



Principal's Message ...



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

We are underway and it's a great relief to finally have everyone safely return to the College! I want to thank the staff for their dedicated preparation, expertise and professionalism to have us starting the school year confidently. I have been impressed with their teamwork and collegiality that has helped see critical tasks completed under difficult circumstances. Thank you parents, for your patience as we navigate the requirements of COVID-19 restrictions and the impact of continuing construction work.

A warm welcome to all students and their families, especially those who are new. The College has come to life with the arrival of students and I would like to thank all the students and staff for their warm welcome of me.

I shared a couple of Brene Brown quotes with the staff, so you receive one also:

"Trust is earned in the smallest of moments. It is earned not through heroic deeds, or even highly visible actions, but through paying attention, listening, and gestures of genuine care and connection."

You place a great deal of trust in us to care for your children and to develop their capabilities. In the few days I have been here I can confidently say that your trust is well placed. I have witnessed the attention, listening and gestures of genuine care and connection shown to your children from all staff. Once COVID-19 restrictions allow, I look forward to meeting you in person.

Building Update

It was disappointing to return to our term 4 routine when the occupation of Stage 1 was imminent. A lot of resources were packed for the move and they have had to be unpacked. The holiday break is a great opportunity to move building work along at a greater pace but the weather and COVID-19 interrupted progress. Stage 1 will likely be finished in the middle of Term 1 but we are unlikely to have permission to occupy the space until the start of Term 2. The new spaces are looking terrific and moving into our contemporary learning environment is going to be wonderful.

When we move, there will be new challenges as the second round of demolition starts in preparation for Stage 2 construction. We are hoping that the bulk of the demolition will occur during the Easter break but there is no guarantee. We will keep you informed of any school adjustments as soon as we have clarity on timing. I would like to thank Brenden Jones, our Property Manager, who has done an extraordinary job being across all the construction detail and advocating for the best safety, teaching and learning outcomes.

EREA Student Leaders' Conference

Congratulations to our College Captains, Claire Beaven and Lachie Carson, who represented the College at the annual EREA Student Leaders' Conference. The Conference was conducted on Zoom again this year. Claire and Lachie contributed with confidence and made valuable connections with student leaders from other schools. Thank you to Rebecca Kirwan for her organisation and support and to the other staff who assisted on the day.

[Continued ...](#)

Principal's Message continued ...

Eddie's Big Night In

Unfortunately, you will be 'in' your home and not at Eddie's for *Eddie's Big Night In* this year. The current COVID-19 restrictions mean that the event is 'high risk' and we cannot bring everyone together on campus.

Therefore, we will hold an online version of Eddie's Big Night In. It is likely to entail two online 'Teams' events; one following the other. The first one to all parents, with messages from me and other members of staff. Following this meeting will be an online opportunity to meet your child's teacher and teacher's aide. We will investigate another opportunity to bring parents and staff together for a social opportunity once restrictions allow. We will forward details of the meetings early next week.

Staffing Update



Jason Scanlon has informed me of his intention to resign from his position as Assistant Principal, Religious, Identity & Mission over both St Edmund's College and St Gabriel's School. We will have an opportunity to thank and farewell Jason for his outstanding service to both school communities and wish him the very best for his new role at NSW Education Standards Authority.



We warmly welcome **Vanessa Dillon** who replaces Karen Houlcroft, taking on the full-time Head of Wellbeing position. Vanessa has previously been employed at St Lucy's School in a similar position and comes highly recommended.

Condolances: Hamish Wilkinson

The College received the very sad news before Christmas that a former student of St. Edmund's, Hamish Wilkinson, passed away suddenly. Hamish will be sadly missed and is remembered for his love of his family and friends. There are many staff here at St Edmund's who fondly remember Hamish and his family - he was definitively a very prominent personality at our College! Please keep Helen and Jeffery and the extended Wilkinson family in your thoughts and prayers at this very unexpected and sad loss.



Live Jesus in our hearts, forever.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Michael Farrell
PRINCIPAL



College Captain, Lachie Carson, welcomes new students to St Edmund's College



Deputy Principal's Message ...

Welcome to our new students

This week we welcomed our new Year 7 students to the College along with a new student in Year 10. It was wonderful to see lots of enthusiastic and smiling faces joining us at the College and we look forward to getting to know everyone and our new families in the weeks ahead.

On the first day, Year 7 joined our Year 12 leaders and spent some time getting to know one another. All students introduced themselves as well as sharing something about their holidays and things they like to do. The end of our Year 7/12 buddy session was spent playing various games to enjoy social time with one another. Thank you to our Year 12s for welcoming the Year 7s so warmly and thank you also to Year 7s for their fabulous participation.

