From the Principal

It has been a smooth start to the school year at Edmund Rice. The additional seating, new COLAS, modernised quads and refurbished rooms have provided appropriate facilities for a growing College.

The challenges around ensuring sufficient space, rooms and access to the school library and canteen with a new common day have initially been well met by the College. We can look forward to the remainder of the school year with some confidence. This year is a transitional year with a new building program commencing.

Among the priorities set down for this year are the utilization of technology in the classroom and an emphasis on developing teaching strategies in the use of technology, a whole school literacy program emphasising reading and writing, the provision of quality assessment and the utilisation of data to inform learning. The resourcing of these programs and an emphasis on these core areas in teacher professional development form the basis of the College Strategic Plan this year.

Next week the first of the Parent Information meetings takes place with a Year 11 and 12 Board of Studies Information evening for senior students and their parents. The meeting will take place in the Brother Pelin College Hall on Monday, February 11, 2013.

The following evening, Tuesday February 12, the Parent Forum will hold the first of their meetings for this year. Throughout the year school personnel, who coordinate key curriculum and pastoral care areas in the College, will address the parents on various initiatives that the College is implementing. On Tuesday evening the guest speaker will be Ms Sharyn Stafford, our new English Head of Department. The meeting will commence at 7.30pm. All parents are welcome.

The College is now taking enrolments for Year 7, 2014. This year we will be holding open days each Wednesday from February 20 until the end of Term 1. Parents considering high school for their son in 2014 are encouraged to attend one of the school tours. They will take place every Wednesday at 8.55am to be followed by morning tea with the Principal. Bookings can be made by contacting the school office. Your son is also welcome to join you in the tour.

We returned to school last week to hear the sad news of Liam Knight, a Year 12 student at St Pius X Chatswood, one of the Edmund Rice schools.

Liam is in a critical condition in Royal North Shore Hospital after a 21st birthday he was attending was disrupted by a group of young gatecrashers and he was injured in the ensuing melee.

As a school community we have been keeping Liam and his family and the St Pius School Community in our prayers as he bravely battles his critical injuries.

PETER MCGOVERN
Information about our exciting building project has been included with your fee statement. The College is now providing the opportunity for donations of $100 or more to be recognised on a Sports Hall Sponsorship Board which will be permanently displayed in the foyer of our new Sports Hall. All donations are tax deductible.

For more information contact Mr Darren Jeffery on 4228 4344.

Director of Identity, Mrs Hurley

- The overarching mission of the College as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition is to develop a community that supports our young men and all members of our community to be all that God has created them to be. As such, we endeavour to align our practices with the Charter for EREA schools, guided by the four touchstones of Gospel Spirituality, Justice and Compassion, Inclusive Community and Liberating Education. Over the next four weeks I will look at each touchstone and ask what it means in our context.
- **Gospel Spirituality** ~ At the heart of our school is the message and person of Jesus. When the Pharisees asked Jesus about the greatest commandment in the Law he replied ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself’ (Matt 22:37-39). This puts the quality of LOVE at the centre of our Gospel Spirituality. Does the quality of LOVE underpin our daily interactions, lessons, school work and families? What can you do to ensure that LOVE motivates you in your daily life?
- **Year 12 Retreat** ~ A reminder that all notes for the Year 12 retreat were due back in this week. If there are any problems or issues, please contact Mrs Hurley or Mr Mitchell as early as possible. All students are expected to attend the retreat which will be held on Wednesday, February 20 – Friday, February 22. The Year 12 Retreat theme is ‘Dreaming the Future’ and will give the boys an opportunity to consider how the decisions and relationships they have today will impact who they become in the future. We all hope that you are looking forward to the opportunity to step back and consider your own life, values, attitudes and direction.

Thank God for Evolution
Reconciling Faith and Science with Fr Eduardo Scarel

Don’t miss this unique opportunity

Fr (Dr) Eduardo is a Carmelite priest from Argentina who is highly qualified in the Sciences and a renowned expert on the areas of Science and Faith, Science and Philosophy and Spiritual Ecology. He has participated in numerous international conferences and seminars and has received several awards for his studies, research and work on earth climate and climate change.

**WED 6TH MARCH 2013, ST PAUL’S PARISH HALL, ALBION PARK**

**Program:** From 5.00pm Gather in Hall 5.30pm Liturgy followed by light meal 7.00pm Fr Eduardo

Cost: $10.00 RSVP: To assist with catering please reply to Marie Milne Ph: 4232 1535 Wendy Carter wendy.carter@dow.catholic.edu.au

This event is an initiative of the Social Justice Ecology & Peace

Social Justice Forum – Wednesday, 20 February, 5.00pm – 6.00pm.
The Diocesan Council for Justice, Ecology and Peace invites you to participate in a forum on “Social Justice in the Illawarra”. The Council is seeking your thoughts on the development of Social Justice Group(s) in the Illawarra Region of the Diocese. COME ALONG TO HAVE A VOICE ... TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Join in the conversation at the new Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong.

To help with catering and printing please acknowledge your attendance by Friday, 15 February to Darren McDowell on 4222 2463 or Darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au
THE PARENT FORUM

Invites you to its first gathering for the year
at 7.30pm - Tuesday, 12 February ~ Br F R Pelin Hall

The Parent Council meets only twice per term and performs an important function in facilitating effective communication between the parent body, the school and the wider community it serves. Looking forward to seeing you there!

It’s all for a good cause: our sons!

