



Rosaryhill School 玫瑰崗學校

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<http://www.rhs.edu.hk>
E-mail: info@rhs.edu.hk

Newsletter to Parents 學校通訊



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ORDO PRÆDICATORUM



800 YEARS AGO, A TREE WAS PLANTED.....
ROSARYHILL SCHOOL IS ONE OF THE FRUITS

Message from the Supervisor:

Dear students, parents and teachers, I have very good news to share with you! Do you know that the Order of Preachers celebrates the 800 Anniversary? Yes, you are also invited to share the joy, because you are also connected with the Dominican Order. 800 hundred years ago a beautiful tree was planted and Rosaryhill School is one of the fruits.



Do you want to know more about St. Dominic and his Order?



In the year 1170, Dominic de Guzman was born Caleruega, Spain. Before his mother conceived him, she saw in a vision that a dog with a burning torch in its mouth would come forth from her womb and set the world aflame.

In 1203 Dominic travelled with his bishop, Diego, through the south of France and encountered the Cathars who taught that the physical world is evil.

After an all-night debate in Toulouse with a Cathar inn-keeper whom he converted, Dominic was moved by compassion and realised the great ignorance of the Faith that existed. Thus, he saw the need for preachers who could explain and defend the true faith.





In the south of France, where Dominic called himself “the humble servant of the preaching”, a small band of co-workers had joined him and in 1215, the Bishop of Toulouse approved the foundation of a new religious order. **On 22 December 1216, Pope Honorius III approved the foundation of the St Dominic’s community** and took them under papal protection. The pope thus addresses Dominic and his sons as “Friars Preachers” and entrusts them with the preaching mission.

On 15 August 1217 **St Dominic placed his trust in God and dispersed the sixteen brethren** that then comprised the Friars Preachers to Paris, Spain, Rome and Bologna. From the beginning, friars have been drawn to urban centers and, in distinction from the monks, preached the Gospel to city-dwellers. However, St Dominic did not just choose cities but university towns, for **there his friars could study**, engage with new ideas and recruit new friars.



In every age, Dominicans have been moved by compassion and tried to respond to the signs of the times, always conscious that every generation needs to hear afresh the message of God’s love and friendship with humanity.



True lights of the world

"Champions of the faith" and "the true lights of the world": so the first Dominicans were described by Pope Honorius III when he established the Order of Preachers in 1216.

St. Dominic de Guzman, founder of the new Order, committed his men to the task of preaching the Gospel.

How is the Dominican Life?



STUDY

Through study, the Dominicans seek the way to give the answer. Ours to journey toward God according to the teachings of Jesus and under the charisma of our Father Saint Dominic invites us to have always an OPEN MIND.



SEEKING THE TRUTH

Dominic de Guzmán sought the TRUTH therefore... the Dominican is always questioned by God, mankind, the world... He is constantly concern by this search and questioning for truth...



MISSION

Dominic de Guzmán shared and lived the anxieties and the concern of the humblest, the poorest. He lived the COMPASSION.



PREACHING

Dominic de Guzmán founded an Order with a fundamental objective: PREACHING. The aim of our life is to announce the Truth of Jesus of Nazareth, a God that frees and humanizes people.



PRAYER

God is the center of our life. He gives us the sense of community that gathers around Him and His Word. The encounter with the Word of God illuminates the options and give meaning to our works.





FAMOUS FRUITS OF THE DOMINICAN TREE

Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 7 March 1274) was an Italian Dominican friar. He was born in a noble family, the Counts of Aquino, and as most of Thomas's brothers chose military careers, but his mother desired for him to become a Benedictine monk. Instead of joining the Benedictine's, he wanted to join the Dominican order. **This didn't sit well with his mom.** To prevent his mother from interfering, the Dominican arranged for him to go to Rome. On his way to Rome, **Thomas's mother sent her other sons to kidnap Thomas** while he was drinking from a spring. They took him back to their parents' castle and held him there for two years. Due to political reasons, the Pope didn't order for his release. His mother was hoping that the detention would kill his aspirations. His brothers became desperate and sent a prostitute to seduce Thomas. He chased her away with a burning stick. Legend has it that two angels appeared to him that night and blessed him with more fortitude to remain celibate. Finally, his mother realized she'd lost the battle and he wouldn't change his mind. To save face, instead of just releasing him and admitting defeat, she arranged for him to escape through his bedroom window to finally join the Dominican Order. Later on he became the Catholic Church's greatest theologian and philosopher.