Rapid Antigen Testing

Thank you to all of our families for your support in undertaking the surveillance testing before the return to school this week. A polite reminder that from Week 2, this testing is both Monday and Wednesday mornings. A further supply of Rapid Antigen tests will be sent home in your child's bag towards the end of next week. Please note that you are not required to send in the completed tests and students do not need to show these to Ali upon arrival.

Rebecca Kirwan
Deputy Principal



Around the College - Important Dates



Term 1

Fri 11th Feb	Opening College Mass
Tue 15th Feb	Eddie's Big Night In (<i>details to be advised</i>)
Tue 1st Mar	Term 1 Mufti Day
Tue 8th Mar	Open Day (<i>details to be advised</i>)
Tue 15th Mar	The Dish
Wed 30th Mar	2020 Year 12 Reunion (pizza night)
Wed 6th Apr	Year 7 Immunisation
Fri 8th Apr	Last day of Term 1

Term 2

Tue 26th Apr	Staff Day (pupil free day)
Wed 27th Apr	First day of Term 2 for students
Thu 5th May	Mother's Day Breakfast
Fri 6th May	Blessed Edmund Rice Day celebrations
Tue 10th May	College photos for students
Tue 24th May	The Dish
Tue 31st May	Term 2 Mufti Day
Wed 8th - Fri 10th Jun	Years 7 & 8 Camp
Mon 13th Jun	Queen's Birthday public holiday
Tue 14th Jun	Staff Day (pupil free day)
Sat 18th Jun	Eddie's Big Night Out
Fri 24th Jun	Leadership Assembly & Cadet Graduation
Fri 24th Jun	Last day of Term 2

Term 3

Mon 18th Jul	First day of Term 3 for students and staff
Tue 2nd Aug	Athletics Carnival (to be held at PLC Pymble)
Tue 30th Aug	Term 3 Mufti Day
Fri 2nd Sep	Father's Day Breakfast
Tue 6th Sep	The Dish
Wed 21st - Fri 23rd Sep	Senior Retreat
Fri 23rd Sep	Last day of Term 3

Term 4

Mon 10th Oct	Staff Day (pupil free day)
Tue 11th Oct	First day of Term 4 for students
Tue 11th Oct	Swimming Carnival (to be held at PLC Pymble)
Tue 25th Oct	The Dish
Tue 8th Nov	Term 4 Mufti Day
Fri 25th Nov	Year 12 Graduation Formal
Thu 8th Dec	Presentation Day
Fri 9th Dec	Year 12 Farewell Mass
Fri 9th Dec	Last day of Term 4

Congratulations Anthony!

We have heard the wonderful news that our former student, Anthony Jones, has been accepted into Sydney University to participate in the Uni2 Beyond program.

This is an innovative and award-winning social inclusion initiative for people with intellectual disabilities who want to experience university life. Uni2 Beyond supports each participant to make social connections through a mentoring program and to work towards individual learning outcomes.

This is a two year program which allows Anthony to choose subjects such as Music, History, Spanish and Geography. As we all know of his love of music, being an Eddie's Got Talent winner many times, we hope he enjoys this fabulous opportunity!



Around the College

2021 Year 12 Graduation Formal - oh what a night!



Around the College



St Edmund's is an 'Allergy Aware Zone'

To minimise the risk of allergic reactions at St Edmund's, the College supports the 'Allergy Aware' approach. Please do not send any foods containing nuts to the College with your child. For packaged items, the ingredients are listed on the packaging.

College bell times in 2022

Please remember:

- ◆ School commences at 8.30 a.m. and
- ◆ School concludes at 3.00 p.m.

Please note that at 8.30 a.m. during Homeroom our day commences with the College prayer. It is therefore appreciated that all students arrive on time.



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 Farrell on farrell@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 Farrell will respond to your email, copying in the Homeroom teacher and Ms Acret. This is also a legal requirement for the class roll.



Around the College

Mobile phones, iPads and iPods

All mobile phones, iPads and iPods that come to the College **must** be handed into the office in the morning on arrival at the College. They can then be collected in the afternoon as students leave for their taxis or parent pick up. They should not remain in school bags or pockets during the day.

All mobile phones, iPads and iPods, earphones etc. **must be placed in their own individual pouch/case and labeled with your child's name** (something similar to a pencil case) to make them easily identifiable when they are all laid out for collection. Many of these items are the same for several students and have gone home with the wrong student, causing great distress.

