At the entrance of many mansions and buildings in both the East and the West, statues of fierce-looking lions or other creatures are quite common. It appears those statues were meant for some sort of protection instead of mere decorations. **In our School, we also have a statue, a unique symbol of protection for us. Our symbol is the Statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.** Instead of fierce and stern, the face of Jesus is calm and quiet. Yet, when we take a mindful look at the statue, we can discover the deep meaning of this meek and gentle statue.
Let’s begin with His slightly-bowed head and His face. His downward gaze is soft and warm instead of looking straight into our eyes. His face is tender, sweet and kind. Just looking at Him can immediately make us feel peaceful and calm, a big contrast with the fierce and powerful expression of the animal protectors at the gate of other buildings! **Our protector is gentle and humble. He is welcoming us warmly into the School and making us feel well.** He also invites us to learn from Him here at this School. Indeed, Jesus said: “**Come to me all you who are weary and over-burdened and I will give you rest. Take upon you my yoke and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls.**” (Matthew 11:28-30).

Now let’s look at His hands which are most beautifully crafted. Again, they are soft and gentle! His right hand is extended and reaching out to bless, comfort and heal. In the Gospel it is said that Jesus invited the children to come to Him, because the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like them. After saying that, **children approached Jesus and He blessed them.** We can now imagine that His right hand is resting on the head of our students, especially the little ones, and blessing them. How beautiful it is to come to school and receive a blessing!
His left hand is pointing to His heart which looks rather unusual as it is standing out and there are things around His heart. We may not understand the meaning of such strange things, but if we pay attention we may learn a lot. Jesus is pointing to His heart, which is the same thing as saying: “I love you”. You know that people in love like to say “I give you my heart”. Well, it is exactly that. In this image we see Jesus pointing to His heart and saying “I love you, I care for you, I want to be very close to you”. You may say, very well, but doesn’t it sound like one of those sweet talks in movies, poetry or music? Sweet talk vanishes and fades away when trouble and difficulty come, and you may wonder how Jesus’ word is different. This is why we should look closer and deeper into the meaning of the cross and the crown of thorns piercing into His bleeding heart. The cross and the crown of thorns remind us of the suffering and death of Jesus. In the Gospel we are told that the soldiers crowned Jesus with a crown made from thorns instead of gold or silver. It was not only an instrument of torture but a joke meant to shame. They crowned Jesus to make fun of Him and to despise Him but His love did not stop even in the face of humiliation, suffering and death. On top of His bleeding heart, we see fire arising. This Fire is the Holy Spirit that prompted Jesus to come to earth, to preach, to love, to heal the sick and to die for us. This Holy Fire is also given to us, because the Love of God is transmitted to you and me if we are ready to receive it.

The Statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a reminder that Jesus is present here, loving and protecting each one of us in Rosaryhill School. I invite you to spend time admiring the statue, pray in front of Him and be inspired. You may receive blessings that you could not imagine. May His Blessings be with you always!
OUR FATHER ST. DOMINIC, A PEACEFUL STUDENT

At the entrance of Rosaryhill School, on a wall of the covered playground, there is a beautiful mosaic, a reproduction of one of the paintings of St. Dominic by Fra Angelico. The original is a fresco or mural painting in the Dominican Priory of St. Marco in Florence.

This image is one of the most famous of St. Dominic and very appropriate for a school. Of course! It shows that St. Dominic cared for reading and learning. The picture is a witness of the importance that St. Dominic attached to intellectual life, knowledge and learning. **St. Dominic wanted his brothers to be well learned**, so he sent them to Paris, being at that time the cultural center in Christianity. I do not think that anyone of the modern world will be surprised that St. Dominic considered knowledge and study as valuable, because we do as well. However, this wisdom was not so obvious 800 years ago at the time when St. Dominic lived. In the first place, instruction was not available for everyone; only a minority had access to culture or were able to read and write. It was considered, for example, that a noble man should not waste his time on worthless things like books, rather he should strengthen his body with proper physical training and learn the art of war and the use of weapons. Even amongst the religious people, only a minority would care about learning and studying, mostly those living in monasteries, the monks. **St. Dominic was smart enough to realize that the success of his mission depended on appropriate knowledge.** Passion and enthusiasm were not enough, it was also necessary to train the mind for the pursuit of Truth.
It has been said that the need to acquire good education is now more accepted than ever and we see how parents strive to send their sons and daughters to good schools and then, to famous universities. If I am allowed to say, that motivation might be different from St. Dominic’s. For him, knowledge and study was the best way to serve and to preach. If St. Dominic wanted his brothers to be preachers and leaders, how could they fulfill his mission without proper training? The humble and steady pursuit of truth is the backbone of a Dominican. But there should be no excessive tension or unnecessary pressure.

