This week has been a most affirming week for our school community as enrolments have now closed, and tomorrow we will interview over 200 prospective families for 2014. It is always interesting to listen to the many responses as to why parents wish to enrol their children at Xavier College. Responses ranging from good reputation, good education, sound discipline, friendly teachers, safety and cleanliness are all in the mix. Occasionally responses such as, “I liked the Principal’s speech on Open Night— it was short,” are also affirming and definitely food for thought in future years.

One of the most common responses revolves around our Open Night during which parents have the opportunity to see Xavier in action. Parents and students love to see what a school looks like on the ground. The visits to various classrooms and participation in lots of activities ranging from woodwork to cooking to technology are all appealing. But it is not the facilities nor the shortness of the Principal’s speech which really engage our future parents; it is our students. Many parents comment on the friendliness, the openness and the genuine commitment that many of our students show to their school. As parents are shown around Xavier on our Information Night a range of students chat to parents about Xavier and what it means to be a student at Xavier College. It is these conversations and interactions that speak for what we stand for as a school and what we believe in as a community. Our students are our spokespeople: they are living testament to what we hope to achieve as a school.

Next year we will be celebrating our fifteenth year and indeed it is a good time, as is any year, to stop and reflect on what we have achieved and what we need to achieve in the future. It is not enough to say that our enrolments are more than healthy and our reputation is solid. We know as a school that there are many more things that need to be done in order that we continue to grow.

I am reminded of a story of Houdini, an escape artist who was able to free himself from a myriad of restraints including handcuffs, chains and straitjackets. One day a warden of a jail challenged him to escape from his jail which he believed was invincible. Houdini took up the challenge, arrived at the jail, was placed in a cell by the warden who walked out and shut the door behind him. Houdini immediately took the small tool from under his sleeve and began to pick the lock but to no avail. Ten minutes passed, a half an hour passed and then an hour. Houdini was becoming more and more stressed and fatigued; this had never happened before. Two hours passed and in sheer exasperation Houdini fell against the door. As he did, the door swung open - it was never locked.

How often we believe there are many things in our lives that prevent us from succeeding but many of these things are not real. As students, we can imagine that many things may prevent us from achieving our best.

As a school we must believe that there is nothing that can prevent us from achieving our potential as an outstanding learning community of excellence and care. My hope is that as a school community we will continue to grow and know that the things that we see as a challenge to success are simply not real. Like Houdini, the door is never locked only shut and it is up to us to find ways of keeping it open.

Yours in Xavier,
Tricia Maidens
From the Assistant Principal, Patrick Finnerty

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing my article this week from the Year 11 retreat in the beautiful Sutherland Shire National Park. It really is a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to regenerate and revitalise.

Recently I came across a book I had read at the end of last year, called “The power of good: True stories of great kindness from total strangers.” This book by Mark McCrindle espouses that it is easy to become disheartened with humanity when our daily catch-up with the world involves few uplifting stories. In a survey drawn from our national online research panel (AustraliaSpeaks.com), 95% agreed that the media reports more negative than positive news and 93% felt that this gives the impression that there is more evil than good in the world.

However, if you walk around Xavier College for several minutes the very clear reality is that more good goes on in the world. Much more. We attribute this to you, our community and the values that you instill in your children everyday.

Congratulations to Year 11 and Year 12

Assessment blocks are always a challenging time for students as they have the opportunity to demonstrate their current level of understanding by completing assessments from the courses they undertake. An Interim Report will be sent home at the end of this term which will provide details of how your child has performed. I urge you to call your child’s teachers if you would like any additional information.

Year 9 2014 Elective Selections

Each Year 8 family will receive a letter at the end of this term detailing the electives process for Year 9 2014. If you have any questions regarding the selection process please contact the College.

Use of the College Diary: A Request to our Parents

It is essential that the College diary is used for planning (homework and assessments) and communication between home and school. Please contact your child’s Homegroup teacher if you have any questions regarding the use of the diary.

It often occurs to me how blessed I am to work with and be part of a community such as ours, one built on belief in a loving God and committed to positive, caring and compassionate relationships. I share this prayer of gratitude with you and hope that each day each one of us can find something in our lives to be grateful for:

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We furthermore thank you for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence upon your mercies alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may at all times and in all places give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

(http://prayer.forwardmovement.org/prayers_and_thanksgivings)

Thank you for your continued support

Patrick Finnerty
From the Acting Assistant Principal, Lisa-Maree Browning

This term is rapidly moving to a close. Year 11 and Year 12 students have completed their assessment blocks and over the coming week will be receiving feedback on their performances. Students in Years 7-10 are in the process of finalising assessments. Many students will receive merits for their efforts in class and their results. In addition, there have been points awarded throughout the term for wearing correct uniform. At the final assembly of the term we will again honour students who have achieved bronze, silver and gold, as well as acknowledge the winning house for Term 2.

