



**ROSTREVOR**  
COLLEGE



*Principal's Afternoon Tea*, Principal Mr Dash shares a glass of cordial and an anecdote during Tuesday's Afternoon Tea

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### *Dear College Community*

As the final curtain is closing on the 2016 academic year, I bid my farewell to you as I prepare to return to Queensland and take up my posting as Principal of Xavier Catholic College in Hervey Bay. It has been a dynamic six years at Rostrevor College and I take with me many wonderful memories. Much has changed over this time, and change is never easy, but I believe the College is a better place because of these adjustments. Our much stronger vertical pastoral care system and our greatly improved ATAR results are but two examples of the outcomes of our continuous improvement plans. Likewise, the fact that we will have no fee increases in 2017, after lowering fees in 2016, is a sign that eliminating waste and seeking efficiencies makes a difference. I will miss Rostrevor, but it will always have a special place in my heart.

At the moment students and staff are beginning to look forward to enjoying a well-earned rest. There have been times this year when the busyness of life at the College has reached a frenetic pace. Great things have happened and many initiatives have been introduced to improve the provision of a quality education. Now that the dust is settling on the year, we have an opportunity to reflect on the many wonderful achievements that have happened at the College. With all its challenges, it has been an excellent year.

I extend my thanks to parents for the partnership you have established with the College. Much of the change that has been introduced over the past six years has only been possible because of the support of the parents. Your enthusiasm for the College and your trust in the changes that have been implemented is deeply appreciated.

The Christmas holiday break is a great opportunity to enjoy time with family, to celebrate, and to rest and rejuvenate. I hope that your family enjoys the time. I also hope that the true spirit of Christmas will be a central part of your family's celebrations. Christmas is a time to remember the birth of our saviour and the profound love that God has for us.

At Christmas we are reminded that God is in the ordinary. The Christmas story reminds us that God has embraced our humanity fully and completely. If being fully human was good enough for God, living my human life to the fullest is good enough for me.

Christmas is a celebration of human life. When I encounter another human, I encounter the God who became human at Bethlehem. Jesus comes to us and is truly present among us every day. He comes to us in those who need love, hope, comfort, and joy in their lives. He comes in those who bring these same gifts to others. He is born in every circumstance of our lives. He is the promise of a new day. May we all be filled with joy and hope and share God's love by the way we care for each other.

Peace and good will to you all.

God Bless

**Simon Dash**

Principal



NEWSLETTER

**TERM 4, WEEK 8 FRIDAY 09 DECEMBER 2016**

Absentee line: 8364 8387

## TO REMEMBER

### UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS:

Holiday Times

Tuesday 24th January and  
Wednesday 25th January  
9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Monday 30th January  
1.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Tuesday 31st January  
8.00 am – 12 Noon

### COLLEGE ANNUAL

2015 & 2016

The College is working towards  
having both Yearbooks available in  
Term 1 2017,

Any queries please contact the  
development office on:

[development@rosvor.sa.edu.au](mailto:development@rosvor.sa.edu.au)

### 2017 TERM DATES

Are located on the last page of the  
newsletter.

### VOLUNTEERS FUNCTION

Sunday 11 December  
Rostrevor Front Lawns  
2.00pm-4.00pm

[smestros@rosvor.sa.edu.au](mailto:smestros@rosvor.sa.edu.au)



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## SPIRITUALITY



Chapel of St Joseph , Year 6 Celebration

We are in the season of Advent which is a time of waiting and preparation for Christmas. In the chapel here at the College we have set up an Advent wreath. The wreath is made up of a circle of green leaves and branches which represents God's never ending love for his people. There are four candles around the circle, one for each Sunday of advent. The first is the prophets' candle, a reminder of all those who foretold the coming of Jesus. Candle two is the Bethlehem candle named after the place of Christ's birth. The third candle is rose coloured and is the shepherds' candle because they made known to all the news of Christ's birth. Finally the fourth is the angel's candle a special reminder of how God announced the coming of Jesus. Each week a further candle is lit as the lead up to Christmas.

At our final liturgies I have challenged all of our students to think about what Christmas really means to them. Is it just about consumerism and gifts or is there a spiritual meaning as well? I hope that all of us find the Christmas season to be restful, a family time and a time of reflection. I finish with an Advent blessing for all:

May the spirit of Advent which is peace..

The gladness of Advent which is hope...

