

Consortium Chronicle



Brother Rice, Chicago, St. Laurence and O'Dea Students at Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville, TX



Immersed in the Mission and Invitation

Brother Rice, Chicago President, Mark Donahue

Dear, fellow school leaders,

It is 6:15am, Wednesday Nov. 1st and I am sitting in the dining area at our retreat location for our ERCBNA Brownsville immersion. We have four students here from Brother Rice-Chicago, along with students and a faculty rep from O'Dea, St. Thomas More, St. Laurence and Brother Rice-Bloomfield Hills. It is day four of a wonderful trip for all of us.

Our collective students are having a marvelous learning experience, seeing first hand people who need not only an advocate but a lending hand. Splitting into two groups we have so far spent days at the Catholic Charities Rio Grande Valley Respite Center (migrants) and also the Good Neighbor Settlement House. (cont. on page 2)



Brownsville Immersion

Students attend Mass at the Basilica de San Juan



Our Lady of Guadalupe
Pray for us!



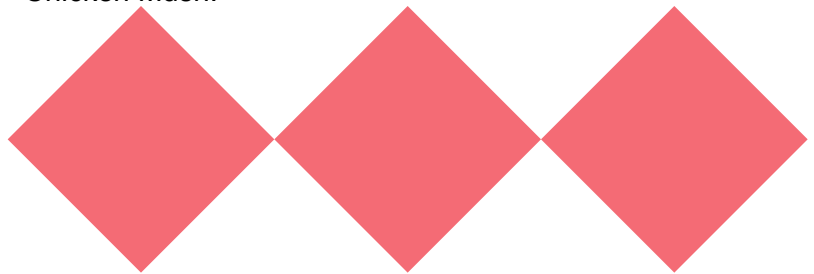
Brownsville Immersion '23



We stay at a retreat center, sharing meals, prayers and building friendships. Each night someone leads a session, kids are sharing, journaling , etc. Remarkable to watch.

The fun and experience is not limited to our students. I, along with my fellow ERCBNA school representatives get to meet, bond and develop our own friendships and spirituality. I'd encourage any of our presidents and principals to put this or other immersion experiences on your must do list. I realize your "list" grows every day, running from advancement, recruitment, finances and curriculum issues. I have that same list. However, I have found in my nearly five years as President that our Edmund Rice charism, nurtured and developed uniquely in each of our schools, is indeed our collective secret sauce that draws students in and allows us to send them on with a moral compass and foundation of Catholic identity. By attending and participating in an immersion experience like Brownsville, I am convinced we strengthen ourselves in our ability to successfully lead our schools.

C'mon and sleep in a twin sized bed, share a meal as a community and watch your students gain life enhancing experiences. And see if Mike Dolan will share his recipe for Chicken Mush.



October 2023 from our Rearview Mirror

By Dr. Cristiana Ritchie-Bonomo

October is typically our busiest month at OES and this year is no different. We began the month welcoming Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders, Global Ambassador, Dr. Wayne Tinsy to North America as well as Cormac McArt, Br. Dennis Gleeson, and Dr. Aidan Donaldson from Westourt Centre in Belfast Ireland. Cont. on page 3



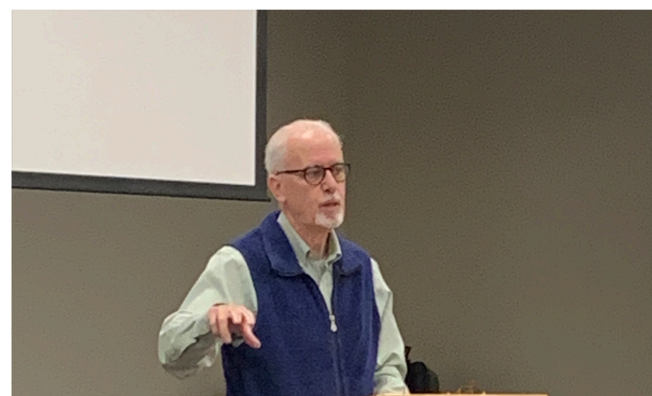
Cristiana Ritchie-Bonomo,
OES Director

October from the Rearview Mirror cont'd

We began our time together on the beautiful grounds of Mercy Center in Burlingame, California. Although we were unable to benefit from the wisdom of Sr. Catherine Powers, we did learn a great deal about one another, Blessed Edmund, and the work of Advocacy occurring in Belfast with the homeless.

Following the school leaders retreat in Burlingame, OES welcomed fifty students and twenty adults to the John Paul II Youth Retreat Center in Kearney, NJ. I'll share a bit more about ACTION in a later section.

Following ACTION, Kieran and I jumped on a plane to Salinas and met Br. Sullo for an Essential Elements Validation Visit at Palma. What a fantastic experience. Blessed Edmund must be so proud of all the great work going on at Palma and in all of the schools we visit.



