told that if Christians did not believe in heaven and the end of the world then we would work harder to make this world a better place.

Of course, if this were true, then we would see atheists and unbelievers taking the lead in serving the poor, sheltering the homeless and educating the young. However, when we look around, all the great and enduring charitable institutions were started by people of faith. Universities and schools throughout the world dedicated to educating the disadvantaged are mostly staffed by those who are motivated by their belief in a good and loving God. Everyday, Catholics are hard at work visiting prisons, advocating for human rights and taking in the abandoned. Rather than sitting on their hands waiting for God to straighten everything out in the hereafter, people of faith are hard at work to make real what we pray in the Our Father - "your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

This **Feast of All Saints** offers us an opportunity to look back and celebrate all the great women and men who took seriously the words of today's gospel. *They were the poor in spirit who sought nothing more than the Kingdom of heaven*. They were those who hungered and thirsted for righteousness and wanted nothing more than to have God satisfy their longing. They were the ones who showed mercy to their neighbours because they had experienced God's mercy. They were the *peacemakers* in whom our Heavenly Father's love was so real that they were called "*children of God.*" They worked for justice and peace to the point of being persecuted and even put to death. Experiencing our Heavenly Father's love and goodness, they wanted nothing more than to share it with others. Even while they looked forward to a heavenly reward and a final judgement, they strove to bring love and mercy to all those who were suffering around them. This is the perfect time for us to read some of the wonderful writings attributed to St Francis Xavier. It is also an opportunity to reflect on Ignatian spirituality and education. Below is a great article titled '*Rivers of Ignatian Spirituality*'- Faith at the Crossroad.

http://www.express.org.au/article.aspx?aeid=45592

"For the greater good"

Mr Michael Pate College Principal

From the Principal

Volume 17 Issue 17 30th October 2015



Postal Address: PO Box 98 Cranebrook NSW 2749

**Phone**: 4777 0900 **Fax**: 4777 0930

Address: 1170 Ninth Avenue, Llandilo 2747 Email: xavier@parra.catholic.edu.au Website: www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au



During the last two weeks I have had the wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate all the great young women and men in our Xavier Community who took seriously our motto 'for the greater good'

- I was privileged to be part of the SRC Leadership Camp and watch the high level of problem solving, collaboration and planning for 2016 by our new leaders. These young women and men are a credit to our College and their families.
- On Thursday we awarded our inaugural 'Gold Award' Badges to students who have excelled across all area of College life. We congratulated: Sarah Bonnici, Brianna Cini, Tina Beslic, and Hollie Busuttil (Bradman); Jack Wenzel, Riki Anderson and Biance Portelli (Campion); Mitchell Anderson, Louis Angeli and Holly Hliounakis (Cumberland); Zac Mitchell and Stephanie Brown (Loyola); Chloe Spears (MacKillop); and Kayla Bruckard and Chloe Heath (McCormack).



This is an outstanding achievement and demonstrates the commitment these students have toward their learning.

- Xavier recently won the 2015 Science and Engineering Challenge Competition, where we were named as the 'Champion School'. Over thirty 'budding' scientists from Xavier out-performed twenty other schools and colleges in Sydney.
- Our College leaders have been actively seeking quotes and arranging meetings with suppliers of 'water bottle refill stations'. It was very pleasing to see the students negotiate for changes to their College.
- There were over 50 awards given to students who competed in the History, Geography and Business Studies Competitions during last term. Again Xavier has out performed many other schools.



Xavier College wins 2015 Science and Engineering Challenge Competition



#### From the Assistant Principal

#### Parents and Friends (P & F) Meetings: Reminder

The next P & F meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November commencing at 7.00pm. P & F meetings conclude at 8.30 pm.

The outline of the structure of these meetings is as follows:

- Prayer
- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Correspondence
- Principal's Report
- Assistant Principal's Report
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Parents' Representative Council Feedback
- **General Business** (Items must be emailed to the President [Laura Mueller] prior to the meeting. These are the only items which will be addressed. Items not addressed by 8.30 pm will be carried over to the next meeting).

