



Inspiring Independence, Transforming Lives



Principal's Message ...

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

PENTECOST

Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Church. While theologians debate about the accuracy of that, Pentecost marks the event at which the gift of God's Spirit was given to everyone in the infant Christian community that was just beginning to take shape. God's Spirit was and is a gift for all - those who were present at that first Pentecost and those who through the centuries, continue to walk in their footsteps.

According to Luke, the real miracle of Pentecost is how God's Spirit overcomes the barriers of language and perception, opening not only people's minds but their hearts as well, to hear the Gospel of the Risen Christ. It's that same Spirit of God which enables us to hear the voice of God and to find practical ways of bringing God's peace, justice and compassion to those people and places where we sense they are lacking. To do that, we have to learn to hear what God actually speaks and not what we want or hope to hear and it is God's Spirit which opens our hearts and ears to hear what God speaks.

REPORTS

For teachers, these last few weeks are the busiest and most pressured time of year, with Reports being written at the same time as units for next term being prepared with assessments and other tasks to be completed.

At the end of the term, Semester 1 Reports will be available online using Sentral via the Parent Portal. While we are asking you to use the Parent Portal to access your child's Semester 1 Report instead of the College mailing a paper copy to you, we recognise that some parents will still require or want a paper copy of this Report. Parents who want to receive a paper copy of the Semester 1 Report are asked to phone the College on 9487 1044 by no later than Friday, 26th June.

The Semester 1 Reports will be accessible via the Parent Portal from 4.00 p.m. on Friday, 26th June. You will receive correspondence from the College about accessing online Reports including information - '*Parent User Guide – Sentral Academic Reports*' which will assist those families who have yet to access the Parent Portal. Should you require assistance to access Reports online, please call the College for support.

PUPIL FREE DAYS

As previously communicated, our scheduled staff day for the beginning of Term 2 was moved to **Friday 19th June**. I appreciate that for many families this is another disruption to an already disjointed term but it is highly important for the teaching staff so that they can undertake our scheduled compliance training and professional learning. A reminder that no supervision will be available for students on this day.

I attach a letter from Dr Wayne Tinsey - Executive Director of Edmund Rice Education Australia in relation to face to face learning.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Jon Franzin
PRINCIPAL



Deputy Principal's Message ...

TERM 2: The term is progressing very well with students settling in to the daily routines of College life. We had a wonderful Mufti day where students talked about the work carried out at the Mithra Rehabilitation Centre in Chennai, India, an organization that our College has a strong relationship with. Students wore the colours of the Indian flag and connected to the works of Mithra through our morning prayer. Altogether an amount of \$378.60 was raised for Mithra which was a wonderful effort. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this very worthy cause.

Vaccinations are never a popular event in schools, however I congratulate our Years 7 and 10 students in approaching the experience in a mature way. There were many instances of students encouraging one another and comforting those who felt anxious about the vaccinations.

PUPIL FREE DAY: This Term we have two staff professional learning days. The next day is on **Friday 19th June**. Please note this date in your diaries. This day is set aside for teachers to build their technology capacity by learning about various applications which can be used in the classroom to assist student learning and engagement.

COLLEGE ASSEMBLIES: During this Term we have three College assemblies programmed. Each assembly will be recorded and/or live streamed and shared into individual Homeroom classes. This supports our social distancing as guided by NSW Health at this time. Unfortunately, parents and friends are not able to be present at assemblies at the moment, however they will be recorded and shared with our families via ClassDojo. The themes for our next assembly is *Sustainability*.

A REMINDER ABOUT STUDENT ILLNESS: As we move now into winter, a reminder that if your child is not feeling well, has a fever, vomiting or diarrhea, bad pain or coughing that will not stop, they need to remain at home to rest and 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.

Jason Scanlon
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



Term 2 Mufti Day
The colours of
India



Mission and Identity

Last Friday, 5th June, we celebrated World Environment Day. The United Nations created this day in 1972 to make us more aware of our responsibility to respect and preserve our environment.

At St Edmund's we are always looking to educate our students about their responsibilities to care for this beautiful planet Earth that God created for us all. In our studies of the creation story, we hear about all that God provided for all of us to enjoy but he clearly asked us to care for all he had made.

Pope John Paul II said in a message to the church in 1991 that our environment is in crisis. In 2015 Pope Francis gave us his encyclical, titled "*Laudato Si'*" ('Praise be to you') - On the Care for Our Common Home. It is an inspirational letter that calls for us to examine our hearts, transform our social values and take action for global solidarity.

