From the Principal

Last Friday our school community celebrated the Edmund Rice feast day. The day proved to be a very important day as a celebration of a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice tradition.

The day celebrated our Edmund Rice charism and highlighted the theme of the “Dignity of the Human Person”. A core vision of the Edmund Rice charism is a call for justice and peace for all.

A central highlight was the Mass celebrated by Father Ron Peters. Father Ron in his homily emphasized the importance of young people developing a strong sense of justice and responsibility. Edmund Rice schools offer a holistic education that aim to achieve this goal in the young people in our care.

As part of the school celebration the College chose to award Edmund Rice medals on the day to one student in each year group. Over the past two years these medals have become a significant affirmation of students who have exemplified qualities of Christian service in our College Community.

I would like to congratulate the following students who received the Edmund Rice medals:

- Emmett Walsh Year 7
- Ronan Long Year 8
- Danny Dang Year 9
- Harry Cameron Year 10
- Nizar Hadaya Year 11
- Andrew Somerville Year 12

Another highlight on the day was the recognition of staff for long standing service at Edmund Rice College. I would like to congratulate the following staff who have been staff members at Edmund Rice College for over 25 years:

Jeffrey O’Brien, Anthony Rees, Brian Ireland, Paul McCammon, Mark Jackson, Patricia Hayman, Sam Tadros, Martin Rule, Russell Bates, Margaret Johnson, Gabrielle Condon, Lesley Sykes, Lucie Scozzafava, Jennifer Hodson, Stephen Bannister

The commitment of these staff members to the College for such extensive periods of time highlights their dedication and respect that these individual have for their school. It is a wonderful endorsement for what is a close-knit and strong Catholic school community in the Edmund Rice tradition.

Peter McGovern
Focus on Justice & Compassion

Justice & Compassion are two central characteristics of the Christian life and last week the boys demonstrated in real ways what justice and compassion mean to them. On Founder’s Day we started appropriately with celebration of the Mass, which is the source and summit of our lives as a Catholic community. Fr Ron Peters was our celebrant and picking up the theme of ‘the dignity of the human person,’ helped us to understand that it is in tending to the most basic needs of people that we dignify their existence as one made in the image of God. This is firmly rooted in our beliefs as a Catholic community and ‘loving God through loving God’s children’ is the mission that we are ‘sent forth’ to do at the end of every mass.

During the following activities, we watched the short film ‘Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea’ and each year group considered how they want their country to react to the plea of asylum seekers. It was a resounding show of compassion as the Year 7 students created postcards to send their opinions to our Prime Minister, Year 8 took a solidarity walk for those who are not free to walk or travel and Year 9 and 10 students participated in a voluntary action of taping their mouths and standing in solidarity. We will continue the postcard campaign and all students will have the opportunity to participate before we send them to the Prime Minister.

It seems that the spirit of Edmund Rice has inspired these students to be thoughtful citizens. They also raised $1000 for two Edmund Rice Charities, the Br Pat Keogh Memorial Scholarship for the School for the Blind in Goroka, PNG and Edmund Rice Camps.

‘Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world indeed it is the only thing that ever has.’ Margaret Mead

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Duke of Edinburgh Award

Expressions of interest are invited from students aged 14 and over. The College is interested in introducing the Duke of Edinburgh Award. There are 3 levels to the award, Bronze, Silver and Gold, and each level requires students to undertake activities such as community service / physical recreation / adventurous journey. Students who participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award will have the community service component awarded as CSL hours. The Duke of Edinburgh Award runs in over 120 countries and encourages self-development, individual challenge, adventure and fun. Participation is entirely voluntary and participants have an extensive range of activities to choose from. To learn more about this award visit the Duke of Edinburgh Award website at www.dukeofed.com.au. As we are aiming to commence this program by the beginning of Term 3, please see Mrs Lothian as soon as possible if you wish to register your interest.
Social justice, Mrs Lothian

Social justice means that we organise society to support the human wellbeing of all people. Achieving social justice in a society is a difficult, complex and ongoing task as it demands a firm commitment to improve the wellbeing of everyone. Edmund Rice College has a vision for Justice and Solidarity for all as we aspire to live the reality of this touchstone. Social justice looks to ensuring that everyone has enough resources to live a decent life. Clean water is one resource that we take for granted in Australia. Many villages across the world do not have access to a clean water supply, consequently, many become sick and die as a result of drinking contaminated water.

