



St Edmund's College

EXCELLENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Inspiring Independence, Transforming Lives

Newsletter

Celebrating **70** *Years*
1951-2021

Term 3, Week 1,
16th July 2021



Principal's Message

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

TERM 3

The usual energy and enthusiasm which usually fill our corridors and yard was eerily absent at St Edmund's as we commenced Term 3 and, when I walked the campus this week, I felt a tremendous feeling of quiet and absence that we associate with grief and loss. It is our community, being together that gives our school life. This loss and a disconnection from the routines, busy life and people, coupled with feelings of fear for the elderly and vulnerable, have become the loud noises we hear. We pray for a return to our normal routines and to a school that it is full of life and excitement. I suspect that this will take some time but our gradual and managed return to our normal school routines established last year will help us to move in that direction when restrictions are lifted. We will continue to try and build community through our online platforms and this will also include some of our usual events such as assemblies, liturgies and parent meetings. Please refer to my latest update for further information that was distributed yesterday. Once again, I thank you for your support and understanding during this difficult time.

STAFFING UPDATE

This term we welcome **Kylie Field** who replaces Eva Southern. Kylie was a Behaviour Support Practitioner for ORS, supporting adults with a disability accessing services and providing training for people working with participants. Prior to this appointment, Kylie was a Special Needs Teacher at St Lucy's School having worked both in the high school and primary school from 2012 – 2020. Her other classroom experience includes Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Mount Druitt and Linden Grove Primary School, Stanhope, England. Kylie will be teaching in Years 7-12 across the English, Mathematics, Food Technology and Pastoral Care Key Learning Areas.



We also welcome **Jodie Gross** replacing Tina Portelli who retired at the end of last term. Jodie is well known to St Edmund's having been a casual teacher last term and having delivered the Cricket NSW program at St Edmund's and various other schools across Greater Sydney in recent times. Jodie has held teaching positions at Quakers Hill High School and Asquith Girls High School as well as holding qualifications as a swim instructor. Jodie will be teaching Year 8 and 10 History and Year 12 CAFS.

On behalf of the College, I welcome Kylie and Jodie to St Edmund's College and congratulate them on their appointments.

After 25 years of dedicated and outstanding service to both St Edmund's College and St Gabriel's School, **Marilyn Noonan** has informed me of her intention to retire at the end of this year. A recruitment process is now underway and we hope to interview and appoint Marilyn's replacement later this term. The recruitment process will be undertaken by our Governing Authority – Edmund Rice Education Australia. We will have an opportunity to thank and farewell Marilyn for her outstanding service to both school communities later in the year.

I also attach correspondence from Edmund Rice Education Australia regarding my replacement and the community consultation process that will be undertaken prior to the appointment process. I would encourage you to complete the survey when this is distributed next week.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Jon Franzin
PRINCIPAL



Deputy Principal's Message ...

Welcome back to Term 3 whether you are on site at the College or learning from home this week. I hope you all enjoyed a restful break over the past few weeks.

Class Dojo

As you are probably are aware, we have been pushing out information and resources to families via the Class Dojo app. Thank you for your patience with the volume of information that has been coming and we hope that it has been helpful in navigating the current situation. Please keep your eye on this platform as well as your email for further communication from the College.

Attendance

As per the letter sent by Jon Franzin this week, we have requested that families indicate their intention for the next 2 weeks regarding their child's attendance at school. This is to enable us to adequately staff the College and to organise the format onsite as well as online.

All parents are asked to complete the google form regarding attendance which can be found at the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdi18pWI3iaB2C3H5V8N95KSy-uC1JaMT0htWrsQvh8rfZgWw/viewform?usp=sf_link

We ask families to complete this by the end of the school day today (Friday) so that we can organise the upcoming weeks. Please note that if after submitting, you need to change the days (either increase or decrease), **you will need to email me directly to let me know**. I can be contacted at kirwan@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au