Name Tags

Please label **all** items of clothing and all other belongings (e.g. lunch boxes, drink bottles, pencil cases, soccer balls, socks and even shoes). Lost property items are kept for a **short** period in the office. Please email Ms Acret in the office if you have a missing item: secretary@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au.

Newsletter

The College Newsletter will be distributed by email to parents every alternate week. It is also uploaded on the College website www.stedmunds.nsw.edu.au.

Vehicle and Pedestrian access to the College

In order to make the entry to the College as safe as possible for all school users, we would like to separate vehicle and pedestrian access as much as possible.

When walking into and out of the College, please use the pedestrian gate rather than walking in through the vehicle gate as shown in the photos below.



Around the College

From the Parent Group



Welcome back everyone. I hope you all enjoyed the long school break. I'm sure all of our children were keen to get back to school and see all their friends and to meet some new ones.

A warm welcome on behalf of the families and students of Eddie's to our new Principal, Mr Farrell. We hope that you are settling in well in your first weeks here at St Edmund's. We look forward to meeting you and hearing from you in the coming weeks.

I would also like to welcome to St Edmund's on behalf of families and students all the new faces starting school this week, both staff and students. We know that you will enjoy being part of our College community and we look forward to meeting you soon.

With optimism, we look forward to being able to gather as a school community soon. It has been a long time. In the meantime, please work with the College to keep all of our children safe. To think that we are starting school in masks and RAHT tests - it's a long way from what was once "normal" but thankfully it is steps closer. Enjoy Term 1!

"For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

Janine Eastham – Tom's mum
Parent Group Leader

Interesting Information

2022 will see some doubling up of names for our students. These students will be identified with their first name and the first initial of their surname in the Newsletter:

- 3 x Christians/Krish – Christian V, Christian R, and Krish
- 2 x Nathans – Nathan V and Nathan A
- 2 x Lachlan/Lachie – Lachie C and Lachie K
- 4 x Bens – Ben M, Ben P, Ben F and Ben W
- 3 x Samuels – Samuel B, Sam C and Sam L
- 2 x James – James P and James L
- 2 x Lukes – Luke L and Luke B
- 2 x Thomas – Tom E and Tom P
- 2 x Ellas – Ella P and Ella T
- 2 x Alexanders – Alexander S and Alexander P
- 2 x Brendans – Brendan J and Brendan W
- 2 x Lucys – Lucy F and Lucy B
- 3 x Daniels – Daniel U, Daniel L and Daniel T
- 2 x Sebastians – Sebastian Br and Sebastian Bu



The Dish

What do we need?



We are looking for members of our parent community to volunteer to help us in 2022 to supply dinner to the homeless people of our local community.

Our rostered days for this year are:

Tuesday 15th March - Term 1

Tuesday 24th May - Term 2

Tuesday 6th September - Term 3

Tuesday 25th October - Term 4

What is involved?

- ◆ We need **two main courses** and **two desserts** prepared and delivered to school on the set Tuesdays (see above).
- ◆ Each dish should be able to feed about **10 people**. Some of the people attending have poor dental health and so the meals should not be too hard to chew (pizza and steak are not recommended) so this often includes casseroles, sausages, meatballs and sometimes baked meals. Last year we supplied meatball and sausage casseroles and some very special butter chicken.
- ◆ Mains are complemented with potato based dishes, pasta or rice. Green vegetables served are appreciated by most.

If you are interested, **please complete the slip below and return to Bernie in the College office** and she will allocate you to a date. If you have a specific date in mind, please inform Bernie and she will roster you for that date. Also indicate whether you will be providing a main or a dessert.

Your support will be greatly appreciated.

✂-----

THE DISH

I _____ am interested in providing some food for 'The Dish' in 2022.

I will be able to provide (please tick which box applies)

a dessert course

a main course

I am available **any date**

I am **only available on this date**

Community Event

PICNIC IN THE PARK

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
WAHROONGA PARK AND ROTARY AUST/NZ



Saturday 26th February, 4pm-7pm

Wahroonga Park: Cnr Millewa and Illoura Ave, Wahroonga

- Live entertainment
- Food and coffee van
- Time capsule dedication

Rotary 
Club of Wahroonga

CELEBRATING
100
YEARS



Bring a picnic. All welcome!

In the event of wet weather, Council may cancel this event.

info@wahroongarotary.org

www.wahroongarotary.org/page/wahroonga-park-centenary-2021/