From the Principal

Last Friday evening the Edmund Rice College Community acknowledged Kathleen McGuinness at a retirement dinner at the Villa D'Oro Function Centre in Flinders Street, North Wollongong.

In an event attended by Bishop Peter Ingham, the local Clergy, Christian Brothers, staff and former staff and ‘Old Boys’ of the College, the night was rich in history and tradition as speaker after speaker recounted stories of the College over time.

Kathleen commenced as Foundational Librarian at the West Wollongong site of Edmund Rice College in January 1967. During 46 years of continuous service at the College Kathleen witnessed 9 Headmasters, 60 Brothers, hundreds of staff and over 6,000 boys passing through the College. It is fair to say in all that time Kathleen McGuinness was the one constant.

During the evening all speakers affirmed Kathleen's substantial role as historian of College life in this period of time and this was certainly confirmed in Kathleen's response which was rich in stories of the College over the span of nearly 50 years.

Importantly, Kathleen's crucial role in many areas of College life was also recognized. As College Librarian, Archivist and Historian, Sacristan and instructor in social etiquette for the boys over many generations, Kathleen's service to the College certainly was quite extraordinary.

The Edmund Rice College Community has certainly been blessed with Kathleen's vital contribution to the College over so many years. She leaves a significant legacy.

We wish Kathleen well in her retirement.

Next Wednesday, during Education Week, the College is holding an Open Day for current students and parents, prospective students and their parents. There will be tours during the normal school day at 9.30am and 11.30am. From 3.00pm there will be an Expo featuring tours of the College including the Trade Training Centre, College Band, street theatre featuring our drama students, debating, science experiments, ICT lessons, hospitality and static displays from each of the Key Learning Areas.

There will be an information session at 6.30pm in the College hall for prospective students and their parents considering Edmund Rice College for Year 7 in 2014.

The day is an excellent opportunity for our College community to celebrate the achievements of our students. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

PETER McGOVERN
ERC OPEN DAY
Wednesday, 13 March

- Normal classes will run on this day
- Bus transport arrangements are unchanged
- Students are encouraged to stay on after school and participate in scheduled activities
- Students helping out in a Faculty presentation must have a signed permission note from their parent/carer
- Homework Club will not be running on Open Day

There will be an INFORMATION SESSION for parents interested in enrolling their son into Year 7, 2014 at 6.30pm in the Br Pelin Hall

Enrolments - Year 7, 2014
If you are aware of any parents intending to enrol their son at Edmund Rice College in 2014 please ask them to contact the College and an enrolment form will be mailed to them. Applications for enrolment must be returned to the College no later than Friday 12 April.

Please note that Monday, 29 April is a Pupil Free Day, therefore the 1st day of Classes for Term 2 will be Tuesday, 30 April.
The Pupil Free day set down for Friday, 17 May will now be a normal school day.

Careers, Mrs Hodson
Airforce Cadets Wollongong - (Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12) - www.aafc.org.au
The Australian Airforce Cadets [AAFC] is an air minded organisation open to young people between 13 and 18 years. Local Unit 314 Squadron is now recruiting. Information sessions Tuesday, 19th March and 26th March at 7.00pm. Contact 314sqn.aafc.org.au

HSC and Careers Expo - Sydney 30.5.13 - 2.6.13 - (Years 11, 12) - hscandcareers.com.au
The biggest education and careers event in NSW. Exhibitors include providers of HSC resources, universities, TAFE and training colleges PLUS over 120 seminars on HSC subjects, tertiary courses, career, gap year and study advice. General admission $10, program available from Careers Adviser or online.

Charles Sturt University - (Years 10,11,12) - www.csu.edu.au
Open Day program and campus tours, generous scholarships, distance education courses, choose your career information packages now available online or from Careers Adviser.

Volunteer Abroad after HSC - (Year 12) - www.volunteerabroad.com.au
Volunteers gain hands on experience on meaningful humanitarian and conservation projects. Check website for details.

University of Sydney - (Years 11,12) - sydney.edu.au/future-students
I attended a Careers Advisers Day last week to learn more about new courses available, alternative entry pathways, advantages of generalist degrees, the elite athlete program etc. New scholarship and course information now on website and in Careers Office.

