

the BOSCONIAN

newsletter

DON BOSCO TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, HENDERSON 2014 TERM 2

It is enough for me to know that you are young, to love you so much.

St. Don Bosco



Eucharistic concelebration on the feastday of MHC with Fr. Ambrose presiding

Don Bosco Technical Institute began on 24th May 2000 with 16 students, in a small hall which was classroom cum workshop.

Today we thank and praise God for the good facilities we enjoy at DBTI with good classrooms and workshops for each of the 5 trades.

"Have devotion to Mary Help of Christians and you will see what miracles are!"

St. Don Bosco

Rector's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians, Bosconians, Friends and well-wishers,

The 2nd term has been memorable for the variety of activities, particularly for the Spiritual experiences, at DBTI. As I had pointed out in the first issue of the Bosconian, this year we are invited "to draw upon the spiritual experience of Don Bosco" in our preparation for the bi-centenary of Don Bosco's birth. We at DBTI have tried to live the spiritual experience of Don Bosco and make it part of our life, and express it in our love and concern

for others. Let me highlight a few of them:

The second term began with the Holy Week and Easter-with the Easter Season extending 6 more weeks till Pentecost. These were the most important weeks in the Church calendar. Class Retreats were enthusiastically participated, allowing the Risen Lord to walk close to those who spent time to encounter His presence. Congratulations to the students and thanks to the facilitators.

Salesian feasts, particularly of St. Dominic Savio (6th May), St. Mary Mazzarello (13th May) and Mary Help of Christians (24th May) which we anticipated to 23rd May, were celebrated with great enthusiasm. The school celebrated the novena in preparation for the Marian feast and each class took turns to lead the novena and honor MHC, and take her home like John the Apostle.

Principal's Message

The task of giving education is rooted in the primary vocation of the parents to participate in God's creative activity: "Since parents have conferred life on their children, they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring. Hence parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children... Hence, the family is the first school of those social virtues which every society needs". This right and duty of parents to give education is essential and it is so basic that it qualifies the educational role of parents, is parental love, which finds fulfilment in the task of education as it completes and perfects its service of life... the parents' love is also the animating principle... inspiring and guiding all concrete educational activity, enriching it with the values of kindness, constancy, goodness, service, disinterestedness and self-sacrifice that are the most precious fruit of love. Parents must trustingly and courageously train their children in the essential values of human life... a correct attitude of freedom with regard to material goods... a sense of true justice... respect for the personal dignity of each individual... a sense of true love, understood as... disinterested service with regard to others, especially the poorest and those in most need.

Fr. Srimal Priyanga, sdb

Gifts to the Flood Victims who were housed at DBTI for 3 weeks: Thanks to the financial contribution of Salesian Missions—Australia, our students took up the challenge to practice what they learned. Their social concern was expressed in their producing useful household items, even putting in many extra hours. It was amazing that even our first year students picked up so many skills and used it profitably for the welfare of many families. For me, this was truly sharing the spiritual experience of Don Bosco's concern for the needy and the poor.

I am happy to welcome Fr. John Cabrido, our new Spiritual Moderator, and Mr. Vern Healey who will be a 'mentor' for the Principal and staff. Mr. Tony Blair, APTC Teacher (Carpentry) has completed his contract and is leaving DBTI. Our love and gratitude accompany him. We look forward to meeting the new staff during the 3rd term and a very fruitful time.

I am reproducing for you on this page below the introduction to a booklet that Don Bosco wrote for his boys. It shows the heart of Don Bosco and reminds us of the purpose of his educational system which he summarized as "Good Christians and honest citizens". May we strive ever more to translate the spiritual experience of Don Bosco at DBTI. May Bosconians prove themselves true to their God and the country. I wish the students and the staff a relaxed half yearly break, reminding you that "an idle mind is the devil's workshop". Keep busy and cheerful!

With prayerful wishes for God's blessings,

Fr. Dominic Kachira, sdb



My dear boys,

I love you with all my heart and it is enough for me to know you are young for me to love you very much. I can assure you that you will find suggestions by people far more virtuous and far more learned than myself, but you will hardly ever find anyone who loves you as much as I do in Christ Jesus and who wants nothing but your true happiness.

May the Lord be with you and I am sure that by practicing these suggestions you will reach the heights of sanctity, the salvation of your soul and give glory to God. This is the sole purpose of this booklet.

Be very happy and the Lord be with you.

