Reflection on the Year 2014

2014 has been an amazing year of growth in Xavier Catholic School. In the seven years since I became Principal at Xavier there has been a massive enrolment growth of 195%. In 2015 the school will have over 350 children from kindergarten to Year 6 with double stream to Year 2 and including a single stream 3 to 6 as well as a combined Year 3/4 class. This will mean a total of 13 classes with 38 staff members. Our 3 Year old Kindergarten has once again been at full capacity for 2014 and has strong numbers for next year already. The Mums and Bubs playgroup for 0 to 3 year olds along with their family continues to be popular. Outside School Hours Care continues to grow and provide a service that is becoming high in demand.

As with any enrolment growth there comes building development. Recently we have seen the start of our Stage 3 buildings. This includes a new purpose-built kindergarten that you can clearly see taking shape at the front of the Pre-primary school. Construction has also begun on the expansion of the school administration to include a larger staffroom, more staff toilets and a new Principal’s office allowing for increased office space. This stage also includes a new student toilet block on the far side of the school that will also house a dedicated cleaner’s storeroom. The kindergarten is planned for completion by the start of the new school year.

Before I announce the staff for 2014 I would like to remind our families that EVERY staff member is here for your children. Building a community needs the immense support of each other. Sometimes we lose sight of the big picture by looking only at ourselves and our own challenges. We need to see the different gifts of each member as a blessing. We need to delight in difference and be informed by it, so that the richness and diversity in us all is unified. WE understand that everything doesn’t always go as planned - it is our human nature - but WE ARE HERE for YOUR children - we care about each one - their safety, happiness and well-being and we want the best for them too just as you do.
It is important that parents/guardians allow the Principal and teachers who have the experience, knowledge and expertise to decide what class grouping is best for each child.

As a school community, we are truly grateful for the wonderful help received by ALL helpers and volunteers who have contributed in any way to the functioning of the Xavier School community in 2014. Thank you especially to parents who help with changing the reading books in the classrooms, who go on excursions, and who show their support for the many other activities and functions in the school year. We truly appreciate the Volunteers in the Classroom from both school and parish who have regularly and faithfully committed themselves to supporting the students in the classrooms. I would like to make special mention of Chris Hunt, Julie Hughes and Ann Bond who started with the classroom volunteer program from the very beginning and are finishing their time at Xavier School this year. Your contributions have been outstanding and the children and staff have been very blessed to have had your time and energy every week for so long.

I also wish to inform you all that I will be on leave till January 2015. After consultation with the Executive Director Dr Tim McDonald, David Hamersley will be Acting Principal to conclude the school year. A temporary Leadership role has been assigned to Mrs Christine Pitman and Mrs Helen Moir enabling them to work closely with the current Leadership Team of David Hamersley and Lisa Brooks to finish the school year.

God Bless.

Cathie Bauer, Principal

CANTEEN

Since canteen stocks are running low, we have put Ravioli and Hot Dogs back on the menu. Children can now order these items until stocks run out.

Swimming Carnival

See you all at the Swimming Carnival on Friday 28 November 2014. Yr 2 – 6 from 9.30am joined by Pre-primary to Year 1 from 12 noon at Armadale Aquatic Centre. IT IS ESSENTIAL that we know if your children are being picked up from the pool or returning to school by bus. Please make sure you have returned your permission slips. All families are required to BYO picnic lunch.

Pupil Free Days & Vacation Care

Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) will be available onsite from 7am to 6pm on the following days:

**Pupil Free Days – Monday 15 to Friday 19 December**
The centre will be closed on Monday 22 Dec. 2014 to Friday 2 Jan. 2015.

**Vacation Care – Monday 5 January to Friday 30 January 2015**
Opening is subject to numbers and therefore you are strongly urged to book now if you will be requiring this service. The cost is $55 per regular day and $65 per day with Excursion/Incursion with registration forms available on our website at [www.xavier.wa.edu.au](http://www.xavier.wa.edu.au)

**Years 1 and 2 excursion to Perth Hills Discovery Centre**

"Last Thursday, the Years 1 and 2 classes went on an excursion to the Perth Hills Discovery Centre. The children went on a Forest Treasure Hunt where they learned about different kinds of animals and trees, met some native Australian animals including a very cute echidna and went on a blindfolded sensational trail! We all had lots of fun and learned heaps about our native wildlife."

