



Inspiring Independence, Transforming Lives

Principal's Message ...



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

Mother's Day and Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice: Two events last week reflected the heart of an Edmund Rice education at our College. One was our Mother's Day celebrations and the other was our Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice. Motherhood links these events. Edmund Rice had a particular devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and this is reflected in every Edmund Rice school. Mary was and is a model of love and constancy but not in a remote or merely symbolic way. She was a real mother

who, in giving birth to her son, would have wrapped him in love and hope, not then knowing what would happen to him at the cross, dying with criminals. Through his life she loved him and was devoted to him, right until the end when she held his body, and afterwards, when she discovered he lived again.

All children need their mothers who, in loving them and teaching them to love, are a reflection of God and a lesson in constant hope. As children get older, they may be less obvious or open about the need for their mother's presence and attention, but need it just as much in different ways. This is most starkly demonstrated when things go wrong, when in adolescence, children can make poor choices and serious mistakes. Despite her frustrations, it is often the mother who is constant in her support and care throughout it all, because such love can never give up.

A story was told of a letter written by an Irish mother who delivered her recalcitrant son to 'Mr. Rice' to be educated. It was a letter of deep gratitude from an old lady who had seen her son change, become educated and lead a successful life. Mothers entrusted their sons to be educated and guided at an Edmund Rice school and that is the mission we celebrated as a school last Tuesday on Edmund Rice Day. In this mission we keep in mind and seek the prayer and intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, and model of motherly love. A particular thank you to Mr. Terry O'Keefe for organizing activities at school and online for our Feast Day celebrations, Mrs. Wendy Scott for organizing the Mother's Day raffle and Mr. Jason Scanlon for the Mother's Day video.

Individualised Plans: In coming weeks a Personalised Plan (PP) for your child, based on individual student assessments last term and the one to one meetings with you at the College, will be sent home. We believe that the establishment of these Personalised Plans will drive the development of ongoing classroom support programs for students and will increasingly allow for the ongoing partnership between the College and families. Once you have received your child's Personalised Plan, please don't hesitate to contact your child's Homeroom teacher if you have any further questions or concerns.

Managed Return to School: Information will be sent home to families early next week outlining students' managed return to school for the remainder of Term 2. From Week 5 until the end of the term you will see an increase in face-to-face teaching, something which will be well received by all families given the need for our young people to return to normal routines.

Staffing: This week Mrs. Karen Houlcroft commenced a period of leave for the remainder of the term. During Mrs. Houlcroft's absence, Mr. Jason Scanlon will undertake the role of Head of Wellbeing and Mrs. Carolyn Stein will take responsibility for Mrs. Houlcroft's classes. I thank Mr. Scanlon and Mrs. Stein for taking on these responsibilities at short notice. Should you have any wellbeing matters that need to be addressed, please make contact with Mr. Scanlon or your child's Homeroom teacher. We wish Mrs. Houlcroft all the best for her period of leave with her family.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Jon Franzin
PRINCIPAL



Deputy Principal's Message ...

As we continue our staggered return to school, students have thoroughly enjoyed and celebrated returning to the school environment and sharing life with their friends. Each day during these weeks we also continue to provide online Homeroom meetings at 8.30 a.m. and online learning. It has been wonderful to see the smiles and excitement in reconnecting with each other - a real reflection of an Edmund Rice community. Below are some reminders as we move back to school.

Name Labels: A reminder that it is important to label all 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: As it has been a disjointed time, our return to school is supported by following our 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 in and outside the classroom. We encourage parents to emphasize these rules at home to create a common language and boundaries for our children.

Hygiene Practices: As we return back to school we have instigated formal times for hygiene, with hand sanitizing five times a day. We also regularly clean common spaces several times throughout the day. It is important that this also be encouraged at home to promote health and reduce illnesses within our community. For drop off and pick up, we ask that parents and carers please remember to keep in mind social distance; crosses are marked in the bus parking area as guides.

Illness: As our weather is in constant flux a general reminder that if your child is not feeling well, has a fever, vomiting or diarrhea, bad pain or coughing, that they need to remain at home to rest and/or see your doctor.

College iPads: As we begin to transition back to school, a reminder that College iPads will need to return to the College in Week 5 with their chargers. This will allow students to continue to integrate technology into their learning as we return to face to face teaching. If you have any questions around the iPads and their return, please contact me scanlon@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au

Winter Uniform: As we begin Term 2, the College winter uniform is to be worn. However, in Weeks 3 to 4 as we transition students back to school, we ask that students come to school in their winter sports uniform. This will be for the one day a week transition period in weeks 3 and 4 to enable students to engage in physical education activities. For senior students who have Hospitality classes, they will need to bring their leather school shoes with them also.

