On Wednesday this week the College held a number of Liturgies for Ash Wednesday
In each of the College Liturgies the boys were told of the importance of Ash Wednesday, that it occurs 46 days before Easter and signifies the beginning of the season of Lent. It also marks the beginning of a 40 day period of prayer, penance and fasting, reflecting on the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert where he endured temptation. The liturgies emphasised the time as a period of reflection and preparation with stories of the Hebrews 40 year period in the desert before they were led by God to the promised land. The boys were reminded that this is a time to take stock of our attitudes, values and actions and commit to do better and renew ourselves as Christian people.

In the spirit of Edmund Rice and in tune with the touchstones that the ethos of the College is based on, the message to the boys was that it was a time to choose to make do with less, to find meaning in giving of ourselves in standing with solidarity with the poorest of the poor in our world and to commit to standing for a society that is compassionate for all.

In receiving the ashes, typically gathered from the burning of the palms from the previous year’s Palm Sunday, the community reflected on our mortality and our wish to repent and to find genuine humility in the spirit of sacrifice.

At our school assembly this week we congratulated students who had received first place in final exams last year. I would like to commend the following students who received this recognition:

Year 8 (awards for Year 7, 2012)
- Jason Angelkovski, Matthew Bujaroski, Callum Byrne, Jared Cabor, Zachary Damcevski, Marcus Faulkner, Lachlan Kirk and William Lourey

Year 9 (awards for Year 8, 2012)

Year 10 (awards for Year 9, 2012)
- Justin Biceski, Connor Byrne, Harry Cameron, Connor Daly, Oliver Dunn, James Galea, Lachlan Hampson, James Joyce, James Lovric, Andrew Mastroianni, Erdem Memik, Mitchell Munecas, Kento Stricker, Peter Tran, Tyler Whitton

SRC Year 11 Representatives for 2013
Congratulations to the following Year 11 students who are representing the SRC this year:
- Jake Lapham, Mitchell Hennessy, Daniel Constable, Christian Trajceski, Christopher Gandy, Thomas Bartley, Daniel Silcox, Samuel Lord.

New College Website
I have much pleasure in announcing that the new Edmund Rice College Website is now in operation. I believe that parents, staff, students and members of the community will find the latest version more informative and generally much more user friendly. The website address is: www.edmundricecollege.nsw.edu.au

The Parent Forum took place on Tuesday evening this week. Whilst there was a reasonable representation of parents at the meeting, I would hope that we might see some further growth in parent numbers attending the Parent Forum meetings. On Tuesday the parents in attendance accompanied me on a short tour of the College campus to view the recent improvements to gardens and facilities. I would like to acknowledge the parent community for their financial support which allowed the College to erect a COLA for Years 7 and 8 in the Library quad. In future meetings the College will continue to provide guest speakers from the major curriculum and pastoral areas of the College. I would like to acknowledge Ms Stafford, our Head of English who was the guest speaker this week. The number of meetings have been doubled for this year. The Parent Forum meetings set down for Semester 1 this year are: April 2, May 14 and June 25.

Congratulations to:-
Christian Foster Year 10, who won a gold and silver medal at the State championships on the weekend. He has qualified to run in Perth next month at the National titles, to be the Australian 15 year old 100 and 200 metre champion.
Bradley Heffernan Year 11, competed at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival in Sydney in January. This was the first time he has represented in an Australian team. He won Gold in the Omnium (this event has 6 races, the rider who has the best cumulative score wins), Silver in the teams pursuit and Bronze in the scratch race. Last week Bradley represented NSW at the Australian track cycling championships and won Gold in the U19 mens’ Madison and Bronze in the U19 mens’ teams pursuit.
Daniel Constable Year 11 who made the U19 NSW CCC Cricket Team.

PETER MCGOVERN
Founded 1926 – Proudly Catholic and Comprehensive – Boys Succeed at Edmund Rice College
The beginning of Lent provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on the touchstone of Justice and Compassion. Following the example of Blessed Edmund Rice we seek opportunities to contribute to our communities and see that these beatitude values are apparent in our lives. We must ask ourselves whether we contribute to enabling the freedom and dignity of all people to live as God wants them to live or whether we contribute to creating structures that oppress and marginalise others.

