

Rosebank College

GAZETTE



Celebrating
140 years

RULE OF BENEDICT

And let us stand to sing the psalms in such a way
that our mind is in harmony with our voice. (19.7)

VOLUME NO. 20
26 JUNE 2008

"The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind." Khalil Gibran

Dear parents, students and friends of Rosebank,

We have now come to the end of the first semester and I can see that all are looking forward to their winter break.

The next three weeks will be busy ones for many members of our community. During next week staff will be engaging in professional development as outlined by Mrs Berlage in this newsletter. During the second week, the ten Australian Good Samaritan Colleges including Rosebank will be hosting the International Benedictine Youth Congress at the Collaroy Conference Centre. Here, 300 students from all over the world will gather to share their experiences, deepen their faith and explore new international friendships. We will be commissioning nine of our students this Friday at the St Benedict Day Mass to be our representatives at the Congress.

The following week will be World Youth Day week. During this week we will have many students participating in the World Youth Day catechises, social and religious activities scattered throughout the city. The College is also hosting approximately 370 Pilgrims who will be sleeping over for the week. This will be a great opportunity for all of us to be part of a unique experience.

I thank our many generous staff who will be supervising students from 8.00 am into the evenings each day or acting as accommodation supervisors throughout each of the seven nights from 8.00pm to 9.00am. This is a huge contribution to the WYD08 effort and given generously. We also thank parents who have offered to host pilgrims in their home or who will

assist the staff on the Monday evening as we welcome our young pilgrims from all over the world and assist them to get orientated in preparation for the week's events.

Two of our students have been selected to accompany me to a special celebration with Pope Benedict at which he will bless the altars that have been built by students in schools in the first half of 2008. Our contribution of four has been significant and I thank Mrs Lucas and her D&T class for their gift of time and commitment to ensure that the altars were of a high standard.

Reports will be mailed out to families as soon as they are finalised and the College will resume operations on Wednesday 23 July 23.

I encourage you and your children wherever possible to participate fully in the events of the next few weeks. These experiences will enrich your lives and the lives of all Christians in Australia.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the contributions of Mrs Val Day and Mr John Dixon who officially retire this week. We will celebrate this event at the St Benedict Day Mass on Friday. A profile of their work has been provided by Mrs Berlage in this newsletter. They will be missed by their students and colleagues and on your behalf we say thank you for the many years of service to education and to the students and parents of Rosebank College. As Carl Jung once said:

"One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child."
Well done, good and faithful servants!!!

St Benedict pray for us.

Tom Galea
Principal

Around the School...



Little Red Riding Hood



Students from Catholic Primary Schools



Dramatisation for Year 8 Reflection Day



Year 8 students knitting at Reflection Day

From the Assistant Principal

Staff Changes

This week we celebrate the teaching careers of two long standing members of staff who have decided to retire from full time work. Ms Valda Day has been Rosebank's Teacher-Librarian for 10 years. This year Ms Day also celebrates a total of 40 years service to education in a number of schools and a variety of roles. During that time she has been involved in a huge number of changes, from card catalogues to computerisation. The community of Rosebank is grateful to Ms Day in particular for such things as her work in promoting the Premier's Reading Challenge, her support of students and staff in the library and her involvement in the Stage 5 Pastoral Care team.

Mr John Dixon is also an educator who has given many years of dedicated service to thousands of students in a range of schools and roles. At Rosebank he has generously promoted and coordinated public speaking and debating, as well as teaching English, History and Religious Education. Mr Dixon's contributions to Pastoral Care in the College have also been valued.

On behalf of the College, I extend my sincere gratitude to Ms Day and Mr Dixon for sharing their gifts with our community, and I wish each of them the very best for their retirement.

As the term concludes we are also farewelling several other staff members. We wish Ms Louise Gentile well as she commences her maternity leave. Thanks are also extended to Ms Carolyn Sinclair, who has been Acting Teacher-Librarian during Ms Day's Long Service Leave, and to Ms Toni Robertson who has been replacing Ms Sue Holman in teaching TAS during her maternity leave.

Sadly we are also saying good bye to Ms Jenny Vicic, a member of our support staff, and to Ms Francine Commeignes, Teacher's Aide.