Wellbeing/Support

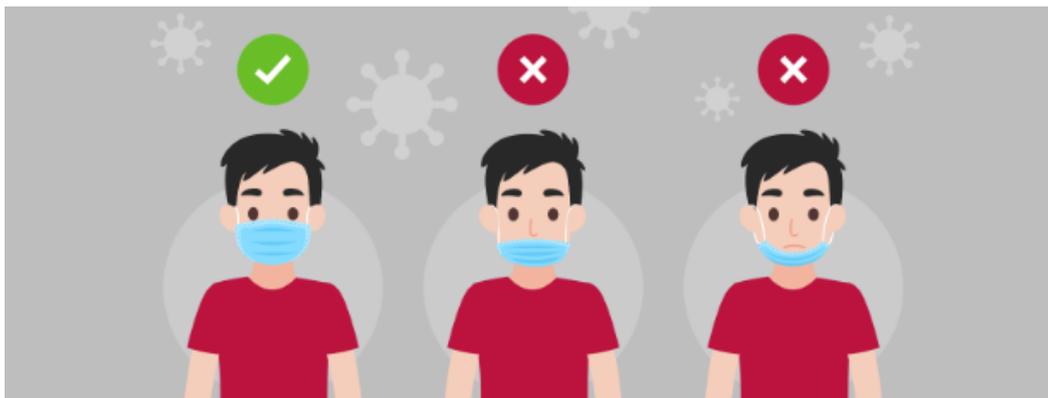
Homeroom teachers will be calling each family once per week during this time to check in on how things are going and whether there is anything further the College can do to support you. During these calls, please ask any questions or share any concerns with your child's Homeroom teacher who will be happy to direct your enquiry to the relevant person.

Please also remember that there is IT support available by emailing the IT department at eddies.helpdesk@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au. Karen Houlcroft is also available for any families who need further wellbeing support and can be contacted via the College office or by email houlcroft@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au.

Uniform

Currently we are allowing some flexibility around the uniform that students who are attending onsite may wear. Technically this term is the College winter uniform, however it is also acceptable currently for students to wear their sports uniform as teachers are trying to encourage movement and some physical activity each day. We ask parents to ensure students are presentable and neat regardless of whichever uniform you decide to send students in.

Rebecca Kirwan
Deputy Principal





Mission and Identity

Reflections...

As we begin a new term we are again faced with the situation of lockdown and all that is accompanied by it. While everything comes to a halt, we ought to allow time for ourselves and our families to keep the 'big picture', the hope, that light at the end of the tunnel at the centre. This way we move through our current situation with resilience and build around us a vision for a new tomorrow. We are all in this together and, together, we find the strength for patience, for creativity and relationships. Below are some reflections for us to consider during our time at home.

'Praying thoughtfully during the pandemic' by Fr. Kevin O'Gorman

During this COVID-19 pandemic, when priests and people could not physically come together to remember, sacramentally and socially, the Lord's Supper in the Eucharist, the prayer after the *Our Father* in the Communion Rite offers a fruitful space for spiritual reflection and nourishment. It both asks and anticipates the help of God in this harrowing time of illness, isolation and uncertainty about what the future holds.

The first, ***'Deliver us, Lord, we pray from every evil'***, picks up on and prolongs the last petition of the *Our Father*. The poignancy of adding 'every' puts into focus the presence of evil in the many forms that people experience it, especially in the course of the pandemic which brings woe and worry in ways that were previously imaginable only in fiction and film. The opening 'Deliver' recognises that God is the ultimate source of our salvation (from the Latin *salus*, well-being and safety). It is also a reminder that, as Pope Francis declares, 'Jesus taught us to ask daily for deliverance from "the evil one"'. (*Rejoice and Be Glad*, 160).

The second ***'graciously grant peace in our days'*** gathers together the two great signs of God's presence and power in the Holy Spirit. From the Latin for gift, grace is the ground of God's life in us that is the basis of growth in goodness and holiness. The Christian understanding – and undertaking – of peace is positive, promoting the fullness of life. Again, *'in our days'*, adds an urgency to the petition to protect us from peril and preserve us in peace through the course of the pandemic

The third, ***'that, by the help of your mercy'***, takes us to the heart of the Gospel. Commenting on the parable of the prodigal son, Pope emeritus Benedict XVI states that 'above all, this Gospel text has the power of speaking to us of God, of enabling us to know His face and better still, His heart'. This revelation of God is realised in the mission of mercy that is manifested in the compassion that Jesus continually shows in the course of his ministry and completes with his suffering on the cross.

The helping heart of God leads to the fourth, that ***'we may be always free from sin'***. A time of lockdown does not put love on the long finger but leads us to seek newer and deeper ways of imagining and incarnating love of God and neighbour. Desiring to be 'always free from sin' demands an awareness that the assistance of the Holy Spirit is a continual ask. It is in God's faithfulness and forgiveness that we finally find freedom as the children of a merciful Father.