Four students attended the Diocesan launch of Caritas’ Project Compassion with Bishop Peter Ingham, including our Year 12 Social Justice Captain Jonathon Saba, Year 11 Daniel Silcox, Year 10 Byron Malby and Year 9 Jack Cross. They received the Caritas Candle and Project Compassion box from the Bishop to symbolise the commitment of the College to support Caritas with our Missions collections during Lent. As Byron Malby noted, ‘Through supporting Project Compassion and Caritas, we could see a real change in the near future.’ Let us hope that our contribution can improve the lives of people who are most disadvantaged.

Another important event that highlights the touchstone of Justice & Compassion this Ash Wednesday is the anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations. As citizens of Australia we recognise the need to actively support the process of healing and reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

Apology to the Stolen Generations – 13 February 2008

‘The time has come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia’s history...
‘We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.
‘We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.
‘For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry.
‘To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.
‘And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.’


Christian Service-Learning, Mrs Lothian

On Monday evening I spoke to the Year 11 parents and students regarding Christian Service-Learning and its importance and value to both the individual and the community. Isaiah, one of the Old Testament prophets, emphasises the characteristics of a servant; one who will not call attention to what they do, but rather steadily, quietly, with compassion and love firmly set things right and won’t tire or quit. We are all servants who have been called to challenge issues of injustice and comfort those in need. As Mother Teresa states, “We are the hands and feet of Jesus”.

Education is about the total formation of each person; physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually, and it is hoped that students who graduate from the College will be able to say at some point in their lives, that their College actually stood up for the needs of others and encouraged each person to actively work for social justice as part of their education.

Christian Service-Learning is about making a difference, and like the servant who was called by God, we too are called to provide for the vulnerable, the needy, the marginalised, those in pain and for those who are sick. It is in this spirit that we ask students to take up this challenge – not because they ‘have’ to but because it lies at the heart of an Edmund Rice Education.

Therefore, the focus is not about the hours completed, but rather the relationships that have been formed as students commit themselves to a particular agency. I encourage each student to act justly, walk humbly and to embody the compassion that the world needs.
Homework Club  Monday-Friday [2.05-2.55]

......for students who would like help with homework, assignments, study, or any work in general. Assistance is provided by the Teacher Librarian, Learning Support and other Staff members. No need to book - turn up at the Library Resource Centre and sign in.  Mrs Ham, Teacher/Librarian

STUDY SKILLS & STRATEGIES COURSE FOR STUDENTS IN YEAR 8  This course will be held in Term 1 to teach students the elements of a successful study program. It teaches students: how to become well organized, how to improve memory, note-taking skills, how to set goals and maintain motivation, how to prepare for examinations, skills to perform well in exams. essay planning and writing. Cost: $110. Duration: 6-hours – 3 x 2-hour sessions, starting on Thursday 28th February at 2.15pm. Enrolment forms and course information will be distributed to Year 8. For all enquiries and phone enrolments please call ICS Learning Group on 9960 6231. Enrolments can also be made via www.skillscentre.com.au

Author Visit – Steven Herrick, Mrs Ham, Teacher/Librarian

On Tuesday Year 8 had the opportunity to witness an innovative and energetic performance by one of Australia’s most popular children’s poets. Steven Herrick’s skill and experience as a poet and performer was enjoyed by both students and staff.
‘An animated, enthusiastic and hilarious performance’ - Jay
‘I thought he was really funny and very enjoyable to watch’ – Connor
‘His performance was funny, incredible and entertaining’ – Long
‘He was very open and interesting. He seemed to have a different perspective of poetry to what I’m used to’ – Michael S
‘His poems included family events, and were based on real life experiences’ – Lachlan W

Chess News  Mrs Kinnane (Enrichment Coordinator)

Last Friday, the ERC chess team [Ali Achaechi (captain), Bryce Keenan, Andrew Somerville, Thomas Delovski] played the final of the Illawarra Chess Competition for 2012. The ERC team was the winner of the southern zone of the Illawarra and Smith’s Hill High School was the winner of the northern zone. Due to a postponement of the final at the end of last year, it was rescheduled for last week. The ERC team had a strong win with players on boards 1, 2 and 3 defeating their opponents. This is the first time that ERC has brought home the shield for this competition and congratulations are extended to all members of the team for a job well done. Next Monday will be the first meeting of the ERC Chess Club. This will occur each Monday at the beginning of lunch in the library and all interested students are welcome. There will also be an exhibition match using the big chess pieces next Monday at lunch time.

