



# St Edmund's College

EXCELLENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION



*Inspiring Independence, Transforming Lives*

## Newsletter

Term 4, Week 3,  
22nd October 2021



### Principal's Message

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

#### Return of Year 12

The school yard was a buzz of excitement with the return of our Year 12 students on Monday. The Year 12s were pleased to be back in the company of staff and friends and they quickly returned to our regular routines which was pleasing. They should be very proud of their efforts over the period of lockdown and for the positive way in which they have returned this week.

#### Return of Years 7-11 on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October

We look forward to the return of the rest of the College next Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> October. Staff have been busily preparing for their return and we look forward to supporting our students to return to the classroom where we will continue to help their growth both academically, socially and spiritually. Once again, I congratulate all students for the positive approach they have maintained during this period of lockdown and the enthusiasm they bring to all situations that have been presented to them.

#### Staffing Update

I take this opportunity to congratulate **Michael Farrell** who has been appointed as my replacement for next year. We will have an opportunity to formally welcome Michael to the St Edmund's College community in the coming weeks and to introduce him to the staff and students. Michael is very much looking forward to visiting both school communities and to commence handover in readiness for next year. Please see attached letter regarding Michael's announcement from the EREA Executive Director – Dr Craig Wattam.

This week we welcomed **Jody Bovell**, who commenced in the role of ERES Business Manager. Mrs. Bovell will work closely with Mrs. Marilyn Noonan until the end of the year ensuring that a thorough handover is undertaken prior to Mrs. Noonan's retirement at the end of the year.

#### Year 12 Graduation Formal

The guidelines from NSW Health and the Public Health Order in place for NSW have meant that the date we previously had booked for our Year 12 Graduation Formal (26<sup>th</sup> November) has to be rescheduled. The guidelines state that all school graduations must take place after 1<sup>st</sup> December.

As you can imagine, finding another date and venue at this late stage has been challenging. Thankfully, we have managed to secure a booking for **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December** at the Hornsby RSL Club. Even though this is a date occurring after our final day of school for the year we are delighted that our Class of 2021 can complete their years of schooling at St Edmund's with the rite of passage that they so richly deserve with their families and staff able to attend. I'm sure you will agree with me that after the year we have experienced, having our Graduation Formal able to proceed, is a wonderful finish to our school year. Further information will be circulated about this important event in the coming weeks.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Jon Franzin  
**PRINCIPAL**



## Deputy Principal's Message

We are very much looking forward to all of our students returning to the College next week (Week 4).

I have also distributed a social story/forewarning which may be useful for supporting your child's return via Class Dojo and by email.

A few reminders below to ensure a smooth return:

- Students should return to school in their summer uniform or sports uniform on P.E./sports days.
- Homeroom teachers will provide timetables to advise which days sport/P.E. is scheduled for.
- If your child is on transport, please remember to notify your driver for pick up.
- Parent pick up remains the same – please wait on the grassed area inside the front gate.
- Please return all iPads fully charged (as your child will require these on the first day they are back) as well as chargers and cables. The iPad chargers are very expensive to replace and we would appreciate the return of these items.

Keeping sun safe is also very important and students must bring their hats/caps each day please.

### A Reminder about Student illness:

As NSW Health provides our mandated process around COVID-19, a reminder that if your child is not feeling well, has a mild fever, running nose, vomiting or diarrhea, bad pain or coughing, they need to remain at home to rest and/or see your doctor. NSW Health now requires your child to have a COVID test prior to returning to school. Please ensure the negative result of your child's test accompanies your child's return to school for our records.

Here at the College we are continuing our hygienic practices, especially hand sanitising for staff and students. Please also encourage this practice at home to promote health and reduce illnesses within our community.

Rebecca Kirwan  
Deputy Principal

## Important Dates

Please check below for changes to our previously advertised dates:

### Term 4

Fri 22nd Oct	Term 4 College Disco (current students only) <b>cancelled</b>
Tue 2nd Nov	Term 4 Mufti Day <b>see this Newsletter for details</b>
Wed 10th Nov - Fri 12th Nov	Years 9 & 10 Camp <b>cancelled</b>
Tue 23rd Nov	Term 4 Parent Group Meeting <b>online</b>
Tue 9th Nov	Orientation Day
Fri 19th Nov	Abbotsleigh Concert <b>cancelled</b>
Tue 30th Nov	Presentation Ceremony <b>on site</b>
Thu 2nd Dec	Men's Group dinner and meeting <b>see this Newsletter for details</b>
Fri 3rd Dec	Year 12 Farewell Mass
Fri 3rd Dec	Last day of Term 4
Wed 8th Dec	Year 12 Graduation Formal <b>please note revised date</b>





## Mission and Identity

### Deacon Sam

This week we congratulate Deacon Sam French from Holy Name Parish who was ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Anthony.