Br Kevin Cawley, Sharing ERI

Tomorrow, I join Br. Casey in Brownsville, TX to walk with our students who will learn firsthand what it means to be a refugee, migrant, and immigrant. We will also join our brothers and sisters at Guadalupe Regional School in Brownsville.

While all of that is going on, Wayne Tinsey will finish his North American tour and head to Buenos Aires. We hope to welcome him back soon!

We are truly blessed. Across the globe, Edmund Rice's gifts continue to thrive and connect us all!

Complete the Survey And Let's Meet to Make a Difference
As motioned at our School Leaders Retreat, we would like to discuss offerings through OES. The most popular **meeting date selected is** Tuesday, November 7th at 4PM (ET)

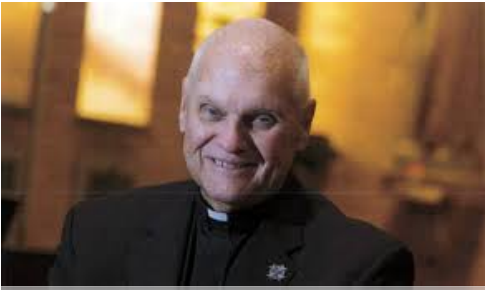
Before we ask that you complete our survey and join us using the following links.

[Google Form](#)

[Google Meet link](#)

We will compile the results and use them to guide our meeting online. It would be very helpful if you complete the form before we meet (at least by **Friday, 11/3/23** so we can prepare the results).





Br Brian Walsh's Corner

Society and Schools

Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education:

- #3: Stand in Solidarity with those Marginalized by Poverty and Injustice
- #5: Celebrate the Value and Dignity of each Person and Nurture the development of the Whole Person
- #7: Pursue Excellence in all Endeavors

WHAT IS BEHIND THE SPIKE IN CHILD POVERTY IN THE U.S

- > The number living in poverty more than doubled in 2022:
 - largest increase since Census Bureau has used the present method to count;
 - percent in 2021 was 5.2%
 - percent in 2022 was 12.4% (9 Million)
- > Causes:
 - inflation
 - expiration of the enhanced Child Tax Credit during the Pandemic
- > Census figures show that children were the only age group to see drop in Health Insurance coverage
(Time Magazine: October 6, 2023)

ENACTING LAWS MAKING IT HARDER TO VOTE

- > Since the 2020 election 19 states have made 34 new laws regulating voting: NH, NY, GA, FL, AL, LA, AR, TX, OK, KS, KY, IN, IA, AZ, UT, WY, MT, ID, NV
- > Example Items Covered:
 - shorten early voting
 - harder to vote by mail
 - polls close earlier

- AZ, MO, & NV trying to give legislators the power to reject Election results
- some states illegal to give a bottle of water, a cup of coffee to someone in line to vote

In 1965 in Alabama you had to pass a literacy test to vote.

Sample questions:

- of the original 13 states, the one with the largest number of Representatives in the First Congress was
- Name two things the States are prohibited to do by the U.S. Constitution.

(Public Citizen: September 2023)

OF 98 DIPLOMA TYPES USED IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS HOW MANY MEASURE UP?

("Paperthin" a study by the Alliance for Excellent Education)

- > U. S. Schools hand out 98 different kinds of high school diplomas, 51 fail to prepare students adequately for college or careers.
 - a disproportionate share of the 51 go to students of color and low-income families
 - > the country boasts of an all time high Graduation rate of 83.2%
 - Graduation rates are an important but incomplete indicator of success
 - > Diplomas in Public Education vary in quality:
 - In California 81% receive a diploma; 41.9% are ready for the next step
 - In Maryland 86.4% receive a diploma, 65.8% are ready for the next step
 - In New York 77.7% receive a diploma, 40.6% are ready for the next step
 - In Nevada 70% receive a diploma, 29.8% are ready for the next step
- These discrepancies have an impact on the Economic Potential of the Country

Br. Walsh's Corner Cont.

FROM THE LITERATURE

A. Three Top Safety Concerns For Educators on Each Level of Schooling

I. HIGH SCHOOL

- Bullying 31%
- Drugs 25%
- Fights 17%

II MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Bullying 58%
- Fights 17%
- Self-harm 8%

III ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Bullying 49%
- Teacher Attacks 10%
- Fights 5%

(RAND CORP:1000 randomly selected educators in Oct.-Nov. 2022)

B.Where Students Reported being bullied at school:

1. Inside a classroom 47%
2. In a hallway or stairway 39%
3. In cafeteria 25%
4. Outside on school grounds 20%
5. Online or by text 16%
6. In bathroom/locker room 11%
7. On way to/from school 10%
8. Somewhere else in school building 3%

(U. S. Department of Justice)