We see, especially in Hong Kong, how students are collapsing because of extreme and disproportionate academic demands. Excessive pressure has nothing to do with Dominican study; fierce academic competition is alien to what St. Dominic taught us. Going back to the picture made by Fra Angelico, we can see St. Dominic’s attitude and demeanor. St. Dominic’s whole body manifests calmness and peace. I would like to point out his hands, which are very expressive. The right hand is touching the chin in the most delicate and graceful gesture and the left hand is gently lying on the book. We can easily figure that St. Dominic is absorbed in the book reading but there is no tension, no stress, no signs of anxiety.
This relaxed awareness and calm attention are the attitudes of mind that we want to cultivate in Rosaryhill School. In some situations like exams, test, etc. when we are under pressure we are very attentive, but if there is no pressure, we are not attentive anymore. We tend to allow a drowsy state to fall upon us. The practice of mindfulness and meditation try to combine these two qualities of mind: **attention and relaxation**. At the beginning it seems difficult, but it is possible with practice. We can learn to “breathe out” unnecessary tension and remain calm and attentive.

Dear students, every time you enter the school, I invite you to stop for a few seconds and look at the mosaic of St. Dominic. You may wish to be like him: gentle, kind and at the same time mindful and attentive. **May all of us develop a healthy interest for learning and studying.** Great treasures of joy are available when we open our mind to new things. Ignorance and prejudice recede when knowledge and understanding are welcome. **This is the way taught by our Father St. Dominic.**
Healthy Eating Habit

In recent years, I have found that children's eating habits are not healthy. Students in Kindergarten showed that they couldn't chew their food appropriately during snack time. After communication with parents, we have found that some three years old students are still fed by "baby cereal", "porridge," or cut up food into tiny pieces, having the aim to allow children to swallow their food directly without chewing. However, such feeding method has a great impact on children's language development.

According to speech therapist, "In recent years, the number of children suffering from speech developmental disorders has increased significantly, and such increase is due to the delay of introducing solid food to children. Among these children with speech disorders, nearly 50% are due to children's resistance in chewing food, which leads to delay in muscle development of the mouth. Such delay will affect children's pronunciation when speaking. According to Sun Daily newspaper, “Expert suggests that children should start to eat solid food at the age of 6 months old in order to prevent the delay in expression and socialization with peers due to the lack of language development”. In addition, the case of young children having the need to do speech therapy has risen greatly.

Regarding the primary students, food that they consumed during breakfast and snacks are usually high in fats and sugar, such as chips, soft drinks and sweets. Some statistics revealed that only ten percent of primary students nowadays bring healthy snacks such as high in fiber cookies, dried fruits, fresh fruits, no added sugar yogurt or low fat milk and so on. Only thirty percent of Primary students are eating healthily and such impact might be the reason for the higher chance of obesity at very young age. Therefore, parents play a very important role here, they shall not only educate their children about the importance of eating healthily but be in the first place a role model for their children to eat healthily.

Ms Anne Wong
Games Day (Jan 2016)

We played varieties of games with our mum and dad at the Aberdeen Sportsground.

Our parents are invited to our Games Day.

Chinese Culture Week (Jan 2016)

We have invited our Secondary Lion Dance Crew to celebrate the Chinese New Year Fun Day with us.

Children learned about different Chinese New Year customs through these activities.
Parent-Child Activity Day (Jan- Feb 2016)

Parents are invited to join our classroom activities.

Parents can have a better understanding of our school during role play activities with their children.

Parents can observe their children’s performance during the visit.

We had a good time with our Upper class parents at the Rosaryhill Café.

Disneyland Workshop (March 2016)

Lower class students had a chance to join the Disneyland’s Creative Storytelling workshop in March.

We explored the emotional expression in storytelling.

We told our own stories during the workshop.

We learnt creative storytelling through making our own puppet.
Upper Study Tour (March 2016)

Children have learnt about Korean culture through different activities and had an opportunity to experience outdoor activities with Korean students.

Students had the chance to learn Taekwondo, K-pop and making traditional Korean seafood pancakes.

Mother’s Day (May 2016)

Everyone was happy. We had a wonderful time together.

We gave our dearest mothers some massages and made funny cupcakes together.
Sports Day

The Sports Day was held on two consecutive days, January 18-19. Like in the past, our students could show off their athletic skills during the event, which was held at the Aberdeen Sports Ground. Those two days allowed students to have fun on the track and on the field.