It has been wonderful to have the opportunity of these staff members working with us, and I wish them well in their new ventures.

Professional Development Week

Each year at Rosebank we dedicate one week to professional development for staff. This is in addition to the many other learning experiences in which teachers engage throughout the year. This week always provides a significant and highly valued opportunity to consolidate and extend the work of the staff as a learning community.

During PD Week next week, teachers will be engaged in a workshop with Dr Andrew Martin from the University of Sydney, who will work with us using his research findings on adolescent engagement and motivation. As part of this workshop we will also be continuing our learning experiences and preparation for the extension of co-education.

Much work is also planned for the week in ongoing preparation for the College's Board of Studies registration and accreditation in 2009.

We will also have a number of opportunities for spiritual reflection and renewal during the course of the week.

Overall, it will be, as always, a productive and full program!

Transport Update

The College is served by a number of school special buses, including 3 buses directly to Strathfield station and buses to Concord, Kingsgrove and Homebush Station via Strathfield.

Students may only catch the 409 public service which runs to Burwood station if they specifically need to travel to or through Burwood. Only students who have a Rosebank 409B pass will be allowed to board this bus, in order to prevent both overcrowding and unnecessary detours to Burwood.

All students are expected to make their way promptly to and from school each day by the most direct route.

Senior students are reminded that they must apply for permission to drive to and from school & may only carry one Rosebank student as a passenger if permission has also been granted by that student's parents. Please see Ms Odell or myself for the necessary form.

Miriam Berlage, Assistant Principal

Emotional Literacy

Emotional Intelligence is widely recognised as important for human flourishing. It includes:

- the ability to identify and appropriately express one's emotions,
- the ability to manage and self-regulate negative emotions, and
- the ability to empathise with others' emotional state.

While people will be gifted to different degrees with Emotional Intelligence (EQ), like all intelligences, we can only experience the maximum potential benefits if we train that intelligence and learn the necessary skills. This is what Emotional Literacy is all about, developing the skills that allow our natural Emotional Intelligence to flourish and enrich our lives. It's a key skill in developing healthy relationships and experiencing life as a gift in all its wonder and challenges. Emotional Literacy brings the following benefits:

- promotes self-awareness and positive self-esteem – *'I know and understand myself and my needs and I am comfortable with who I am'*
- fosters self-control – *'I choose how I will respond to strong emotions'*
- develops resilience and optimism important character traits known to be influential for healthy, well adjusted individuals – *'I can see the positive side in every situation, good and bad alike'*
- facilitates healthy communication with others and the appropriate expression of desires and needs – *'I can express myself clearly and respectfully'*
- promotes empathetic understanding towards others which helps prevent bullying and other destructive behaviours – *'I can understand how others are feeling'*

My Day

'My Day' is a daily reflection tool inspired by the spiritual exercises of St Ignatius. By reflecting on the best and worst of the day, children learn to assimilate their experiences into their developing understanding of themselves and the world in which they live. This simple practice is a window into your child's emotional life. When children start school, a large part of their world is out of a parent's sight and reach. Things happen at school, both wonderful and upsetting. Yet by the time a child gets home, the moment has passed. 'My Day' is designed to help parents keep in touch with the high and low points of their child's daily life and so promote the development of their child's Emotional Literacy. To maximise the impact of My Day, make this a family 'night prayer' ritual - give thanks to God for both the good and bad in life and ask the Holy Spirit for help.

1. Ask your child/ren about their day:
 - a. What was the best thing that happened to you today?
 - b. What was the worst thing that happened to you today?
2. Give thanks to God for both the good and the bad in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit for help.
3. Say a Joey Rosary (Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be).



Source: Cath Family E-Newsletter June 2008

Up-Dates from the Coordinator of Mission

The spiritual life of Rosebank College continues to be truly alive and active in this Ordinary Time of the Church year.