The adoration of Advent which is joy...

and the heart of Advent which is love...

Be yours now and tomorrow.



**Br John Ahern**  
Assistant Principal  
Religious Identity  
and Mission

# DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



**Frank Ranaldo**  
Deputy Principal



*Rite of passage*, Yr 6 Boys before they are presented during their ceremony Thursday

Our Graduation ceremonies are great celebrations marking the end of compulsory schooling for our Year 12 students. It is wonderful to see students and their extended families so happy, so proud and probably, so relieved that it is all over! Not a single young man graduates from Rostrevor without significant sacrifice by himself and his support network, which in most cases includes his parents or carers. We say “thank you” to parents and carers for your trust and support of Rostrevor throughout this journey.

Our modern Western culture has very few significant ceremonies or celebrations that mark a ‘Rite of Passage’ for a young man. The significance of a 21st birthday has diminished and getting the “key to the door” or being “old enough to vote” is hardly mentioned. Likewise, turning 18 is hardly significant for many young men who may well have been experimenting with alcohol for a few years – under supervision of course!

At Rostrevor, we will continue to provide ‘Rites of Passage’ ceremonies and activities. The Year 6 ‘Rites of Passage’ celebration yesterday afternoon was a wonderful example of this. It is our sincere hope that all families will work with us and support these initiatives. As a school, we will never take the place of parents, however, we do have a significant responsibility in helping these young men “cross the bridge of adolescence safely” (as Celia Lashlie, author, would say).

On behalf of the entire College, I would like to sincerely congratulate the Class of 2016 in the way they have conducted themselves throughout the challenge of Year 12. They are a delightful cohort of young men who we believe are ready to make a positive difference to the world. They have been very ably led by Head Prefect, Bradley McCarthy, and the Prefect group as a whole. We wish them every happiness and success in the future.

## Year 10 & 11 Liturgies

Over the past two weeks we have celebrated our Year 10 and 11 Farewell Liturgies. ‘Farewell’ for two reasons: firstly, to the year’s academic classes and secondly, farewell to the young men who have made the courageous decision to leave the comfort of Rostrevor College and commence their adult working lives. We wish them well.

## Academic Shield

The Academic Shield acknowledges how well students in each House perform in their studies.

We determine the recipient of the shield by calculating the Grade Point Average for each student and then calculate an average for each House. This then gives us a score out of 100 for each term.

At the end of the year, we award the Godfrey Hall Academic Shield to the House with the highest score averaged over 3 terms. Last year the shield was awarded to Webb House.

Results for the House Shield as at Term 3, based on averages of Term 1, Semester 1 and Term 3 results were as follows:

1	<b>Murphy</b>	<b>73.00%</b>
2	<b>Webb</b>	<b>72.20%</b>
3	<b>O’Brien</b>	<b>72.01%</b>

followed by Egan, Barron and Gurr.

The Shield will be presented to Murphy House at our Opening School Gathering in 2017.

For people who are interested in historical data, the Shield has been awarded to the following Houses since its inception in 2009.

2009	<b>O’Brien</b>
2010	<b>Barron</b>
2011	<b>Murphy</b>
2012	<b>Barron</b>
2013	<b>Egan</b>
2014	<b>Murphy</b>
2015	<b>Webb</b>
2016	<b>Murphy</b>

We acknowledge that not all of our students will attain the highest standards and that excellence is measured in different ways for each student. Rather, it is the process, the aspiration, the diligence and improvement which we also award that underpins our academic pursuits. We have an innovative and progressive school structure and superb facilities that reflect much planning and research into the education of young men.

## Thank you

It has certainly been a very busy year for parents, teachers and students. I can only hope that it has been a productive year for all.

I would like to thank you for your support this year and wish you all a very happy and safe holiday.

May God bless you and give you all a Christmas you can remember with affection.



*Rite of passage*, JY’s Captain Cameron Tunno reads during the ceremony.

# JUNIOR CAMPUS



**Geoff Aufderheide**  
Director - Junior Campus

Last Friday evening the Junior Campus students held a 'Carols by Candlelight' event on the picturesque front lawns of Rostrevor House. We were delighted that a huge number of families came along to support this relatively new initiative. The initial idea came from two of our loyal supporters; Mrs Susan Mercer and Mrs Stephanie Pollock who both have boys in the Junior Campus. The idea of a community gathering to signal the end of a busy year at Rostrevor College was brilliant and we are indebted to both Susan and Stephanie for their willingness to promote and, indeed, support us to ensure we held a fantastic evening of song and musical performance. We are blessed to have so many parents who are willing to support our boys and extend our warmest thanks to Susan and Stephanie for their energy and enthusiasm.

