



*Inspiring Independence, Transforming Lives*



## Principal's Message ...

It's hard to believe we have completed two Terms and we are dipping our toe into the second half of the year. I rejoiced at discovering the shortest day of sunshine for the year was behind us and every day from now will get a little bit brighter. We arrive at the end of Term 2 with a lot to celebrate, appreciate and look forward to. The second half of the year will be brighter as we reflect and learn from our journey and focus our attention on achieving Excellence in Special Education through our expert teaching, resources, and facilities. We continue to navigate with professionalism and patience the changes required to achieve our goal – and we do this for our students so that they can achieve the best learning outcomes possible. Thank you for partnering with us and supporting our efforts thus far.

### Eddie's Big Night Out

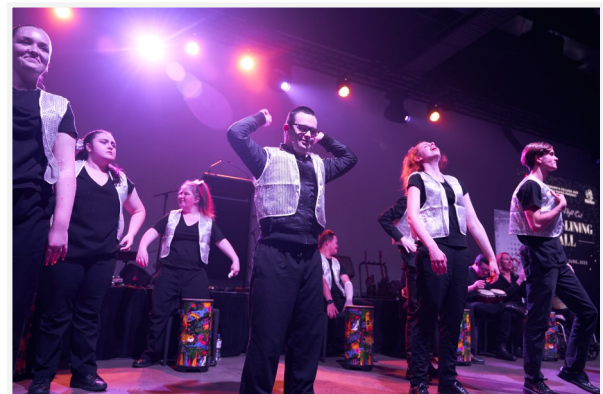
What an amazing event! My first EBNO and it did not disappoint. It was a terrific evening where everyone was engaged in the stories, the entertainment and the collective desire to provide the best education and outcomes for our students. I received a lot of comments about the joy shown by our students and that they embrace every opportunity. There was no stopping them from leading the rush to the dance floor when the music started and soon, they were joined by our guests.

The staff of Eddie's were acknowledged many times for their commitment, care and expertise and that acknowledgement was followed by heartfelt applause. Our guests were educated and left in no doubt of the extraordinary education Eddie's provides. An event of such magnitude takes lots of planning and a team prepared to go above and beyond to ensure a sophisticated, professional event.

St Edmund's is indebted to that team of staff and I extend to them our gratitude and a big BRAVO for their dedicated and skilful work, for the extraordinary outcome on the night and in the funds that will benefit learning. That team included Marilyn, Wendy, Candice, Jody, Cathy L, Jackie, Bernie, Cathy Mc, Vanessa and Tori. It was a genuine team effort to overcome challenges with collective and creative problem-solving. Thank You!

A huge thank you to our Eddie's Mates, without whom an event on this scale could never eventuate. We are so grateful for their dedication to our College community over so many years.

Many thanks also to the team of parents (Andrea, Sharon, Paula, Danielle and Richelle) who assisted Wendy in the weeks leading up to EBNO with buying, sorting, wrapping and then setting up the Silent Auction on the Saturday.



*See Principal's Message continued .....*

## Principal's Message continued ...

### COVID Update

Eddie's Big Night Out was amazing but it looks like it may have been a COVID spreading event. We know many of our parent tables have returned positive COVID results.

There are no changes to the current COVID setting for our school. Our staff wear masks when they are amongst students.

Students who are a close contact will continue to isolate and not attend school for 5 days.

Students who show COVID symptoms must remain home. If your child shows COVID symptoms while at school you will be asked to pick them up.

### Building Update

It was wonderful to move into our new learning spaces last week. I have enjoyed spending time in the corridor observing and listening to the diversity of teaching and learning – it is all on display now. Our first taste of what Eddie's will look and feel like when the work is completely finished.

As you know from recent correspondence, Stage 2 demolition has begun and it is heavy, noisy work. We are anticipating that most of that work will occur during the term break but as a precaution, St Edmund's students will participate in off-campus learning for the first week in Term 3.



I hope you have a wonderful term break. It is important to stop. We must disconnect to reconnect more fully. School term breaks are enforced moments when we have permission to change the routine and put aside overthinking. There is virtue in knowing when to focus on work and when to rest. To be the best we can be at work and for those we love, it's important to break and decompress. This term break may not be your scheduled work break but when your break does come around, make sure you take full advantage of it – not a bit of break and a bit of work – full break!

