During the school holidays Social Justice Sunday was celebrated across all Christian Churches on September 29. This year the Catholic Bishops of Australia, have chosen the issue of world poverty as the theme for the 2013–2014 Social Justice Statement.

Whilst progress has been made over the past decade, the problem of poverty remains a critical world issue. It is estimated that by 2015 almost one billion people will be living on an income of less than $1.25 a day. Over a quarter of a million women still die in childbirth annually. As many as eight million children die every year from malnutrition and preventable diseases such as diarrhoea, measles and malaria. One in eight of the world’s people does not get adequate nutrition.

Australia remains a prosperous nation, despite many marginalised and disadvantaged people in our midst. Our economy does undergo rises and falls, but it remains strong. While the global financial crisis of 2007–2008 devastated many countries, it did not have such a catastrophic effect on Australia. Yet around 20 per cent of the world’s poor live in countries near us – in East and South-East Asia and the Pacific.

The Bishop’s Social Statement calls on the Christian community and all Australians – especially our leaders – to focus on our obligation to help and accompany our neighbours.

Caritas celebrates 50 years next year with the essence of their work about our outreach to the world’s poor and educating Australians about the Gospel demand to act for justice. The work of Caritas, along with other agencies like Catholic Mission, Catholic Social Services Australia and the Society of St Vincent de Paul, is inspired and nourished by our traditions of Catholic social teaching and, most importantly, by the millions of people who, through their need, invite Australians to be part of the change to end poverty.

At Edmund Rice College the Christian Service Learning program embodies these principles and remains a central focus of our College commitment to embracing the charism of Edmund Rice by reaching out to the poor and marginalised through student participation in social justice activities. The College goal of providing a holistic education that focuses on boys developing qualities of compassion, humility, justice and respect are honed through such social justice experiences.

As we welcome back students, parents and staff to Term 4, our thoughts turn to Year 12 who commence their Higher School Certificate Examinations next Monday. It is an important time for these students and their families and we wish Year 12 well as they finalise their preparations for the upcoming examinations.

This Friday evening we celebrate the completion of their schooling at Edmund Rice College with the Graduation Mass at St Therese Catholic Church, West Wollongong and a Graduation Dinner with parents, staff and the students at the Portofino Lounge, Wollongong following the Mass.

The School Community came back on Tuesday to see significant progress having been made on our new school hall. The concrete slab is being poured this Friday with the steel frame to follow. The project is on track to be completed by late April 2014.

Next Tuesday October 15 a Parent Forum General Meeting is taking place in the College Administration Block. The guest speaker is our Careers Coordinator, Mrs Jennifer Hodson, who will be speaking on the various career programs in the College. We hope to see many parents there. It is a great opportunity to learn of the various programs occurring in the College.

Peter McGovern
A great school is, at heart, a community connected at the centre by the focus on the student. In a Catholic school what deepens this connection is the recognition of the dignity of each person as *imago dei* – made in the image of God. Can we say that every member of our community feels that value? This is our test. As we prepare to go on retreat with the Year 12 students next week, it is important to acknowledge the role of the relationship between the parents and the students in all aspects of education and their support for our efforts to contribute to the formation of their sons.

**Parents And Teachers Working Together**

I dreamed I stood in a studio and watched two sculptors there. The clay they used was a young child's mind and they fashioned it with care. One was a teacher; the tools being used were books and music and art. One a parent with a guiding hand and a gentle, loving heart. Day after day the teacher toiled with touch that was deft and sure, while the parent laboured just as hard and polished and smoothed it o'er. When at last their task was done they were proud of what they had wrought, for the things they had moulded into the child could neither be sold nor bought. And both agreed they would have failed if they had worked alone; For behind the parents stood the school and behind the teacher, the home. From *A Canopy of Stars: Some Reflections for the Journey* by Fr Christopher Gleeson, SJ

**Christian Service-Learning, Mrs Lothiann**

It is pleasing to report that some students in year 11 have used the school holiday break to build on their Christian Service Learning hours. However, the majority of students still need to complete their Core Project. With this new term, it is important that the boys are mindful not only of their HSC commitments, but also of their commitment to the organisation/agency they have been working with. As a Catholic School we aspire to be faithful to the Touchstone ‘Inclusive Community’, and the CSL program gives students an opportunity to make the Gospels a living reality within our wider community. Therefore, I encourage those students who have not as yet completed their 30 hours to make every effort to do so this term. Once the hours have been completed, students MUST also complete their journal and return it to me.