C. About Which Topics Have Parents Expressed Concern to You as an Educator?

1. LGBTQ+ issues/Sexual Orientation 58%
2. Gender 38%
3. Diversity-Equity-Inclusion 34%
4. Sex Ed 34%
5. Social Emotional Learning 28%
6. Issues related to race/racism 25%
7. History of race/racism 25%
8. Politics 21%
9. Other 16%
10. Guns/gun policy 12%

(EdWeek Research Center: July 2023)

D. Beyond **ChatGPT**: The other **AI** Tools Teachers are Using:

1. **GOOGLE BARD** and **MICROSOFT BING CHAT**
Function similar to ChatGPT: aim to give human like answers to questions
 - Free and easy to use: can write lesson plans, emails, and provide feedback on assignments

2. Hello History Character.AI

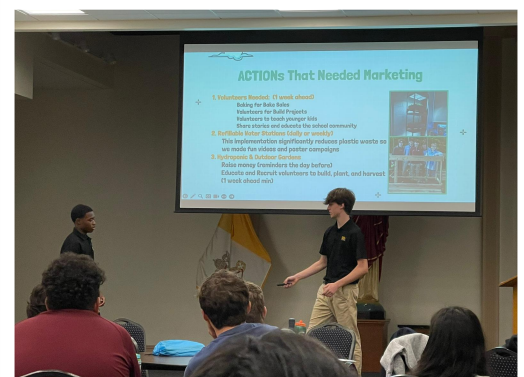
Allows users to have conversations with bots purported to be Historical figures

3. Dall-E, Midjourney, Adobe/Firefly (other art generators) Can generate realistic, detailed images from test descriptions: students should **self-create art** not have AI create art.
4. Education Copilot, Teacherbot, Eduaide.AI (other Teacher Assistants)
Some AI has a subscription rate.

(Education Week:September 20,2023)

E. Where Your Grocery Dollars are Going:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Walmart | 25% |
| Kroger | 11% |
| Costco | 10% |
| Albertsons | 7% |
| Sams Club | 5% |
| Ahold Delhaize | 5% |
| Publix | 5% |
| Target | 3% |
| Aldi | 2% |



Some ACTION Shots

OES Facts

Since the start of the 2023-2024 School Year, OES has offered the following:

School Leaders Retreat:

Invited 19 Schools 13 Participated consisting of

- **6 Presidents**
- **11 Principals. 1 Asst. Principal, 2 Teachers**
- **2 Directors from OES**
- **3 Members** of the Province Leadership Team
- 4 Guests

ACTION: 18 Schools invited 14 Participated

- 45 Students
- 15 Moderators and Team Members
- 3 from OES
- 2 Guests

Fr. Justin from IP celebrated Mass, and t

Request for Essential Elements Volunteers for Visits:

17 Schools invited: 5 Schools Responded

- 1 President from one school offered to serve
- 2 Principals from 2 different schools offered to serve.
- 1 School offered an Asst Principal and three teachers
- 1 school offered one retired employee
- 1 school offered three teachers
- 1 school offered a Campus Minister and a teacher.

Interestingly, eight individuals were asked to participate at schools closer to their locale but declined, and cited timing as an issue. Three people who signed up accepted to serve.

School Leaders Meeting: 20 Schools Invited 14 Plan to Attend

- 6 President's. 2 Directors of Schools
- 8 Principals
- 3 Board Members (Canada, Argentina and Uruguay, 0 US)
- 0 Sponsor Council Members
- 2 from the Province Leadership Team
- 4 from OES
- 5 Spouses

Partners in Education Workshop (PIE)

Hosted a PIE at Palma in Salinas, CA. 3 from Palma and 1 from Damien attended.

East Coast PIE is November 4, 2023, in New Rochelle. We have 8 attending: 1 from Iona Prep, 3 from Bergen Catholic and 4 from St. Laurence.

Midwest Pie: Scheduled for November 11, 2023, at St. Laurence has been cancelled due to not enough attendees.

Art Program: During the 2022-2023 School year, 11 Schools participated which is an increase from the previous year's number which was 9.

Pilgrims in Peru invitation sent Thursday, October, 26th.

Brownsville Immersion: 7 Schools are participating 2 Canceled at the last minute, which means they will need to help offset some pre-paid expenses.

Peru Immersion will host 22 groups.

Editor's Note

The Church section by Brother Brian Walsh will appear in next month's edition featuring a summary of the !



Pilgrims in Peru

*For Administrators, Faculty and
Staff
Edmund Rice Christian
Brothers North America*




July 24-August 3, 2024

Walk with God's people and see the world through their eyes.
Create community as members of the Edmund Rice Family

Grow in your faith as you journey with the poor.

Maximum Participants: 8

- 
- Five days of service in Canto Grande- Lima, Peru
 - Journey to Machu Picchu, Peru
 - Spanish Not Required

In their school, for service projects in Peru each participant raises

\$500

Applications



Available on line at <https://forms.gle/xrfb1YTkNeGyEHc7A>

Due February 9, 2024

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