From the Principal

As the College progresses in its ‘Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)’ approach to technology, it is important to continue to remind ourselves that it is an evolutionary response of adaption to the digital age that is the 21st century.

It is, at times, all too easy to emphasise what we are doing with technology and how we are utilizing it. This, on the surface, would seem an obvious response to the need to keep up with the times. It is undeniable that a development of technology as a support to teaching and learning is a response to the age we live in and the reality that our young are digital natives. For our children, technology in their lives is pervasive and is indeed an integrated part of the human experience for any young learner.

The central question must always be about why we are using technology. For educators, the moral imperative is to improve the outcomes for all students under their care. In this sense, the ‘why’ is because technology is a learning tool, a means to utilise and improve pedagogy.

In this vein, a key to this journey of the rollout of a 1:1 strategy at Edmund Rice College with iPads over the past 18 months has been the emphasis on professional development opportunities for staff in utilising technology in the classroom. If technological innovation is to improve the learning outcomes of our students over time, the challenge for all schools is to ensure that there is a cultural shift in identifying technology as critical to student success.

The development of a 1:1 approach to technology is a process which will be fully rolled out by the commencement of the 2014 school year when all students in the College will bring electronic devices to school. The emphasis on the use of technology in the classroom for staff will continue to be a particular thrust of professional development of teachers in the College.

The impediments to the success of this journey include the high budgetary costs associated with continual infrastructure upgrades and the problems associated with inappropriate use of technology. The College’s continued commitment to a digital citizenship program, intensive and consistent College supervision and vigilance of student use of technology at school, and the collaboration with parents, are vital steps in ensuring the continued development and success of the utilization of technology in improving student learning outcomes.

Today, the staff will be involved in a workshop led by Brother Damian Price entitled “Love-Compassion-Inclusion-Liberation” on the touchstones of the Edmund Rice charism.

This week we were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Heather Watson, a staff member at Edmund Rice College in the 1970’s and 1980’s. Mrs Watson was the Head of English for many years at the College. I was fortunate to be taught by Mrs Watson, an inspiring and gifted teacher who was largely responsible for my decision to become an English teacher.

In our prayers can we pray also for Mrs Rita Reid and her family whose father passed away last Friday.

Peter McGovern
On Thursday, 15 August, Jackie Scheers and myself attended a Review of the EREA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy at St Patrick’s College, Strathfield.

This was an important meeting as the focus was on how support can be offered to schools to promote an inclusive and welcoming community that provides quality and culturally appropriate education for all. Therefore, it is important that EREA, our family of schools, underpins this ethos and vision in our educational programs and structures, to achieve the goals outlined in the Policy. Certainly, the Policy must express ‘The Touchstones’, as we strive to make the message ‘human’ through the Gospels. Therefore, the Policy must be structured to become grounded spiritually so that the Gospel becomes our ‘common thread’ and commitment within EREA schools.

As an inclusive community, we aim that reconciliation, justice and action addresses the disproportionate educational disadvantage currently experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The gap must be closed between Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and if we work in solidarity we can develop strategies that are consistent with best practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.

**Inclusive Community (Christian Service-Learning)**

It is pleasing to report that most boys have begun their CSL Project and are making a difference in people’s lives within our community. I encourage those few students who have not already done so to make contact with their selected organisation and begin as soon as possible.

The Mission of Edmund Rice College is to be a caring community, inspired by Catholic traditions and values. We seek to educate the whole person and to foster right relationships that are committed to the common good.

Nizar and Ramy Hadaya are our Blood Bank ambassadors. Together they have promoted the importance of blood donations and rallied amongst their Year 11 cohort to sign up record numbers. Both Nizar and Ramy are making a positive impact on our community and together with the support of Year 11 and Mr Mat Rattenbury are saving the lives of patients in need.  

