From the Principal

Prayer of Young Men

God, Creator of the universe, thank You for the gift of our parents.
Help us to know Your will and to follow their guidance in order to grow into free and responsible persons, mature in faith and responsibility.
Most loving God, teach us to be humble and willing to learn.
Help us to understand the importance of having a good relationship with our parents and families in order to grow into considerate young men who care for others.
Keep us from selfishness and help us to understand the role that our parents play in helping us to grow to be all that you intend us to be.
Give us the courage to be ourselves and to resist following the crowd.
Give us the imagination to enter into the dream you have for us and to follow the guidance of our parents to the path of virtue and righteousness.
Grant us the grace to be able to accept guidance and to be able to ask for support when we need it.
Help us to love and to understand the role of our parents in the big picture of our lives. Amen

Late last week I travelled to Nudgee College, Brisbane where 45 Principals from the Edmund Rice schools across Australia gathered for three days.

The theme of the conference was the charism of Edmund Rice schools and how it influences and nourishes our schools in all that we do. Put simply the charism of Edmund Rice is a window to the Gospel through which staff, parents and students at our schools can view the life of Jesus Christ.

At the core of the charism lies a practical Christianity based on the mission of Christ. This distinctive insight into the Gospel entails facilitating a faith community characterized by the provision of an inclusive, holistic education to all the students in our care.

The power of the relationships built on mutual trust and respect is the cornerstone of the Edmund Rice school communities and their interactions with the outside world. Our schools have a mission to respond to the social needs of the time. Such a responsibility requires an inclusive and proactive support of all our students in our care as well as a commitment to the poor and marginalized.

At Edmund Rice College the Christian Service Learning Program is a vital expression of this commitment to outreach and to the fulfillment of the education of a young man in a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition. The touchstones of presence, compassion and liberation are at the core of this charism. Our community must be present for the students and each student must feel compassion through welcome, tolerance and acceptance. The students are liberated through education with the goal of each becoming the best that they can be.

One expression of this charism was evident on Tuesday evening this week when Year 11 students and their parents gathered in the Brother Pelin College Hall. The celebration of Mass was the concluding highlight of a Reflection Day for the students organized by Mrs Hurley, the Year 11 Religious Education and Home Room teachers.

The theme of the day “A Man For Others” focused on the boys’ individual faith journeys and encouraged them to contemplate their inner selves and the individual gifts that God had given them. The day was a very successful one and a very expressive articulation of the importance of an inclusive community and the Charism of a liberating education that asks of our young men an honesty and hopefulness about their place in the world and their commitment to others.

The prayer at the beginning of the College Newsletter is the prayer spoken by the Year 11 boys at the conclusion of the Reflection Day Mass this week.

We learnt yesterday that Br McGlade, a Christian Brother, aged 98, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 21 May. Br McGlade, the oldest living Christian Brother, had a remarkable life. He taught in Christian Brother schools from the early 1930’s. He was Headmaster at St Patrick’s College, Strathfield from 1953 to 1955 and went on to become Provincial Leader of the Brothers. May he rest in peace.

Could we also keep Logan Jackson and his family in our prayers. Logan is currently in Randwick Children’s Hospital recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumour. He has been taken back to the ward from the Intensive Care Unit where he is recovering from the operation.