Chinese Culture Day

The Primary Section organised its second Chinese Culture Day of the year as Lunar New Year approached. The various activities related to the festival took two days to complete in February. Such activities certainly helped our students to appreciate some aspects of Chinese culture.
P2 Visit to Central Library

Our P2 students visited the Hong Kong Central Library, the biggest library in Hong Kong, at the end of February. Through the fun-filled activities at various sections, they surely had a better idea of how to make good use of the facilities and to get some fun out of reading.

This student is having some fun at the workshop.

Students actively participate in the workshop.

PCs are at students’ proposal to locate books and to search for information.

Easter Activity Day

Easter Activity Day this year was held on March 22. It was a time for students to engage in various extracurricular activities just for fun as Easter holiday was drawing near. Our teachers certainly were very creative in designing games and related activities.

Ms Brook leads one of the Easter activities in the school library.

Our P6 students visit Bradbury School as a part of an exchange programme.

These students are very focused in doing their artwork.

Ms Wu explains to students the bible story that led to Easter celebration.
Study Tours for the Primary Section this year took place from March 19 to 22. P1 and P2 students travelled as a group to Singapore while P3 and P4 had the opportunity to get a taste of Korean culture. P5 and P6 students flew to Osaka, Japan to experience life in the “Land of the Rising Sun”.

**Singapore**

These students would not hide their excitement in Singapore!

Ms Vicky Wong and her pupils show their joy with beaming smiles.

**South Korea**

Some of our students dress in colourful historical costumes.

These young ladies pose for the photo just like models!

These students are delighted to show off their artwork.

**Japan**

Ms Tam and the students just can’t miss the photo shoot with Woody Woodpecker at Universal Studios Japan.

All the students and teachers look so joyous in traditional Japanese costumes!
Dear Parents and Students,

Over the past few months we have started Morning Prayer in the School Chapel every Tuesday to Friday. Early in the morning, all classes proceed to the chapel and are seated in an orderly manner. Each of us respects and appreciates the holiness and tranquility in the chapel, and open our heart to receive the message from God.

Based on my own observations and those of other teachers, I am very proud to say that our students have done extremely well. They have exhibited self-discipline, calmness, gentleness, respect and the willingness to unite to receive and share the love of God. Apart from the daily bible message, preaching and prayer led by Fr. Vicente, and the sharing and inspirations of school issues by me, a wonderful time we have is the meditation time. This regular meditation practice is essential to each of us as it allows us to stay in peace and silence. Through the breathing-in and out practice, we experience the inner stillness which enables us to start a new day in a refreshing way. In addition, we can eliminate the negative emotions inside our heart, let go of our worries and discontent and focus on the joy of living in the present moment. I am sure this spiritual nourishment for our students will become a very essential life skill for their future, especially when they feel stressed or upset and want to release and relax from any negative feelings.

Everybody at Rosaryhill School is so blessed that fathers and brothers of the Dominicans are always around us leading and guiding us to follow God’s will in our life. Good schools are built on the efforts of good people. I am sure the efforts and wholehearted love and care of our teachers are soon bearing fruits. Thank God for bringing so many good people together at Rosaryhill School.

Ms Cherry Wong
Themed on ‘Love and Care’, our school’s English Game Booth entitled ‘Let’s save the princess!’ was set up at the 2016 World Book Day Fest — ‘Towards a Reading City’ jointly organized by the SCOLAR (語常會) and the Education Bureau from 11:00am to 4:00pm at Sham Shui Po Government Primary School on 23 April, 2016.

The Book Fest aimed to broaden primary students’ reading experiences so as to meet the expectations of life-long learning in the knowledge society and enhance the reading culture in the city. Based on one of the famous Grimm’s Tales called ‘The Prince and his Servants’, the Booth consisted of the three missions in which participants, with assumed special abilities, helped the Prince to accomplish particular tasks. It was hoped that by playing the game, the participants could be inspired to show love and concern for the people in need and they could make good use of their strengths to help those who are in need.

Golden Award

Congratulations to our students for their excellent performance in the 24th Students’ Top Ten News Election organized by the Hok Yau Club. The event aims to enhance secondary pupils’ civic awareness and critical thinking. Our school’s enthusiastic participation was awarded the Golden Award for overall performance as we were one of the three Best Performing schools among 167 participating secondary schools.