**Saint Francis Xavier Feast Day**

COME and JOIN US on Wednesday, 3 December, as we celebrate St Francis Xavier’s Feast Day with our final whole school Mass in the Church at 9am, incorporating ‘Thank You’ to volunteers and community.

This is a great way to finish the school year by giving thanksgiving to God for all our blessings.

**Carols Night—Friday 5 December**

All students from Pre-Kindy to Year 6 are expected to attend this whole school event.
St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal

St Vincent de Paul Society makes a Christmas Appeal each year to help those families that do not have the means to celebrate. Xavier Catholic School will be taking part in the 2014 Christmas Appeal.

Our efforts will contribute to local families being helped. What we collect to make Christmas Hampers will be going directly to needy families in our community of Armadale who have called upon the St Vincent de Paul Society recently.

DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS, e.g. tinned Christmas puddings, biscuits, fruit mince pies, long life juices, fruit cakes, cereal and dried fruit will be needed. Each class will have a basket to fill, so talk to your children about what they would like to donate by 10th December. Your generosity and kindness is greatly appreciated.

30 Nov 1st Sunday of Advent
2 Dec 11.10am - Yr 5 Reconciliation
3 Dec 9am - St Francis Xavier Feast Day Mass
11 Dec 7pm Graduation Mass—Year 6

Mary’s Christmas Dream

I had a dream Joseph. I don’t understand it, not really, but I think it was about the birthday celebration for Our Son. I think that was what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They’d gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar though, because the presents were not for Our Son.

They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree Joseph, right in their house. They decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on the top of the tree it looked like an angel. Oh, it was so beautiful. Everyone was laughing and they were very happy. They were all excited about the gifts.

They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to Our Son. I don’t think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn’t it seem odd for people to go through all that trouble to celebrate someone’s birthday if they don’t know Him? I had the strangest feeling that if Our Son had gone to this celebration, He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone was so happy, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus not to be wanted at His own birthday party. I’m glad it was only a dream. How terrible Joseph, if it had been real!

Let’s put Christ back into Christmas
For then there will be peace on earth for all people.
“Buongiorno a tutti”! (some photos here below)…….‘BuonNatale’

This is the first 'line' you will hear when a small group of students from the Year 5 class perform their Italian play on MONDAY 1/12/14 at the usual Monday morning assembly commencing at 9am. But wait! Aspetti! There’s more! The Year 6 class will perform the Nativity as well. Please join us for this wonderful entertainment where you will witness amazing talent and be very impressed, I’m sure, at our Xavier Catholic School students as they speak in Italian. It’s a wonderful achievement for them. I am so proud of ALL of our beautiful students at Xavier Catholic School with all they achieve, and especially their improvements in Italian! We are very fortunate at Xavier that we can learn Japanese and Italian. Buon Natale! (If you don’t know what that means you can ask your child/children). Saluti e auguri (warmest greetings and best wishes to you), da Signora Leeder

A Day with Mary
A day of instruction, devotion and intercession, based on the message given at Fatima in 1917.

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH
44 Streich Avenue, Kelmscott
Saturday 6th December 2014

Programme 9am, ends at 5pm

Programme includes: Fatima Video, Procession and Crowning of Our Lady, Mass in honour of Our Lady with consecration of the Parish to Her, Exposition and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Sermon on the Eucharist, Rosary, Diving Mercy Chaplet, Meditations on the Passion, Benediction, Enrolment of Brown Scapular and imposing of Miraculous Medals, etc. For further info contact: Franciscan Friars on 94372792, Michele Carter on 94971775, Pin & Paul on 93132910.

St Francis Xavier, Armadale - MASS TIMES

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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>8.00am, Vigil Mass 6.30pm</td>
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St Kevin’s, Serpentine

Sunday: 9.00am (Note: there will be no Mass at St Kevin’s on the fourth Sunday of the month.

St Maria Goretti on the 4th Sunday of every month.

Mass at Schoenstatt Shrine every Friday at 10.00am followed by morning tea.