



Principal's Message ...

Dear Parents,

I am sorry to be boring and making the topic of the Newsletter about COVID 19. Unfortunately, COVID's impact on our health and every other aspect of life, including school, can not be ignored. The message from some authorities is that we must just live with COVID. I have found living with COVID okay until family and staff get sick and then things go pear-shaped. There is increasing anxiety around the potential impact of another outbreak, given our COVID mitigation strategies are more relaxed. A meeting yesterday between Dr Kerry Chant and Independent School Principals highlighted the concerns and challenges schools are facing with increasing COVID infections. She said the new variants of BA4 and BA5 have immune escape properties, so their transmissibility is higher. We need to implement extra COVID measures to reduce transmission, especially in confined spaces. There is, understandably, a reluctance to bring back the mandated measures that resulted in us working and schooling from home. We prioritise face to face teaching and have to manage the risk that comes with that. Like many things in life, the best outcome lies in getting the balance right. It also relies on teamwork and everyone applying the strategies. Living with COVID will look different from living before COVID – there will be ongoing health measures that will become a normal part of life.

Our students' health and wellbeing is our highest priority and this priority means we need to take a more conservative approach that has us navigating the current COVID situation with caution. Unlike mainstream schools, we can't safely employ unknown casuals to replace teachers. They don't know our children, our policies and procedures; they can't adequately provide the duty of care we require. This situation leaves our schools vulnerable to being understaffed if there is a COVID outbreak. Our priority is to keep the school open and we employ some of the following strategies to help us remain operational.

- ⇒ We employ known and/or experienced casual staff who have experience working in our schools or similar schools;
- ⇒ We may collapse classes and spread students amongst other classes;
- ⇒ We may need to pause the normal curriculum and bring students together for off curricular activities;
- ⇒ If we anticipate a prolonged interruption, we may introduce online learning for some classes to reduce the number of students onsite. This strategy may require school closure for at least a day to prepare;
- ⇒ If staff absence is significant, the school may need to close at short notice until sufficient staff can attend work to ensure a safe environment.

There are nuances to the above strategies and we deal with each challenge as it arises, with the aim to keep the schools open and everyone safe and engaged.

Please continue with the surveillance RAHT testing at home. All our staff do surveillance RAHT each week. Our staff wear a mask at school and we will be encouraging the wearing of masks among students – if your child can wear a mask, please send them to school with one. We will increase cleaning and sanitising routines. If your child shows any COVID/Flu symptoms, please do not send them to school. If your child becomes a Close Contact, they must not attend school and will need to isolate for 7 days.

Hopefully, the impact of COVID this time around doesn't require any extreme measures and we can continue face to face, on campus learning. If we work together to limit COVID transmission by applying consistent COVID strategies at school and at home, we will navigate our way through this school term unscathed.

St Edmund's has enjoyed a different start to Term 3, with offsite learning for all students. The activities have been enthusiastically embraced by the students and the wet weather could not dampen their enthusiasm. A huge thank you to the staff for their extra work in preparation and during the week itself. We have included some photos of the week that compute the variety of activities and the joy in participation. Next week we return to normal on-campus learning.

Wishing you all the best and good health,

Michael Farrell
PRINCIPAL

From the Parent Group



Welcome back everyone to Term 3. With such a cold start to the term, it has been hard I am sure, to get going early in the morning again, I know it has been in our household!

We had to postpone our Parent Group Meeting at the end of last term at the last minute. We are rescheduling for early this term. Once the date has been determined in the College calendar we will advise. The same meeting will be held with the opportunity to tour the new building, which I am sure you are all looking forward to seeing.

If you have any ideas for future topics or for the group in general, please let me know. Feel free to email them to me at janine@itsd.com.au. If you are attending the meeting there will be an opportunity to raise them there too.

— WELCOME —
BACK TO SCHOOL

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

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.

