



GAZETTE

From the Principal

VOLUME NO. 4 – 27 FEBRUARY 2009

Dear parents, students and friends of Rosebank,

This past week we have celebrated much including the parent cocktail evening on Friday (“Under the Fig Tree”), the commencement of the Benedictine Conversations for 2009 on Tuesday evenings (“Ancient Wisdom for Modern Times”) and Ash Wednesday liturgy. These events highlight our serious attempt to explore and live out our Benedictine tradition. At the heart is the central value of hospitality and it was such a delight to see our very talented senior students and P&F committee give such wonderful expression to this on Friday.

The theme of Peace has been chosen for our Benedictine lecture series and on Tuesday evening we welcomed into our community Mrs Nada Roude who spoke about Peace in the Islamic Tradition. The night generated some vigorous discussion. The presence of so many senior Studies of Religion Students was also encouraging as this is one of their HSC topics. You are most welcome to join the two other lectures in the series - *An Environment to Grow In* by Mr Patrick Dodson and *Peace in the Christian Tradition* by Mr Robert Haddad.

The Ash Wednesday liturgy emphasised the spirit of Hope as it drew our attention to refocusing oneself and restoring priorities and core commitments so as to live out our call to wholeness and health (physical, spiritual, intellectual and emotional). The role of the student leaders in this was inspiring.



And so we turn to this period of 40 days of preparation and waiting for the central moment in the Christian calendar – the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is a period of serious ‘soul searching’ (contemplation), of limiting our intake of the good things in life (fasting) and to identify ways of reaching out to others (‘good works’). We instinctively understand the importance of all three. We pray for the commitment to follow the way.

Next Wednesday at the College assembly (Wednesday 4 March at 11.50am) we will induct the students who have been chosen from among the SRC to be members of our College Student Forum. These students will be given the responsibility to speak on behalf of the whole student body, to work on projects that will make a positive difference to student life at the College and to par-

ticipate in other forums across various schools and organisations.

Again we ask for God’s blessing on our work and on our Rosebank Family as it grows and develops with a deep sense of hope, a commitment to peace through justice and the constant practice of hospitality in always welcoming the stranger.

Tom Galea

Dates for the Diary

3 March
School photos
Benedictine Lecture

7–8 March
Duke of Edinburgh Camp

10 March
Benedictine Lecture
Yr 10 Geography excursion

11 March
P&FAGM

18 March
Yr 7 & 11 Interim Report Interviews

24 March
Yr 8, 9 & 10 Interim Report Interviews

Scholarships 2010

For Year 7 2010 scholarships, please register by following the procedure outlined in our website:

www.rosebank.nsw.edu.au/enrolments/scholarship-registration.

Registrations close on Thursday 9 April 2009. Registrations received after this date will incur a late fee.

Alternatively, if you would like more information please contact the College Registrar, Mrs Melinda Henderson on: 02 97133118 or mhenderson@rosebank.nsw.edu.au

E-Newsletter

If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter electronically, please send a request to obtain your Gazette by email to:

newsletter@rosebank.nsw.edu.au

From the Assistant Principal

School Attendance

Students need to attend school every day. This may sound like an obvious statement, however each year it is apparent that some students miss valuable learning opportunities for no valid reason.

Absences should be minimised by arranging appointments after school or during the holidays - consider booking ahead for the Easter break now! Obviously students who are genuinely ill need to be at home to recover; however this is the only really acceptable reason for absence from school. If your son or daughter will not be attending school, parents are asked to telephone the College by 10am to inform us of this matter.

Following an absence from school, parents are asked to provide an explanatory note to the Home Room teacher on the first day of the student's return. Please be aware that consequences will apply to any student who does not return notes as required.

Missing days of school is disruptive and can cause serious gaps of knowledge and understanding which become a significant problem in Years 11 and 12. Reliable and punctual attendance are also key attributes in the work place and are therefore also expected during high school.

Taking days off school to 'catch up' on work, or complete assessment tasks is not a good idea. Students are given ample time for learning at school, and plenty of notice to complete tasks. It is essential that parents ensure that there is regular and consistent effort made on homework and assessments so that students learn about time management and personal responsibility. Whilst it may sometimes be hard to say 'no' to your son or daughter about issues such as these, the life lessons involved are far too important to risk giving in.

You will generally be informed well in advance of any changes to routine, so please do not accept the excuse 'we are not doing anything important today'. There is always important learning to be done!

Parents and teachers need to work together to help students understand the importance of being at school, and you are therefore respectfully requested to support the College in these matters. If you have any questions or concerns about attendance matters, please contact your son or daughter's Year Coordinator.

Miriam Berlage

Photo Day on Tuesday 3 March

All parents should now have the envelopes sent home from Advancelife photographers with packages information. To purchase photographs, please follow the instructions and ensure monies or credit cards details are enclosed in the returned envelopes on Tuesday 3 March. Change will not be provided by either the College or photographers.

On the day, whether students are purchasing photographs or not, they will have their photograph taken as part of their Home Room group and also an individual photograph. Students are reminded that they must be in **full summer uniform** for these photographs. Blazers will not be required.

In addition to the Home Room and individual photographs, there will be the option of family groups to be taken at lunchtime. Envelopes are available from the General Office if you wish to take up this option. Year 12 students will have a formal Year photo taken as part of their package and also an informal Year photo taken that they can order from the photographers for an additional charge at a later advertised date.

