



*Inspiring Independence, Transforming Lives*



## Principal's Message ...

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of St Edmund's,

St Edmund's College has been proactive in our response to COVID-19 and we have followed all advice received from the Government and NSW Health and our governing authorities. We are in unprecedented times and we will continue to be presented with challenges along the way.

The advice of the Federal Government, NSW Health, our governing body Edmund Rice Education Australia (please see attached letter from EREA) and other agencies continues to be that schools are not to temporarily suspend operation. This is because this would release children more widely into the community where more elderly and at-risk people would be circulating. At the same time, schools are being asked to continue preparing and planning for a temporary suspension of operations from face-to-face teaching to off campus learning. The College Executive has been planning for this for some time and is well placed to deliver a style of off campus learning to students. Resources and information are currently being collated, ready for this situation should it occur.

As parents and staff, we also have a responsibility to help our children deal with the significant emotional impact of a situation such as COVID-19. With so much media attention and news coverage, it is easy for anxiety and fear to develop across the community. We suggest reading the following article about Coronavirus and affirm the sound and sensible advice provided about having honest conversations within your family on this important topic. <https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

I also attach a resource to help explain the COVID-19 to your child.

<https://www.stedmunds.nsw.edu.au/assets/Uploads/Covid-19-How-to-explain-coronavirus-to-kids8.pdf>

Parents and carers:

- ⇒ Call the National Coronavirus Health Information line (1800 020 080)
- ⇒ Review the [NSW Health COVID-19 website](#) for the latest information and advice
- ⇒ Refer to the [Catholic Schools NSW website](#) for updates
- ⇒ Obtain help and information from your local General Practitioner or Community Health Centre

As we are all aware, the situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic is changing frequently and so we need to be prepared to respond to these changes. As we walk this journey together, through this unexpected and new experience in our lives and our life in community, I am reminded that we can and must trust in God for His wisdom, protection, strength, courage and grace.

I thank you for your ongoing support during these uncertain and challenging times and I hope that you and your families stay safe and well.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Jon Franzin  
**PRINCIPAL**





## Deputy Principal's Message ...

**Term 1:** Our first term continues to move quickly with all our students settled into our various routines and their learning. Even with some changes to work experience and excursions, our students have quickly adapted and are happy with the new opportunities. I thank Ms Jacqui Baxter for the enormous amount of work she has done in rescheduling all our senior programs.

While the media continues to inform us of the COVID-19 updates, we know that our students are aware and becoming very anxious about the current situation. We continue to share social stories with them to help them understand and so bring calm and context to this situation.

**Name Labels:** A reminder that it is important to label all of your child's items including hats, jumpers/jackets, water bottles and lunch boxes. It is easy for students to leave their items around and without name labels it is difficult for us to return them to their rightful owners.

**College Rules:** The College rules, which guide our student behaviours and attitudes are:

### **Be Safe, Be Caring and Be a Good Learner**

These highlight our student expectations and continue to motivate our students to be the best they can be here in and outside the classroom. We encourage parents to emphasize these rules at home to create a common language and boundaries for our children.

**Year 7/8 Camp:** Each year, St Edmund's College holds an annual school camp for all students. Due to the COVID-19 situation we have had to cancel the Camp for next term. We ask however that permission forms are still completed and sent back to allow us to reschedule the Camp later in the year if the current situation changes and there is availability at the venue.

**A Reminder about Student illness:** As our weather is in constant flux, a general reminder that if your child is not feeling well, has a fever, vomiting or diarrhoea, bad pain or coughing that will not stop, they need to remain home to rest and/or see your doctor.

Here at the College we are encouraging constant use of hygienic practices, especially hand sanitizing for staff and students. Please encourage this at home to promote health and reduce illnesses within our community.