14th Sports Tournament

The Rosaryhill School 14th Sports Tournament was successfully ended on March 3rd at Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Center. 20 schools joining and more than 350 participants competed in 6 different sport categories. We were pleased to have invited Mr. Ng Ka Him, our school alumni and former TVB sports news reporter to be our guest of honor this year and to present prizes and encourage the athletes.
Integrated Learning Week was successfully held during the week of 27th January to 2nd February. All of the activities enabled our students to develop an understanding of the ample knowledge that is to be gained from exploring our rapidly-changing society and the world around them. The students also experienced the importance of positive self-esteem, teamwork and showing concern for the community and others.
The second part of Academic Week was held from 5th to 13th May 2016. Students learn through their participation in the attainment of knowledge by gathering information and processing it by solving problems and articulating what they have discovered. Activities organized by different departments provide students with opportunities to deepen their learning by applying concepts and articulating new knowledge. Through various activities, we hope students can cultivate an immense interest in various academic areas, thus getting more motivated to become active learners.

**Chinese Language Department**

**Biology Department**

**Putonghua Department**

**Integrated Science Department and Chemistry Department**

**Chinese Language Carnival**

**Fitness Program**

**Interclass Choral Speaking Competition**

**Interclass Spelling Competition and Science Quiz**
This year is the 18th year of the Rosaryhill Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Association, same as previous years, our Association has organized a lot of activities throughout the year. We would like to extend our gratitude to Father, Principal, teachers, the PTA Executive Committee and, of course all of you for your participation, support and contribution.

**Pearson Tests of English (PTE) (Oct 2015 - May 2016)**

PTE for children is a programme to widen the children's English learning experiences in their early childhood stage with fun and interesting course modules covering listening, reading and writing. There are 81 students participating in this 24-lessons world-wide recognized programme this year.

**Games Day (Jan 2016)**

The Games day was held in a delightful sunny day at the Aberdeen Sports Grounds. The children enjoyed a fun and a healthy exercise day with their parents. Thank you and much appreciation to the teachers for bringing us so many joyful games and special thanks also goes to parents who participated in this activity to have fun with their kids as well as those parent volunteers who helped to take a lot of lovely and memorable photos.

**Parent-child Activities Day (Jan 2016)**

This is a very unique opportunity for parents to experience their children's class activities which allow them to better understand their children's school life and to exchange views with teachers for the overall benefits of their children's development and help them to achieve success.

**Reading to Kids Scheme (Mar 2016 - May 2016)**

Reading with your children not only invoke their imagination and creativity, but more importantly help to build a strong bonding between you and your children, as well as let them develop their reading habit at their earlier age. Special thanks dedicated to parents who have donated books which enlightened our library with more variety of books for our children to read and appreciation goes to those parent volunteers who helped to wrap the books.

**Seminar for Parents (April 2016)**

Sharing knowledge about parenting and early child development is one of the most interesting topics to the parents. We were delighted to have Ms. Smile Cheung as our speaker, a famous presenter of “Smiling Families” from RTHK, to share and discuss her experiences in the topic of “Positive Parents”. 97% of the attendees indicated on the survey that the seminar helps them to understand more on what “Positivity” is and 98% showed that it inspires them to use positive approach to deal with children's emotional problems.

**Mother's Day (April 2016)**

This is a very special celebration to honor the mother of the family, children are learnt to express their love to mommies through different kinds of activities and performance. Sincere gratitude to the teachers for bringing us such a sweet and treasurable memory.
The Parent-Teacher Association of the Primary Section organised three activities for our students in Term 2. First, some of the P5 and P6 students had the opportunity to take a baking class at the beginning of the term. The other group of P5 and P6 students visited the Police Dog Unit Training School. In March, staff from the Hong Kong Space Museum came to our school to lead some very interesting activities related to star observations.

These students seem to be enjoying the baking class.

Mr Choy is having a good time!

The officer gives an outdoor class on star observation and constellations.

These students learn about the use of telescopes and got the chance to look through two such instruments.

Our P6 students attend a talk about training of police dogs.
Secondary Section

Each year the PTA runs various kinds of activities such as Parents Talk, Teacher Student Day, Chinese Flower Market, Essay Writing Competition, One Day Trip, etc. We hope all of our students and parents can enjoy these activities and enhance their friendship and family togetherness. This year, for the Parents Talk, we invited our social worker, Ms Ruby Chung to share some useful skills with the parents in dealing with the pressure S6 students experience in the public examination. The parents’ feedback was very encouraging.

For the outing in May, we went to Tai Po for cycling and a barbecue. Parents, teachers and students enjoyed the bicycle ride and the delicious food and felt very good. We expect more parents and their children will join this activity next year.

The Essay Writing Competition is one of the most anticipated events of each year. The number of participants is always pleasing to see. This year many students got excellent results in both languages. I would like to thank the parents and the teachers who took time to be the judges of the Essay Writing Competition.

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