Last Tuesday’s Staff Development Day provided the teachers with many new skills in the use of technology. I look forward to seeing these new skills further enhance the learning of all students at Xavier College.

As written elsewhere in this newsletter, on Tuesday 18th June we will be celebrating Harmony at Xavier. Many thanks to Ms Jessica Stevenson and the student leaders who have contributed to the organisation of this day. As a community, we are looking forward to a wonderful celebration of harmony through diversity.

HARMONY DAY
TUESDAY, 18th June 2013
MUFTI-DAY
( students are to wear appropriate dress )
bring a gold coin donation

LOST PROPERTY:
A number of items have been in lost property for some time. These include:
- Pairs of sports shoes (New Balance, Adidas, Beckenbauer Allrounders, and black Nike),
- a pair of black leather school shoes,
- several blazers,
- footballs, and
- a sports bag with a pair of blue Reeboks.

If your child has lost any of these items, please ask your child to come to the Office to claim the item.
Year 10 Geography Excursion

On Friday, June 7th, the Year 10 classes taking Geography this semester embarked on an excursion to Sydney Olympic Park (SOP) in Homebush Bay to be taught through hands-on experience about water and land management.

The day was packed with various activities that taught and demonstrated different management systems being used. We learned how Homebush Bay has been altered throughout the past few decades and how water management and conditions have changed for the better.

Students got a hands-on experience with technology that allowed them to test water quality, land quality and air quality in SOP. Expert guides walked with each class group. They were taken through the Mangrove boardwalk and given the chance to see how the eco-systems work hand in hand and how various factors can affect each eco-system and how they function. As part of this activity, the guide would get the students to do a litter search to see how much of each type of litter is still apparent in the mangroves.

The students were also offered a chance to have a hands-on experience with the wildlife that resides in SOP. Various bugs and water-based “critters” were found and we were taught that because certain wildlife can thrive there, this was a good indication that the health of the park is improving over time.

By Amber Goodall (10G)

Schools’ Tree Week - Friday 26 July

Next term, Xavier College is participating in a national environmental initiative run by Planet Ark. We would like to ask families for any native plants, bark or other gardening material donations. The donations will be well received for the exciting project.

Please notify Mr Joel Budd before any deliveries.

For more information please visit the Planet Ark website; http://treeday.planetark.org/schools/index.cfm

Thank you,
Joel Budd
Cumberland House Leader
### Important Dates for 2013

#### Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 18th June 2013</td>
<td>Harmony Day, Gold coin donation to wear mufti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 24th June 2013</td>
<td>PDSSSC Under 15s Football Gala Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 24th June—Friday, 28th June</td>
<td>Year 11 Hospitality excursion to Seaworld</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 26th June 2013</td>
<td>Years 11 and 12 Standard English incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 26th June 2013</td>
<td>Year 12 Advanced English excursion (5pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 28th June 2013</td>
<td>Term 2 ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 15th July 2013</td>
<td>Staff Development Day, PUPIL-FREE DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 16th July 2013</td>
<td>Students commence Term 3</td>
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**SCHOOL FEES**

Please be aware that payment arrangements need to be kept up to date. If a payment is missed, catch-up payments are expected within the next three scheduled payments. That is, if you miss a weekly payment, then a catch-up payment is expected by the end of three weeks.

Failure to maintain the payment arrangement may result in the arrangement being broken and the need to have all outstanding fees paid in full within 7 days.

Steve Hackett,
Fees Officer

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**REMINDER TO PARENTS**

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

Phone: 4777 0900
Community News:

You are invited to join us for

**St Joseph’s Primary School’s 50th Jubilee Dinner**

**Friday 28th June at 7.00pm**

*Emu Sports Club,*
*1 Leonay Parade, Leonay*

The evening will include the following:

- Nibbles on arrival
- 3 course dinner
- Band or DJ

*(Drinks are not included, however a bar is available)*

Tickets are $50 each.

Book individually or per table (8 people).

Tickets are available from the school office from

*Wednesday 1st May to Friday 14th June or until sold out.*

*(Please ensure you include the order form when sending in payment.)*

There will be a maximum of 200 tickets available.