**Personalised Plan Meetings:** The Personalised Plan meeting bookings remain open until 27th March. Parents are asked to make a booking so that Personalised Plans can be finalised. As bookings are held during the school day please be mindful that each meeting is scheduled for only 45 minutes and teachers may need to attend the lesson in the following period. You are also welcome to have the meeting over the phone; please confirm with your Homeroom teacher what their availability might be.

Jason Scanlon  
Deputy Principal





## Mission and Identity

As we journey through our Lenten preparation, we start to focus upon the story of Easter. The last week of Lent is Holy Week. In our Religious Education lessons, we are beginning to look at this story and its key points.

With the Coronavirus concerns possibly leading to students not being at school, I would like to take this opportunity to share this story with you so that you can talk about it with your children when they are at home.

The week begins on Palm Sunday. The day Jesus arrives in Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The crowds all gather and celebrate his entry like a king. They wave palms, something they did as victorious armies returned from battle and laid their cloaks down in the path of the donkey. They all cheered and called out "Hosanna! Hosanna!" as Jesus passed by. Some people were not so happy to see Jesus treated in such a way and they began to plot his downfall.



On Holy Thursday Jesus gathered with his friends and disciples for a special meal. The meal of the Passover. As they gathered in the room, Jesus began by washing their feet. They protested saying he was their master and should not be washing the feet. Jesus responded: *'And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.'* **John 13:34-35.** By washing the apostles' feet Jesus showed them what it means to love one another. He showed them that to love one another they had to be kind and caring. They had to look after one another.



During the supper, Jesus took some bread, gave thanks to God and shared it with his disciples, ... *broke it, and gave it to his disciples. 'Take and eat it,' he said; 'this is my body.'* **Matthew 26:26**

The he took the cup of wine, gave thanks and gave it to them saying: *'Drink it, all of you,' he said; 'this is my blood, which seals God's covenant, my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'* **Matthew 26:27-28**

After Supper, Jesus took his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knew what was about to happen. He wanted to pray to his Father. While Jesus was praying, an angel appeared. The angel gave him strength.

Judas arrived with a group of soldiers just as Jesus finished praying. Judas told the soldiers that Jesus was the man they wanted. The soldiers arrested Jesus and then he was taken away and put to trial.

During the early morning hours of Good Friday, Jesus faced six trials! At the final trial, Pilate gave in. He sentenced Jesus to die. So the soldiers grabbed Jesus. They stripped him bare and put a purple robe on him. They put a crown of thorns on his head. The soldiers mocked Jesus, spat on him, and led him away to be crucified. Jesus hung on the cross for six hours before he died. When Jesus died the curtain in the temple tore and fell to the ground.

*The army officer saw what had happened, and he praised God, saying, 'Certainly he was a good man!'* **Luke 23:47**

After Jesus' body was taken down from the cross, it was wrapped in cloth. Jesus was laid in the tomb. A great stone was rolled across the entrance of the tomb.

Jesus died on the cross to save us. By dying, he forgave our sins. This means that we are able to have a life with God. This gives us hope.

**And don't forget, the story does not end with Jesus' death.**

God Bless,  
Terry O'Keefe  
**Head of Mission and Identity**



# Community News



## From the Parent Group

I hope everyone is managing to stay on top of the ever changing situation in the world and here in Australia at the moment. My sincere thoughts and prayers are with any families who affected by this at the moment.

Thank you to those families who had advised that they were attending our 'So Safe and Keeping Teenagers Safe Online' presentation. It would have been our highest attendance for quite some time. The College will be looking at rebooking Leonie Smith in the future to present this valuable information.

At this stage it is important to be regularly checking emails, Class Dojo and the College's Skoolbag app communication to ensure that you are up to date with current events taking place within the College. Dates that have been previously set for activities are likely to change.

Stay safe in the weeks ahead.