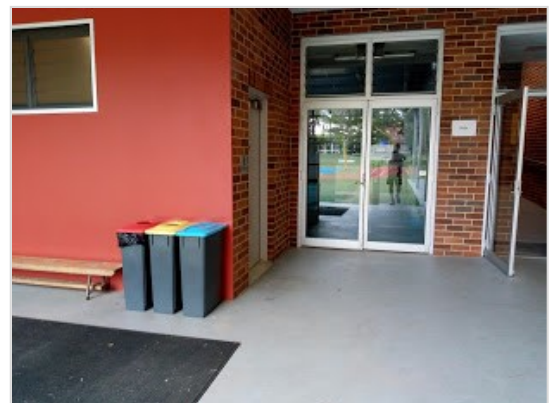
The encyclical captures the interconnectedness of social, economic and environmental justice in building and protecting Our Common Home. It highlights the 'intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet'. Protecting the planet requires an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded and at the same time, protecting nature. Pope Francis calls for nothing less than a revolution of our hearts and minds, for a transformation of our societies and individual lifestyles, to live in harmony with God's creation.

Here at St Edmund's we will have a special Sustainability Assembly today to highlight these themes and continue to raise awareness of the role we play in keeping our environment and community sustainable. We have recently improved our bin system around the College allowing for more separation of items when disposing of our waste. These will be at the forefront of our Assembly today along with our Eco-Warriors, students in each class group who take on responsibility for ensuring that all classrooms have electrical items turned off and rooms are all kept tidy every day.

Below is the prayer we will pray together at our Assembly.

*Blessed are you, Lord our God,
Creator of the universe.
You fill the world with your glory,
And give it to us as a home.
Teach us to recognise its wonders,
To treasure its variety,
And to protect its fragile beauty.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen*

God Bless
Terry O'Keefe
Head of Mission & Identity





Community News

From the Parent Group

Recently we have talked about how things have been different this year. Our major fundraiser for our College would have been held tomorrow night. Eddie's Big Night Out is always such an anticipated event in our College calendar; the students enjoy the preparations, our Eddie's Mates gather to support our College and our parents enjoy catching up with each other and are always blown away with the generous support our children receive from our community.

It is disappointing that this event cannot take place, however it is a chance for reflection. To remember that there is a whole community of supporters who generously give to our College, to enable our children to have opportunities and experiences that wouldn't be possible without their continued support. It is also a time to remember those who help us in a time when businesses are faced with a different climate. Wish them well, remember them in our thoughts and prayers and look forward to being able to share another Eddie's Big Night Out with them next year.

I have always been amazed at such events, how a room full of people, many who have no direct links to the College, give so generously to students who have needs. When all people face difficulties, it is encouraging to know that our children are supported in the wider community and that awareness is being made and opportunities are being created for them.

Another example of community support for children like our own is the recent story of the young teenager Will, who went missing this week while bushwalking with his parents in Victoria's Mt Disappointment. The community banded together, and tirelessly searched for Will who was thankfully found safe. This story brought awareness to the vulnerability our children face on a daily basis and the pressure of responsibility parents are faced with constantly. However it also showcased the extraordinary resilience, determination and courage that Will had to survive two nights alone in subzero temperatures. A reminder to parents and to all to not underestimate the abilities of our children.

Enjoy the weekend ahead, especially with more COVID restrictions being lifted.

Janine Eastham – Tom's mum
Parent Group Leader



Lost Property



Around the College - Important Dates

Term 2

Fri 19th Jun

Fri 26th Jun

Fri 26th Jun

Wed 1st Jul

Staff Day (pupil free day) confirmed

Leadership Award Assembly **streamed to Homerooms and to parents**

Last day of Term 2

Men's Group Meeting at St Edmund's (first week of holidays)

Term 3

Mon 20th Jul

Fri 7th Aug

Tue 11th Aug

Wed 19th Aug

Wed 26th Aug

Fri 4th Sep

Tue 8th Sep

Tue 1st Sep

Sun 13th Sep

Wed 23rd -

Fri 25th Sep

Fri 25th Sep

Students & Staff return to Term 3

Term 3 College Disco **cancelled**

College photos **confirmed**

St Edmund's Golf Day

Term 3 Men's Group Meeting (St Edmund's)

Father's Day Breakfast

Term 3 Parent Group Meeting

St Edmund's Athletics Carnival

Family Fun Day (St Edmund's field)