The second wing of God's helping mercy is to keep us ***'safe from all distress'***. This prayer for divine protection calls to mind the confidence of the Psalmist, that 'God is for us a refuge and strength, a helper close in time of distress' (45:1). In this time of distress, with daily statistics of disease and death, we ask for the strength of the Holy Spirit to sustain us, to support all who serve the sick and serve society in so many ways, to drive away despair and fear from the future.

The sixth article shifts from asking to announcing, ***'as we await the blessed hope'***. Building upon the human need to hold families and friends together in the long and lonely hours of social distancing and separation, faith unfolds the horizon of hope for the church, cut off from its sacramental celebrations in the present. As we anticipate the 'blessed hope' of holiness in heaven we trust that, in the words of Dame Julian of Norwich who lived through the Black Death, 'all shall be well and all manner of thing[s] shall be well'.

Continued

Mission and Identity continued ...

The seventh culminates with the assurance of faith in '*the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ*'. The prophet Hosea's confidence that the Lord 'will come as certain as the dawn' (6:3) is surpassed by the joyful conviction that even (and eventually) when the dawn expires on earth, Jesus the Lord will come in glory to gather the harvest of God's Kingdom.

"Lockdown" Yes there is fear. Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying. Yes there is sickness. Yes there is even death but, today churches, synagogues, mosques and temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting;
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way;
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
to how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that yes, there is fear
but there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation

but there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying but there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness but there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes there is even death but there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe. Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic;

The birds are singing again;

The sky is clearing, Spring is coming
and we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

and though you may not be able to touch across the empty street ... Sing.

Jason Scanlon

Assistant Principal, Religious Identity & Mission





Thank you * Auction Items * Raffle

We would like to sincerely thank Eddie's Mates, our sponsors and supporters and our parent and business community for their tireless contribution towards **Eddie's Big Night Out**.

To think we nearly made it to Saturday 17th July ...

A special thank you to our generous sponsors who continue to support the College.



Our Silent and Live Auctions are going ahead virtually - please see the next page of this Newsletter to see how you can bid!

Our online auction is still open, here's how to register and make a bid if you haven't already. It's easy!

How to Register

Using your Smart phone, text eddies and your **full name** to 0458 678 678

You will receive a confirmation text and link to GalaBid

How to Bid

View items
Enter a bid amount

Bidding will close **Saturday 17th July at 9pm**
You will receive a text if you are the final bidder
Payments can be made securely online
Arrangements will be made for delivery to you



We have a wonderful array of items – experiences, books, student artwork, things for around the house, getaways and treats for one another or ourselves ... just to name a few ... **OR**

You may choose to contribute to the College with a tax deductible donation which will be put towards fee relief for a family or families doing it tough!

All proceeds from this year's online silent and live auctions go straight towards our students; specifically the fit out of our new classrooms and buildings.

We're getting St Edmund's Future Fit!

Don't forget our Prize Raffle!

We have extended the draw date for our Prize Raffle to **Friday 30th July**.
<https://vimeo.com/574302574>

There are many books still available - if you would like additional books, please email events@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au.

\$1,000 Visa card is up for grabs - but you have to be in to win it!

Thank you all for your support!





From the Parent Group

Welcome back to Term 3 everyone!

What a difference a few weeks can make. Last Newsletter we were looking forward to the school holidays and Eddie's Big Night Out and now we are in lockdown at home, after holidays, facing weeks of home schooling and no Eddie's Big Night Out.

Firstly, I hope you are all okay. Facing the next few weeks will be a challenge, with school work, bored children, other siblings and their needs, juggling work and trying to stay calm and positive.

We are not alone; if you are feeling tired, burnt out or overwhelmed please reach out. Perhaps now is a good time to contact those on your class contact list and have a chat, contact school if you are needing help with set work or if you need support.

Thank you to our wonderful Eddie's staff who are constantly providing support to us and our children. I am sure they too are feeling overwhelmed with changes, sad that they can't see their students and also dealing with technology when it isn't really their gig. Let them know they are appreciated when we speak to them and be patient as they too are dealing with the same struggles and concerns in their own lives.