Janine Eastham – Tom's mum  
**Parent Group Leader**

*And the people stayed home and read books and listened and rested and exercised and made art and played games and learned new ways of being and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows.*

*And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless and heartless ways, the Earth began to heal. And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images and created new ways to live and heal the Earth fully, as they had been healed.*

*Kitty O'Meara*

## How to install the SkoolBag app

instructions for parents and community

1. Get your favourite mobile device
2. Open the App Store/Play Store
3. Search for "SkoolBag"
4. Download the free app
5. Open the app and add your school(s)

for Apple users

for Android users

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

for more info visit [skoolbag.com.au](http://skoolbag.com.au)

SkoolBag

# Around the College

## Awards

### Students of the Week:

**7S** Adam and Alessio  
**8C** Hugh and Kate  
**9F** Athena and Nathan  
**10J** Angelica and Brendan  
**11G** Corey and Arabella  
**12M** Anthony and Melanie

**7T** James and Will  
**8L** Tom and Chris  
**9H** David and Johann  
**10V** Josh W and Lorelle  
**11T** Shontelle and Lachlan  
**12O** Matthew S and Logan

### Eddie's Best:

**7S** Michael  
**8C** Sonnet  
**9F** Victoria  
**10J** Luke  
**11G** Ryan  
**12M** Kingsley

**7T** Bradley  
**8L** Tom  
**9H** Ben P  
**10V** Owen  
**11T** Ben T  
**12O** Kristian

## Parents and Carers

### Staff Days (pupil free) for 2020

**Monday 27th April**  
**Friday 5th June**  
**Monday 12th October**



# Around the College

## Postponements and Cancellations to be aware of:

Tue 24th March	Men's Group Meeting at St Edmund's - cancelled
Wed 8th April	2019 Year 12 Reunion (pizza night) - postponed
Tue 28th April	ANZAC Day ceremony - cancelled
Fri 1st May	Edmund Rice Day celebrations - Mass & BBQ - cancelled
Fri 8th May	Mother's Day Liturgy and morning tea - cancelled
Fri 15th May	Term 2 College Disco - cancelled
Tue 26th May	Term 2 Parent Group Meeting - cancelled
Tue 9th Jun	Term 2 Men's Group Meeting (St Lucy's) - cancelled
Sat 13th Jun	Eddie's Big Night Out (Miramare Gardens, Terrey Hills) - cancelled
Wed 10th - Fri 12th Jun	Years 7 & 8 Camp - postponed

## Absentees

If your child is absent from the College for any reason:

- ⇒ Please phone Mrs Acret in the College office or email: [secretary@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au](mailto:secretary@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au) on the first morning your child is absent so that the homeroom teacher can be advised; and
- ⇒ A written note (or email) must accompany your child when he/she returns to the College - this is a legal requirement for the class roll.

## Requesting Leave during College term (for any reason)

It is expected that every endeavor is made for students' leave to be taken during the College holidays. If however, this is not possible, a request should be:

- ⇒ Emailed to Mr Franzin on [franzin@erses.nsw.edu.au](mailto:franzin@erses.nsw.edu.au) asking for permission and giving the reason for the leave. The necessary form will be emailed back to you to be completed and returned to the College. Mr Franzin will respond to your email, copying in the Homeroom teacher and Mrs Acret. This is also a legal requirement for the class roll.



# Around the College - Important Dates

## Term 1

Tue 24th Mar	Term 1 Men's Group Meeting (St Edmund's) (see Newsletter) <b>cancelled</b>
Mon 6th Apr	Year 7 Immunisation
Wed 8th Apr	2019 Year 12 Reunion (pizza night) <b>to be rescheduled</b>
Thu 9th Apr	Last day of Term 1