As you are aware, the students are encouraged to donate money to Missions through their Home Room. This money is then distributed to a range of projects within Australia and around the world where we can make a difference. The money donated during Term 1 and Term 2 by the Year 7 boys will be forwarded to Kisenso, a suburb in Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is estimated that over half of the people in the country obtain their drinking water from unfiltered potential unsafe sources. The suburb of Kisenso has a population of approximately 10,000, with no electricity or clean drinking water. They are currently drawing their water from rivers which are contaminated. As a result, typhoid fever, cholera, amides and intestinal worms are prevalent. Because the population is poor, there is a lack of medical facilities and many are dying from these diseases.

Year 7 have raised over $1,000 in Home Room during Term 1, just from Missions. They are to be congratulated for this fine effort. They are working towards being able to donate $3,000 towards the cost of drilling for a well. May God richly bless them and their families for their compassion and generosity as they endeavour to ensure that all live a decent life. The goods of the earth should be distributed fairly so that no person is in severe poverty or deprivation.

“Give justice to the weak and orphan”, maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
Rescue the weak and the needy.” Psalm 82: 2-3

Debating Report, Ms Kinnane

Last Friday night the College debating teams participated in the third round of the Catholic Schools debating competition. The junior teams were hosted by ERC. The Year 7 and 9 teams had a win and the Year 10 team won on a forfeit. The Year 11 and Year 12 teams travelled with me to John Therry High School and both teams had a win against Loyola College. A special mention must be made of Samuel Boatswain from Year 9 who debated up in the Year 11 team. Many thanks to Ms Mascord who organised the junior night at ERC and thanks to Mrs Hurley for adjudicating on the night.

University of NSW English Competition, Ms Kinnane

This competition will be held on Wednesday 31 July. Entry details need to be submitted by the end of May. English teachers will be collecting the $8.80 entry fee in English lessons over the next 3 weeks. Students from Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 who achieved a grade A in English last year are expected to enter the competition. Some students in Year 7 and Year 12 will be advised by their English teacher to enter this competition. Other students are invited to enter. Every participant receives a certificate (High Distinction, Distinction, Credit, Proficiency or Participation) as well as a summary sheet of his results.

Careers, Mrs Hudson

Medicine/Surgery Degree (Years 11, 12) - www.nd.edu.au
The University of Notre Dame in Darlington will be hosting an information session on 21st May for the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery. RSVP essential Ph: 02 8204 4404.
Illawarra Careers Expo (Years 10, 11, 12)
Waples Road, Unanderra. All Year 10 and Year 12 students will be attending on Wednesday, 15th May.
UNSW Scholarships Information Evening (Year 12) - www.scholarships@unsw.edu.au
6th June 6.00-8.30pm Sir John Clancy Auditorium UNSW Kensington campus contact Chez Orchard Ph: 9385 2413
CATC Design School Workshops (Years 10, 11, 12) - catc.edu.au/events/design-discovery-workshops-sydney
2nd June 10.00-4.00pm Design School, Level 4, 1-5 Hickson Road, The Rocks - cost $80 - Interior Design or Photography. 1st June, 9.30-4.00pm Workshop in Graphic Design. Places limited, Phone Katrina Millington 1300 611 111.
UNSW Year 10 Subject Selection Evening (Year 10) - www.whatson.unsw.edu.au
29th May - Registrations open 6.00pm at Leighton Hall Scientia Building, UNSW Kensington Campus, Ph: 02 9385 2413
Interested in Trade Jobs (Years 10, 11, 12) - www.defencejobs.gov.au
The Navy, Army and Air Force are recruiting for a range of positions in trade related jobs. Go to the next Information session to see where your skills can take you. 6.00pm at Defence Force Recruiting, 26 Atchison Street, Wollongong, 4220 3303 or cptwollongong@dfr.com.au to book

Canteen Roster for week commencing Monday, 13 May – Group 4

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>T Burleigh, C Lee Spicer, M Reid, S Middlebrook, A Morris, N Cranny, A Hall, S Reid</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>T Thompson, M Edwards, K Rosewarne, J Holman, S O’Brien, S Wilson</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>J Wright, G Cardamone, S Williams, M Petschler, P Calderbank</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>T Giolotti, S Morrow, S Crisafi, K Campbell, S Potter, D Hegyi, A Vidaic, P Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>C Webster, S Howson, J Jovcevski, K McCollim, G Pallone, M Archer, K Welsh, G Thomas, S Beer</td>
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Uniform Shop Opening Hours

| Tuesday 14 May – 1.00pm – 4.00pm | Thursday 23 May – 7.45am – 10.45am |

Founded 1926 – Proudly Catholic and Comprehensive – Boys Succeed at Edmund Rice College
THE PARENT FORUM AGM MEETING