Eddie's Big Night Out sadly has been cancelled for the second year in a row. This year though we were so close! Thank you to the many people who worked to make this event so special; already so many hours and hard work had been done to ensure a wonderful evening. Please show your continued support by logging on to the online platform for the silent and live auction items - this closes on Saturday night, 17th July at 9.00 p.m. There are many beautiful prizes - all donated by businesses and our community.

As parents, I am sure that you will join me in congratulating Jon Franzin on his next post in his career, and while we are saddened that he is leaving us at the end of the year we are so very appreciative for the 6 years he has spent with us. In that time so many projects and opportunities for growth for learning and independence have been implemented. We will get the opportunity to thank Jon later in the year, but I wanted to acknowledge that people may be anxious about the process of choosing a new Principal. Please look out for the link for the survey, which will provide you with an opportunity to contribute your thoughts and also trust the process. We have been fortunate to have had in the past 16 years, two wonderful principals; this should provide enormous faith in the selection process.

Finally we have our College Community Business Directory that we are trying to establish. Now is the perfect time to put your business details forward if you haven't already done so. Lockdown makes it very hard for small business or any business so being able to support those who support us is critical for their survival. If you have your own trade business, small business or service please send your details to Candice Palin on palin@erses.nsw.edu.au. We would love to support you!

I am with you always
Mathew 28:20



Take care,
Janine Eastham
Tom's Mum
Parent Group Leader

Around the College - Important Dates



Term 3

Sat 17th Jul	Eddie's Big Night Out cancelled
Tue 3rd Aug	Subject Selection Evening to be advised
Fri 6th Aug	Disco (fomer students only) to be advised
Tue 10th Aug	Term 3 Men's Group Meeting at St Lucy's School to be advised
Tue 17th Aug	Term 3 Mufti Day
Fri 13th Aug	Staff Day (pupil free day)
Tue 31st Aug	Athletics Carnival (to be held at PLC Pymble)
Fri 3rd Sep	Father's Day Breakfast
Tue 7th Sep	Term 3 Parent Group Meeting
Thu 9th Sep	St Edmund's Golf Day
Fri 10th Sep	Eddie's Got Talent
Wed 15th - Fri 17th Sep	Senior Retreat
Fri 17th Sep	Last day of Term 3

Term 4

Mon 4th Oct	Public Holiday
Tue 5th Oct	First day of Term 4 for students and staff
Tue 12th Oct	Swimming Carnival (to be held at PLC Pymble)
Fri 22nd Oct	Term 4 College Disco (current students only)
Thu 28th Oct	Term 4 Men's Group Meeting (external venue)
Tue 2nd Nov	Term 4 Mufti Day
Wed 10th Nov - Fri 12th Nov	Years 9 & 10 Camp
Tue 23rd Nov	Term 4 Parent Group Meeting
Tue 10th Nov	Orientation Day
Fri 19th Nov	Abbotsleigh Concert
Fri 26th Nov	Year 12 Graduation Formal
Tue 30th Nov	Presentation Ceremony
Fri 3rd Dec	Year 12 Farewell Mass
Fri 3rd Dec	Last day of Term 4

Absentees

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

- ⇒ Please phone Ms Acret in the College office or email: 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 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 Ms Acret. This is also a legal requirement for the class roll.



13 July, 2021.

Dear Parents and Staff,

A NEW PRINCIPAL

With the announcement of the appointment of Mr Jon Franzin to the position of Principal of St Virgil's College in Hobart, Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) will shortly commence the very important process of appointing a new Principal for St Edmund's College.

In the recruitment of a new Principal, EREA seeks to appoint a leader of the highest calibre to bring to life the vision and mission of EREA and to serve the St Edmund's College community with distinction in the coming years.

The purpose of my letter today is to invite you to participate in the recruitment process by taking part in an online survey which will enable you to share your vision for the future of the College with the recruitment panel. Your responses to the survey will remain confidential and will greatly assist EREA in finding the best possible candidate to lead the College community from the start of the 2022 school year.

Shortly you will receive an email with a confidential link to a survey instrument. I would be grateful if you could click on the link and complete the survey by **August 6, 2021**.

If you encounter any difficulties with the survey instrument or would like more information, please contact Regina Lee at the EREA National Office at regina.lee@erea.edu.au

With my best wishes,

Peter Leuenberger
Director – Eastern Region