St Benedict Day

It is appropriate that Rosebank College—a community grounded in the Benedictine tradition—honours its Patron, Saint Benedict. St Benedict was a man whose life was wholly oriented towards God. To ensure that he kept his life's core focus on the Trinity, St Benedict organised his daily routine around a cycle of prayer and work. For St Benedict, prayer led into work and work gave meaning to his prayer. In this way, his relationship with God became that around which the rest of his life revolved. St Benedict's is an example worthy of imitating. Let us be prayerful people, inviting God into all that we do. May our Rosebank College community prayer this week be that we acknowledge God as the centre of our lives so that we may live lives filled with faith, hope and love. Amen.

World Youth Day

During our St Benedict Day celebration of the Eucharist, those Rosebank students who will be participating in the World Youth Day Activities will be prayed for, commissioned and sent forth as proud representatives of our College. Those Rosebank students who have answered the call of the Holy Spirit to experience the fullness of what World Youth Day has to offer, are assured of the College community's prayerful support. May their experience of this unique event provide for them a lifetime of inspiration.

In anticipation, we congratulate the students who have expressed their interest and enthusiasm for World Youth Day. They have made a sensible choice in availing themselves of this potentially profound and faith-energizing experience. May the Holy Spirit guide them, protect them and encourage them.

There may be a number of parents who may be wanting to contribute to World Youth Day in some way. Rosebank College will be used as an accommodation centre for approximately 370 international Pilgrims. Parents are invited to volunteer to offer their time during World Youth Day week by helping to distribute breakfast each morning. Breakfasts need to be served from about 6.00am to allow for Pilgrims to be off the school site by 9.00am each day. A letter appealing for this type of help was sent home with the students earlier this week. If you are able to assist in any way, please e-mail Mr Angelo Gattone at agattone@rosebank.nsw.edu.au and indicate which mornings you may be able to help. World Youth Day week commences on Monday 14 July and ends on Monday 21 July.

Angelo Gattone, Coordinator of Mission

Dates for the Diary

27 June	Benedict Day. Term 2 classes end.
30 June–4 July	Professional Development Week. Year 10 Work Experience and Year 11 VET Work Placement Week.
10–14 July	International Benedictine Youth Congress
15–20 July	World Youth Day
23 July	Term 3 commences
30 July	Year 11 2009 Course Information Day & Evening
4 August	CSSSA HSC Trials begin
20 August	P&F Education Night

Year 8 Reflection Day

Students are always getting caught up in the hustle and bustle of the school week and Reflection Day is a great reminder of who made us and how to be a blessing to those around you.

Last Friday Year 8 participated in their annual Reflection Day.

During the day we enjoyed many great activities that helped us to understand friendships, kindness and the importance of appreciation. We were also lucky enough to view a play that helped us to understand these issues.

Thanks to Mrs Wilkins-Bennett we all participated in knitting a square for the foundation "Wrap with Love".

I personally would like to thank all the teachers involved because it was a really fantastic day and we all went home smiling and eager to knit.

Gabrielle Read, 8B



Year 7 Excursion

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; We borrow it from our children.

— Native American Proverb

Two Year 7 classes attended an excursion to the Education Centre at Bicentennial Park last week to conclude their studies in Geography for this semester. The students were able to examine the delicate interaction between the built and natural environments. The biophysical aspects of the mangroves of Homebush Bay perfectly illustrates the richness of plant and animal life that many of us take for granted, despite being critical to an ecological future of the planet.

This is especially evident in urban areas like Sydney where development has often come at the price of environmental sustainability.

The girls were able to use a range of geographic equipment to gather data

as well as use GIS systems to look at long term change at Homebush Bay and the reasons behind such change. A great day was had by all.

Pleasingly, no one fell off the boardwalk into the mangroves, but yours truly did manage to give it a pretty good shot!

**Grant Murphy,
HSIE Coordinator**



Drama News

Creative Arts Workshop (Children's Theatre Encounter)

Last Thursday 19 June 45 Year 4 students from 9 Catholic Primary schools arrived full of energy and enthusiasm ready to embark on a challenging and creative day at Rosebank College. They were divided into two groups, working alternatively in the Visual Arts room with Mrs Booth and attending the Year 10 Drama production of "Little Red Riding Hood" in the Drama Studio.

In the Art room students participated in screen printing – a first for many of the students – on a theme related to the performance.