Tuesday, 14th May

On Tuesday, 14th May at 7:30pm in the Br Pelin Hall, we will be having the Parent Forum AGM followed by a normal meeting. Anyone interested in a representative group position please advise Chris Gray c/- the school office. The positions available are:

- Chair
- Deputy Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Please note we only meet twice a term, do not fundraise but provide a means for parents to be kept informed and for the College to receive feedback and suggestions. **Hope to see you there!**

ESSAY SKILLS COURSE FOR STUDENTS IN YEAR 10

This course has been designed specifically for senior students to assist them in planning, writing and editing essays. It trains students in building confidence in writing essays gaining better understanding of structure, planning brainstorming, paragraphing & style analysing task words and questions for different subject areas learning the ‘dos’ and don’ts’ for better results.

Cost: $110, Duration: 6-hours – 3 x 2-hour sessions in Term 2...commencing Thursday 30th May at 2.15pm  
Enrolment forms and course information will be distributed during Week 2.  
Direct enquiries to ICS Learning Group, 9960 6231 or visit [www.skillscentre.com.au](http://www.skillscentre.com.au)

HOMESTAYS

Our sister school in Japan is hoping to send a group of students to Wollongong to homestay with ERC students on a ten day visit from Sunday 21st July to Wednesday 31st July 2013.

We have had 20 years of exchanges with Okazaki Johsei (a co-ed senior high school), with families enjoying the experience and forging new friendships.

Homestays will travel to and from school each day with your son, and weekend days are free to spend with you. You do not need to take them long distances sightseeing. They want to see how Australians live and practise English.

This is also an excellent opportunity for boys to make friends with students from overseas. An allowance is paid to help with costs.

If you are able to homestay a student, please contact Ms Aungles for more information.
NSWCCC Swimming, Mr Preeo

The NSW Combined Catholic College Swimming Championships were held last week at Sydney Aquatic Centre, Olympic Park Homebush. Twelve boys from the College represented the Wollongong Diocese competing against other Diocesan schools across the state. The 4 x 50m Junior Relay team of Julian Cable, Jayden Keys, Bailey Lamb and Jarrod Murada just missed a podium finish. The Senior Freestyle Relay team of Toby Adams, Dale Dawson, Matthew Preeo and William Lamb were unbeaten but later finished 4th in the 4 x 50m Medley relay. The 6 x 50m Relay team consisting of Blake Males (12’s), Liam Hegyi (13’s), Jayden Keys (14’s), Jacob Hennessy (15’s), Matthew Webster (16’s) and Matthew Preeo (Opens) were placed 3rd and now progress to the NSW All Schools Championships. Also to progress in individual events were Dale Dawson and Matthew Webster who will now take on the best swimmers in the State. As usual the swimmers represented the College in an exemplary fashion. Many thanks to the parents (and grandparents) for their support on the day and for transporting the boys to Homebush.

U14 Rugby League State of Origin After School Footy, Mr Preeo

This year around 45 boys played in the U14 “State of Origin” after school Rugby League series. Nostalgia round saw the Barbarians round the with a 4-0 win over Norths and then a 1-0 win over Souths with Josh Constable having the honour of scoring the last point through the old goal posts with a brilliant long range field goal. Round 2 saw the first games on Sheppards oval played in a north to south direction with a temporarily marked field. With players just visible above the long grass Norths proved victorious in their two games. The final round saw a revised format with games played on the Keira oval side of the school. Norths again proved too strong defeating the combined Souths/Barbarians team 16-0. U13 State of Origin Park footy will commence next week. Permission notes are available from the office or Mr Preeo.

Cross Country, Mr MacDonald

On May 2, the Edmund Rice College Cross Country Team competed in the Wollongong Diocesan Carnival in Nowra. The team was selected based on results from the College Carnival which was held in Term 1. The team consisted of the top 6 places in the U/12s - U/16s and the top 4 in the U/17s and U/18s. After a few withdrawals replacement positions were offered and the ERC team was assembled. Our objective of the day was to retain the Boys’ trophy and get as many athletes through to the NSWCCC Cross Country in June.