St. Thomas Aquinas



St. Vincent Ferrer

Vincent Ferrer (1350-1419) was a Spanish Dominican priest. He is very famous for his miracles. He had such a miraculous gift that it became too much to handle for his community, so his superior forbid him to perform any miracle without his permission. On one occasion a worker fell from a top building and St. Vincent saw that he was going to fall into the ground and die. So he told to the worker: **"Please stop there in the air** and wait, let me ask permission from the superior first and then I will come back and save you".



Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru, of Spanish and black parentage.

Inheriting his mother's dark color, at times he was looked down upon by his aristocratic father, and, in early childhood, he was badly neglected. An intelligent boy, he was befriended by a doctor who taught him the art of healing. Martin began developing his prayer life at an early age. Deciding upon the religious life, he applied to the Dominican Convent of the Holy Rosary and was accepted as a servant. He gave himself to the lowliest duties in the house, and, finally, after many years, he was commanded by his superiors to accept the habit of a lay brother; he had considered that this was too great an honor for himself.

The report of Martin's skill as a surgeon and healer soon spread abroad. As much by his prayers as through medical knowledge, **he cured the most frightening diseases**: bringing from near death a priest who had a badly infected leg; healing the fingers of a young student, who had feared that an accident had ruined his hopes for the priesthood; making whole again so many people afflicted with so many diseases that no one could attempt to count them. In addition to the gift of healing, **he was endowed with that of bilocation**; he was seen in Mexico, Central America, and even Japan, by people who knew him well, whereas he had never been out of Lima since entering the Order. **He passed through locked doors** by some means that was known only to himself and God; he appeared at the bedside of sufferers without being asked and always soothed the sick even when he did not completely cure them.



St. Martin de Porres

Even sick animals came to him for healing.

Great as his healing faculty was, Martin is probably best remembered for the Legend of the Rats. It is told that the prior, who objected to rats, ordered Martin to set out poison for them. Martin did as he was told, but he was very sorry for the rats. He went out into the garden and called softly and out came the rats. **He reprimanded them for their bad habits, telling them about the poison.** He further assured them that he would feed them every day in the garden, if they would refrain from annoying the prior. This agreed upon, he dismissed the rats and forever after, so the stories go, there was no more trouble with rats at Holy Rosary Convent.



One time Martin was on a picnic with the novices, and having overstayed their time, they suddenly realized that, even with expending their best efforts, they could not be home in time for prayers. Martin bade them join hands, and, before they knew what had happened, they were standing in the convent yard, **unable to explain how they had covered the several miles in a few seconds.** These and many other startling miracles led to Martin being called a saint, even during his lifetime.



St. Catherine of Siena

The 24th child of a wool dyer in northern Italy, **St. Catherine started having mystical experiences when she was only 6**, seeing guardian angels as clearly as the people they protected. She became a Dominican tertiary when she was 16, and continued to have visions of Christ, Mary, and the saints. St. Catherine was one of the most brilliant theological minds of her day, although she never had any formal education. She persuaded the Pope to go back to Rome from Avignon, in 1377, and when she died she was endeavoring to heal the Great Western Schism. St. Catherine's letters, and a treatise called "a dialogue" are considered among the most brilliant writings in the history of the Catholic Church. She died when she was only 33, and her body was found incorrupt in 1430.





Orientation Day

2,4 September 2015



On the first day of school, parents were invited to attend an orientation session with Pre-Nursery & K1 kindergarteners instead of a typical first day of school. During this orientation session, children would get to know their classmates, meet their teachers, and participate in some introductory activities. While the children were involved in these activities, the parents would learn about each aspect of our kindergarten and what they could expect throughout the year.



Mid Autumn Fun Day

25 September 2015

In order to implement the festive atmosphere of the Mid-Autumn Festival to our school, PTA had organized the Parent-Child Lantern Design Competition. Participation to this event was abundant, there were over 200 master pieces collected. First, second, third, outstanding and finals were elected by parents' and teachers' representatives.



In addition, a Fun Day was held on the 26th of September, where children listened to stories about Mid-Autumn Festival, enjoyed picnic with friends and participated in the relay race competition in school. These activities allowed children to increase knowledge about the customs of Mid-Autumn Festival, enjoyed meaningful experience of sharing and the importance of teamwork.