(Feedback, requests or communication with the Parent Forum may be made at any time. Please address these to the Parent Forum Representative Mrs Christine Gray, c/- ERC)

Wollongong City Council Ranger Services conduct patrols around schools, enforcing parking legislation and encouraging safe parking habits in an effort to increase children’s safety. In the interest of CHILD SAFETY there is NO EXCUSE for disobeying traffic control signs and road rules in the vicinity of a school. Please read and understand the following traffic controls around the school:

- **NO STOPPING**: Under no circumstances are you permitted to stop on a length of road to which a No Stopping sign applies (Penalty: exceeds $240 and two demerit points)
- **NO PARKING**: You are permitted to stop in a NO PARKING zone only while you are engaged in dropping off or picking up passengers. You must not stop for more than two minutes. You must stay within three metres of your vehicle (Penalty: exceeds $130 and two demerit points)
- **BUS ZONE**: You are not permitted to stop in a BUS ZONE unless you are driving a public bus. (Penalty: exceeds $240 and two demerit points)
- **CHILDREN’S CROSSING**: You are not permitted to stop within 20 metres before the crossing and 10 metres after the crossing (Penalty: exceeds $320 and two demerit points)
- **DOUBLE PARKING**: A driver must not stop on a road between the centre of the road and another vehicle that is parked (Penalty: exceeds $240 and two demerit points)

**SPORT, Mr MacDonald**

Any student who plays competitive Golf, Tennis or Baseball may want to consider the following opportunities.

- Golfers need to have a recognised handicap to compete in the NSWCCC tournament in Camden on the 25 February.
- Tennis players need a recognised Australian Ranking to compete in the NSWCCC tournament in Parramatta on the 4 March.
- Baseballers need to be available to compete in the NSWCCC tournament in Kelso on the 5th and 6th March.

Any interested students needs to register online on the NSWCCC web site or see Mr MacDonald for further information.

www.csss.nsw.edu.au/stu

**Swimming Carnival, Mr McCammon**

The Swimming Carnival will be held at the University Pool on Thursday 14 February from 8.30am until 12.30pm. Students will not be allowed to leave the carnival early. Parents are most welcome to attend as spectators. Any parent who could assist with timekeeping, your help would be most appreciated (please see Mr McCammon on the day). There is undercover parking available in the Sports Hub, the driveway to enter is on the western side of the University Recreation and Aquatic Centre Building (URAC). This is the closest parking available to the Aquatic Centre. For more information on parking see [http://urac.com.au/parking.html](http://urac.com.au/parking.html). Parents should mention they are attending the carnival for a discount on parking fees.

**Community News**

**Catholic Care – Kids and Bullying Workshop** This course is designed for parents who are seeking to better understand the issues surrounding bullying and cyber bullying and to equip them with strategies on how to best deal with them. To be held at Catholic Care – 25-27 Auburn Street, Wollongong, two Tuesday afternoons – 12.00pm – 2.30pm, 26 February and 5 March. Cost $20.

**2013 RUGBY SEASON** The Junior Rugby season runs from March to August on Sunday mornings with practice 1 day per week. Registration Days: Saturday 9th and 16th February between 2.00 and 5.00pm. Venue: Upstairs lounge at University of Wollongong Recreation and Aquatic Centre (overlooking main Uni Oval 1). **RUGBY LEAGUE** Any student wanting to play Rugby League this season should consult the Collegians Web Page as rego will be held this and coming weekends.

As you would be aware we are currently transitioning to a paperless copy of the newsletter. We will continue to provide a paper copy and electronic copy during the course of the next two weeks, however, we plan to cease the hard copy after that time. A limited number of paper copies will continue to be provided in cases where an electronic version is not accessible.
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, ERC
To register your attendance please phone the College on ☎ 4228 4344 or email toneill@edmundricecollege.nsw.edu.au
All Welcome!

HSC (Year 12) Special Provisions 2013
The NSW Board of Studies is required to comply with the Disability Standards for Education. In order to do this the Board allows Special Examination Provisions to help students with special needs to access examinations on the same basis as other students. Your son may have been granted Special Provisions in the past, or you may feel that he could be eligible for Special Provisions for the HSC in 2013. If this is the case or if you are unsure about whether your son may be eligible, please contact Mr Greg Carey, Learning Support Coordinator, at the College. **Note: Even if your son has been granted Special Provisions in the past, a new application must be made as soon as possible. The Board does NOT automatically grant Special Provisions for previously successful applicants.**

CAREERS, Mrs Hodson
- Interested in a Mining Career? Scholarship information for Year 11 and Year 12 students available from Careers Adviser. Applications extended to 15th February. Act soon.
- Australian Navy Cadets, Training Ship Albatross Open Days Saturday 9th and 16th February. Enquiries Sharon.frank@cadetnet.gov.au or TS Albatross [Sat only] 4276 2854 or 0417 940 843.
- 66 Year 12 students attended the University of Wollongong Open Day this week to gather information about the university and perhaps be motivated for further studies.
- Year 10 students have started to receive information about the organisation of their Work Experience placements. It is very important that they do this quickly and that all deadlines are met.

Kathleen McGuinness ~ Farewell Retirement Dinner
Villa D’Oro – Friday, 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 at the College on 4228 4344.

Canteen Roster for week commencing Monday 11 February – Group 3

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AT THE CANTENE
Shrove Tuesday 12 Feb
Pancakes and Milkshake $4.00

Ash Wednesday 13 February
Donut & Milkshake $5.00
Cheese Pizza Deal – Drink, Chips & Pizza - $7.00

UNIFORM SHOP – NEW OPENING HOURS

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