**Indigenous Immersion Program, Mrs Lothiann**

Between 13-20th October, I will be partaking in an EREA program with 7 other teachers visiting Aboriginal communities at Brewarrina, Goodooga, Lightning Ridge, Walgett, Bingara and Moree. This program aims to provide us with a first hand understanding of indigenous culture, spirituality, reconciliation and a quest for justice. As mentioned earlier, the Touchstone ‘Liberating Education’ aims to provide all boys with an education that provides independence of mind, an education that liberates them from boundaries. The NSW Education Minister, Adrian Piccoli stated last week in State Parliament that the conditions of several NSW schools with large numbers of Indigenous students in remote towns such as Walgett, Moree, Wilcannia and Brewarrina were "disgusting". "They're a long way away, out of sight and out of mind ....and I think it is fair to say we have treated Aboriginal people like rubbish". These students are not being given the opportunity to experience a liberating education, rather, the boundaries of poverty and the concept of 'out of sight and out of mind', have constrained Indigenous education.

**Student Leadership for Justice & Peace, Mr Persian**

An information evening presented by Mr Glen Byrne from NSW Sport and Recreation will be held at the College Library for both parents and students that intend to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. It will be held on Monday, 21st October 2013 at 6pm in the College Library. An information pack and a light supper will also be provided. Students will need to collect an attendance note from the office and return the reply slip to Mr Persian by Friday 18th October.

**Missions Totals for Term 3**

Year 7: $499.65  Year 8: $155.15  Year 9: $209.50  Year 10: $921.25  Year 11: $91.50  Year 12: $251.95

As part of our commitment to Catholic Mission all missions collections will go to support the work of Catholic Mission during the month of October.
School Enews
The College is now offering an electronic communication and alert system for parents via an App that you can download for your smart phone and tablet. We will be communicating newsletters, notes, notices, reminders and events through this electronic communication system. We will be using parent e-mail contacts to initially utilize this resource.

We encourage parents to download the application onto their phone or tablet device by visiting http://www.schoolenews.com.au/apps.html
Further information can also be found on the school website: http://www.edmundricecollege.nsw.edu.au/news-events/parent-communication/
Parents who do not have access to the internet are welcome to ring the College to make alternative arrangements. Any questions please contact Mr Sirianni at the College.

Mobile and Tablet Apps
All your school information, with you all the time, in one location. Get instant alerts, read notices, notes and newsletters.

iPhone
iPad
Android
Web App

The HYPE about ……..

HYPERCHARGE
Back in late August a number of students from Years 7 – 10 formed the ERC App development group. The initial challenge was to attempt to create a space 'shoot em up' style game for iPad. Over a number of weeks the students worked collaboratively in teams to complete their specialised tasks. These included game graphics, sound, storyline, coding, music and promotional materials such as the icon. The students involved in this project are to be highly commended for their continued efforts with this ongoing project.

Version 1.0 was released in September and it has already proven popular in the following countries: Australia, China, United States, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Colombia, Canada, Thailand, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, New Zealand & Bangladesh.

Avenues such as these provide rare opportunities for students to share their work with the world. It will be interesting to see what eventuates with Hypercharge growing exponentially following each new update!

Get Hypercharge Version 1.2 (FREE) for iPad now from the Appstore or by going to https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/hypercharge/id696247976?mt=8

Mr Haybittle
Dr John Falzon is the National CEO of the St Vincent de Paul Society and author of ‘Language of the Unheard’. He has written and spoken widely on the structural causes of marginalisation and inequality in Australia. He is a published poet with degrees in Theology, Philosophy and Social Analysis.

A Day to Reflect and understand the heart of poverty, the underlying structural issues, how the experience shapes lives and the long term impacts for individuals, family and society, facilitated by Teresa Harm of the Vincentian Social Action Centre.

Both events are FREE and hosted by the St Vincent de Paul Society Wollongong Central Council.

