Advent Prayer

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome.
Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy,
So that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory.
For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

It is timely that our last school newsletter for the year coincides with the commencement of the season of Advent. As we prepare for Christmas, we reflect on the year that has been and the expectation of what is to follow.

The word Advent derives from the Latin word meaning coming. The Lord is coming. We may reflect that every year at this time we celebrate his coming with a great sense of expectation and anticipation as Christmas approaches.

In Advent, the Church focuses on a beautiful liturgical season which calls us to live in anticipation of a new beginning. Advent precedes the Feast of the Nativity we call Christmas. It is a time when we focus on the arrival of the Lord. It is a season of joyful preparation. We will be continually invited through liturgical readings and practices, to clear away all that entangles us and open a space in our hearts, our homes, our relationships and our lives, for the Lord Jesus to come. This is the gift of Advent.

As the school year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to wish our families well over Christmas and the New Year.

In the short time I have been here I have come to feel very much at home. The support of staff, students and the parent community have contributed greatly to a sense that the College is a very welcoming and inviting place.

2012 has been a very successful year at the College. There has been much to celebrate from key events such as the 50 year celebrations of the Mt Keira site, and the 25th Anniversary of the Chapel, to a successful School Registration and Accreditation with the Board of Studies. The decision to take the College to a common day next year and the commencement of a major building and grounds program ensure that these are exciting days for the College. The rapid growth in student numbers is testament to this.

I congratulate the efforts and success of students as the Yearly Presentation Assemblies have showcased. The diversity in the range of opportunities offered students in the extensive curriculum and co-curricular programs owes much to the staff commitment here at the College.

Peter McGovern
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Student Start/Finish Times</strong></th>
<th>8.00am to 2.05pm each day except for Senior Students who study Extension Courses/Hospitality. Specific timetable details will be provided on first day of return.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>30th January</strong></td>
<td>Years 7, 11 (Peer Support Leaders only) and Year 12 return.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>31st January</strong></td>
<td>All students return.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>School Special Bus Transport Details</strong></td>
<td>Refer to Bus Schedules enclosed. Same journeys to and from school. Same bus for Years 7-12 students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent(s)/Carer(s) Transporting Sons to School</strong></td>
<td>Preferably use Keira Park entrance to College. Please do not drive into College Grounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uniform Shop</strong></td>
<td>For all Year groups available during the holidays on Tuesday 22, Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 January (9.00am – 3.00pm).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College Uniform</strong></td>
<td>Check uniform list. This includes black bag with a College Crest and grey striped school socks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use of iPads by Years 7 and 8</strong></td>
<td>Read separate information provided in this package. Boot camps will be held for students early in Term 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Library Hours</strong></td>
<td>8.00am – 4.00pm each school day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Homework Club</strong></td>
<td>2.05pm – 2.55pm each school day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office Hours</strong></td>
<td>Office will reopen on Monday, 21 January (9.00am – 3.00pm).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
YEAR 10 – PURCHASE OF COLLEGE BLAZER

All students returning to Year 11 are required to purchase a College Blazer.

Another date has been set for students to be fitted for their blazer and purchase of any other uniform items:-

Tuesday, 11 December - 9.30am - 4.00pm

Students who do not order on that day will have to pay a $40 late fee for blazers ordered in January

Listed below is the Senior Uniform:-

- College grey trousers (worn with grey/striped socks). Shorts not allowed.
- Plain black belt (to be worn at all times)
- Ice blue shirt with College logo
- Plain, black, polishable leather school shoes
- College black blazer with tie (compulsory in Terms 2 and 3 optional in Terms 1 and 4)
- ERC red jumpers/vest (worn under the blazer in cold weather)

Missions & Charities - Pacific Calling Partnership @ the Edmund Rice Centre

Thanks again to all of the students who contributed $1000 to help the Pacific Calling Partnership send a delegation to the UN Climate Conference in Doha, Qatar. Your donation of mission money is a sign of standing in solidarity with our neighbours when their very existence is threatened. You may have heard the scientific reports in the news that show sea levels rising faster than the UN predicted and fears rising about the rate of permafrost melting. We will hear more in early 2013, but we wanted to give you a brief note about the progress of the PCP delegates who are working hard to support the Kiribati and Tuvalu governments and the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) in Doha. They had some success with their own side event about the impact of climate change on the people of the Pacific Islands. You can get a feel for what the delegation is experiencing by going to the Doha Diary http://www.erc.org.au/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=163

Please continue to pray that the people and governments of the world will understand the vital role that humans have to play in caring for God’s creation and our responsibility to walk gently on the earth.

Liturgy - Taize Prayer Day at the College

In November the College hosted Br Ghislain from the Taize ecumenical community in France and David Harmer from the local Wollongong Taize group. Taize was set up by a group of Catholic brothers who have developed a ministry of hospitality and prayer through music and they welcome pilgrims, mostly young adults, from all over the world to their place every year. Students from Lewisham Christian Brothers High School, TIGS, Corpus Christi, St John’s Nowra and St Joseph’s Albion Park joined students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 11 to learn about their unique style of chants and music and then to participate in a liturgy using these songs and prayers that they wrote themselves. The blue and green strips on our ‘peace tree’ on McCabe Oval are the thoughts and prayers of the participants on the day. It was an inspirational activity, and challenging for students who were not used to this kind of participation in the liturgy. However, the feedback from the students has been overwhelmingly positive and we are looking forward to continuing to explore how we can use Taize at the College. We are grateful to Ms McDonnell and the Hospitality students for providing the food on the day. You can find out more about Taize at their website: http://www.taize.fr/en

CARITAS AUSTRALIA - CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Once again this year Caritas is offering their Global Gifts. For those of you who may not know, Global Gifts is Caritas Australia's Christmas appeal that allows donors to make donations in return for a Christmas card that they can give to a loved one.