Most affectionately in Jesus Christ,

Fr. John Bosco



DBTI CELEBRATION OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS



LEARNING NEW SKILLS WITH ISABEL HILL

LIFE SKILLS students at Don Bosco Technical Institute, Henderson enjoyed a second interesting and enjoyable baking session, learning new skills with visiting instructor Isabel Hill. At this second session they learnt to bake a variety of pizzas.

The junior students were delighted to be part of this session. "It has been the best day of class that I have attended," said Chelsea Wilder. "It has given me something to think about in regard to my future goal," she continued. "I have made pizzas before, but this was soft and had a very unique flavor," said Deborah Saru. "I enjoyed the explanation of Isabel Hill and learnt a lot from the questions of others," said Monica Levi.

The students learnt to make the pizza dough and then set it aside to rise. In the meanwhile they assisted in the preparation of the different toppings for a Margherita Pizza, Meaty Pizza and a Hawaiian Pizza.

After the first round of pizzas, the students were given the opportunity to try their hand at doing the same.

For the senior students they were happy to develop the skills they had learnt. "It was interesting using different measuring equipment and using different ingredients," said Nairish Gana.

The students enjoyed the session and look forward to sessions ahead.



MOTHER OF US ALL

Edmon Kale (Sr. Elec.), Hicks Livingstone Puihi (Sr. Elec.), and Gary Nuopula (Jr. Elec.)



On 23 May 2014, Friday, DBTI celebrated the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians starting with a Holy Eucharist at 8:00 AM presided by Fr. Ambrose Pereira, SDB who, until last year, was DBTI rector. His homily was an interactive experience enlivened by a PowerPoint presentation. During his talk, Fr. Ambrose stressed the 3 C's which I find really important as a Bosconian preparing myself for industry. As Bosconians we were given the **choice** of which trade we wanted to do. If we want to achieve our potential, then each student is called to **change** and be better formed and prepared for future work. Fr. Ambrose reminded all not to waste this **chance** or regret it forever. By this triple challenge, he exhorted every student realize their goals. He ended by showing pictures of the beginning years of DBTI and reminisced on the 18 years he had spent in Solomon Islands, asking the community to pray for all the benefactors, teachers and collaborators who had helped to build DBTI to what it is today.

When mass ended there was a brief break during which the some cool drinks were distributed to the students.

At 9:45 AM, Mr. Othello Deemi emceed the Marian Variety Show during which the various classes presented drama, song and dance items in honour of Mary. Together with showcasing their talents, this allowed the students to deepen their knowledge of Mary as presented in the Bible and in the spirituality of St. John Bosco. The Senior Life Skills students acted out Don Bosco's dream at 9. While most gave renditions of Marian songs, two—including Senior Automotive, the eventual winner—spiced up their song with a matching band number. The young men of Senior Electrical also wowed the audience with their harmonious *a cappella* rendition. The judges, Fr. Ambrose, Ms. Polyann Lepping, and Br. Jefferson, were hard pressed in determining the winner.

Since the variety show ended early and lunch was still being cooked, the DBTI community then proceeded to the quadrangle to arrange in the four-house groups: House of Love (red), House of Joy (yellow), House of Justice (green) and House of Peace (blue). These house-names reflected virtues of the Blessed Mother. The grouping of the DBTI community—students, staff and Salesians—into "houses" was meant to foster greater interaction and enable the members to get to know each other.

Each house had prepared their banners and

these led them as they took their places in the football field. The hour which followed was one of general merriment. The fun began with war dances and team cries. Mr. Dickson Palusi, the Fun-Games over-all coordinator, led staff and SRC leaders in running the games which included: the lemon-spoon race, the ever-popular "over-under," human-wheel barrow.

Lunch was served through the kindness of a school benefactor and prepared by a group of parents and friends of DBTI. This was very much appreciated by the students.

After lunch, the students once again gathered in the football field for the final fun-game: tyre-kicking, as a preview to the coming World Cup. Throughout these games, students and staff heartily participated and the time quickly passed with excitement.

At 2:00 PM, Fr. John Cabrido gathered the DBTI community, still gathered by "colour



houses" at the quadrangle for instructions on the next game, the much awaited "treasure hunt." We were amused to see some of our companions designated as "pirates" tasked to help the various house groups discover hidden clues and, ultimately, uncover the treasure. For the next hour, DBTI was in joyful confusion as the four colour houses ran ensemble to and fro, meticulously looking for clues and dutifully performing the corresponding penalties. The treasure, hidden just outside the school chapel, was recovered by the house of Peace (blue). Though dead tired at the end, still became the highlight of the day which we really enjoyed the most.