## Term 2

<b>Mon 27th Apr</b>	<b>Staff Day (no students)</b>
Tue 28th Apr	Students return to Term 2
Tue 28th Apr	ANZAC Day Ceremony – <b>cancelled</b>
Fri 1st May	Edmund Rice Day celebrations - Mass and BBQ lunch <b>cancelled</b>
Fri 8th May	Mother's Day Liturgy and Morning Tea <b>cancelled</b>
Tue 13th May	Year 10 Immunisation
Fri 15th May	Term 2 College Disco <b>cancelled</b>
Tue 26th May	Term 2 Parent Group Meeting <b>cancelled</b>
Tue 2nd Jun	Term 2 Mufti Day
<b>Fri 5th Jun</b>	<b>Staff Day (pupil free day)</b>
<b>Mon 8th Jun</b>	<b>Queen's Birthday public holiday</b>
Tue 9th June	Students' school photos
Tue 9th Jun	Term 2 Men's Group Meeting (St Lucy's) <b>cancelled</b>
Sat 13th Jun	Eddie's Big Night Out (Miramare Gardens, Terrey Hills) <b>cancelled</b>
Wed 10th - Fri 12th Jun	Years 7 & 8 Camp <b>to be rescheduled</b>
Fri 26th Jun	RFS Cadet & Leadership Award Assembly <b>cancelled</b>
Fri 26th Jun	Last day of Term 2

## Term 3

Mon 20th Jul	Students & Staff return to Term 3
Fri 7th Aug	Term 3 College Disco
	Senior Information Evening
Tue 11th Aug	Term 3 Mufti Day
Wed 19th Aug	St Edmund's Golf Day
Wed 26th Aug	Term 3 Men's Group Meeting (St Edmund's)
Fri 4th Sep	Father's Day Breakfast
Tue 8th Sep	Term 3 Parent Group Meeting
Tue 1st Sep	St Edmund's Athletics Carnival
Sun 13th Sep	Family Fun Day (St Edmund's field)
Wed 23rd - Fri 25th Sep	Senior Retreat
Fri 25th Sep	Last day of Term 3

## Term 4

<b>Mon 12th Oct</b>	<b>Staff day (no students)</b>
Tue 13th Oct	Students return to Term 4
Mon 14th Oct	Year 7 Immunisation
Tue 20th Oct	St Edmund's Swimming Carnival
Fri 23rd Oct	Term 4 College Disco
	Wed 28th Oct - Fri 30th Nov Years 9 & 10 Camp
Tue 3rd Nov	Term 4 Mufti Day
Tue 3rd Nov	Term 4 Parent Group Meeting
Tue 10th Nov	Orientation Day
Tue 17th Nov	Term 4 Men's Group Meeting (St Lucy's)
Fri 20th Nov	Abbotsleigh Concert
Fri 27th Nov	Year 12 Graduation Formal
Tue 1st Dec	Presentation Ceremony
Wed 9th Dec	Year 12 Farewell Mass & BBQ lunch and Last day of Term 4



18 March 2020

### **Important information for Parents and Care-givers**

Dear Parents and Care-givers

Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) considers it important to write to you in light of the intense media scrutiny around the status of school operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following consultation with relevant educational and government authorities and consistent with the position of the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC), EREA schools will remain open until further notice.

We will continue to work with individual schools where contact with COVID-19 cases are confirmed. This situation may change quickly, but EREA is acting in accord with the current NCEC advice.

We extend heartfelt thanks to each of our Principals for the pro-active, considered and professional leadership that they have displayed in the course of the current crisis. This leadership has allowed schools and schooling to proceed with minimal disruption. Their leadership has been exemplary, in ensuring the preparedness of our schools to face the next stage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also wish to express admiration and gratitude for the way in which teaching and support staff have selflessly gone above and beyond in their commitment to the pastoral and educational needs of your son/daughter.

Your school has invested considerable time and effort to ensure that off-campus-learning arrangements are in place should the directive come that schools need to close. In that event, we are satisfied that learning for your son/daughter can continue in an off-campus mode. Your Principal will communicate further information as it comes to hand.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your support of and trust in your school and rest assured of our deep commitment to the safety, wellbeing and learning of your son/daughter.

With gratitude and best wishes

**Dr Wayne Tinsey**  
**On behalf of the EREA Executive Team**