Work Experience White Card Training - (Year 10) - Act by: 15th March 2013
A reminder that all Student Placement Records must be returned to the Careers Adviser before 15th March. All names for white card training then have to be registered by 18th March.

Important DATE!
Director of Identity, Mrs Hurley
Focus on Gospel Spirituality

Gospel Spirituality is founded in the person of Jesus; who we think Jesus was and is will affect how we see the world – our worldview. Do we invite all people into the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community, as our Charter says? Are we concerned for the welfare of others or do we go about our daily lives thinking only about how things affect us? Gospel Spirituality invites us to be compassionate and kind, walking with others toward a better world for all.

Year 9 and 10 Student Leaders – ERA (Edmund Rice Advocacy) for Change

One of the goals at the College is for our young men to develop leadership skills based in a Gospel Spirituality, that is, to be servant leaders. This necessarily involves being counter cultural at times and last week the Year 9 and 10 leaders took part in a video conference with schools in Queensland to launch a new student initiative called ERA for Change. Phil Glendenning from the Edmund Rice Centre at Homebush spoke to them about being the light of the world and leading change from the ground up. They learned about the four aspects of justice: awareness, solidarity, advocacy and action, especially with respect to our Indigenous people, refugees and asylum seekers.

Now it will be their task to lead their respective year groups in this endeavour with schools across the country. Thanks to Kieren Richards, Andrew Mastroianni, Connor Daly, Jacob Cordina, Callum McFadden, Justin Biceski, Isaac Hayne, Connor Byrne, Owen Christie, Tristan Sailor, Jack Cross, Aidan Fitch, Kaden Melchoir, Justice-Noah Negro-Malfitano, Joseph Fernandez, Jeremy Maksour, Charlie Eaton and Jack Shaw. Here’s what some of them had to say:

- ‘Australia accepted 17,500 refugees last year and Pakistan took nearly two million. Why is this?’ (Aidan Fitch)
- ‘I learnt that human rights in the form of refugees and asylum seekers is a growing problem.’ (Owen Christie)
- ‘By participating in this you become very aware of the issues around the earth we live in.’ (Callum McFadden)
- ‘We need to pick up where others have left off.’ (Connor Daly)
- ‘I learnt about asylum seekers and how ignorant governments can be. Although these people are increasing our population, it is a very minute percentage. These people are not a burden but add to our society.’ (Jack Shaw)
- ‘He talked about how we can help people who have less than us.’ (Jack Cross)
- ‘Why do we not let asylum seekers in if our national anthem says, ‘We've boundless plains to share?’’ (Kaden Melchoir)
- ‘A truly inspirational speech which proved a launching pad for thoughts about the morals we support and the wider world around us.’ (Connor Byrne)
- ‘I learnt in further detail the growing problem of social issues and human inequality.’ (Kieren Richards)
- ‘Awareness, Advocacy, Action and Solidarity… that’s how we will maximise our social justice efforts.’ (Justin Biceski)
- ‘Awareness…. it leads to action.’ (Jeremy Maksour and Charlie Eaton)
- ‘Solidarity – the most significant word, as at times, especially at an adolescent level, everyone needs someone to stand with them. To be united by passion and friendship during times of struggle and adversity is important, even more for refugees.’ (Joseph Fernandez)

Christian Service Learning, Mrs Lothian

We live in an age of technology where everything is instantaneous and can overload our senses. God on the other hand calls us to a place of silence and solitude, a place where we can listen to His voice. Part of the mission of Edmund Rice College is to emphasise the message of Jesus Christ within the Gospels, where we encourage the students to ‘listen’. This speaks to us of a relationship, where we hear and obey. We often think that God cannot use us, or that the task ahead seems too much, but when we realise that our strength comes from God, He provides for us, leads us, and removes the obstacles from our path. Christian Service Learning is also about relationships where we are called to be servants, to be a light amongst the darkness, a beacon of hope in times of despair. God has called each of us to a place to serve a purpose “to proclaim liberty to the captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed” (Luke 4:18). This interaction and relationship building with the community is exactly as Jesus directed. By attending to the specific needs of the Community, especially the underprivileged, the students at Edmund Rice are making a difference. As the boys begin their Christian Service Placements this week, I leave you with the words from the servant song:

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Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
We are pilgrims on a journey and companions on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
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IMMUNISATION

Students in Year 7 who did not receive their first dose of Hep B and/or HPV will be able to receive the first injection of the 3 dose course commencing next visit. Any incomplete courses will be followed up in 2014. Any Year 9 students who missed the first dose this week can be started on the HPV 3 dose course but as there is a 4 month interval required between dose 2 & dose 3, this would mean that their third dose would not be due until 2014. Currently there is no funding to provide catch-up to Year 9 students in 2014, which means that parents would have to pay for the final dose. Therefore, any Year 9 student who did not start the course this week is advised to go to their GP and that way they will be able to complete a 3 dose course within this calendar year and the vaccine will be free - the GP may charge for the consult but not the vaccine. The HPV vaccine is free (again your GP may charge a consult fee or they may bulk bill in which case you would not be out of pocket) to any Year 10 student who is aged 14-15 years only via your GP (i.e. not through the school program).
**COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY, Mr McCammon – PDHPE Co-ordinator**

The College Cross Country will be held on Wednesday, 27 March around the College grounds. All students in Years 7 and 8 will compete on the 3km course. The Year 7 and 8 students will combine the Cross Country with a fundraising initiative run by the Year 12 SRC. More details on this fundraiser will be supplied to the students in an upcoming assembly. Years 9-12 will be a competitors only event. Students who wish to compete in this event must pre-register with Mr McCammon. Listen to PA announcements for registration details.

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**COLLEGE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL Mr McCammon – PDHPE Co-ordinator**

The College Athletics Carnival will be held at Beaton Park Athletics track on Thursday, 4 April. In previous years this has been a competitors only event but it is important to note that this year the Athletics carnival is a whole school event. The Carnival will commence at 8.00am and conclude at 2.00pm. All students will be expected to attend and be involved in scheduled activities on the day.

The carnival will be run in two sections.

1) The Championship Carnival for those more serious competitors, and
2) A Non-Championship Carnival where students will be with their year group for the day and rotate around a variety of activities using the athletics track, Beaton Park soccer fields and the Snakepit basketball stadium.

Students who wish to compete in the Championship Carnival must register with Mr McCammon. Championship Carnival registration will take place at lunch time in the hall on the following days.

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**What to Bring:** Sunscreen, hat, food, water/drink. There will be a canteen operating but with 900 boys on site access will be limited. Spikes/shoes for track running events. DO NOT bring iPods/electronic devices etc as bags will be unattended at times during the day.

**What to Wear:** Years 7-10 full sports uniform must be worn. Shorts should not have coloured stripes etc. Years 11 and 12 - preferably black shorts and where possible a T Shirt in your House colour.

**Transport:** Normal school buses will transport students to and from Beaton Park. Normal bus schedules are unchanged.

Boys who normally walk or get dropped off at school should make their way directly to Beaton Park ready for an 8.00am roll call.

**Athletes with Disabilities (Official Classification)**

Students with a physical disability who are looking to participate in either MacKillop, NSWPSA or NSWCCC athletics competitions in 2013 must have official classification to compete at these events. An opportunity to be classified will take place on Saturday 6th April, 2013 at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre, Edwin Flack Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park. Times are available between 9.00am – 4.00pm. Please see Mr MacDonald for a registration form.

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**From the Canteen**

Book your seat now on this year’s Wine Trip to Cowra, Young, Canowindra to be held on 6-8 July. Cost is $450 per person which includes accommodation for 2 nights, full buffet breakfast, 2 three course dinners and 3 lunches as well as wine tastings and entry to the Japanese Gardens. Wineries include: Ballina Clash, Grove Estate, Freeman Winery, The Mill, Taste Canowindra, Swinging Bridge, Rosnay, Tom’s Waterhole, Kalari, Riverpark.

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**Canteen Roster for week commencing Monday 11 March – Group 3**

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**Uniform Shop Opening Hours:** Thursday 14 March, 7.45-10.45am Tuesday 19 March, 1.00-4.00pm

**Youth Mass and Youth Group** The next Youth Mass at St Therese Church will be on Sunday, March 17 at 5.00pm, it will be followed by a Murder Mystery Night for our Junior Youth Group (Grades 5-8). For more details contact westgongyouth@hotmail.com