Year 10 collaborated to adapt a contemporary version of "Little Red Riding Hood" and were responsible for lighting, sound, musical accompaniment, costumes and set.

The feedback from the visiting students was very positive and many waited around to get autographs of the performers.

In the afternoon the students previewed the Wakakirri dance/drama performance in the New Hall. This performance, run by two ex-Rosebank students (Charli Mason and Rebecaa Mayr), has been entered in the State-wide competition at Bankstown Civic Centre on August 6. 55 students, from Year 7 to Year 11, are participating in Wakakirri.

The day was recorded in photographs and film. A CD of photos has been sent to participating primary schools and the DVD will follow.

It was an extremely successful day and many students said that they wanted to come to Rosebank for their secondary education.

Year 7 InspireED Program

On 10 June a group of intrepid Year 7s and a group of students from the Italian Bilingual School, climbed aboard one of NASA'S challenger shuttles bound for SPACE!

Their mission; to make contact with an alien being and to devise ways of verbal and non verbal communication techniques.

How were they to do this? Where did they begin? With critical and creative thinking strategies and devices, of course! Investigating and exploring as good astronauts would the new and exciting capacities of the human brain... increasing memory, how our memory

Year 10 Drama students also performed a 4.30 matinee attended by students, staff and their families. Many of the staff brought along their small children who were mesmerised by the performance.

At 7pm a performance was held for the Year 10 parents.

In between there was a pizza party to thank everyone involved for all their hard work and effort.

The Creative Arts Workshop for Year 4 students is an annual event. This is its 5th year. Previous fairy tales have included: The Little Mermaid; Cinderella; Beauty and the Beast; Peter Pan and Snow White and the Seven Scallywags. As this is part of the drama program, next year's production will be Alice in Wonderland with the support of the Textiles class who will be studying a unit on Theatre Design. They will be responsible for backdrops and costumes.

Thanks to:

Leda Booth for conducting the Art workshops;

Julie Taubert for the adaptation and conception of the play;

Tania Layden for organising the Primary School students' participation;

Jackie Oh for providing the pizzas and poppers;

Year 10 Drama students for their involvement and participation;

Charli Mason for her video work, families and staff who supported this event by attending the performances.

Gospel Procession

The Year 7 Drama students are very busy at the moment rehearsing the Gospel Procession for the Benedict Day Mass with support and tutorship from Year 11 drama students.

stores information, and tools and techniques to recall facts and figures. Our journey ended with a series of thinkers' key tasks devised by Tony Ryan and spontaneous challenges prescribed from the upcoming Tournament of Minds. All travellers landed safely back on Earth in time to explore other modes of transport ...home...

A large thank you to Miss Irvine and the Italian Bilingual School for their participation on our space flight.

**Louise Chiantotto &
Johanna Wilkins Bennett,
Gifted & Talented Program Teachers**

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Year 11 Drama students are busy rehearsing for their production of A Midsummer Night's Dream to be performed in week 4 of Term 3.

SED (Building Self Esteem Through Drama)

On Tuesday 24 June the SED group performed "The Wildly Wonderful World of Witches at Wosebank" during lunchtime for invited staff and students. A humorous and entertaining play presented by a dedicated group of performers.



Retrouvaille Rediscovery

Retrouvaille is a program for marriages in difficulty; concentrating on couples who are:

- Frustrated, hurt or angry with each other.
- Constantly arguing or fighting
- Have given up on talking their problems out
- Fell cold, alone or distant
- Thinking about separation or divorce

If you do not know how to change or where to turn, Rediscovery can help.

Our next program commences 1-3 August 2008. For further confidential enquiries or information, please call.

Sydney: 02 9520 1496 or visit the website: www.retrouvaille.org

Weekly Careers News

Term 2 Week 9 2008

See Ms. McAloon or log on to www.careercentral.com.au

Training, Employment and Apprenticeship Expo

Open to Parents and Students

Meet with employers, Group Training Organisations and Industry Specialists. Short sessions on apprenticeships and traineeships will be run every half hour from 5 – 7.30pm on 12 August at the Strathfield Townhall, 65 Homebush Road. See Ms. McAloon to arrange your attendance.