#### **Social Media**

As you are very aware, most students use numerous forms of social media. This can be a very useful tool to assist communicating with family and friends. Unfortunately there are occasions where individuals in our community use social media inappropriately. This has the potential to impact on a student's self-confidence and self-esteem.

Parents and caregivers can significantly reduce the possibility of their child using social media inappropriately in two very simple ways:

- 1. Learn how to use social media
- 2. Regularly check your child's devices and social sites

#### Some Important Reminders...

- If your child does not feel well at school please encourage them to go to the front office and speak to the office staff. The office staff will make contact with you if required.
- Please be aware that if you come to the front office to pick up your child without notice there will be a delay. This practice should only occur in an emergency.
- Thank you for ensuring that your child arrives at school by 8.30.
- If you have a question or a concern regarding the education of your child please make contact with their Homegroup teacher. It is always better to ask rather than wait.

### Havier College

It is always important that we take the time to be aware of the all the wonderful opportunities we have, the people who accompany us in our lives, and the little things that brighten our day - it might just be a smile, a gesture or an acknowledgement of something we have done:



#### **Gratitude Prayer**

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined. You have surrounded me with people who always look out for me. You have given me family and friends who bless me every day with kind words and actions. They lift me up in ways that keep my eyes focused on you and make my spirit soar. Lord, provide me with the ability and sense to show them every day how much they matter. Give me the ability to give to them the same kindness they have provided to me. I give thanks for all of your blessings in my life, Lord. I pray that you remind me of just how lucky I am, and that you never allow me to forget to show my gratitude in prayer.

Amen

(Adapted from A Prayer of Gratitude, http://christianteens.about.com/od/christianliving)

Thank you for your continued support

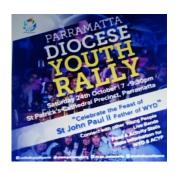
Patrick Finnerty <u>pfinnerty@parra.catholic.edu.au</u>



#### From the Mission and Formation Team

#### Youth Rally at Saint Patrick's Cathedral

On Sunday, October 24th, the youth of the Diocese of Parramatta gathered at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in the centre of Parramatta City. As representatives of Xavier College, we attended the Rally to not only represent the College, but also to gain a brighter knowledge of both the upcoming youth events: World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland, and the Australian Catholic Youth Festival to be held in Adelaide.



Through our attendance at this rally we were able to listen to the talks by Father Paul Roberts and the Master of Ceremony, Phillip, allowing us to find out more about the meaning and purpose of our attendance at these events. It was pointed out by the speakers that the youth *are* the Church, so we too must be given the responsibility of spreading it to the world. This responsibility was entrusted to us by Saint John Paul II, founder of World Youth Day, and we must carry it out. Saint John Paul II said, "The Church entrusts to young people the task of proclaiming to the world the joy which springs from having met Christ." We, the young people of the Church, have to be the ones to carry on the light of Christ (yes, we just referenced the school song) as it is us who will be able to make the most difference, bringing up our experiences, the experience that is shared by all youth.

Gideon Chia, Attending World Youth Day Poland 2016 and Adam Sultana, Attending Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2015









#### Pass It Forward! Be a Catechist

Over 140 children to Grade 3 will sign up next year to learn more about Jesus and the Catholic faith. You can help them learn and grow by becoming a catechist and/or by driving our Xavier College student catechists for Cranebrook or Kingswood Parishes. With classes offered each Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings throughout school terms, you are almost sure to find a time that fits your schedule. As you nurture the faith of our young, you will learn and grow as well! As one long-time catechist put it, "I learn so much from the children!" Catechist volunteers are provided with training, materials and support. Even if you are only available to transport the Xavier students, that too is a gift!

Next year's catechist classes begin in February 2016. If you are interested in either becoming a catechist and/or driving our Xavier College students, or if you would like more information, please contact Careyanne Moylan, SRE Coordinator at Xavier College on 02 4777 0900.