No matter what you have planned for this term break, I hope you find it restful and renewing and we look forward to our students returning in a few weeks.

Michael Farrell  
**PRINCIPAL**

## Farewell from Cathy Laing

It has been a great experience, joy and privilege to be a part of this unique and amazing school community for the past 17.5 years. I have assisted and nurtured 4 Principals over that time, have loved being a part of a very dedicated staff and have loved every minute of working with your beautiful children.

I feel very much a part of this place - every brick, every beautiful window, every room and have so many memories. It is with a mixture of joy, sadness and eager for future endeavours, that I say goodbye.

The students, the families and the staff, both past and present, will stay with me always.

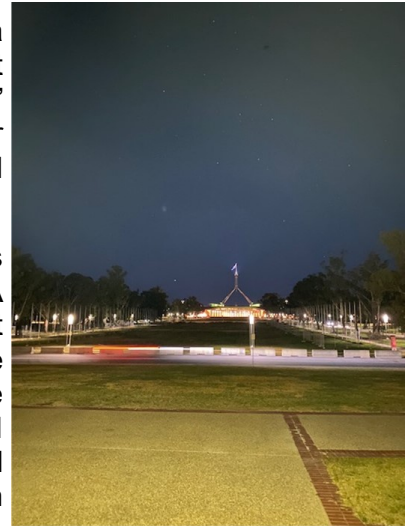




## Deputy Principal's Message

Last week I was fortunate enough to travel to Canberra with Michelle Dalton, Head of Mission and Identity (St Gabriel's) to take part in the EREA Identity Leaders' Conference. This was held at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture on the land of the Ngunnawal people.

Over the couple of days together, we were able to listen to various speakers who offered insight into the theme of the Conference 'A Spirituality that Liberates.' We visited our fellow Edmund Rice school, St Edmund's Canberra and celebrated Mass in their stunning chapel. We were impressed by the junior school students who gave us a tour of the campus with lots of facts and introductions made. My time there allowed some opportunity to reflect on the formation of our staff and students and the way in which Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition operates with our touchstones as our means to articulate this.



### Cathy Laing

It is with a heavy heart that in this Newsletter we will bid farewell to the beautiful Cathy Laing. As I write those words, it still doesn't feel real that her wonderful journey is coming to an end here at Eddie's. For 17.5 years, her wonderful, caring personality has been woven into the fabric of these walls. It has been beautiful to see the love and support she has given all of our students from preparing them for assemblies to making sure their uniforms were perfect for photos, to ensuring birthdays were in the Newsletter, to assisting with major events throughout the year including Eddie's Big Night Out – all alongside her millions of other tasks as Executive PA.

It must also be known that Cathy has done so many other tasks as part of her Executive Assistant role – pulling off Presentation Days, ensuring the steady flow of Eddie's Best morning teas for students, supporting the Executive team – she is truly amazing! Cathy is the 'go to' lady who knows all the ins and outs of all things Eddie's. I am sure many of you have, at some time or another, had some interaction with Cathy over the course of your time here so are well aware of the support she gives our community.

It also is important to know and acknowledge that Cathy is in fact the woman behind this publication itself. She takes much pride in collating the joys, celebrations, achievements, notices and providing the hub for our community which many of us enjoy reading each fortnight and her passion and care that is evident in it, will be truly missed.

I know that from a personal and professional level I will dearly miss Cathy Laing and the imprint that she has left on our community will not be forgotten. During this week, as I began to consider how much of a loss we will feel by her absence, I thought of some words from a childhood tale 'Winnie the Pooh. – How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.

The Eddie's staff, students and families are indeed lucky to have had you for such a long time Cathy, a heartfelt thank you to you and although it is hard to say goodbye, we all wish you the very best of luck for your new chapter in Queensland with your family and those gorgeous grandchildren of yours!

Rebecca Kirwan  
**Deputy Principal**





## Wellbeing

*Cold and dark this time of year, the Earth lies dormant,  
Awaiting the return of the Sun, and with it – life.  
Far beneath the frozen surface, a heartbeat waits until the moment is right...  
To spring.*

In what has been yet another busy term, much of which is still continuing as we battle various illnesses and impending holiday plans, I encourage you to take on board the theme that resonates so perfectly with this season of Winter – that being the theme of mindful stillness. This mindful approach of 'stillness' helps ease any tension, anxiety or stress you may experience and this time of year lends itself to noticing these moments within our natural world because nature itself, is indeed lying in wait.