High Achiever Early Offer

Program at the University of Notre Dame Sydney allows talented students to be nominated by their school for a separate early offer into their chosen course. FEE HELP / Scholarships available. Applications close 4 July. A Day in the Life of a University Student 11 July from 9 am to 1pm for Year 11 and 12 students to get an idea of what life is like as a 'real' university student. The day involves presentations and lectures on Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Law, Nursing and Philosophy and Theology (delivered as if students were a real first year class). Interested students please see Ms. McAloon to arrange attendance.

Teacher Education Scholarships

Teacher Education Scholarships are available to talented students in NSW/ACT wanting to teach Maths, Science, English or Technology/Applied Studies. Applications open August.

Computing/MYOB at Gymea

Gymea College, Sydney Institute TAFE NSW, will run an introductory course in Computing, MYOB, Bookkeeping and Microsoft Office. FREE to eligible applicants. Includes job seeking skills + work experience. Compulsory Info Session: 30 June.

UNSW Science Info Evening

The Faculty of Science at the University of NSW will hold an Information Evening on 24 July for prospective students in Yrs 11/12 and parents on course and career options. Registrations required.

TAFE Semester 2 Enrolments

Metropolitan institutes will accept enrolments on 3 July. Contact your local Campus for details now.

Macleay College

Macleay College offers a wide range of accredited courses at Diploma/Adv Diploma level + an Arts degree in conjunction with SCU. A special program of lectures and individual course advice for prospective students will be held on 7/8 July.

Business and Childcare Scholarships

Bedford College offers courses in Business and Childcare from Certificate to Diploma level with university pathways available. No UAI is required. Scholarship assessments will be held on Open Day on 20 September.

Law at UNSW

The Faculty of Law at the University of NSW have released their current Undergraduate Guide. Download online at: www.unsw.edu.au.

Accommodation at UNSW

New College is an Anglican residential college at the University of NSW providing around 80 places a year to both male and female students. All applicants are interviewed. Online applications now open.

2008 Honeywell Engineering Summer School (HESS)

HESS provides Yr 11 students with an overview of the Engineering profession and its many applications in everyday life. Includes practical engineering activities, site visits, social events, FUN! December 7-12. APPLY NOW. First in, best dressed!!

Holiday Sports Camps

Camp Australia will run Holiday Sports Camps in Sydney in a wide variety of sports during the period 30 June - 18 July for students 6-16 yrs focusing on fun and skill development! Early Bird Special! Register ONLINE now!

Worldskills Australia National Competition

Free entry to try a trade yourself and see the Best vs the Best to battle for a gold medal in 50 trade and skill categories. Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre 9 am – 4pm on 11 – 13 July.

Australian Ballet Auditions

The Australian Ballet School will conduct preliminary auditions for all Training Programmes in Sydney (23 - 27/6); late applications now being accepted.

HSC Revision

Edassist will offer an intensive revision and exam preparation program to assist Yr 12 students who are preparing for trial and final HSC exams. 7-11 July. Postal applications close 29 June.

Interested in Zookeeping?

Meet-A-Keeper at Taronga Zoo is open to school students 14 years+ who have expressed a keen interest in pursuing a career at the Zoo. Registrations are now open for Term 3: 6 August and 17 September. Limited numbers. See Ms McAloon ASAP.

Please see Ms McAloon, Careers Advisor, for more information on any of the above notices or visit www.careercentral.edu.au. Parents and teachers can also register online at Career Central. To open a user account, click 'registered' and follow the prompts.

Strategies for Parents of Gifted Children

Seminar for parents and educators of gifted children.

Saturday 2 August, 10.30am–4pm

Forestville Senior Citizens Centre Hall
Cnr Warringah Rd & Starkey Rd, Forestville

For bookings, contact NSWAGTC Office on 9633 5399 fax: 9633 5799 or email: bookings@nswagtc.org.au

P&F Education Night for Parents Empowering Parents to Say NO and Negotiating Boundaries With Teenagers.