Careyanne Moylan SRE Coordinator



#### From the Director of Learning and Pedagogy

"There is no substitute for hard work" Thomas Edison

Wow! Can you believe we are already at the end of Week 4? The 2015 HSC will conclude next week, our Year 12 2016 cohort will begin preparing for their first HSC Assessments and Years 7 to 10 are in the midst of completing Formal Assessment Tasks. Soon the decorations will go up and the Christmas carols will begin being piped, ad nauseam, throughout shopping centres.

#### Year 12 2016

Despite the march of time, there is still much learning to take place. This is particularly relevant for our new Year 12 for whom the October holidays were their last until this time next year. Until they complete their final HSC examination, the school holidays must only be considered a break from routine, if their desire is to exceed their expectations and achieve their personal best.

The school holidays are an excellent time for students to complete revision notes, engage in further extended reading for each of their subjects, practise their writing skills and listen to or attend a lecture. Students who choose to 'down tools' will find the job of returning to school, particularly after



6 weeks, and the rigours of study and class work challenging and stressful. Maintaining a regular study and preparation routine will lessen the anxiety and need to undertake extensive late night last minute revision

I have written and spoken previously about the importance of students applying themselves with diligence and sustained effort. I have take parents and students through the BOSTES Course Completion requirements, and the consequences of not adhering to these requirements. You have all had the opportunity to read and respond to your child's Final Preliminary Report. For many of you this would have been a pleasant experience that affirmed your child's effort and commitment to their final years of schooling. For some of you, this would not have been the case and I am sure, we support each other in working with your child to guide them toward a more productive and commensurate outcome.

To assist you further in this process, we have added a Year 12 Parent – Teacher – Student Conference to the calendar for this term on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November between 3.30pm and 7.00pm. I encourage you to avail yourself of this opportunity to discuss your child's progress with his or her teachers, so that together we can ensure they are working to capacity in order to achieve results commensurate with their ability.

Supporting our children in their learning journey may, at times, seem arduous, but together we can guide them to achieve greatness and exceed their expectations.

Many blessings,

Alyssa Roach

### Year 12 2015 Students: Sign out day

Thursday, 26th November 2015





#### From the Student Counsellor

#### The Check-in app



Last year, the NSW Mental Health Commission released a report 'Support in tough times: Encouraging young people to seek help for their friends'. This report provided insight into how young people can be supported to help their friends through tough times.

Recently, **The Check-in** app, has been developed by Youthbeyondblue. This app provides ideas about how a young person might approach a friend who they are worried about. It is **free** to download.

#### Who's it for?

Anyone who wants to check in with a friend but is concerned about saying the wrong thing or making the situation worse.

#### How's it work?

The app takes you through four steps, super easy and quick, getting you to think about where you might check in, what you might say and how you might support your friend. There is also a section showing you things to consider, such as what if my friend denies there is a problem or what if I say something silly. After you have had your conversation you can go back into the app and rate how it went. The app will then give you advice on the next steps.

There's also links to where you can get support and tips from young people.

#### Have a conversation with someone you are worried about

In addition, Youthbeyondblue have put together some resources to help young people <u>start a conversation</u> when someone they know isn't acting the way they usually do. There are some videos that can help them with what to say and what to do, as well as other tips. Visit: <a href="http://www.youthbeyondblue.com/help-someone-you-know">http://www.youthbeyondblue.com/help-someone-you-know</a>

#### Being there for someone



- ✓ Let the person know if you've noticed a change in their behaviour.
- ✓ Encourage them to talk about what's going on (how they feel, what they're thinking, what they're doing differently).
- ✓ Let them know that you're there to listen without being judgmental.
- ✓ Suggest they see a doctor or health professional and/or help them to make an appointment. You could offer to go with them.
- ✓ Help the person to find information about anxiety and depression from a website or library.
- ✓ Be the friend you've always been. Hang out together. Just being there can really help.
- ✓ Reassure them they are not alone and there is hope that things can get better.