As part of Anti-Poverty Week 13-19 October, 2013 For more information on events: www.antipovertyweek.org.au

Careers, Mrs Hodson
UNSW Bridging Courses (Year 12) - science@unsw.edu.au
Maths, Chemistry, Physics Bridging Courses available. Online registrations open Friday, 3 January at UNSW Science website. Bridging course in Maths is from HSC Mathematics to HSC Mathematics Extension one only.

Williams Business College Courses (Year 12) - www.williams.edu.au
No ATAR required, can articulate into a degree in Business. Early bird concessions now available. See website for more information.

National Art School (Years 11,12) - www.nas.edu.au
Summer School 13-17 January; semester one short courses from 17 February; weekend workshops in May. Book early.

Building Apprenticeships (Years 10, 11, 12)
Master Builders Assoc. of NSW is recruiting candidates interested in an apprenticeship in the building and construction industry. Apprenticeships available in carpentry, bricklaying, shopfitting, roof plumbing and formwork/falsework. Interested students should apply asap. Email resume to recruitment@mbansw.asn.au stating various facts - see Careers Adviser for details.

Defence Force Careers (Years 10,11,12) - www.defencejobs.gov.au
Join ADFA midshipmen and officer cadets online and ask any questions. Join their facebook event at facebook.com/DefenceJobsAustralia Thursday, 17th October 6.30-8.00pm AEDT. Also; Army Reserve information session 17th October Defence Force Recruiting Wollongong; Engineering Information session Wednesday, 23rd October Defence Force Recruiting Wollongong; Aviation Trades Session 29th October - Wollongong; Royal Military College Information session 30th October - Wollongong. All sessions start at 6.30pm. Book to attend. Phone: 4220 3303

TAFE Community Services Courses 2014 (Years 10, 11, 12) www.illawara.tafensw.edu.au
If you are applying for any of the community service courses [the community services sector is one of the largest employers in Australia] you will need to log onto the Illawarra TAFE website and register. You will need to attend an assessment session at Shellharbour TAFE on Thursday, 7th November, 2013 at 1.00pm or 5.00pm in room DF04.

Canteen Roster for week commencing Monday 14 October – Group 2

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<th>Monday</th>
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Uniform Shop Opening Hours

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<th>Tuesday, 15 October</th>
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<td>1.00pm – 4.00pm</td>
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Come along and join Narelle on a One Day Wine Trip to the South Coast!

Sunday, 10 November

9.00am (leaving from Mt Keira Road entrance)  Cost: $80.00 includes: Lunch, Wine Tasting and Bus
Wineries: Roselea, Crooked River, Silo’s, Mountain Ridge (+lunch), Two Figs
Money to be in by 18 October to Narelle at the Canteen. Ph: 4228 4344.

Hope to see you there!
Join the Edmund Rice College “Rice Runners” Team and get involved in this new event!
Run, Walk or Roll Wollongong – Sunday 20 October.

100% of all registrations go to supporting the Wollongong Children's Ward & Illawarra Shoalhaven Children's Assessment Unit. Additionally, earn $$$ for ERC via the event’s Incentive Program which gives schools the chance to earn up to $10,000 CASH simply by participating in Run Wollongong. Run, walk or roll the streets of Wollongong with us … just get involved!
Either start training yourself, or come to training on Wednesday afternoons at the College with the team from 2:10 to 2:50. Register for the Rice Runners team here http://goo.gl/liQpxO

YEAR 8 ACTIVITIES DAY – 20 SEPTEMBER

I would like to say a big thank you to the Year 8 students for participating in the Footy Colours Day on Friday, 20 September. $162.30 was raised and this money will go towards cancer research, helping to improve the lives of children who have cancer. Well done!
Also thank you to Mr McGovern for allowing me to go ahead with this very important cause.
Matthew Gigliotti (Year 8/7)

Student Absence
Parents are reminded that you are required to notify the College well in advance when going on holidays by completing an “Application for Exemption from Attendance at School” form. The form can either be downloaded from the College website or collected from the College office.

Community Notice:
Bellambi Surf Life Saving Club needs your help!
The Surf Club is having difficulty in being able to fulfil its patrol duties due to the very small membership at the club. If there is any student at the College who holds a Bronze Medallion or who is 15 years and over and would like to earn their Bronze Medallion please contact the Club Captain, Jaclyn Percy, on 0431 463 947 or email jack_2113@hotmail.com.