In a year of many challenges, Broken Bay Bishop Anthony Randazzo said it is a “sign of great encouragement to us and we thank God for the way in which the Spirit moves in our community bringing forth generous men to serve and lead our people”.



The ordination took place at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral in Waitara; Bishop Randazzo received the three ordinands, Rogelio (Roger) Delmonte, Aldrin Valdehueza and Samuel French. We continue to pray and give thanks for Fr Sam and his continued ministry amongst us. Our Year 7 students created some colourful posters to decorate the Church in congratulating Fr Sam.

### The Dish

Next Tuesday we have our final service with The Dish for 2021. It has been a difficult time this year for us all, so we can imagine the challenges of those living on the streets. The local outreach to those on the margins, homeless and in need, continues to reach many in the Hornsby area. We thank our families and staff for the wonderful contribution of food and blankets that feed so many and bring hope in this complex time of isolation during COVID. Together with many schools in our local area, the work of The Dish is a wonderful reminder and opportunity for us all to give of our time and work together to change the lives of others.

### Caring for our Environment

As we look forward to our return of all students back to College next week, let us keep in mind what we place in the lunch box. Sustainability and care for our environment is an important awareness and responsibility that we all share. We try to instil in our students a care for our Earth by highlighting things we can do such as recycling and reducing waste. As we return back to school it may be a wonderful opportunity to make a choice to use reusable containers (clearly labelled with student's names), water containers, paper bags and less plastic wrapping etc. Together we can all make a difference and have an impact.

Jason Scanlon  
**Assistant Principal, Religious Identity & Mission**



Our final Men's Group get-together for the year for a few drinks and dinner with other dads from St Edmund's College and St Lucy's School will have the theme "The Everything Celebration". We have a great deal to celebrate and so much to talk about - so many stories. Let's celebrate Christmas, end of year and freedom! One of the great benefits of these evenings is the advice that we share on topics such as NDIS, relationships, medical issues etc - an endless list! Please see the details below and we look forward to seeing as many dads as possible on the night.

Date: Thursday 2nd December  
Venue: West Pymble Bowling Club, 163 Ryde Road, West Pymble  
Time: 6.30 p.m.  
RSVP: Warren Hopley: [hopleywarren@hotmail.com](mailto:hopleywarren@hotmail.com)  
Brendan Wingrave: [brendan.wingrave@gmail.com](mailto:brendan.wingrave@gmail.com)  
Jono Carey: [Jonathonc@stlucys.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Jonathonc@stlucys.nsw.edu.au)



## Administration

Collectively, I'm sure that parents and teachers alike are breathing a big sigh of relief knowing that next week we are back to the routine the timetable provides. As would be expected, some students may be feeling a little anxious about coming back to school after a long absence, so please make use of the brilliant social story made by our Allied Health team and distributed by Rebecca via email recently.

Timetables for Term 4 should have been emailed/sent home with your child and you can request a visual copy via email from your Homeroom teacher, should you require this. The timetable, together with regular posts starting up again on Class Dojo from your child's Homeroom and subject teachers, should help foster conversations at home about the day and prepare for the next, enabling you to feel included in your child's learning experience.

These timetables will also indicate which days sports uniforms are required; otherwise the students are to wear their summer uniforms. Swimming will commence the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> November.

So, it's full steam ahead for the remainder of the term for the building works and curriculum. We will be welcoming new faces to our College community and preparing our Year 12s for the exciting times that await them. Welcome back Year 12!

Tiffany Hosken  
Head of Administration



## Awards

### Eddie's Best:

**7F** Isaac  
**8T** Jameson  
**9C** Summer  
**10M** Ben W  
**11J** Ella  
**12G** Ryan

**7V** Brendan  
**8P** Alessio  
**9E** Luke  
**10O** Johann  
**11S** Samuel  
**12L** Lachlan







## From the Parent Group

Hi everyone,

Thank you to everyone who has provided a recipe for our Eddie's Recipe Book. We have received a good range of recipes from our time in lockdown and this will be a lovely memento or stocking filler for Christmas. It will be available in the coming weeks.

Friday **29th October is World Teachers' Day**. We would normally celebrate our wonderful teachers and staff by holding a morning tea organised by parents. This year due to COVID restrictions we are unable to host or send in food ourselves. A morning tea is still being held for staff by the College.