- Put pressure on the person by telling them to 'snap out of it' or 'get their act together'.
- **x** Stay away or avoid or ignore them.
- **x** Tell them they just need to stay busy or get out more.
- Feel you need to talk about how they're feeling all the time.
- Pressure them to party more or wipe out how they're feeling with drugs and alcohol

Maggie Trevena School Counsellor/Psychologist



#### **Student Representative Council Camp**

The past two weeks have been an exciting time for the Student Representative Council (SRC) with a lot of changes happening. In Week 2 we were inducted as the 2016 SRC, with each student receiving their badge at the induction assembly.

With a number of new faces joining this coming year's team, we were given an amazing opportunity to bond with one another over the course of a three day camp. During that time we learnt a lot about one another as we worked together in team building activities, including high ropes, canoeing and rock climbing. We then established SMART goals for the year which were presented to Mr Pate.

The incoming SRC all came together as one group and we are looking forward to a great year!

Emily Kowal and Grace McCurley Year 10 SRC Representatives





## **Xavier College Choir - Live Streamed to half a million people for MUSIC: COUNT US IN!**



"Music: Count Us In" brings teachers, parents, students and the music industry together in celebration, as more than half a million people unite to sing the same song at the same time, right across the country.

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 30 students from the Xavier College Choir will be travelling to Taronga Zoo to perform with the "Music: Count Us In Choir", along with Marcia Hines and John Foreman.

Our students will be part of the live stream from 12pm, beamed out to schools and other venues around Australia, so that half a million kids can count down together and sing the song that stops the nation!

The link for the live stream is: http://event.5stream.com/6224

A big thank you to Ms Leehy and Mr Kempis for their help in preparing for this exciting opportunity.

Mrs Lesley Watters
Xavier College Choir Director

#### From the Administration Team

#### Student Travel—School Opal Card online application

Transport NSW has advised that the School Opal card will officially launch its new online application on Monday, November 2nd, for relevant parents and students travelling in the Opal public transport region.



The application can be found at <u>transportnsw.info/school-students</u>

Just like current paper travel passes, the School Opal card gives eligible students free travel to and from school on school days. However, the School Opal card makes travel simpler, because now students don't need multiple application forms and passes if they use different transport operators within the Opal network.

Students with school travel passes this year will not need to apply for a School Opal card unless they are changing schools, campus, their home address, or moving from Year 2 to 3 or Year 6 to 7.

*Please Note:* Travel applications received at the College for new Year 7 students in 2016 have now been processed and forwarded to NSW Transport. Eligible Year 7 students will therefore receive their new School Opal cards at the commencement of 2016.



Those students who do not need to apply (that is, current eligible students in Years 8 to 12 in 2016) will automatically have a School Opal card sent to school for the beginning of the first term in 2016.

#### **Students Leaving Xavier College in 2015**

If your child will not be returning to Xavier College for study in 2016, please advise the College, in writing, as soon as possible. Your letter should include the following information:

- Your child's name and year group.
- The reason they will be leaving the College (e.g. transferring schools, employment, TAFE, etc.).
- Their anticipated last day of attendance at Xavier College.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Dawn Hackett

Director of Finance and Office Administration

#### **Xavier College**

#### **Uniform Shop—Extended Trading Hours**



2015	2016

#### November

Saturday	14th	9.15am-12.00pm

#### **December**

Tuesday	8th	8.00am-4.00pm
Thursday	10th	8.00am-7.30pm
Tuesday	15th	8.00am-4.00pm
Thursday	17th	8.00am-7.30pm

#### \_

#### January

Monday	18th	9.00am-3.30pm
Tuesday	19th	9.00am-3.30pm
Wednesday	20th	9.00am-3.30pm
Thursday	21st	9.00am-7.30pm
Monday	25th	CLOSED
Tuesday	26th	CLOSED
Wednesday	27th	8.00am-3.30pm
Thursday	28th	8.00am-4.00pm



#### **Careers Update**

#### **CAPA**

Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts

#### Think Design Scholarships

Opens 2 November Closes 31 January Billy Blue College of Design, CATC Design School. http://www.billyblue.edu.au/apply/scholarships