PETER McGOVERN
**Semester One Examinations, Director of Studies, Mr Ireland**

- For Year 8 students, these examinations will be held from 30 May – 7 June. All students have been emailed a copy of the examination timetable. A copy has been included in this newsletter.
- For Years 9-10, their examinations will be held 11 June – 21 June.
- Attendance each day is compulsory and normal classes will continue for students who do not have a scheduled exam.
- All students must sit for their examinations at the scheduled time. Leave from the examinations period can only be granted by the Principal and must be negotiated by parents before the examination period commences.
- Absence from an examination due to illness or unforeseen circumstances must be notified by parents/carers to the Year Co-ordinator by 8.00am on the morning of the exam followed by the required documentation on the student’s first day of return. For students in Years 12 and 10 this must include a Doctor’s certificate. The visit to the Doctor should be on or immediately before the scheduled examination(s).
- There is a catch up day for students who have missed exams for valid reasons scheduled for Year 8 throughout Week 7 and Years 9 and 10 on Monday, 24 June.
- Unexplained absence and/or unsatisfactory reason for absence from an examination will result in a zero mark for the exam component and a suitable comment on the report.
- School reports will be distributed on Thursday 27 and Friday 28 June. Details regarding times and booking an appointment will be provided in future newsletters.
- Parents/carers and students are required to collect student reports from their Home Room Teacher, via an appointment
- All parents/carers are encouraged to visit subject teachers to discuss student progress.
- Semester One reports will not be mailed out.
- Formal examinations for Year 11 will be held in Term 3 commencing 9 September. In the meantime, their assessment programme will continue. An Interim Report covering work from Terms 1 and 2 will be completed on each student at the end of this term and will be available for collection by parents on Thursday 27 and Friday 28 June, the same day as report distribution for the other year groups.
- For Year 12 students, their Trial HSC examinations will be held Term 3, 15 July – 26 July. During this time students attend for exams only.

**Parishes Working Together**

On Pentecost Sunday, Bishop Peter Ingham presented a Pastoral Letter titled, *With the Spirit of God, We Move Together into Our Future* as a response to the recommendations from parishioners during the Parishes Working Together planning and consultation process.

A copy of the Bishop’s Pastoral Letter is being distributed to all families with this school newsletter. We ask that families take some time to read Bishop Peter’s response, so you can be informed of our plans to build viable and sustainable Church communities in the Diocese of Wollongong.

**Dear Parents, Grandparents, Uncles and Aunties**

The College is in urgent need of SCRIBES to help during the upcoming examination period

If you can help please contact Mrs Jenny Thatcher at the College (4228 4344)
Year 11 Reflection Day

On Tuesday Year 11 students took some time out to think about their lives, their particular gifts and talents and how they can use those gifts and talents in order to contribute to creating a better world – to be ‘men for others.’ In a world that thrives on individualism and entertainment, it was a challenge to spend a day away from TV, phones, computers and even sport, jobs and activities. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower to explain that sometimes people hear the Word of God and it gets choked out by other messages around us but that it is up to each person to maintain a life of ‘good soil’ so that the message of God’s love can take root in our hearts.

We started the day with setting a sacred space and acknowledging the important contribution of Australia’s Indigenous people and praying for their spirit of ‘dadirri’ or deep listening to the inner voice. Then our guest speaker, former ERC student Simon Reid, spoke to the boys about what being a man for others means to him. This was indeed a highlight of the day and many students said that he helped them to understand more about themselves on their evaluations. There is no more powerful experience than a witness, and Simon bore great testimony to the seeds that are planted in high school which grow and flourish far beyond the years of high school.

The rest of the day centered around reflecting on various aspects of life and articulating what it is that makes each student who they are, what strengths they have been given and considering how they can use these strengths to make the world a better place. We ended the day with a celebration of the Mass with Fr Ron, parents and other family members.

This is significant as the next time we will all celebrate together will be at the graduation mass of these young men. From the evaluations it was clear that the boys found it a challenge to focus for a whole day on inner things. However, it was also a positive experience that pushed them out of their comfort zones and another step towards becoming a man. Here are some comments from the boys. We will have more next week:

- It helped me understand more about myself. (Oliver Jamsek)
- Very enjoyable day. We all had a lot of fun. (Mark Jones)
- It was a great and enjoyable experience. It was helpful during the day to reflect on the future and the past. (James McBeath)
- Very good learning experience. (Connor Kambouris)
- It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, promoting personal growth, group cooperation and self-understanding. (Daniel Silcox)
I think that the retreat was a good day to be able to understand more about our fellow students. 
(Mitch Naumovski)
Although the retreat was a long and tiring day, it was entertaining when we did activities like the blind walk and heard the guest speaker. (Lee Taylor)
I felt the retreat was a success and a great day where we learnt a lot about ourselves. (Braiden Zappia)
It was good getting to know the boys better. (Adam Vidaic)
It was a well-organised day, taking most of the boys out of their comfort zone in many ways. Like trust when controlled by a fellow peer to guide you around the school blind-folded or a deep meditation of finding the meaning yourself. (Christian Trajceski)
It was a great and enjoyable experience, learning more about ourselves and our peers. (Michael Hogan)