Road Safety Town

23-28 October 2015

Road Safety Town has implemented relaxing and interesting activities to teach children the importance of road safety. Children had the chance to try out different facilities to learn about how to become responsible drivers and pedestrians. Participation to such facilities will surely increase children's knowledge about road safety and it shall encourage them to be safe drivers in the future. This outing was indeed a pleasurable experience.



Science Museum

28 October 2015

Upper class students had the chance to step out of their classrooms for attending lessons different than a typical school day at the Hong Kong Science Museum. During this trip, students learnt different science knowledge and the part that they enjoyed the most was the visit to the world of mirrors.





Character Fun Day

30 October 2015

Instead of the Fashion Show, this year we had the "Character Fun Day". It was even more exciting as children get to dress up in their favorite fairy tale character and play a role with their buddies! Although there weren't face painting or trick or treating, but in exchange we had a new fun-filled fairy role playing and delicious food making activity. Moreover, children enjoyed different interesting games as well. It was indeed a fun day for everyone!





Spiritual Education in the Primary Section

In this new school year, a new chapter has started in Spiritual Education at the Rosaryhill School. In the primary section, spiritual practices are being woven into different aspects of the Primary school life. In the beginning of every school day, teachers and students continue to strengthen the beautiful ritual of daily mindfulness practices and Morning Prayer. Through breathing exercises, students learn to calm down and to relax. In this peaceful state of mind they are able

to create good intentions which will help them to develop into the kind of person that they want to become: loving, joyful, compassionate, gentle, kind, responsible and hardworking. We want to connect with Jesus and the Holy Virgin, our mother, that they may accompany us along the day and protect us in body and soul. This morning practice aims to tune the children into a calm and positive state of mind in the beginning of the day which facilitates academic learning and social and emotional learning.



Once the busy class schedule begins, the minds of children as well as teachers would inevitably receive numerous stimuli, positive or sometimes negative. A new sound of the school bell has been introduced to address the need of teachers and students for some breathing space in between classes amid the busy school day. During this breathing space, students and teachers are reminded to enjoy a moment of just breathing after each period. Before the beginning of the next period, each class will call for the sound of the small class bell and tune in our body and mind ready for the new period.

The lunch break is a precious time for teacher and students to rest and regain energy. While some students had been accustomed to talk aloud or play during this break, a relaxing dining atmosphere was not quite possible at the canteen. In December 2015, the Primary section has introduced "Quiet Meals, Happy Meals" to develop a respectful communal dining habit. Through teaching students gentle manners such as entering the canteen in a gentle and orderly manner, giving thanks and saying grace together, and the practice of mindful eating, a quiet and mindful atmosphere has been created at the canteen. Students can now enjoy a true rest and appreciate quiet & happy meals and classical music with their friends and teachers.





In the Catholic tradition, Advent is a time to prepare ourselves, especially our mind and spirit, to receive the birth of Jesus, our Saviour. This Advent, the whole Primary School has gathered twice to learn more about the Incarnation of Lord Jesus through the teaching of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. Father Supervisor also reminded us of the special meaning of the Rosary at the Rosaryhill School.

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

3rd JOYFUL MYSTERY



A total of nine mindfulness sessions have been planned for all primary students this year. With the collaboration of the teachers and volunteers, four sessions were held where students learnt to use the sound of the bell to practice breathing and mindful listening, walk mindfully to cultivate inner peace from the classroom to the activity room, sharpening their five senses with raisin meditation, and structures of the brain and how to apply mindfulness to be aware and calm our emotions.





Opening Mass for the Primary Section

The Opening Mass for the Primary Section was held on 17th September, 2015. Fr Emiliano Perez led the mass as all the students sat in silence most of the time for the solemn but meaningful proceedings. There was a light-hearted moment when the students and teachers greeted one another with words like "Peace be with you". With a peace of mind, all students should be ready for the new academic year.



Chinese Culture Day

Chinese Culture Day took place on Friday, 25th September, 2015. All students of the Primary Section had a great day that morning as they experienced the festivities of the Mid-Autumn Festival. There were a number of Chinese culture-related booth games for students to enjoy. Our students certainly enjoyed the taste of their festive foods during their snack time, including moon cakes and their favourite candies.