The day ended with a simple awarding ceremony preceded by a brief talk by Fr. Dominic. The prizes were simple but sufficient for all the participants. The house of Peace garnered the over-all First Place, but from the smiles on the faces of all, it was evident each one went home a winner!

Electricians in the Making

Floyd Vekebola (Jr. Electrical)

What is electricity? Electricity is a form of energy generated from elementary particles usually supplied through cables or wires. Since these cables and wires cannot connect by themselves, electricians are indispensable. An electrician is a person who services, connects and maintains our electrical supply. Electrical technicians today are in high demand since electricity can be present even in remote villages supplied by solar power and generators.

I believe Don Bosco Technical Institute is well equipped to train qualified electrical technicians. Here qualified supervisors, teachers and instructors train the students both in theory and in long hours of practical workshop.

Solomon Islands is developing and needs qualified and skilled tradesmen and women. DBTI is a good place to start that training in an electrical career. Please come.



Rua Haus

Hubert Okar (Sr. Automotive) & Fr. John Cabrido, SDB



For the first time since the school's start, DBTI has opened a dormitory for male students, the "Rua Haus." Still at its initial, experimental stage, it caters to students who live very far from the school, especially those who come from the outlying islands, and whose daily commute is either too expensive or takes too long. Although the number at the beginning of the year was just a handful, this ballooned to 18 boarders due to the recent flooding. The number has since gone down to some 12 boarders.

The student-boarders contribute a monthly nominal fee of only \$50.00 which barely covers the cost of electricity, utilities and boarding. They take charge of cooking their own meals which they do by rotation. To help shoulder expenses, the boarder also pitches in one-hour of work from Monday to Thursday. Mainly, this constitutes planting their own food crops for their future benefit or cleaning the spaces they use, like the dormitory and toilets. They also go back home every weekend to ensure they have their weekly food supply.

While the Rua Haus has its set of rules, the day has yet to arrive when these are fully observed. The future of Rua Haus will depend on its current boarders who are challenged to go beyond their selfish interests and see "with great opportunity comes great cost." Otherwise, the days of Rua Haus, so badly needed by many Bosconians who live faraway, are numbered.

Surprise gifts to Flood affected Families

Fr. Dominic Kachira sdb

The families that stayed in the Don Bosco Hall for three weeks in April were mainly from the Foxwood area. They were informed to come to the Good Shepherd parish at Red Beach on Saturday 17th May, since the students of Don Bosco had prepared some gifts for the families. They couldn't believe that the students could prepare such good quality tables, chairs and other household items.

The representative from the family had a choice of an oven drum or the choice of 4 items, which would make up the cost of an oven drum: a table, a chair, a fire burner and a garden digger. The consultations among themselves, mostly in local dialect, were arguments on the usefulness of each item for the family.

The Carpentry students, I am sure will get top grades for their project of making tables and chairs. The Automotive students had lot of practice in welding as they made oven after oven from used drums. The 'garden digger' was something innovative: a sharpened flat plate of metal welded on a 4" round hollow pipe, which was the creation Mr. George Oge, a graduate of DBTI, now the supervisor of the maintenance department of the school. The MFM and Automotive students were responsible for multiplying the diggers.

The Don Bosco Students were only the instruments of Salesian Missions, Australia who financed the materials needed for producing the household materials. DBTI is grateful for the learning experience for the students who put in their heart and soul to speed up their projects, working many extra hours, even on weekends. "Our sacrifice and hard work, can bring comfort to those who suffered much during the flooding", said one of the students who witnessed the smiles of those who collected their gifts. Another student put it this way, "I wish all my classmates were here to see how much joy our work brought to so many families".



Three cheers to Salesian Missions - Australia! And cheers to the DBTI students!



Drawing Dominic

Moses Tahitorea (Jr. Carpentry)

To drum up excitement for the feast of St. Dominic Savio, Fr. Ambrose organized a drawing competition held on 5th of May, Monday, during the first (10 AM) school break.

Each class designated two representatives who were made to choose from ten different pictures of the youthful saint. They were then challenged to draw inspiration or to replicate the portrait enlarging it in the A3-size paper given to each. Given the time constraints (just about 25 minutes), all managed to submit worthwhile entrees. It is not very easy to be an artist-under-pressure, but two students excelled above others: the first prize was won by Simon Steward (Jr. Carpentry); and the second was awarded to Mark Mep (Jr. Automotive). Runner-up prizes were given to Arthur Pelo (Jr. Electricity) and Eddie Niuo (Sr. Automotive). These and all appreciation prizes given to the other competitors were from the generosity of Fr. Rector, Fr. Dominic Kachira.



