Dear Families and Friends

I would like to share with you today two very important events in the lives of both St. Gabriel’s and St. Edmund’s Schools and communities. Two weeks ago staff from both schools attended the first EREA Congress in Melbourne. This wonderful experience over three days allowed us to meet with representatives of our other Edmund Rice schools from across Australia to explore our heritage, our mission and our way forward. We celebrated the 100th anniversary of Br Patrick Ambrose Treacy who, with his community of brothers, established many of our schools. He did the impossible – building schools with no resources. His vision to give deprived young boys a hope for the future, his courage, his great faith and his determination underpin all that we are today.

Throughout the Congress we were challenged to look at our work today in light of those who are suffering and disempowered. The speakers were people of passion who, like Patrick Treacy, have spent their lives advocating, supporting and empowering those who are at the margins of our society. We were confronted by the lives of those who are poor in India, our own Indigenous people and the refugees. We sought ways to respond without tokenism. Our commitment to this mission as an organisation was strongly affirmed. I felt proud to be part of such an organisation and together we will seek ways in which our small schools can live up to such a mighty mission.

Closely following Congress was our Renewal. You are aware that the purpose of this Renewal was to accredit us as a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice tradition. The Renewal Panel visited both schools over the course of three days. They interviewed students, past and present, parents, staff and Board, they scratched below the surface to see how we live out the message of the Touchstones – Liberating Education, Inclusive Community, Gospel Spirituality and Justice and Solidarity. They very much appreciated the complexities of our schools; they applauded the staff’s dedication and skill, the quality of the inclusive education offered to our students and the loving communities of which we are all part. They offered a number of recommendations which will guide our efforts over the next few years and which will strengthen our commitment to and place within EREA and the Edmund Rice mission. These will be shared with you once the Report is released. I personally found the Renewal Process very rewarding and affirming as well as challenging. We are all on a journey together - may we travel with strong faith, commitment and courage.

I would like to conclude with the Creed of Edmund’s People with the hope that we will embrace both personally and as community its call to action.

We believe the God fire burning in our hearts can transform both ourselves and our world.
We believe we are called by God to a deep personal relationship with Jesus, the lover of all creation, as a brother.
We believe we are called to be good news people.
We believe we are called to be stewards of creation.
We believe we are called to keep our hearts and minds open and attentive to God’s will.
We believe we are called to witness by prophetic action to our option to the poor, the oppressed, and people at the margins.
We believe we are called to immerse ourselves in the culture in which we live and work.
We believe in community which is prayerful, inclusive and welcoming.
We believe it is in facing our own fragility that we can accompany others in theirs.
We believe in sharing Eucharist and Reconciliation that we are drawn beyond ourselves to the mystery of God.
We believe others share the charism of Edmund, and are one with us in living it out.
We hear the call to live justly, love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God.
Amen.
Children's Awards

The following Awards were presented at our School Assemblies

Week 9 Term 3 2012 (Monday, 10 September to Friday, 14 September)

Student of the Week: Charlotte

Class Awards

Junior N - Samrath for his hard work in reading and phonics
Junior L - James for great participation in group reading
Middle W - Dominic for great listening during maths lessons
Middle S - Nick for playing nicely in the playground
Upper R - Emma for speaking beautifully when recording her news each week

Do Your Best Award: Thomas B
Be Safe Award: Asher
Care and Share Award: Callum
Uniform Award: Melanie

Week 10 Term 3 2012 (Monday, 17 September to Friday, 21 September)

Student of the Week: Tom J for playing nicely and working hard

Class Awards

Junior N - Logan for listening and following instructions
Junior L - Thomas B for doing excellent speaking and listening in class activities
Middle W - Corey P for always trying his best during class lessons
Middle S - Jayden for working hard in reading groups
Upper R - Corey L for excellent communication

Do Your Best Award: Joe
Be Safe Award: James
Care and Share Award: Joshua
Uniform Award: Ali
As the term draws to a close, I’d like to acknowledge the amazing work that the Gilroy volunteer students have been doing over these last 2 terms. Students from Years 7 and 12 have responded overwhelmingly to a request to help out on our playground, in the classrooms with reading, and in art and music classes. Year 12 Gilroy captains and vice captains, Jack, Aimee, Peter and Jess, organised all of Gilroy to support our various needs and each day students have turned up reliably and cheerfully at lunch times to spend time at play with our students, have been an enormous help listening to children reading, and have helped out with art and music projects. In addition, the students have been wonderful and capable support at our Jump Rope for Heart, our Olympics Day and, of course, for Design 2 Shine.

We’re grateful not just for the help they’ve provided, but for the friendships they’ve encouraged and for the enormous goodwill and spirit which they have brought into St. Gabriel’s with them. Each of them has contributed so beautifully to our growing sense of community—we are indeed blessed to have such friends amongst us who are not just accepting of diversity but are happy to celebrate it with us— most wonderful examples of our lived touchstones.

Have a wonderful break everyone—enjoy the sunshine, the spring weather and especially your children!

Warmly

Dianne
Design 2 Shine .......And we all shone like stars!

From the 5th to 7th September we again welcomed back our friends from Gilroy College and St Bernadette’s Primary for Design 2 Shine. What a great time we all had! We built and painted racing cars, powered them with balloons and challenged each other to races. We built bridges using straws and sticky tape, tested their strength with weights to find the strongest bridge, holding our breath as each bridge was loaded with weights. We built kites with paper and fishing line, then ran madly about the playground while the kites flapped behind us trying desperately to keep up. We designed and built paper planes from brightly coloured paper, then watched them soar across the playground. We blasted rockets powered by compressed air high into the sky, squealing with delight as they raced upward. We created gooey slime and tricked our teachers by pretending to have sneezed up something yucky. We sat next to each other as we ate sausages cooked to perfection in the warm afternoon sun. We laughed and talked and interacted with our friends and we all shone like stars!
Hi, my name is Brenden Jones. I am the Property Manager for both St. Gabriel’s and St. Edmund’s Schools, which means I manage the maintenance of our grounds and facilities across both campuses. I have a dusty old Honors Degree in Economics in the back of my cupboard, but am currently studying a far more practical Trade Certificate in Horticulture.