There are six ‘gifts’ to choose from, each with a different price point, as described below:

- $10 The gift of Clean Water
- $25 The gift of Food
- $50 The gift of Sustainable Agriculture
- $75 The gift of Healthcare
- $100 The gift of Education
- $200 The gift of Emergency Relief

There are paper cards, and also e-cards available (for those who need a last minute gift!)

Orders should be placed by December 12th to ensure they arrive in time for Christmas.

If you would like to place orders please go to our website:- www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts<http://www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts>, OR call our donor services team 1800 024 413.

Congratulations to Liam Henderson who came 2nd in the U/15’s 3000m and 8th in the 1500m at the Nationals last weekend.
TERM DATES - 2013

Term 1
Tuesday, 29 January: Staff Day
Wednesday, 30 January: Yr 7, Yr 12 & Yr 11 Peer Support Leaders
Thursday, 31 January: Remaining students return.
Friday, 12 April: Final day for Term 1

Term 2
29 April: 1st Day of classes
21 June: Final day for Term 2

Term 3
15 July: 1st day of classes
20 Sept: Final day for Term 3

Term 4
8 Oct: 1st day of classes
6 Dec: Final day for Term 4

Are you, or do you know, a male teenager with Asperger’s Syndrome or High Functioning Autism? If so, we would love to talk to you!

Researchers at the University of Wollongong are looking for adolescents with Asperger’s Syndrome (AS) or High Functioning Autism (HFA), and their families, to participate in a study aiming to understand the experiences of AS/HFA during adolescence.

Who can be involved?
Families must have a family member with AS/HFA who is: Male and in school Years 7-10.

What should I do if I want more information about this study? If you would like more information, please contact Liz Cridland via email ekc977@uowmail.edu.au or phone, 4221 3693 or 0403 101137, or Mr Greg Carey, Learning Support Coordinator, Edmund Rice College via email gcarey@edmundricecollege.nsw.edu.au or phone 4228 4344.

Community Care Grant ERC receives $1,000 towards Soup Kitchen Program
Nationally 83 schools entered submissions into this year’s CUA Community Care Program. Ten CUA branches across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia were involved and over 46,000 votes were placed. Due to the extent of the deserved and inspiring school projects, and the hard work that each school has put into the programme, CUA is providing another $1,000 to each of the top 30 runner up schools based on the number of votes received of which Edmund Rice College was one!

Mrs McDonell

Year 7 MIXED OZTAG Competition, Mr Preeo
During Term 4 around 30 Year 7 girls from St Mary’s have joined a similar number of Year 7 boys for a mixed OZTAG competition played at ERC on three Friday afternoons. The girls chose mixed OZTAG as their school sport option for Term 4 while the 30 boys were all enthusiastic volunteers. The games were played in good spirit with some minor rule modifications ensuring the games were “mixed” and not dominated by one sex or the other. Thankfully the boys could keep up with the girls ensuring evenly contested games.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Played</th>
<th>Win</th>
<th>Loss</th>
<th>Draw</th>
<th>Bye</th>
<th>F/A</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norths</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>+6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Souths</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wests</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>+7</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbarians</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once again a big thank you to our Year 9 volunteers who acted as managers and even refereed some games - Connor Daly, Tyler Whitten, Jayden Cecil, Rhys Hegyi, Hamish Campbell, Henry Ward, Mitchell Madeley, Nauroz Niaz and Taylor Townsend. Special thanks to Dan Constable (Year 10) who officiated once again. A similar opportunity will exist in 2013 Term 3 for a Year 8 mixed OZTAG competition and in Term 4 for a Year 9/10 mixed competition. Teams of 5-6 committed boys will be combined with girls from St Mary’s. Alternatively students can organise their own teams. Games will be played every second Friday after school at ERC. See your Year Co-ordinator or Mr Preeo if you are interested.

Thank you from Narelle Ockenden, Canteen Manager
A big thank you to the volunteer canteen helpers this year, hope to see you back in 2013! Also thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who supported our bus trips and functions throughout the year as well as assisting in the Uniform Shop. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, Narelle ps... canteen rosters for 2013 will be posted home.

Edmund Rice College invites you to a talk by Social Commentator…..

Jonathan Doyle

Jonathan Doyle is the founder of Australia’s largest values based digital media provider Choiciez Media. He has delivered live seminar content to a quarter of a million people, has a background in Catholic teaching, holds a Masters degree in Education and is currently completing a second Master’s Degree in Theology (Marriage and Family Studies). He is a passionate and sought-after speaker around the world bringing a powerful and dynamic message of real change.

7.30PM, MONDAY, 25 FEBRUARY

Founded 1926 – Proudly Catholic and Comprehensive – Boys Succeed at Edmund Rice College