**Helen Lothian**

**Missions Totals**

Year 7: $50.45; Year 8: $31.95; Year 9: $19.60; Year 10: $69.90; Year 11: $17.10; Year 12: $38.05

**Canteen Roster for week commencing Monday, 26 August – Group 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>A Wilkins, V Meli, L Hofman, N Bird, H Cheetham, D Birch</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>C Shalala, L Bates, K Hedger, A Markham, V Sweeney, N Robinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>F Gauci, E Cavadovski, S Whitehouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>G Lord, S Andraos, J Hennessy, K Linsay, C Gray, S McCreanor, L Liberante</td>
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**Uniform Shop Opening Hours**

Thursday 29 August, 7.45am – 10.45am  
Tuesday 3 September, 1.00pm – 4.00pm
Diocesan Hockey Team 2013

On Thursday, 15 August the Annual Diocesan Hockey Carnival was held at Lindsay Maine hockey field in Unanderra. This competition is played in two pools with the top team in each pool advancing through to the final. The boys went through the tournament undefeated but unfortunately, due to other pool results, the team was unable to top their pool and advance to the final. The team got off to a slow start against Magdalene with a 0-0 all draw but put up an impressive fight to hold Holy Spirit 1-1 with Owen Christie opening the day’s scoring. The boys showed their class in the final game with a dominating 5-0 win over John Therry with Oliver Dunn picking up a double, Owen Christie scoring his second of the day and Bailey Carson, along with senior player Jack Rowe, rounding out the score sheet. Overall the team finished in third place with promising signs for the future with the young side working well together. Congratulations to all the boys who competed on the day; Jack Rowe, Matt Preeo, Oliver Dunn, Noah Mowbray, Owen Christie, Sam Matinca, Bailey Carson, Kyle Michels, Hayden Welsh, Luke Downey, Luke Westblade, Javier Soto, Callum Brown and injured players Daine Richards and Josh Davies. A special thank you to Geoff Volk, Team Manager and Kylie Timmins, Tournament Director. Mr Rees

Congratulations

In other hockey news, congratulations to Jack Rowe on his selection in the Opens NSW team that won the competition at the National Country Championships in WA and to Kieren Richards (Year 10) on his selection in the NSW All Schools Hockey side which also won the tournament (undefeated) in Tasmania. Kieren was selected in the Australian team to play in a four test series against South Africa in June next year. Kieren was also voted development player of the tournament!


Thank you to the Wollongong Olympic Soccer Club for the use of their equipment at the Soccer Challenge v HSC.

A reminder to all students to return books and money to the College office by Friday, 20 September. Additional books are available at the College office.
**Father’s, Grandfather’s & Carer’s Breakfast**

**Thursday, 29 August**

The Edmund Rice College Parent Forum, in cooperation with Years 11 and 12, warmly invites you and your son/s to attend the inaugural breakfast on Thursday 29 August 2013. Come and join us for an informal BBQ breakfast in the new Covered Outdoor Learning Area (adjacent to the senior classrooms) in celebration of Father’s Day. Special thanks to Mrs Narelle Ockenden, Canteen Manager, and her helpers who will be organising the breakfast.

**Time:**
7.00am – 8.00am

**Date:**
Thursday, 29 August 2013

**Entry & Parking:**
Keira Oval car park & surrounding streets
(If inclement weather the breakfast will be moved to the College hall)

**RSVP:** Please complete the following details by Friday, 23 August and return via your son’s Home Room admin folder or the College office.

**Father/Grandfather/Carer’s Name(s):**

______________________________________________________________

**Son’s Name:**

______________________________________________________________

**Son’s Year/Home Room:**

______________________________________________________________

**Number of people attending breakfast:**

______________________________________________________________

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**Community Notices:** Elite Footballers Academy Australia – Skills Academy for Players and Goal Keepers. Starts 1 October – more information email: admin@efaustralia.com.au or www.efaustralia.com.au

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**Guest Speakers Program at ERC (Years 10, 11, 12)**

The program of guest speakers giving talks to students from Years 10, 11 and 12 after school continued this week. Representatives from the Australian Careers Business College and the Defence Force were at school to give very personalised information sessions. Students should take advantage of this privilege as talks continue next Wednesday 28th August with a TAFE Careers adviser on site to answer questions.