Today's physical world is very focused on 'doing'. Society provides the perfect environment for constant busyness, preoccupation, escapism and avoidance whilst leaving less and less time in our day for us to 'be still' and whilst we may not be able to change the way in which our lives provide us with a certain level of chaos, we can look to change the way in which we allow it to completely consume us.

Makeda Pennycooke identifies 12 benefits from practising stillness which include: less stress, ability to let things go more easily, able to hear your own intuition, anchors you into the present, increases listening skills, brings clarity, improves your sleep, improves your overall health, creativity increases, improves ability to handle adversity, increased self-awareness, connects you to a realisation that there is a higher power at work in the world – and for Christians, that would mean God.

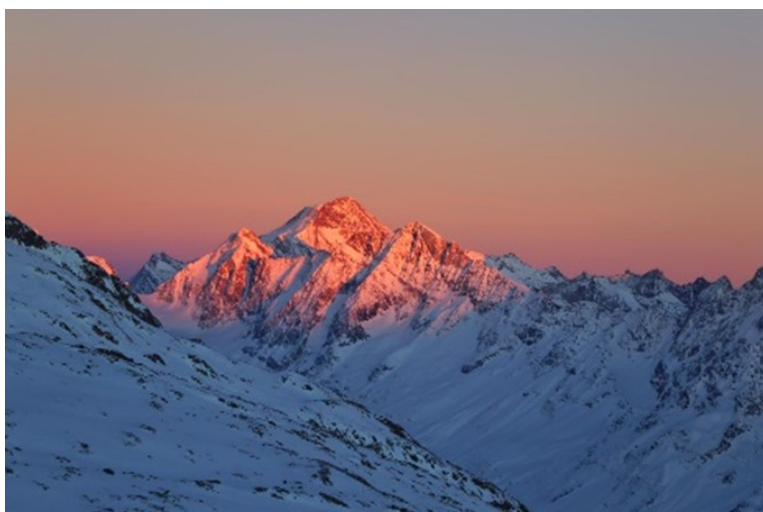
For me, one of the most still moments I have ever experienced took place many years ago whilst I was on the mountains of Thredbo during a fresh snow fall. Never have I experienced such peace and quiet. Even with others around me, all noise was dampened and all that was being experienced was the light touch of the dry, delicate snowflakes as they fell silently around me.

Being still is like replenishing the stores – it provides us time and space. However this might look for you, I hope that you will find this opportunity throughout the upcoming holidays. Whether it be through deep breathing, within nature, whilst walking or exercising, through yoga or meditation, in prayer or contemplation, with intention to seek stillness whilst around you there is chaos... no matter the context, may there be many a still moment that awaits you.

*"Your vision will become clear only when you look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakens." - Carl Jung*

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe holiday!

Vanessa Dillon  
**Head of Wellbeing**





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## From the Parent Group



What a fabulous evening it was at our Eddie's Big Night Out! It was such a "BIG NIGHT OUT!" enjoyed by all who attended. The highlight was our students shining or as the theme suggested sparkling! Our wonderful Eddie's Entertainers set the pace for the evening with their fantastic performance getting the room pumping and the audience clapping along. Our Eddie's Hospitality Team served our entrees with such enthusiasm and professionalism. It was such a great show of community, celebration and just some good old fashioned fun!

On behalf of the parents I would like to thank Eddie's Mates, chaired by Mr Phil McCarroll, for their huge contribution to the evening and their ongoing support to St Edmund's. We appreciate your commitment and dedication to raising funds and awareness for our children.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in planning and implementation of the event; it was enjoyed and appreciated. Thank you Wendy Scott for all of your coordinating, rallying and organising in the months leading up to the event. A special thank you also to Marilyn Noonan and Candice Palin who, whilst no longer working at St Edmund's, continued to play a huge role in implementation of the evening. From a guest's perspective it was a huge success.

We can not wait for Eddie's Big Night Out to come again next year!