The Year 12 photographs will begin the day to accommodate students that attend TAFE in the afternoon. For this reason, **it is requested that all Year 12 students arrive at school on Tuesday in time for morning Home Room.**

Julie MacDougal, Administration Coordinator

From the Coordinator of Mission

As members of the Rosebank College community, we are called to.... listen compassionately and respond wisely to others.

Project Compassion

Having celebrated Ash Wednesday this week, we have marked the start of the season of Lent. It is now an opportunity for us to choose and implement a form of spiritual and personal preparation for Easter and, in so doing, deepen our relationship with God. Also, with the start of Lent, there is the annual appeal to help the poor and disadvantaged. One of the traditional ways we can respond to the needs of our world is by donating to Project Compassion which is the main fundraising effort for the Catholic Charitable Organisation, Caritas Australia. Many of the good works of Caritas Australia are made possible only through the contributions we offer via Project Compassion. So please generously support this charity throughout the season of Lent. Thank you.

Benedictine Spirituality Lecture Series

On Tuesday evening the first of the three 2009 Benedictine Lectures was held in the College Hall. The keynote speaker, Ms Nada Roude, spoke eloquently and passionately about her life as a follower of Islam, giving the audience a clear understanding of Islam's perspective on peace. Nada spoke about the precepts relating to peace which are contained in the Qur'an (the holy scriptures of Islam), the Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) understanding of peace and Nada's own mission of bringing peace through dialogue and understanding. Nada was particularly struck by the similarities she discovered between the Benedictine pursuit of peace and the Islamic ideals relating

to justice, fairness and harmony. I wish to publicly thank Nada for the generous gift of her time and wisdom, enabling us to be better informed about Islam and peace.

In response to Nada's presentation, Mr Ian Powell acknowledged the similarities between Christianity and Islam as well as highlighting some fundamental differences. This made for a lively discussion, especially during question time, and the audience was left with much food for thought and discussion. In this sense, the lecture proved to be both informative and provocative.

I would like to encourage your attendance at the remaining two lectures which will continue to explore the Benedictine value of peace. It truly is ancient wisdom for our modern world. On Tuesday evening, 3 March, Mr Patrick Dodson will present his take on peace in his presentation entitled "Creating an Environment in which to Grow." To request any information about the Benedictine Lecture series, please e-mail me at agatone@rosebank.nsw.edu.au

The remaining two lectures are as follows:

An Environment in which to Grow In; Presented by Mr Patrick Dodson and responded to by Bishop Terry Brady on Tuesday 3 March.

Peace in the Christian Tradition; Presented by Mr Robert Haddad and responded to by Dr Graham Gill on Tuesday 10 March.

Please join us for these evenings of intellectual stimulation and interaction.

Angelo Gattone



Co-Curricular News

A few weeks of wet weather have played havoc with our representative sides – with only our senior boys basketball side playing regular games. Hopefully today's sunshine will see all our teams return to the playing field.

Trials for the CGSSSA Touch football gala day have taken place and teams will be announced before the end of the week. The gala day will take place on Wednesday 18 March at North Parramatta.

Over the next few weeks trials for term 2 sports including MCCA netball and AFL, as well as CBSA Football will take

place. All students will also be made aware of their term 2 activity and will only be able to change this activity during week 6. After this date no changes to co-curricular activities will take place.

Paid umpires are still required for Saturday Netball – if you are interested please see Mr McDonald asap. Trials for IWSNA Netball will take place during weeks 6 & 7.

Aaron McDonald
Co-curricular Coordinator

Sports News

Congratulations

Year 10 student Courtney Cunningham was selected to represent NSW in futsal (indoor football/soccer) and during the summer holidays she competed in a National Futsal Competition held at the AIS in Canberra.

After four days of tough competition against teams from across the country, Courtney's team, NSW Lightning faced a second NSW team, NSW Thunder in the grand final. With her friends and family on the sidelines, Courtney's team triumphed over their opponent, winning the competition.

Representing NSW was a great achievement for Courtney as although she has been playing football for 11 years, she only took up futsal early last year.

Courtney's advice for those thinking of taking part, "It's a faster game than outdoor soccer so you would need to work on your fitness and skill level. It's great fun!"



Community

Confirmation

We have now been advised that our parish celebration of Confirmation will take place at a special Mass at 11am on Sunday 24 May 2009 with Bishop Julian Porteous.

If you wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation please contact the Parish Office on 9747 4210 Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 2.00pm.

Registration forms will then be able to be sent to you.

Benedictine Lecture Series

Tuesday 3 March, 7.30pm

An Environment in which to Grow.

Presented by Mr Patrick Dodson

Tuesday 10 March, 7.30pm

Peace in the Christian Tradition.

Presented by Mr Robert Haddad

The lectures will be presented in the College's Hall.

Are you eligible to receive the Education Tax Refund?

If eligible, you could receive up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care. For more details go to: www.education-taxrefund.gov.au or rosebank.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/fees/educationtaxrefund

Canada Bay Council call for Volunteers

Drivers with their own cars are needed in the area. Information sessions will be held on: 25 March (10.00–11.30) at the Drummoyne Community Centre. For more information contact: 9719 8102 or dccinc3@ozemail.com.au