Previously I have worked overseas as a camera operator and animal wrangler on natural history documentary programs, and I have worked in various construction and landscaping related employment. I currently also operate a small business that films Shute Shield Rugby Union matches on weekends and for fun I renovate my house, a project that has been ongoing for 5 years now.

I have been with the school for just over two years, and while I do find the demands of working across the two campuses challenging, I love getting my hands dirty, I love the work I do, I love the work our staff do, and I love the work our schools do.

Thank you!
To Luke, Michael, Rob and Jackson— four volunteers from National Australia Bank who were at St Gabriel’s for community service on Friday, 14 September. As part of their Graduate Program at the bank, they are required to do one day of community service and St Gabriel’s was very lucky to be chosen. The volunteers worked really hard doing some preparation work on the Sacred Space.

KIDSFLIX
“Madagascar”
The Arthritis NSW will be conducting a special FREE Kidsflix film morning on Saturday, 27th October at Event Cinemas, Castle Towers Shopping Centre, Castle Hill.

They are inviting all children with special needs, their mums, dads, siblings or carers to attend. Face painters and clowns will entertain the children from 9.15 a.m. And the film “Madagascar” will commence at 10.00 a.m. There will also be free refreshments of popcorn and drink for everyone. If you are interested in tickets, please let Val know by Wednesday, 17th October as tickets are limited.

Woolworths Earn and Learn
Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who collected stickers for the recent Woolworths Earn and Learn Promotion—special thanks to the Paddy family whose endless sticker cards made us wonder how much food they were buying! Also thanks to Cherrybrook Technology High School and Cherrybrook Public School who kindly donated their stickers cards as they had withdrawn from the promotion, as well as the ladies from the CWA and residents from Castle Ridge Retirement Resort who all collected for us—as a result we collected 79,010 stickers and we are really looking forward to shopping for new school resources.

Design 2 Shine
Thank you so much to........
Shelton’s Quality Meats and Smiling Bakery, both located in Castle Mall, Castle Hill who kindly supplied discounted sausages and bread for our Design 2 Shine sausage sizzle last week, which were delicious!

We would encourage families to support those businesses which so willingly support our school.
Coleman Greig Charity Golf Day

A great day was had by all at the annual Coleman Greig Charity Golf Day on Monday! A huge thank you to Ray Millers and the wonderful team at Coleman Greig Lawyers for their dedication and ongoing support to our school.

Highlights of the day included:

- The children singing and playing their musical instruments. (although they would probably say the highlight was the bus trip!)
- The Helicopter Ball Drop! This was a great fundraiser with the winning ball landing closest to the pin for $1000 and a remote control helicopter!
- Karen Ledbury —our celebrity MC who wowed our guests and then auctioned off her dress!
- Ben and Amelia Cummings whose moving presentation really summed up the purpose of this fundraising event—thank you!

Many thanks again to everyone who contributed items for our beautiful prize hampers—all our auction items sold!

The Development Team.
It has been a very busy and exciting term! Here is a quick snapshot of some of the wonderful things happening at the fair...

★ **Radio Alive 90.5FM** are broadcasting LIVE from the fair
★ **The Country Women’s Association Devonshire Tea**
★ **Memory Lane** will showcase 90 years of St. Gabriel’s School
★ **Ex Student and artist Patrick Phillips** will be holding an exhibition of his work
★ **St. Gabriel's students art and craft display**
★ **Then and Now Photographic Exhibition** — showcasing the historic building that is now Gilroy Catholic College.
★ **Lah Lah’s Musical Wonderland**—full 45 minute show and meet and greet the stars!
★ **Musical performances** from Gilroy College, St Bernadette’s and Sister2Sister School of Singing Castle Hill.
★ **Fantastic Rides** suitable for all ages
★ **Delicious food including the Lion's Club Sausage Sizzle**
★ **Delightful art and craft stalls**
★ **Make and do activities** for the kids
★ **Giant Raffle and lucky dips**
★ **Colouring in Competition**

And MUCH MUCH MUCH MORE!

Please help us spread the word! If you have a connection to a child care centre, playgroup or pre school we would appreciate it if you could take some flyers for them to hand out...please see Jo at reception! *Thank you!*

Enjoy the holidays! The Development Team.
Our children’s wonderful work in Visual Arts

Rhonda O’Brien, our Visual Arts teacher, thanks everyone for sending in their empty cartons, egg boxes, wool etc to enable our children to make some beautiful creations, some of which are on display in our school reception. At this stage we do not require any more materials but we will let you know in the newsletter when we do.

School Banking
Dates for Term 4, 2012
Thursday, 18th October
Thursday, 1st November
Thursday, 15th November
Thursday, 29th November
Please note these dates in your diary.
Thank you.

Diary
Friday, 21 September
LAST DAY OF TERM 3
Monday, 8 October
FIRST DAY OF TERM 4
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 17, 18 and 19 October
Design to 2 Shine
Thursday, 18 October
Banking Day

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Student Term Dates for 2012
Term 3 Monday, 16 July - Friday, 21 September 2012
Term 4 Monday, 8 October - Tuesday, 11 December 2012

St. Gabriel’s 90th Birthday Sunday, 4th November

It is the policy of St Gabriel’s to distribute information when requested regarding activities and information concerning disability. This does not imply that St Gabriel’s endorses these activities or the information contained therein in any way.