Cathy Laing who has worked for St Edmund's for over 17 years will be leaving us today. Cathy has been dedicated to supporting our Principals in the role of Executive PA. On behalf of the parents I would like to thank Cathy for her huge contribution to our school and our students. Thank you for the administration, commitment and dedication you have brought to us over the past 17 years. We wish you and your family the very best as you leave us and prepare for your next stage.

Wishing all you all the very best for the school holidays. Enjoy and travel safely. We look forward to a wonderful new Term in our new building.



Janine Eastham  
**Parent Group Leader**  
(Tom's Mum - Year 11)

## EBNO RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners of the Eddie's Big Night Out Raffle last Saturday evening:

1st Prize	Visa Gift Card \$1,000	Dr K. Lee
2nd Prize	Delsey of Paris Maseru Luggage Set	David Cam
3rd Prize	Radisson Blu Hotel Sydney	Paul Goldie
4th Prize	Bunnings Gift Card \$100	Barbara Barwick

# Camp was 'the Tops!'



# Awards

## Students of the Week:

<b>7E</b>	Ava, Ashley, Zara, Sophia	<b>7V</b>	Rachel, Holly
<b>8D</b>	Sienna, Daniel, Finley, Riarna	<b>8F</b>	Alexander, Louis, Sam, Evangelia
<b>9C</b>	Michael, Adam	<b>9M</b>	Arpita, Antonio
<b>10J</b>	Krish, Annamieke	<b>10S</b>	Chloe, Sonnet
<b>11A</b>	Sam, Victoria	<b>11S</b>	Tom, Mikayla
<b>12M</b>	Bianca, Niki	<b>12O</b>	Lachie, Lorelle

## Eddie's Best:

<b>7E</b>	Zara, Sebastian	<b>7V</b>	Daniel
<b>8D</b>	Cameron, Bridie	<b>8F</b>	Isabella, Leela
<b>9C</b>	Lucy	<b>9M</b>	Toby
<b>10J</b>	Christian	<b>10S</b>	Sean
<b>11A</b>	Mackenzie	<b>11S</b>	Daena
<b>12M</b>	Ella	<b>12O</b>	Sid

**Congratulations everyone!**

## Curriculum Chat

### Semester 1 Reports

Reports for each student in Years 7-12 will be published on Sentral Parent Portal on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June. These reports give an overview of your child's learning and progress this semester.

The College Reports will give parents a wholistic view of their child's development at the College in the curriculum areas, as well as in social and transition skills. You will find that your child's Homeroom teacher has made a comment on their overall progress through Semester 1 as well as their assessment of certain social and transition skills. Subject teachers will report on a selection of tasks that students have completed, by no means a complete list, but one intended to give you an overview of classroom activities. Subject teachers will also report on the overall achievement of a student in the class.

I encourage you to read these Reports with your children and help them reflect on the progress and achievements they have made in Semester 1.

If you would like to request a printed copy of your child's Report, please contact Cathy Laing on [laing@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au](mailto:laing@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au).

The Parent Portal user guide is attached to this Newsletter. New users can register at <https://sentral.erses.nsw.edu.au/portal/register> and current parent portal users can login at <https://sentral.erses.nsw.edu.au/portal>. If you have questions about accessing the parent portal, please contact the College.

Sharon Eldridge  
**Acting Head of Teaching & Learning**



## Around the College - Important Dates

### Term 2

Fri 24th Jun Term 2 Mufti Day  
Fri 24th Jun Last day of Term 2

### Term 3

Mon 18th Jul First day of Term 3 for students and staff  
Tue 30th Aug Term 3 Mufti Day  
Thu 1st Sep Men's Group Meeting  
Fri 2nd Sep Father's Day Breakfast  
Tue 6th Sep Athletics Carnival (to be held at PLC Pymble)  
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 25th Oct Swimming Carnival (to be held at PLC Pymble)  
Tue 25th Oct The Dish  
Tue 8th Nov Term 4 Mufti Day  
Thu 17th Nov Men's Group Meeting  
Fri 25th Nov Year 12 Graduation Formal  
Wed 30th Nov - Fri 2nd Dec Year 9 & 10 Camp - Canberra  
Thu 8th Dec Presentation Day  
Fri 9th Dec Year 12 Farewell Mass  
Fri 9th Dec Last day of Term 4



We wish you a safe and relaxing break.  
School resumes on Monday 18th July  
in winter uniform.