College Assemblies: As we transition back to school we would still like to celebrate students' success as a community through our Assemblies. We have three Assemblies for this term which will be live streamed to each Homeroom to support social distancing. We hope to record and share these Assemblies with our families due to the fact that no visitors can enter the College at this time. More information will be sent about how to receive these recorded Assemblies.

Our Assemblies will be on-

29th May with our theme of Community Spirit

12th June with our theme of Sustainability

26th June with our theme of Leadership

Jason Scanlon
Deputy Principal



Mission and Identity

On Tuesday 5th May, we celebrated the feast day of Blessed Edmund Rice. It was a very different day for all of us, either at home or at school. The theme for this year's Feast Day was 'looking out my window'.

We reflected upon the story of Blessed Edmund and what he may have observed looking out of different windows throughout his life.

As a young child, when Edmund looked out of his window in Westcourt, he saw lush green fields and crops growing but he also saw poverty and despair in the people around. Encouraged by his mother, he and his siblings invited children who were poor, alone or in need to come and join the family for Sunday lunch every week.

As a young man in Waterford he looked out his window and saw the bustling port and the means to a good life but he also saw the poor boys on those same docks, hungry, sick, wearing tattered clothing and uneducated.

As the founder of the Christian Brothers, he looked out and saw a need to educate these young boys and provide for them so that poverty would be no more in their lives.

As an old man, he looked out and saw his ideas and people, inspired by him, reaching out and teaching the poor and disadvantaged all over the world in his name and in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

I am sure if he looked out of his window in heaven today and saw all the amazing students and staff at St Edmund's and all the great things happening in his name, that would make him very happy. He would also be proud that his vision to transform the lives of young people, through quality education, is displayed so beautifully in this College.

Thank you Edmund for looking out your window and making the choices you did.

Here are a selection of photos taken by some of our students on the Feast Day, looking out of their windows.





Community News

From the Parent Group

Hoping all of our Mums and special women in our lives enjoyed Mother's Day last Sunday. It certainly was different not being able to share our Mother's Day Liturgy and Morning Tea with our children at the College. Thank you Wendy Scott for organising such a lovely raffle to celebrate the day.

This week our children have been returning to school on a staggered roster. They really are being stretched out of their normal routines at the moment. Anxieties are high and trying to understand the new term 'social distancing' when they have been in therapy their whole lives learning how to be more social has been challenging.

The 'out and about' in the community skills being taught have been put on hold or adjusted. We have even found that people are more cautious and less tolerant of some of the behaviours our children may display in public.

While our children are finding it hard, so are we. We don't have to be superhuman to cope with these extra pressures.

If you are finding it hard, please reach out to the [College](#), a fellow parent, or to one of the wellbeing online resources listed below. We are in this together!

<https://beyou.edu.au/>
<https://au.reachout.com/>

"A mother understands what a child does not say"

Jewish Proverb

Janine Eastham – Tom's mum
Parent Group Leader

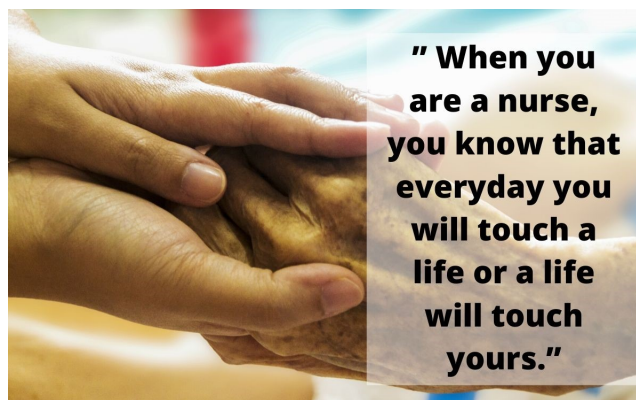
International Nurses Day 2020 - 12th May

Being a nurse is more than a job, it is a calling. It is truly a ministry of healing. Nurses become the face and hands of Christ to their patients and to the families of the sick and dying. Today we honour the work of nurses in health care and we pray for the blessing they are to those they serve.