Christian Service-Learning, Mrs Lothian

Students in the Year 12 Studies of Religion course recently submitted an assignment on Liberation Theology, Environmental Ethics and Baptism, to depict Christianity as a dynamic living religious system. This weekend the students’ theoretical work will come alive as some of them participate in the Salvation Army Red Shield Door-Knock Appeal as part of their Christian Service-Learning commitment.

When Luke states in 4:18 “The spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor… to set liberty to those oppressed” he calls all Christians to be in solidarity with the poor and oppressed.

It is commendable to see the boys bring to life the spirituality of the Gospel and their assignment research in a practical and purposeful way within the Christian Service-Learning program. This is especially important as the Salvation Army tries to address the current situation of 575,000 children living below the poverty line in Australia i.e. 1 in every 6 children. Thanks to the young men who have volunteered to support the work of the Salvos.

Debating

Last Friday night our debating teams debated St Gregory's College at ERC. Congratulations to the ERC Year 12 team and our Year 7 team who both had convincing wins. Our Year 9 team were narrowly defeated with the adjudicator taking 15 minutes to weigh up the cases and come to a final decision. Our Year 8, 10 and 11 teams were debating with new debaters and debaters from younger years to fill their ranks. This is due to students having other commitments that conflict at times with a Friday night. As a College we have made a commitment not to forfeit and the boys have worked together across year groups to support each other. The mature way they have done this without any complaint is admirable indeed. Thanks to our wonderful chairpersons and a special thanks to Ms Mascord for assisting with the organisation of the night and Mrs Hurley for adjudicating. The boys were very pleased to have pizzas provided by the College and organised by the school canteen. The same will occur this Friday for the last round of this part of the competition which will be against John Therry College at ERC. Good luck to all our teams this week, especially the Year 12 team which has a good chance of qualifying as a regional winner.

Ms Kinnane

Public Speaking

On Wednesday night, Jack Shaw (Year 9) as a regional junior winner of the Rotary Voice of Youth, participated in an inter-regional round of this competition at St Gregory's College, Campbelltown. Each speaker delivered a prepared speech and an impromptu speech that they had 15 minutes to prepare. This is the first time Jack has competed at this level and both of his speeches were of a very high standard. He was awarded runner-up to a student from Sydney Boy's High who will now go on to a State Final that is held at Government House.

Ms Kinnane
Rugby Union, Mr Callan
The College Rugby Union teams have been a stand out in their achievement and team work. The opens convincingly won the Rugby Sevens Knock Out competition held at Kiama. They only had two tries scored against them in four games played. They go to State level and play the regional winners in Sydney. They are yet to play in the 15s competition to be held at Kiama, hopefully the current date will be changed as it conflicts with the major league knockout for our opens.

The recent 14s age group were competition winners. 31 players represented the College at Rugby 15s. They were the dominant team in their five games. Many of these boys had played limited Rugby before. Their state wide competitions start next year in the Buckland Shield. The competition at University was well organised and my thanks go to the organisers, referees and the invaluable assistance of Lennie Diggins in training and helping manage the team.