Wednesday 20 August 2008, 7.30pm

College Hall

Further details next Term

Co-curricular News

What a term it has been! During Term 2 our students have participated in soccer, touch football, netball (Thursday and Saturday competitions), Futsal and AFL, whilst our Cheerleading and Hip Hop teams continue to train for their upcoming competitions. Four of our five Saturday netball teams are fighting for semi finals berths, as are three of our four Futsal teams. Ms Dix has overseen a committed group of students in their regular "Fit Camp" sessions, and already students have signed up for next terms sessions.

This week saw trials take place for our Term 3 representative sports of soccer and basketball. Students will be notified by the end of the week if they have been selected in these sides. Once again I would like to remind all students of their commitments in regards to representative sport. It is expected that all students who play representative sport attend all training sessions and conduct themselves appropriately at all times. Representative sport is a privilege – not a right – and therefore failure to meet the expectations of the College may see students suspended from these teams.

Students have also been notified this week of their co-curricular activity for next term. I ask that all students ensure they are aware of their activity and come appropriately prepared for this in the first week back.

As next term begins our representative athletic season kicks off. After the success of our own College carnival we are hopeful of several of our students bringing success at both the CBSA and MCCS/CGSSSA carnivals. Training for these teams will take place at the beginning of Term 3. Students are asked to check the sports noticeboard for further information.

The Annual da Vinci Decathlon

A team of 32 students from Rosebank represented the College at the annual da Vinci Decathlon held at Knox Grammar on 3-4 June.

The da Vinci Decathlon is an academic gala day where teams of eight from one year group compete in a day filled with 10 mentally challenging problems and activities. They are required to work harmoniously together as a team to complete the tasks, and are encouraged to display lateral "out there" thinking to succeed.

Some of the events included an "Engineering Challenge", which required them to build a model with set materials and to test their hypothesis.

"Forensic Sleuths" was another challenge that allowed the students to interpret maps and other pieces of procured evidence to solve a crime. Physical challenges were also planned for the day and one such event was the "Creative Producers" task that required the students to develop and present a 30 second commercial to promote a particular product.

Our Stupendous Sevens took the crowds and the challenges in their stride, vying to sleuth, solve and submit as many challenges as they could, with a notable achievement in the Engineering challenge finishing 13th out the 44 competing schools.

Our Entertaining Eights also attacked the day with energy and enthusiasm. Engaging in all tasks with expertise and excellence.

They ably finished 17th in Art and Poetry and 19th in Creative Producers.

Our Notable Nines traversed their way through the other teams to take their place in the competition with great aplomb! They niftily navigated challenges in Science, Games of Strategy and Code Breaking.

Our Terrific Tens surveyed the room and made themselves at home, some having ventured into the da Vinci dome previously. All competed with tenacity; a testament to their determination coming 12th in the Creative Producer and 15th in General Knowledge tangles.

We were absolutely in awe of the girls' abilities and commitment to the

da Vinci Challenge and their dedication to the training workshops that preceded the event. We were encouraged by the many, many students who trialled for the four teams during their lunchtimes and look forward to seeing those and many more students next year.

Louise Chiandotto & Johanna Wilkins Bennett



Rosbank wins Titration Chemistry Comp!

Our first ever win at this year's Titration Chemistry Competition! Our Year 11 and 12 students made us proud this year in the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) Chemistry Titration Competition at PLC Croydon by clinching the 1st and 3rd places out of 26 teams and 7 other schools participating at our venue. The team who scored first comprised of all Yr 12 students, last year's gold and silver medallist 'titrators': Resham Khan and Hanna Chun, and a non-Chemistry student, Denise Tam. The Yr 11 team made up of Stephanie Naim, Maria Teresa Turchi and Isabella Sierra, clinched the third place. The two teams are likely to be up for the National Finals next term at UNSW, depending on the scores of the other winning teams held at other venues throughout NSW.

The other 3 teams made up of John Park, John Markovic, Grace Riotto, Sheralee Clark, Kesaia Takau, Jessica Childs, Jay Barrett and Seda Arslan, obtained creditable results as well and deserved our congratulations.

Well done, to all the students who diligently underwent training in practical techniques and calculations during co-curricular time to prepare for the competition, and good luck to our teams for a placing at the Nationals.

**Chiquita Mathieu,
Science Coordinator**



Winning team from left to right: Hanna Chun, Denise Tam, Resham Khan & PLC Titration organiser.