Senior Retreat

Last day of Term 3

Term 4

Mon 12th Oct

Tue 20th Oct

Fri 23rd Oct

Tue 3rd Nov

Tue 3rd Nov

Tue 10th Nov

Tue 17th Nov

Fri 20th Nov

Fri 27th Nov

Tue 1st Dec

Fri 4th Dec

Wed 9th Dec

Students return to Term 4

St Edmund's Swimming Carnival

Term 4 College Disco

Wed 28th Oct - Fri 30th Nov Years 9 & 10 Camp

Term 4 Mufti Day

Term 4 Parent Group Meeting

Orientation Day

Term 4 Men's Group Meeting (St Lucy's)

Abbotsleigh Concert

Year 12 Graduation Formal

Presentation Ceremony

Year 7 Immunisation - **new date**

Year 12 Farewell Mass & BBQ lunch and Last day of Term 4

Men's Group Meeting and Dinner

The Men's Group is a quarterly 'get together' with other dads from St Gabriel's School, St Lucy's School and St Edmund's College.

We have lots of laughs, share stories and discuss relevant topics around the pressures that our families encounter from day to day including the very real pressures of recent times. Come along and bring another dad from your child's class!

The next Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 1st July at St Edmund's College. A light meal will be served at 6.30 p.m. followed by the meeting from 7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.**

Please note that this is the first week of the school holidays. In the event of not being able to meet in person, a zoom meeting will be run instead.

Please RSVP to Cathy Laing on laing@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au



Around the College

Awards

Students of the Week:

7S Amie and Parmida
8C Christian and Chloe
9F Athena and Victoria
10J Samuel and Bianca
11G Mitch and Jesse
12M Kingsley and Anthony

7T Lauren and Will
8L Zane and Harry
9H Lachie K and David
10V Indira and Lachie
11T Jayden and Kori
12O Jack and Aaron

Eddie's Best:

7S Nathan
8C Sonnet
9F Mark
10J Brendan
11G Emilia
12M Lucy

7T Ella
8L Sean
9H Olivia
10V Niki
11T Shontelle
12O Dan



Great to see some familiar faces!



11 June 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I send you the warmest of greetings from Edmund Rice Education Australia.

At the beginning of the pandemic, I wrote to thank you for choosing your Edmund Rice school and expressed our commitment to standing with our families during these worrying times and potential financial stress. Reports from our schools have spoken of the wonderful ways in which this commitment has been enacted through sincerity, goodwill and cooperative relationships. Please know that this commitment to you will remain constant.

Now, at the end of the first week in a long time when all of our students across Australia have been in regular classes, I write to thank and congratulate you on the magnificent contribution that you have made to the education of your sons and daughters during the many weeks of school closures.

I know that for most it has not been an easy time. Juggling the needs of your children's education with your own work pressures, coupled with concerns for the wellbeing of your families, has been incredibly stressful and required great courage and resilience. Your efforts during this difficult period, and the incredible efforts of your children, are to be celebrated and should be the source of much pride.

On your behalf, I have thanked and congratulated the leaders and staff of our schools on their amazing commitment and resourcefulness. With little notice and minimal preparation time, they, with your support, have contributed to unprecedented adaptation and innovation in the process of education. I have no doubt that reflection on what has been achieved in recent weeks will result in a transformation of education practice for generations to come. It has been the most extraordinary partnership between home and school that we have probably ever seen. Be very proud of your part in this.

I hope that as things return to something that resembles normal, we can be more grateful for the gift of education. We have done the best that we could, but know that as good as this has been, something has been missing. Screens and technology can never replace the human relationships which are so important for the education process. This is clearly evidenced in the sheer joy experienced by most of our students as they return to classrooms and reunite with their friends and teachers. We now realise more than ever the privilege of schooling, where shared humanity makes all the difference in the formation of the young.

Finally, I ask that you spare a thought and prayers for our Edmund Rice schools in other parts of the world who are nowhere near returning to normal classes. Your school is part of a worldwide network of 300 schools in 24 countries who offer Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition. Many of these schools, especially those in the poorest areas of our world, have had little or no technology to assist learning during school closures and are in countries where very strict lockdowns and curfews continue to be in place. Our Australian schools have been leading a global taskforce which has shared expertise and expressed solidarity with our brothers and sisters who are really struggling for direction and hope. You would be very proud of the support that our schools are offering our global community in their time of need.

I conclude where I began: to our families and our staff, thank you, well done and congratulations!

With much admiration and best wishes.

Wayne Tinsey

On behalf of Edmund Rice Education Australia

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