#### **Shillington College Graphic Design Information Session**

27 November, 6.00pm

Level 3, 50 Margaret Street, Sydney

http://www.shillingtoncollege.com.au/graphic-design-course/info-sessions

#### The University of Sydney Film and Animation Showcase

1 December

Camperdown Campus

http://sydney.edu.au/compass/events/index.shtml

#### **ENGLISH**

#### National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo)

1 to 30 November

The Young Writers Program is part of NaNoWriMo and writers up to 17 years can share their work with the YWP community. Further information at: <a href="http://ywp.nanowrimo.org/">http://ywp.nanowrimo.org/</a>

#### **SCIENCE**

Senior Science, Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science, Physics

#### ATARS for 14 health professions - every course in Australia!

For dentistry, dietetics, exercise science, exercise physiology, medicine, midwifery, nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy plus more. Details. https://www.myhealthcareer.com.au/?s=atar

#### **Western Sydney University Engineering Frontiers**

8 and 9 December, 9.00am to 3.00pm,

Building U, 56 Second Ave, Kingswood Campus

Experience engineering and university life and talk to university teachers.

http://www.uws.edu.au/scem/school\_of\_computing\_engineering\_and\_mathematics/events\_and\_seminars/engineering\_frontiers

#### **UNSW Space Talks**

3 November, 6.30pm Landing On A Comet – The Rosetta Mission.

5 November, 6.30pm The NASA Asteroid Redirect Mission.

Clancy Auditorium, Gate 9, High St, UNSW Kensington Campus

Australian Centre for Space Engineering Research (ACSER) at UNSW

RSVP via http://www.acser.unsw.edu.au/oemf2015/lectures.html

#### **UNSW Science Work Experience Program 2015 Pilot Initiative**

30 November to 4 December, 9.00am to 4.00pm,

UNSW Kensington Campus

Years 10 or 11. Gain work experience and explore interesting Science careers.

Contact: 02 9385 7788 or studyscience@unsw.edu.au

http://www.science.unsw.edu.au/events/unsw-science-work-experience-program-2015-pilot-initiative

#### The University of Sydney Year 9 STEM Day

4 November

Camperdown Campus

http://sydney.edu.au/compass/events/index.shtml



#### **Greencross Vets Nurse Internship Program**

Closes 15 November

A 9 month program including paid work and Certificate II in Animal Studies.

Contact: internships@greencrossvet.com.au

http://www.greencrossvet.com.au/Careers/Internship-Overview.aspx

#### H.S.I.E.

Aboriginal Studies, Ancient History, Business Studies, Economics, Geography, Legal Studies, Modern History, Society and Culture, Studies of Religion

#### **Sydney TAFE Information Sessions**

25 November, 6.30pm to 7.30pm Accounting and Financial Planning, St George Campus

2 December, 4.00pm to 5.00pm Business, Administration, Legal Services and Accounts Administration

Ultimo TAFE

Info at: <a href="http://sydneytafe.edu.au/newsevents/events">http://sydneytafe.edu.au/newsevents/events</a>

#### T.A.S.

Agriculture, Design and Technology, Engineering Studies, Food Technology, Industrial Technology, Information Processes Technology and Technology, Software Design and Development, Textiles and Design

#### TAFE Western Sydney Institute Information Technology Open Day

4 November, 9.30am to 2.00pm

Building T1C, Nirimba College, Quakers Hill

Hear industry professionals, career opportunities and pathways to university. Call:

Paul Cheleski on (02) 9208 7492 or paul.cheleski@tafensw.edu.au

Tim Smith on (02) 9204 4641 or timothy.smith@tafensw.edu.au

Nathan Rose on (09) 9208 1877 or nathan.rose@tafensw.edu.au

#### **VET Entertainment Industry**

#### **Sydney Film School Digital Filmmaking Distinction Course**

Apply by 27 November

18 to 22 January, 10.00am to 3.30pm

82 Cope St, Waterloo

Develop skills for production of digital films with script writing, production process, editing, camera skills, studio production. Contact: admissions@sydneyfilmschool.com

http://www.sydnevfilmschool.com.au/news-events/news/digital-filmmaking-distinction-course.aspx