ERC started the event strongly with a first and second place in the U/12s by Jordan Heywood and Filip Pilipovic respectfully. This trend continued throughout the day with many more podium finishes. Adam Munday also performed well enough to make it through with Nicholas Inwood first reserve for the Diocesan team for the U/12s. Jonathan Keyes and Kai Calderbank-Park rounded off the age group, all within the top 20 places.

The next race saw our recent National 3000m Track/Field Champion, Liam Henderson, claim yet another gold medal in the U/15 age division. He was excellently supported by Jacob Hennessy (2nd) and Jules Cleary (4th). Again, Aydin Yagmur and Tristan Sailor were able to round off the places finishing in the top 20.

The U/13s age group was headed by Dylan Ryan with a bronze medal and was supported well by Tane Nunn (7th), Kyle Veerhuis (13th), Jay Thorn (14th) and Iain Carlisle (17th). The results for the U/14s and U/16s were much the same as the U/13s with no one claiming gold but a solid representation in the minor placings. The U/14’s Lachlan Kirk fought hard gaining second place and Liam Flanagan claiming the bronze. Nicholas Zappia rounded off a “3 in a row” with 4th placing. Charlie Eaton (9th), Jordan Kirk (13th) and Ross Ellenis-Izortzis (17th) similarly, the U/16s had Taylor Harvey (2nd) with Matthew Webster (4th) and Mark Jones (5th) making it through to the next level. Oliver Carrasco, Joshua Crapis and Justin Cario competed hard for 15th, 22nd and 23rd places respectfully. Two special performances were that of Charlie Eaton and Justin Cario who put their hands up the day before the event after two late withdrawals. The U/17s and U/18s were combined and had 4 competitors from each age group. In the U/17s Mitchell Hennessy had the highest placing (2nd) and was supported by Jon Mangos (7th), Dale Dawson (18th) and William Lamb (20th). The U/18s had to run 8kms with the experienced Brad Gullick winning the race by a huge margin. Our other competitors from this age group rounded off the day with a “3 in a row” of some of the respectful, but minor placings - Steven Mills (7th), Chris Gandy (8th) and Ryan Fairley (9th).

A very special story behind this race was that after 5 years of minor places - perseverance, guts and determination shone through with Brad Gullick finally winning his first Diocesan 1st Place Trophy in his final year of representing the College. These results meant ERC achieved one of its major objectives of promoting 15 students to the next level and the prior training sessions was a great bonus for the students. A very special thank you to the students for the support they showed each other and the teachers who were present (Mr Preeo and Mr Haybittle). I am sure this obvious “school spirit” contributed to the teams overall success and enjoyment of competition.

Dragon Boat Racing – Edmund Rice and St Mary’s Colleges team up!

On Saturday April 6, students from Years 7-12 raced on Lake Illawarra (from Skiway Park, Oak Flats) as part of the Shellharbour City Festival of Sport. Two teams of 20 paddlers entered 3 heats apiece, placing second mostly, and resulting in a finals berth. Having been told we were not in a finals event, it was with great surprise that a team was then called up to paddle. We hurriedly assembled together the students who were still at the venue and raced in the ‘grand finale’ – a very wet, tiring, yet exhilarating experience! Our teams were the only ones entirely made up of school students. It was amazing how well they paddled and placed amongst the adult teams. It just shows that the enthusiasm and fitness of youth can get you a long way. The students were a mixture of both novice and experienced paddlers. All students had at least one training session under the expert tutelage of the Illawarra Dragon Boat Club. During these sessions the students were instructed in the techniques of paddling, and the ‘regime’ of Dragon Boat Racing. The input of the members of this club (operating from the Illawarra Rowing Club at Lake Heights) was excellent and invaluable to the students’ confidence, paddling skill development and overall enjoyment of this sport. Besides the thrill of racing together, the social aspect of this day and the prior training sessions was a great bonus for the guys and girls. Team: Jake Cavadovski, Kaylan Castaldi, Max Connor, Dale Dawson, Jonathan Dunstan, Pierce Hanson, Hugo and Reuben Hudson, Sam Knight, Isaac Losimmo, Jackson James, Harrison McBeath, Lachlan Meuron, Callum Ramsay, Michael Smith, Brady and Taylor Townsend, Nelson Wells, Lachlan Winston and Ashkan Seyedian Yazdi.