On behalf of the staff of the Junior Campus I wish to pass on my thanks to all parents and caregivers for their support throughout 2016. Each staff member was presented with a gift on Friday night and, whilst most of us are pretty modest people, we were very thankful for such a public and generous thought to acknowledge the work we do each and every day with the students in our care. My experience of staff here at Rostrevor is that they often go the extra yard to ensure boys are able to be the best they can be and this sign of appreciation was an affirmation of the work we all do for the boys.

Such an event consists of great planning and management. To that end I would like to publicly thank Mr Elias DeGeorge for his tireless effort over a whole term to ensure the band were ready and that each of the classes had time to practice their performance. In addition, there were countless hours in rehearsal for our Junior Choir and these boys sang beautifully in accompaniment of each class group. Whilst it is normal for us we should be mindful that, for all boy's schools, having such a group of choral singers is pretty rare indeed. As always, a highlight was the memorable performance of our youngest boys (Reception - Year 2) who dazzled us with movement and



*Junior Years Carols by Candlelight,*

dance! Thanks also to Andrew Osborn and the Maintenance team for setting up staging and ensuring it was all safe. Finally, thanks to Mr Peter Waterman and Mr Greg Osman (Middle and Senior Music) for their guidance and assistance all year and to 'one of our boys' Kosta Apostoleros (Year 8 student) for making himself available to assist with mixing and sound checks.

In addition, we wish to thank our own 'Santa' who was given time off of his sled to arrive in perfect timing on board a Metropolitan Fire Service vehicle. He was a real hit, as were the small gifts he brought with him. Thanks too to the band of happy helpers who stayed back after the show to ensure all of the music equipment and staging was put away - too many to name but we know who you are and want to thank you for your show of support.

As I write we have just finished off a jam packed term and boys today are celebrating with an Activity Day. We have been delighted with the number of new boys who commence their Rostrevor journey with us from 2017 and we hope that existing members of our community will welcome them with open arms and hearts next year.

We have already begun our planning for 2017 and, after a break to recharge, we look forward to all that 2017 promises.

My best wishes to all members of our community for the Christmas period and I trust you have a safe and happy holiday period.

## **A Prayer for Christmas**

*Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate*

*and open the door of love all over the world.*

*Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.*

*Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,*

*and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,*

*and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,*

*forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

Season Greetings,



*Junior Years Carols by Candlelight, a fantastic community event*



## TERM DATES

2016

### Term 4

Tuesday 18 October - Friday 09 December

## TERM DATES

2017

### Term 1

Tuesday 31 January - Thursday 13 April

Good Friday, 14 April

Easter Saturday, 15 April

Easter Sunday, 16 April

Easter Monday, 17 April

### Term 2

Tuesday 02 May - Friday 30 June

Queen's Birthday/Volunteer's Day Holiday, 13 June

### Term 3

Monday 24 July - Friday 29 September

### Term 4

Monday 16 October -

Thursday 07 December

*Do you have exciting news about a current student or Old Scholar? We'd love to celebrate these achievements with you and the Rostrevor Community.*

**Contact us with your story:**  
[news@rostrevor.sa.edu.au](mailto:news@rostrevor.sa.edu.au)

*For sporting achievements, please contact Jeff Fischer:*  
[jfischer@rostrevor.sa.edu.au](mailto:jfischer@rostrevor.sa.edu.au)



**ROSTREVOR**  
COLLEGE

67-91 Glen Stuart Road, Woodforde, SA 5072

T +61 8 8364 8200 F +61 8 8364 8396

E [rosroll@rostrevor.sa.edu.au](mailto:rosroll@rostrevor.sa.edu.au) W [www.rostrevor.sa.edu.au](http://www.rostrevor.sa.edu.au)

A CATHOLIC ALL BOYS' DAY & BOARDING  
COLLEGE IN THE EDMUND RICE TRADITION  
Reception to Year 12



Learn to code and build your own iPhone app at Code Camp.

Have fun, be creative and enjoy using logic and problem solving these school holidays!



Invitation to all schools



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AT LORETO**



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Years 3-9



\$350

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