Congratulations to the following students on their selection in various representative teams and good luck in their upcoming events.
NSWCCC Rugby Union Southern Sydney teams - this week
Opens – Liam Antrobus
16s – Riley Hockey
NSWCCC Touch (Diocesan) - Week 6
Opens Team – Jason Reid and Tom Bartley
15s Team – Tristan Sailor, Jack Cross, Luke Ciantar, Josh Constable and Jacob Hennessy
NSWCCC Football/Soccer – Week 6
Opens Team – Ross Prandalos, Melih Yilmaz, Adrian Blazevski and James Volkanovski
NSWCCC Rugby League
Opens – Jack Brown and Jye Lawrence
15s – Jack Cross and Tristan Sailor

U/14 Swans Cup, Mr MacDonald
During Week 2 the U/14 AFL Team competed in the Swans Cup at Figtree Oval. Their first game was against Holy Spirit College and the dewy conditions made the game resemble something of a rugby game. ERC scraped home with a victory by 2 behinds. Their second game was against a much bigger and more physical Bulli High School. By this time the fields had dried out and ERC’s superior positional and AFL specific skills resulted in them winning by two goals on this occasion.

The team was well led by joint captains Jordan Allen and Lachlan Kirk. I would like to thank the students for their effort and dedication before and during the event and the parents who took time to support the team. This result means the team has qualified for the regional finals to be held next term. Following is a list of the boys who competed on the day: Year 7: Jay Thorn, Brock Scrivener, Kyle Veerhuis, Lachlan Phillips, Lachlan Dale, Emmett Walsh, Brady Burnett, James Andraos, Oscar Scown; Year 8: Dylan Potter, Lachlan Kirk, Liam Flanagan, William Lourey, Tate Russell, Jordon Kirk, Bailey Lamb, Flynn Crittenden; Year 9: Charlie Eaton, Jonathon Dale, Jordan Allen.

COLLEGE PHOTO DAY – THURSDAY 30 MAY
Order envelopes for College photos were distributed last week in readiness for photo day on Thursday, 30th May. The envelopes are NOT to be returned to the Front Office. Please send the envelope and correct money in with your son on photo day. Orders will not be accepted after this day. Family photos (siblings only) will also be available. Students can collect this envelope from their Year Coordinator.
For children with cancer, small things can make a huge difference

This year at Edmund Rice College we have been offering students the opportunity to support a worthy cause while learning or improving their sewing skills. Our aim is to create and donate pillowcases to oncology kids in hospitals around Australia in support of POK ‘Pillowcases for Oncology Kids’ which was set up by 15 year old Brittany Booth.

The Vision for ‘Pillowcases for Oncology Kids’ is to provide every child undergoing treatment for cancer, to receive a pillowcase to brighten up their room.

They want to see every child smile and with all our pillowcases being made and donated with tonnes of love it is sure to put a big smile on every child's face when they receive a pillowcase from POK, 'keep smiling.....it's contagious'.

Students are encouraged to join this project which not only contributes to students CSL projects but is sure to stir up those feel good goose bumps.

This activity is after normal College finishing time on Wednesday afternoons from 2.05pm to 2.55pm. Permission notes are available at the office and must be returned to Mrs McDonell, Mrs O’Neill or Miss Davey before attending. We thank the current students for their continued support and look forward to new members joining.  Mrs McDonell

Year 11 Hospitality

As part of the HSC Hospitality course students are required to complete a number of service periods that allow them to put into practice the skills that they attain. At the end of last term our students assisted in cooking and then serving afternoon tea as part of a Senior’s Week event at the Wollongong Town Hall. The boys baked raspberry and banana bread, chocolate brownies and fresh scones served with jam and cream. We then transported the boys and the food to Wollongong Town Hall where along with the support of Hospitality students from St Mary’s, we served tea and coffee for 250 seniors who were very happy with the food and the service. For many this was the first time that they were face to face with customers and providing this level of service. This term we were asked to support the Kiama Relay for Life. Students prepared pumpkin soup, as well as chicken and vegetable soup, which was then served on the weekend at the canteen helping to be part of the fundraising effort which raised over $125,000. Well done to all of the students involved. Mrs McDonell & Ms Codey

Congratulations to students in Year 8 who received awards at this week's assembly for Years 7 and 8