Loving God, we pray for nurses and all those who minister to the sick, the dying and all who are in need of care. May they be witnesses of Christ's healing mercy. May we follow their many examples of competence and compassion. Grant nurses the strength and courage to face the challenges of each day and to remain faithful in their ministry of service.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen



Around the College - Important Dates and Changes

Term 2

Fri 15th May	Term 2 College Disco cancelled
Tue 26th May	Term 2 Parent Group Meeting cancelled
Tue 2nd Jun	Term 2 Mufti Day confirmed
Thu 4th Jun	Year 7 and Year 10 Immunisation new date confirmed (see this Newsletter)
Fri 5th Jun	Staff Day (pupil free day) confirmed
Mon 8th Jun	Queen's Birthday public holiday
Tue 9th June	Students' school photos to be rescheduled to Term 3
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 to be rescheduled if possible
Fri 19th Jun	Staff Day (pupil free day) confirmed
Fri 26th Jun	Leadership Award Assembly streamed to Homerooms and to parents
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

Mon 12th Oct	Students return to Term 4
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
Fri 4th Dec	Year 7 Immunisation - new date
Wed 9th Dec	Year 12 Farewell Mass & BBQ lunch and Last day of Term 4

Congratulations Matthew!

After attaining his driver's licence, Matthew (Year 12) will be driving to and from the College.

This is an amazing achievement and one that he should be very proud of.

The whole College community congratulates you Matthew!



Around the College

When you are back at the College you will see a change around the lift area near the stairs going down to the Gym.

Year 10 students worked on a unit on the artist Keith Haring in Term 1. Keith painted lots of murals all over the world - there is one of his works outside the Collingwood Technical College in Melbourne.

The St Edmund's students have been inspired by his mural work so the walls around the lift area have been prepared to begin work on a colourful abstract mural. This will give our students the opportunity to really understand what it is like to paint a mural in a public space.

Owen (Class 10V) has started off the process by painting a coat of primer on the walls.



Great work Owen!



Progress!

Immunisation update

The Immunisation program for St Edmund's students for 2020 has had to be rescheduled. Emails have now been sent to all families involved and consent forms have been sent home.

The new dates are:

Year 7:
Dose 1 HPV and Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis Thursday 4th June

Year 10:
Meningococcal vaccine Thursday 4th June

Year 7:
Dose 2 HPV Friday 4th December

Please send all consents back to St Edmund's even if your child is having their immunisation vaccines elsewhere. Any questions, please contact Cathy Laing on 9487 1044 or email laing@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au

**IMMUNISATION
REMINDER**

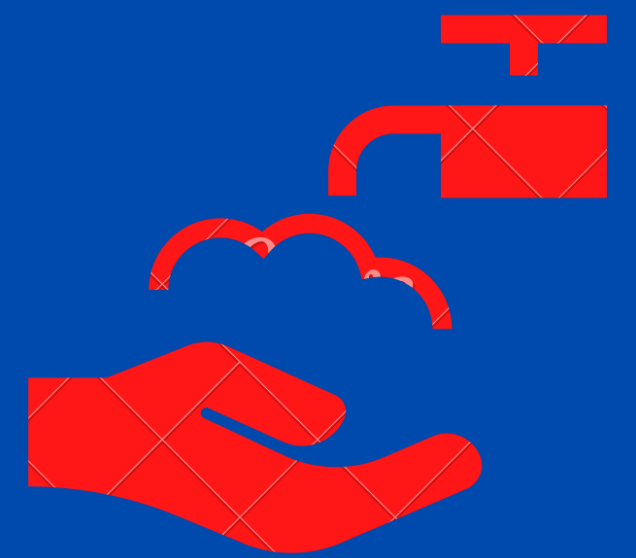
AT ST EDMUND'S



WE WASH OUR HANDS

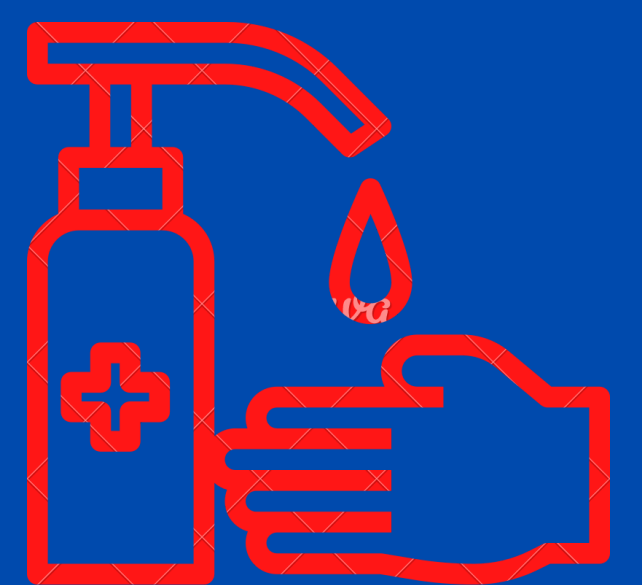
1 AT TAXI DROP OFF

2 BEFORE RECESS



3 AFTER RECESS

4 BEFORE LUNCH



5 AFTER LUNCH