How can we, the parents, carers and students, help make this day special though? You have been sent a template of an apple to be completed by your child which is attached to this Newsletter.. It can be a drawing or some words to show your teacher that you appreciate them. Once completed, please send it to school by Thursday 28th October to Candice on [palin@erses.nsw.edu.au](mailto:palin@erses.nsw.edu.au) so that we can create a wall in the staff room. When staff have their morning tea they will be able to view their appreciation wall. A real testament to them for what has been a difficult year for all.

Our Term 4 Parent group meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd November; please mark this on the calendar.

Finally as we try to face a normal week next week I wish students, families and staff a happy and safe return.



"optimism is the faith that leads to achievement" - Helen Keller

Janine Eastham  
Tom's Mum  
Parent Group Leader

## Term 4 Mufti Day - Tuesday 2nd November

At this week's College Leaders' Meeting, the students decided that the final Mufti Day for the year will raise funds to go to the Edmund Rice Foundation in support of their **Best Foot Forward** program, aimed at providing education for women and girls all over the world.

All women and girls deserve equal access to education. Women and girls living in impoverished circumstances lack basic human rights and fundamental opportunities.

This EREA-endorsed initiative is designed to encourage students to walk beside women and girls to be advocates for change.

For the fun of wearing **mufti clothes** please bring along a **gold coin** to go to this very worthy cause our students have chosen.





13 October 2021

Dear Parents and Staff

I am pleased to announce that Mr Michael Farrell has been appointed to the position of Principal of Edmund Rice Special Education Services, effective from the commencement of the 2022 school year.

Michael is an experienced leader in Catholic education and has significant experience in K-12 and co-educational settings. He is currently the Deputy Principal – Head of Secondary at The McDonald College, North Strathfield. Prior to this Michael worked at Abbotsleigh School, Wahroonga as Head of Teacher Accreditation, Director of Service Learning and Head of Adaptive Learning. He is also well known to Edmund Rice Education having attended St Patrick's College, Strathfield and teaching at St Pius X College, Chatswood during the early years of his career.

As the Director of Service Learning at Abbotsleigh, Michael worked in collaboration with St Edmund's and St Lucy's School to devise activities to build competence, confidence and empathy in children with special needs. His experience has also been shaped through collaborations with Studio Artes in Hornsby, Anson Street Special School in Orange and Kintore Street school in Katherine, NT. For eight years, Michael was also the leader of the Sony Foundation Residential Camp for children with disabilities and children from all over NSW (including children from St Edmund's) attended those camps.

Michael complements his leadership experience with a sound academic record with a Master of Leadership and Management in Education from the University of New England and a Bachelor of Education and Diploma of Education from Australian Catholic University. He is also the recipient of the NSW Premier's Award for Quality Teaching. Michael has a long connection with St Bernard's Parish in Berowra Heights and comes highly recommended for this important leadership position.

Michael writes about his appointment:

*"I am thrilled and honoured to be appointed as the Principal of Edmund Rice Special Education Services. I am humbled by the opportunity to lead St Edmund's College and St Gabriel's School. Both schools are recognised as leaders in Special Education with a commitment to transforming the lives of students. At their heart is an emphasis on relationships and wellbeing that embraces the Touchstones of an Edmund Rice influenced education – priorities that align with my professional and personal beliefs. This appointment is a welcome return to the Edmund Rice Education community, and I look forward to building on my experience leading to improved outcomes for children with special needs. I am committed to working in partnership to collaboratively create the best opportunities for our students. I'm looking forward to becoming immersed in the culture, traditions and life of St Edmund's and St Gabriel's".*

On behalf of all members of the Edmund Rice Education Australia community, I warmly congratulate Michael on this significant appointment. We look forward to welcoming Michael, his wife, Jenny and their three children into the St Gabriel's and St Edmund's school communities early in 2022.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Craig Wattam**  
Executive Director  
Edmund Rice Education Australia

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# Happy World Teachers' Day



*Thank You*



St Edmund's  
COLLEGE





# **KEEP SAFE IN CYBERSPACE**



## **Webinars for parents and carers**

These live webinars explore the latest research and they are a great way to learn how you can help your child develop the skills to be safer online.

## **eSafety's parent guide to digital technologies and mental health**

This Term 4 webinar will provide parents and carers with strategies to help young people and their mental health when they are online.

## **eSafety's parent guide to online gaming**

This Term 4 webinar will provide parents and carers with an understanding of the benefits and risks of online gaming.

**<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars>**



**HELP KEEP EVERYONE SAFE ONLINE**