YEAR 8

Certificates of Commendation
Samuel Allen, Toby Barnhill, Ayden Buffolin, Finnigan Daly, Lachlan Donovan, Hugh Farmer, Daniel Flores, Rhys Gardiner, Jared Gaudiosi, Kye Harvey, Matthew Mennilli, Jack Reid, Will Ramsay, Mitchel Spicer, Noah Trajeski, Eren Turkm, James Wildey, Samuel Wilkins, Fletcher Winning,

Principal's Award
Jared Cabor, Juliano Cappetta, Isaac Danzo, Daine Richards, David Sirotich, Lachlan Sweeney, Louis Whitehouse

Canteen Roster for week commencing 27 May – Group 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Group 2 Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>C Tyson, S Munday, A Muir, K Van Weerdenburg, A Riley, M Hiscox, N Cranny, M Roman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>S Cayley, H Mills, M Sierra Onofri, B Males, I Quintal, S Vicoroski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>H Mindzas, T Leussink, D Ramsey, F Carlisle, V Murada, K Delle Vergin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>A McKay, L Watling, C Porto, M Brown, J Tzortzis, M Florek, M Menu, O Cunzolo, M Fanning, M Willcocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>J Dale, S Torilo, R Sears, A Daly, M Harvey, S Stemberger, M Bellinato</td>
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Uniform Shop Opening Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1.00pm – 4.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7.45am – 10.45am</td>
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Please note that College grey trousers (sizes 77-82) are now available at the Uniform Shop

ERC FASHION PARADE - CANCELLED
Due to the shortage of parking with the building works at the moment it has been decided to cancel this year’s Fashion Parade.

Community Notice
St Mary’s Icepix – “Timeless Movies for a Timeless Night” will be held at St Mary's College on 31 May at 6.00pm- 9.30pm. Tickets are $5 each or $15 for 4. Tickets are available at the ERC office.
### WEEK 5B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Timetable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, 27th May</strong></td>
<td>12.35-1.55 (Rms 6, 7, 16, 17, AV, 5, 24) <strong>ENGLISH</strong> (1 hr 20 mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, 28th May</strong></td>
<td>8.20-9.00 (40 mins) <strong>CHINESE</strong> (65 students) (Rms 6, 7, 17)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>ITALIAN</strong> (70 students) (Rms 17, AV, 5)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>FRENCH</strong> (43 students) (Rms 16, 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, 29th May</strong></td>
<td>1.20-2.00 (Rms 6, 7, 16, 17, AV, 5) <strong>PDHPE</strong> (40 mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, 30th May</strong></td>
<td>8.20-9.00 (40 mins) <strong>CHINESE</strong> (65 students) (Rms 6, 7, 17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ITALIAN</strong> (70 students) (Rms 17, AV, 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>FRENCH</strong> (43 students) (Rms 16, 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, 31st May</strong></td>
<td>1.20-2.00 (Rms 6, 7, 16, 17, AV, 5) <strong>PDHPE</strong> (40 mins)</td>
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### WEEK 6A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Timetable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, 3rd June</strong></td>
<td>12.35-1.55 (Rms 6, 7, 16, 17, AV, 24) <strong>SCIENCE</strong> (1 hr 20 mins)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, 4th June</strong></td>
<td>Illawarra School Boys Knockout** Normal Classes**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, 5th June</strong></td>
<td>10.30-11.50 (Rms 6, 7, 16, 17, AV, 24) <strong>RELIGION</strong> (1 hr 20 mins)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, 6th June</strong></td>
<td>Normal Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, 7th June</strong></td>
<td>12.35-1.55 (Rms 6, 7, 16, 17, AV, 24) <strong>MATHEMATICS</strong> (1 hr 20 mins)</td>
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### WEEK 7B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Timetable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, 14th June</strong></td>
<td>12.35-1.55 <strong>HISTORY</strong> (Rms 6, 16, 7) <strong>GEOGRAPHY</strong> (Rms 7, AV, 5) (1 hr 20 mins)</td>
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</tbody>
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*Students must complete missed examinations during Week 7*