#### **Sydney TAFE Information Sessions**

Entertainment, Design and Illustration. 2 December, 6.00pm to 8.00pm, Design Centre Enmore <a href="http://sydneytafe.edu.au/newsevents/events">http://sydneytafe.edu.au/newsevents/events</a>

#### **VET Financial Services**

#### **Sydney TAFE Information Sessions**

25 November, 6.30pm to 7.30pm Accounting and Financial Planning. St George Campus

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 $Ultimo\ TAFE$ 

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Nathan Rose on (09) 9208 1877 or nathan.rose@tafensw.edu.au

#### **VET Primary Industries**

#### **Greencross Vets Nurse Internship Program**

Closes 15 November

A 9 month program including paid work and Certificate II in Animal Studies.

Contact: internships@greencrossvet.com.au

http://www.greencrossvet.com.au/Careers/Internship-Overview.aspx

#### **VET Tourism and Events**

#### **Aviation Australia Cabin Crew Session**

11 November, 6:30pm

Qantas Centre of Service Excellence, 70-80 Euston Road, Alexandria

Learn about training and speak to industry experts on a career as a flight attendant.

http://www.aviationaustralia.aero/cabin-crew-career-sessions/

#### **Board of Studies NSW**

#### **BOSTES Literacy and Numeracy Tests for School Leavers**

Planning to leave school before the HSC? The tests gives literacy and numeracy skills required for employment and further education. Receive a test report to show employers is available on your Students Online Account

http://news.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/index.cfm/2015/9/4/BOSTES-Literacy-and-Numeracy-tests-for-school-leavers

#### **OTHER FIELDS**

#### Ella Baché College of Skin and Beauty Therapy Open Day

9 January, 11.00am to 1.00pm

Level 2/77 Berry Street, North Sydney

Learn courses and career options.

http://www.ellabachecollege.edu.au/study-on-campus/attend-a-college-open-day

#### Au Pair in America Online Information Session

11 November, 8.00pm to 9.00pm

http://www.aifs.com.au/aupair-america/events/free-online-information-session-june/

#### **US Summer Camps Info Meetings**

23 November, 6.30pm to 7.30pm CCUSA Office, Suite 811, Level 8, 301 George Street Sydney or 17 January, 12.00pm to 4.30pm The Grace Hotel, 77 York Street Sydney

#### Likeajob Sydney

A job matching network that puts students in direct contact with multiple employers in just seconds. Create a free profile <a href="http://www.likeajob.com.au">http://www.likeajob.com.au</a>

#### **Koori Kids Futures**

Opens 2 November

Closes 14 November

Runs from 7 to 11 March

Year 10, 11 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders. Career decision planning including health career opportunities.

Visit http://www.nbmlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/health-inspirations/health-inspirations





# Important Dates for 2015 Term 2

For dates of more Xavier College Upcoming Events go to <a href="http://www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au/upcoming-events#">http://www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au/upcoming-events#</a>

Monday, 2nd November	Year 8 Reflection Day, Don Bosco Centre (8 Red, White, Yellow, Purple)	
Tuesday, 3rd November	Year 8 Reflection Day, Don Bosco Centre (8 Blue, Green, Crimson, Orange) P & F Meeting, 7.00-8.30pm	
Friday, 6th November	Year 11 Society & Culture Incursion	
Wednesday, 11th November	<b>Year 12 2015 Formal,</b> Nurragingy Reserve, Doonside	
Thursday, 12th November	Year 7 2016 Information Night	
Friday, 13th November	Year 7 2016 Orientation Day	
Saturday, 14th November	Year 7 2016 Assessment Day	
Thursday, 19th November	Surf School—Year 9 PASS students	
Tuesday, 24th November	Year 12 Parent-Teacher Interviews	

## XAVIER UNIFORM SHOP AND SECOND HAND SHOP

OPENING HOURS THURSDAYS ONLY 8.00am - 4.00pm

#### **REMINDER TO PARENTS**

Parents are asked to notify the College if your child will not be attending school.

Phone: 4777 0900



## Community News...