UNFORGETTABLE RETREAT

Shirley Marpher (Sr. Life Skills)

On 2-3 May 2014, we—the Junior, Senior and OJT (on-the-job training) girls of the Life Skills department held our annual retreat at the DBTI campus. It was facilitated by the Salesian Sisters, particularly Sr. Sialei Puapuaga FMA and had for its theme: "Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Beginning at 6:00 PM on Friday evening, it was filled with prayer, singing, dancing and spiritual talks which made both for fun and reflective moments.

One of the highlights was a talk delivered by an OJT student who shared about the difficulties of finding a job. She reflected on her struggle to find a job since one had to contend with many other students from Regional Training Centres (RTCs) from around the country who were also in pursuit of the same. It really taught her the importance of time and how this was maximized.

We thanked the Salesian Sisters for their spiritual input and ensuring that the retreat was well organized. We will always value and remember this very prayerful and reflective weekend.



FIRST BLOOD

Charlton Kobi (Sr. Electrical)

Many DBTI donors came forward to donate blood on 27th May 2014. The blood donation drive was part of the *Helpen Iumi* Volunteer Blood Donor Recruitment Programme organized by the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society.

On that day, one of the presenters outlined the need to restock the local blood bank and reassured potential donors that the human body replaces the blood in a few days. It was heart-warming and wonderful to see a steady flow of young Bosconians, male and female, together with some staff members make their way to the school cafeteria which had been transformed into a collection centre.

While filling up their forms, the blood pressure of the donor was checked to ensure that all was in order. Though most were initially apprehensive and tense, their faces quickly lit with joy because they knew their generosity could help save lives. At the end these good Samaritans were delighted to pick up a packet of biscuits, a tin of "Taiyo", and sip a cold drink. "It is wonderful that we can give blood and save a life," shared Peter Tagarau, a Sr. Electical student, who was convinced it is a mark of a Bosconian "to always to be ready and willing to volunteer his time and talent to reach out to the less fortunate." Others expressed similar comments.

The Solomon Islands Red Cross Blood Donation programme director has encouraged more women to donate blood since they are the most common beneficiaries, especially at the time of labour and delivery.



BOSCONIAN SAINT

Danstan Paul (Jr. Life Skills)

DBTI celebrated the feast of the model of youth, St. Dominic Savio, in early May. The month began with words of encouragement by Fr. Dominic Kachira, DBTI rector, who exhorted the students to imitate the Bosconian saint especially in being creative in the expressions of holiness.

Though the actual feast day was on 6th May, the school Eucharist was held the next day, 7th May, since Wednesday is the usual day for school masses. Fr. Dominic, who presided, presented St. Dominic Savio as an example for all Bosconians. Fr. Srimal Priyanga, the principal, Fr. Ambrose Pereira, the out-going rector, and Fr. John Cabrido, the spiritual moderator concelebrated. Bosconians students participated wholeheartedly in singing and as lectors and altar servers. The occasion was also graced by the presence of the Salesian sisters and other friends of Don Bosco. In his homily, Fr. John called upon the students to think, act and live with higher goals, like an eagle, like St. Dominic Savio, and not like a chicken. He also encouraged the Bosconians to be courageous in doing good and fighting evil. Like Dominic Savio, Bosconians should treat all people with the greatest respect and love.

This feast was a fitting opportunity to thank our missionaries for their services in shepherding us Bosconians. A heartfelt thanks



also goes to all who have contributed to building DBTI into a school training leaders in industry for the future.

Dominic Savio is a young Bosconian saint who died at just 15 years old. As a child of five years, he already served at mass. With special permission he was allowed to receive Holy Communion at only 8 years old, though 12 was the norm at his time. On that special day, he formulated four promises: to sanctify Sundays and holy days; to approach Communion and Confession frequently and regularly; Jesus and Mary shall be his best friends; and "Death rather than sin." He became a saint

because he faithfully lived out these promises.

As a Bosconian, I am so happy and enjoy the school activities here in DBTI. I know that if I only open my heart and mind, and cooperate like Dominic Savio, I too can become a good Christian and an honest citizen for my country!



IMPORTANT DAYS

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER



14th, Term Three Begins.

25th-26th, Senior Carpentry Retreat.

1st- 2nd, Junior Carpentry Retreat.

8th-9th, MFM Retreat.

16th, Birth Day of Don Bosco.

17th, Past Pupils Day.

15th-16th-17th, Exams.

19th, End of Term 3.

20th, Report Sighting.

**Proposed Date for "Grand Bazaar" to raise funds for a new Basketball Court:
Saturday 2nd August 2014**