Visit by Elderly

Some elderly members of the community came to our school on 30th September, 2015 to mingle with the upper level students of the Primary Section. The meeting took place in the hall. Students and the visitors alike had some much fun that day. They watched a film together, had discussion and worked on some handicraft together. It certainly was a special activity for the Primary Section.



Visit to the Coca Cola Company



Students of P2B had the opportunity to visit the local Coca Cola Company on 5th October, 2015. They were lucky to spend some time there as they learned how Coca Cola is produced. It was certainly a fun day for Class 2B, but it was an educational one too.





English Activity Day

English Activity Day took place on Friday, 30th October, 2015. It was a special morning for the students as they could get their hands on some English-related booth games. Our English teachers really showed their talent in designing some very meaningful and educational games. The highlight of the day was the drama performances by the P6 students. The two plays, 'Three Little Wolves and Big Bad Pigs' by 6B and 'Miss Li is Missing' by 6A, were indeed very entertaining.





The Hong Kong Island Outstanding Student Award 2015

The Hong Kong Island Outstanding Student Award 2015 Ceremony was held in the Tai Ko Primary School on 28th November, 2015. Congratulations to our students, S3B Villareal Emanuel Jose and S6B Tsao Tom David who were awarded the Highly Commendable Students award for the Wanchai district.



Swimming Gala (24 Sept 2015)



Overall Champion



Athletic Meet (5 & 15 Dec 2015)



Overall Champion





ACADEMIC WEEK - LEARNING IS PLEASURABLE

Rosaryhill School's annual Academic Week is partly held in semester one and partly held in semester two. The event encourages students to cherish the gift of learning and appreciate the joy that education brings. A multitude of booths, stall games and activities are designed to intellectually stimulate students' thinking and allow them to have fun. This year's theme was, "Learning is Pleasurable". The First part of Academic Week was held from 16th to 23rd November 2015. Activities varied greatly, with each school department hosting their own activities.



The 'English is Fun Day' organised by the English Department consisted of different student-led stalls and booths designed to encourage the development of English language that promotes a more frequent use of the language. The board exhibitions and booth games of Personal, Social & Humanities Education KLA and LS Department orientated around the theme, 'Hong Kong'. The activities required students to exhibit their knowledge of their home city in novel and exciting ways.

Whilst some departments operated stalls and booths, others chose to encourage learning in more competitive environments. The Maths Department organised the annual Maths Quiz that required students to solve puzzles and problems. Similarly, the school's computer literacy teachers held the 'English Typing Competition'.

Teachers of Rosaryhill School strongly believe that "Education and happiness go hand-in-hand!" Even more education programmes are expected in the days ahead!





Food Wise Liberal Studies Cup

Congratulations to four Rosaryhill school students who recently obtained the First Runner-up prize in the Food Wise Liberal Studies Cup. They are S6D CHOI YIN LAM EDITH, S6D LEE NGA POK, S6D LI MAN YING and S6D LOO YAT SIN.

150 teams and 600 students from across the territory participated in the competition. 18 teams from our school were invited to attend a selection interview at the Baptist University of Hong Kong. 6 teams from our school subsequently entered the semi-final, in which they had to introduce their food wise concepts to the audience in a shopping mall.

This is the second time our school has received this prestigious prize (we were the Champion in last year's Medical Liberal Studies Cup). Let's congratulate our students on their active participation and marvelous performance!

News report: <http://www.annualquiz.org/News/150801>



Enhance Smart Teens Training Camp



To enhance the diversity of student development, our school has participated in the Enhanced Smart Teen Project (ESTP) co-organised by the Education Bureau and Immigration Department this year. A total of 21 Secondary 2 and 3 students joined the camp from 26 to 30 October 2015, which offered training in discipline, team-building and problem-solving in order to cultivate self-

discipline and self-confidence, while enhancing interpersonal skills, resilience and self-management skills.

The students, accompanied by their teachers, experienced various challenges during the 5-day programme at the Immigration Service Institute of Training and Development, which included such things as marching training, orienteering, a physical fitness test, hiking, life skills training and a visit to immigration control points. In addition, sharing sessions were held every night by teachers, which helped students extend and transform what they have learned into school life. These sessions helped prepare teachers to design and implement follow-up activities.

The challenge camp was very fruitful and meaningful. It provided a valuable opportunity for students to actualise their full potential. Moreover, the post-camp activities have also helped to further consolidate the participating students' growth and continued progress in all respects.





Kindergarten



Primary Section



Secondary Section



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