Term 3 Week 1 Offsite activities

Museum
Botanical Gardens
Sport
Oxford Falls



TAKING A BREAK IN THE PARK



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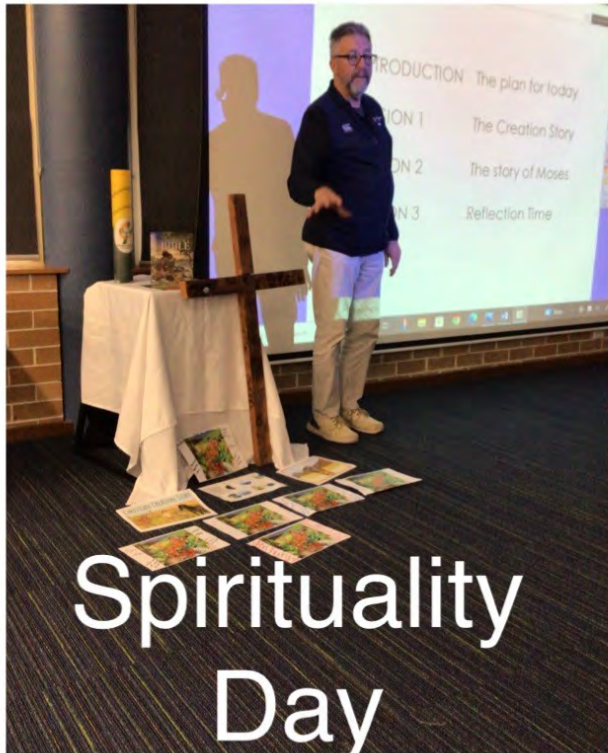
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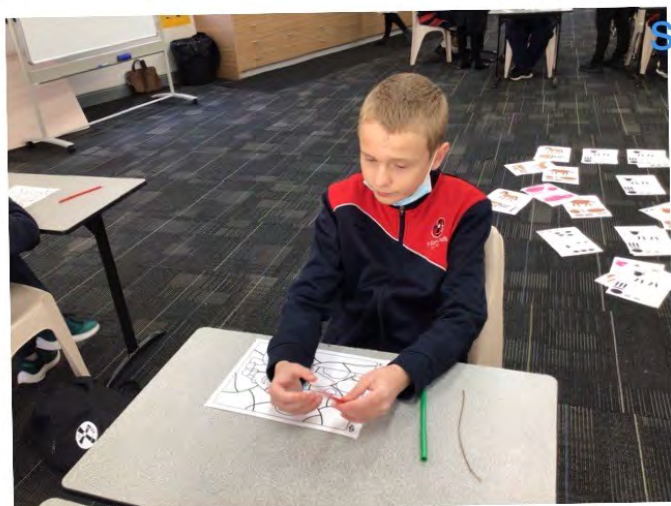




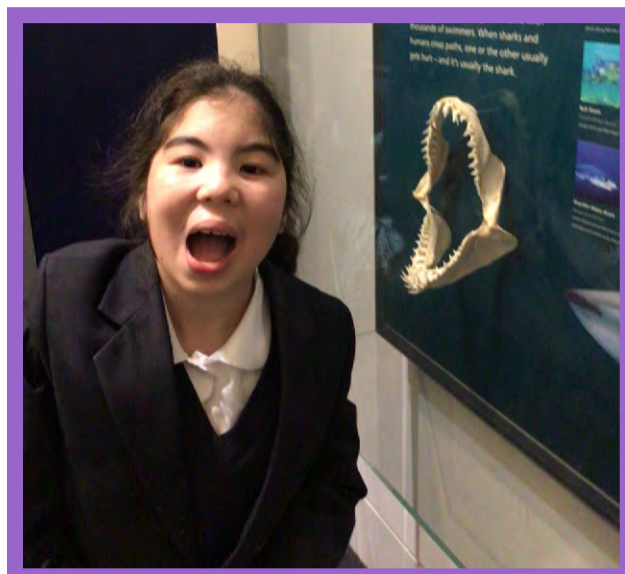
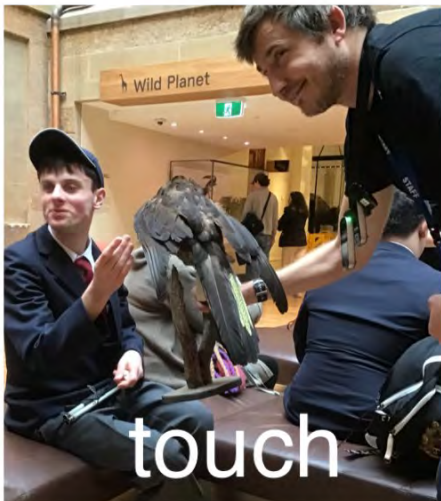




Year 8 working on
their Creative Arts
skills



PIC•COLLAGE





Bobbin Head



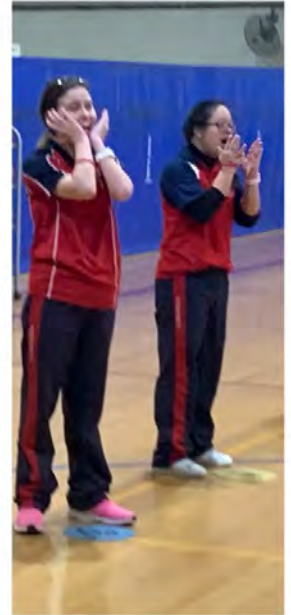
Perfect end to a
fun day.

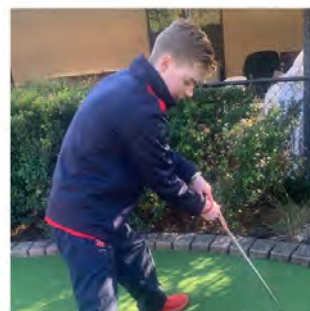
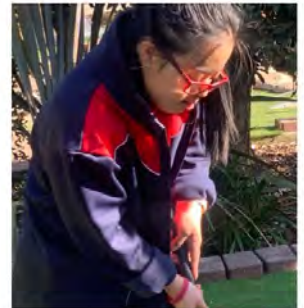
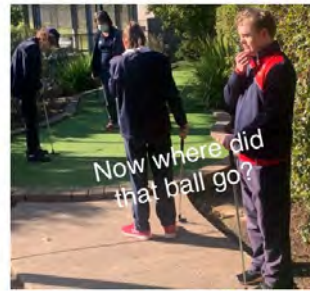