Sport, Mr MacDonald

NSW CCC SPORT  Individual NOMINATIONS – NEW APPLICATION PROCESS (To self-nominate for these events students need to be competing at a representative level). Please refer to the information below OR go to the Wollongong CEO Web site. Any student wishing to nominate for the following sports please see Mr MacDonald ASAP:

NSW CCC Tennis (nominations close 18 February, 2013) – students require a ranking to nominate
NSW CCC Baseball (nominations close 19 February, 2013) – students require a handicap. Process to follow:-

1. Please go to the website www.ccss.nsw.edu.au OR go to http://www.ccss.nsw.edu.au
2. GO TO THE HELP BUTTON
3. Select I AM A PARENT / GUARDIAN. You can either retrieve your password or get a password
4. Set up a PARENT ACCOUNT
5. Now you can log in
6. Select the sport you are interested in
7. Select REGISTER. Here you will either be asked to make an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST or to REGISTER. This is different for each.
8. Once you have completed all the information an email will be sent immediately to the Diocesan/Association rep, Principal and Sports Coordinator for approval (Consent)
9. Select your payment option – direct deposit or credit card. You will not be marked as paid immediately as accounts need to be manually reconciled. This usually takes 7 working days.
10. You can log in at any time to see the status of your registration.
11. Please make sure your details (email address and mobile) remain up to date so that you can be emailed or sent a text message.

Kathleen McGuinness
Farewell Retirement Dinner
Villa D’Oro, 1 March, 6.30pm

Current and past members of the Edmund Rice College Community, over the time of Kath’s association with the College, are invited to be part of this significant event. To organize a table or get more details contact Mrs Trish O’Neill, on 4228 4344.
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 Choicez Media. He has delivered live seminar content to a quarter of a million people, has a background in Catholic teaching, holds a Master’s 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.

Jonathan has a particular insight into what it means to be a good man!

MONDAY, 25 FEBRUARY
AT 7.30PM
BR PELIN HALL
EDMUND RICE COLLEGE

To register your attendance please phone the College on ☏ 4228 4344
or email toneill@edmundricecollege.nsw.edu.au

Careers, Mrs Hodson
Med Entry UMAT program (Year 12) - www.MedEntry.edu.au
Students interested in pursuing some medicine and other health courses need to sit the UMAT on 31st July 2013. MedEntry is offering courses in UMAT preparation.

Year 10 Work Experience (Year 10) - Act by: 15th March 2013
All Year 10 students have received a lesson in Careers this week. Course outline and preparation for Work Experience were discussed. A reminder that all Student Placement Records need to be returned to Careers Adviser before 15th March. Act quickly to secure your placement.

UOW Discovery Day (Year 12)
66 Year 12 students attended the UOW Discovery Day. Each student had an individual program to explore various aspects of university life. A worthwhile start to exploring the many decisions about life after the HSC.

PARISHES PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE BY WORKING TOGETHER

Last week Bishop Peter Ingham launched “PARISHES WORKING TOGETHER: ADDRESSING CURRENT AND FUTURE PASTORAL NEEDS IN THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG”. Every family was given the Workbook which gives much information about our role as baptised people in the Church as well as detail about parishes and ministries in our Diocese. If you missed out on your copy of the Workbook, please obtain it from the school office. It is also not too late to join a Parish Information session, please see the website www.pastoralplanning.dow.org.au for dates and times for your parish. Responses to questions and comments from the Workbook can also be sent to netty.broekman@dow.org.au

Canteen Roster for week commencing Monday 18 February – Group 4

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>T Burleigh, C Lee Spicer, M Reid, S Middlebrook, A Morris, C Antrobus, N Cranny, A Hall, S Reid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>T Thompson, M Edwards, K Rosewarn, J Holman, S O’Brien, S Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>J Wright, G Cardamone, J Gordon, S Williams, M Petschler, P Calderbank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>T Gigliotti, S Morrow, S Crisafi, K Campbell, H Whelan, S Potter, D Hegyi, A Vidaic</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 – NEW OPENING HOURS

The Uniform shop will be opening on Tuesdays and Thursdays on alternate weeks as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opening Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>19 February 2013</td>
<td>1.00pm – 4.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>28 February 2013</td>
<td>7.45am – 10.45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5 March 2013</td>
<td>1.00pm – 4.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>14 March 2013</td>
<td>7.45am – 10.45am</td>
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TIES AND BACKPACKS ARE NOW IN STOCK!

Please note the College Fashion Parade will now be held on Friday, 14 June

Community Notice: FREE Wollongong City Wi-Fi – here now brought to you by Wollongong City Council. For information call the Hotline on 1300 135 302 or visit the Council’s website at www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/wi-fi.