Please note that this event is available to adults only (ie 18 years or older).
**Diocesan Medal of Honour: nominations close Monday 1 July**
The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Medal of Honour acknowledges those who serve the Church and the community with honour and distinction. The recipients are people across the Diocese who serve in ministry through their parish, agency, school or local community. If you know someone who ‘deserves a medal’ you can download a nomination form on the Diocese of Parramatta’s website: click on “About your Diocese”, “Forms” and “Diocesan Awards”. You can also request a nomination form from Rev Dr Arthur Bridge AM, Chairman of the Diocesan Honours Committee, tel (02) 9637 1062, stoliva@bigpond.net.au

**Australian Catholic Historical Society Colloquium: 16 June**
Topic: Emotion in the letters of the 12th Century lovers Heloise and Abelard. Speaker: Dr Jennifer Carpenter, Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Australian Catholic University, Sydney. Time: 2.30pm – all welcome. Crypt Hall of St Patrick’s at Church Hill, Grosvenor St, The Rocks. Inquiries: Dr John Carmody, President ACHS (02) 9417 2082, john.carmody@sydney.edu.au

**Walk Together 2013: 22 June**
Walk Together Sydney will take place at 1pm in Parramatta Park on the Saturday of Refugee Week (22 June). In cities and regional centres all over Australia, you’re invited to join this celebration of diversity and present a picture to our leaders and media of the Australia that is possible. This is an Australia that recognises in its public debate, media conversation and legislation that “if we’re all people, we’re all equal”, equally deserving of freedom, fairness, opportunity to contribute, welcome and belonging. Details: Christine D’Rozario (02) 9390 5935.

**God Loves Families: 24 June & 1 July**
Break open the Bishops’ 2012-13 Social Justice Statement: ‘The Gift of Families in Difficult Times’. In this Year of Faith explore with us the pressures of time, competing for wealth in a consumer society, pressures on family relationships and concern for the most vulnerable families. From 7-9pm, cost $10. An initiative of the Diocesan Social Justice Office in conjunction with the Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. Bookings tel (02) 9831 4911, mhi@instituteformission.com.au

**Study the Gospel of Luke: 26-27 June**
A two-day intensive with Dr Robert Tilley BA, MA, BD (Hons), PhD will be conducted by the Bread of Life Catholic Fellowship on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th June, from 8.30am-4.30pm. This topic will examine issues such as context, genre, language and themes in key passages in Luke, allowing you to better understand this Gospel and discover the joys and challenges of studying scripture. Servants of Jesus Centre, 15 Park Road, Seven Hills. Cost $95. Registrations: Matthew Leslie (02) 9646 9010.

**Tradition Conference 2013: 2-5 July**
Bishop Anthony Fisher OP is a keynote speaker at The University of Notre Dame’s Tradition Conference to be held at the Broadway campus. Does Catholic Tradition allow us to flourish as individuals? The conference will explore four key ideas:

- The concept of ‘Tradition’ in Catholic thought;
- How ‘Tradition’ relates to the many traditions that contribute to the faith;
- How tradition can guide and explain human relationships; and
- Whether tradition is a defensible and valuable concept.

To register tel (02) 8204 4390, www.tradition2013.nd.edu.au

**Mount St Benedict’s 30-year Reunion: 14 September**
Looking for all Bennies girls who did Year 10 in 1981 to Year 12 in 1983. We are organising our 30-year reunion to be held in Sydney. Please join us on Facebook Mt St Benedict Class of ’83 or email your contact details to: mstben83@gmail.com

**Pilgrimage to Ireland with Fr Ted Tyler: 23 Sept-8 Oct**
Fr Ted Tyler, Parish Priest of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish in the Upper Blue Mountains, is leading a pilgrimage to the Emerald Isle with an itinerary that includes: Dublin, Belfast, Enniscorthy, Kilkenny, Limerick, Galway City, St Brigid's Cathedral, Shrine to St Mary Plunkett, Lough Derg and Holy Island, great shrine of Knock, Trinity College with a viewing of the Book of Kells, and the Titanic Museum in Belfast. Further details: Fr Ted Tyler frejtyler@live.com, John Voytas tel 0411 325 710, jvoytas@bigpond.net.au

**Mid-winter in the Mountains: 2 July**
Join the social group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, for a mid-winter feast at the Carrington Hotel in Katoomba. The Carrington opened in 1882 as The Great Western and soon became a popular mountain retreat for Sydney’s elite. The hotel’s pianist will accompany your three-course lunch. Cost: $80 incl. morning tea & lunch. Bus departs 8.45am at 20 Virgil St or 8.50am opposite OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes. Bookings: Marie (02) 9896 7046 or Frances (02) 9636 5548, 0421 027 119, francesgrima@optusnet.com.au