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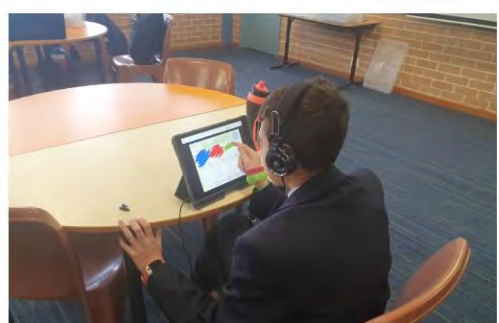
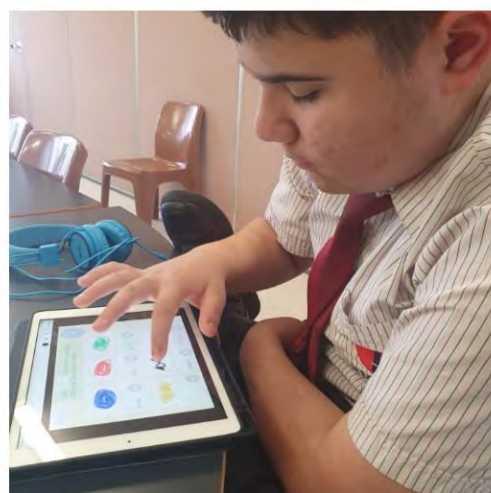
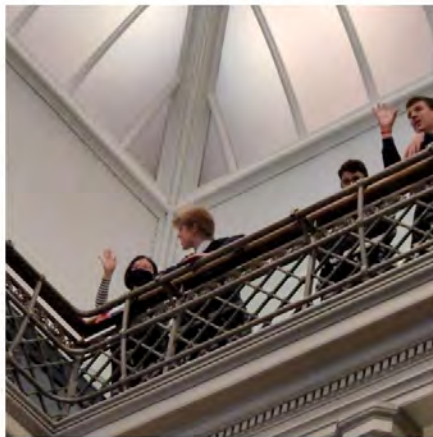
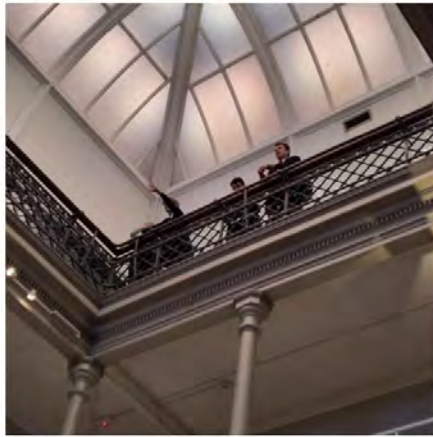


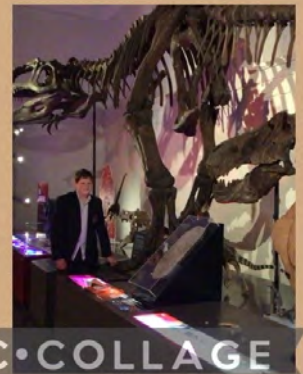




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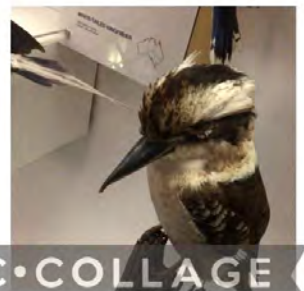
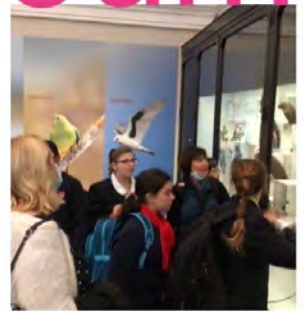
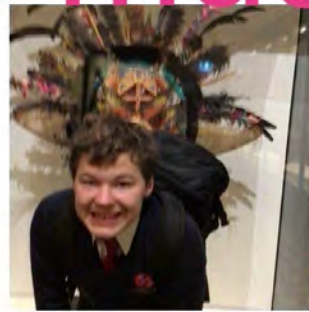




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7E at the museum



PIC•COLLAGE



Royal Botanical Garden



Inside
the
Tide





Around the College – Important Dates

Term 3

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



NORTHS TOUCH FOOTBALL



All Ability Program

The All Abilities Program is a completely inclusive program that provides opportunity for people of all ages living with a disability to learn the game of Touch Football.

We invite these athletes to learn Touch Footballs skills and play the sport under the guidance of our coaches. Family, carers and friends are welcome to participate also.

This program also offers pathways for representative play at both NSW and Australian tournaments.

Join us weekly, our All Abilities program currently runs on Mondays 5.15-6.15pm at Artarmon Reserve.

<https://northstouch.asn.au/rep/>



Northsjuniorreps@gmail.com



Northern Suburbs Touch Association



Northstouch

