



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

“Do you believe in magic?”

This was a question that was asked of me recently, and I thought it to be rather appropriate for this time of year, especially as the theme of magic is so prevalent within our modern-day culture and context as we head towards Christmas time. The magic plays out in the coming of Santa who delivers the presents, in the mischievous happenings of the elves within homes, in the notion of such ideas as reindeers pulling a sleigh...

But, it also plays out in other ways, too.

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is ‘wonder and awe’ – which is a nice alignment to that of magic. It is during Advent, when we wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus, that we learn of the significance this Coming was for the people at that time. It remains significant for us still, today. The wonder and awe that came when the angels appeared to the shepherds, when the star shone brightly the path to the born Saviour, when the Three Kings set out on their journey to discover such humble beginnings in the promise of someone so special.

The wonder and awe that is felt and experienced during those ‘magical’ moments/experiences/encounters we have, often reminds us of the spiritual power at play – whereby there often is no other explanation to attribute it to, than that of a higher power/being. There’s so many contexts that this can take place within. WB Yeats once wrote “The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper.”

Currently, I am seeing it a lot in nature: the vivid purples of the jacarandas, hydrangeas, agapanthus – the way their vibrancy ‘pops’ against the greens of the other plants; the increased activity of the insects, like the sounds of the cicadas and the appearance of the Christmas beetles; the fragrance of the jasmine and gardenias, whereby you often smell them before you see them; the tranquility of the early mornings and late evenings, and the stunning colours in the skies at these times of day...

I am also seeing it in the ‘hive of activity’ that is a school-based work environment. Yes, it is a crazy and chaotic time of year, but it is also when I am in awe of the way in which the cogs keep turning and the concept of ‘many hands make light work’, is lived. That is magic. Because, despite the many factors that deplete the energy of staff or impact their emotions, they all return to a sense of collegiality and an awareness of what this time of year means for those who really matter – and that’s the students, in particular our Year 12 students.

And, I see it in the rewards that come from having achieved another twelve months as a learning community. Those rewards that can be as simple as seeing a student smile who we know has been having a tough time; or when a lightbulb moment becomes an all the time light-on moment around a goal that has been achieved and sustained; or it’s when the bell plays and all the kids break into song; or the growth that is being witnessed after twelve months of focus and intent to help a student flourish; or the seamless interconnection that has been made between our Year 5/6 students and our Years 7-12



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students over the course of the year which has helped consolidate and unify our identity as a Year 5-12 school.

It's in these moments of magic, in the moments of wonder and awe, that our metaphorical cups are filled to the brim, where we engage in a headspace that re-centres us, and helps us become more aware of what truly matters. That such fulfillment and satisfaction really does make it all worth it – and we take this with us into what is always a well-deserved end of year break. But, these moments also remind us that we do need to actively pursue/seek/observe/experience/encounter more of these moments all throughout our lives.

There's a reason why we delight in the way we witness young children experience magic in their lives – especially at Christmas time. It lightens our mood. It lightens our load. It lightens our soul. It lightens our heart. And, that is a magical place to be, especially from a Wellbeing point of view.

It's upon moments of such reflection, that I am reminded of a quote from Roald Dahl... “And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places.”

As we head into 2026, we do with an awareness that we will be celebrating 75 years as a College community. An incredible feat and significant occasion that will be our theme throughout the year. We are all part of a very special story; all contributing to the richness of the legacy we have inherited and are to give voice and future to. May the magic continue!

Year 12 Formal

Last Thursday night we celebrated a very special community occasion – our Year 12 Formal! It was a wonderful evening that highlighted the incredible growth and achievements of our Year 12 students, and marked the beginning of many possibilities that lie ahead for them post-school. The joy was evident in all who attended, with many special moments shared throughout! Thank you to all those staff who assisted in the organisation of this event, and to the parents/carers/friends for the significant role they play in the lives of these remarkable young people!



YEAR 12 FORMAL



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Staffing Announcements

I wish to inform you of recent staffing decisions that have been made for 2026. In addition to the below appointments, we will also be welcoming back Mrs Teresa Falvey and Ms Tracey Snell in a full time capacity at the beginning of next year. We also welcome back Ms Rachelle Moait, 5 days a fortnight, in her role as Occupational Therapist.

We wish to extend our congratulations to:

Tom Delaney – 2026 temporary full time teacher

Katie Court and Nicola Austin – 2026 temporary full time teacher job share arrangement: Katie (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) and Nicola (Monday, Tuesday)

Eva Southern– 2026 temporary 0.4FTE teacher (Thursday, Friday), undertaking a job share arrangement with Arabella Puglisi.

Yvette Bishop – 2026 temporary full time learning support assistant

Sujung (Soo) Hong – 2026 temporary full time learning support assistant

Elycia Dach – 2026 temporary 0.6FTE learning support assistant (Monday, Thursday, Friday)

Morgan Meyer – 2026 temporary 0.5FTE job share arrangement with Rachelle in our Allied Health Team as OT

Whilst we are indeed very pleased to have these staff remain part of our team for 2026, we are mindful of our fellow colleagues who have been with us throughout 2025, and who are unable to remain with us. On behalf of all of us, I wish to extend my admiration, respect and gratitude to Mrs Alex McCorry, Mrs Sophie Paterson, Mrs Susan Li, Ms Isabella Tombolato and Mrs Cassandra Brading. It goes without saying, that we'd have you remain part of our team if we had an opportunity to do so. Your care for our students, wonderful team spirit, generosity and professionalism has been valued by us all. We know that many of you have said that you would like to remain with us for casual work next year, and so we are sure we will see you frequently. And for that, we are happy.

Strategic Focus for 2026: Increased Enrolments

Recent budget feedback received from the National EREAFSL Ltd Board of Directors and CEO, is regarding the financial position of St Edmund's College as we head into 2026. A steady decline in enrolments from 2019, is one of the main contributors to our current situation. The decision made last year to register us as a Year 5-12 school, and to bring onboard a Year 5/6 class at the start of 2025, is one that we hope will bring sustainable growth to the community over the coming years, but so too is actively seeking meaningful and relevant ways to showcase our educational offering more broadly.

You may have noticed an increased use of our social media platforms which is one marketing avenue we are taking, so too an increase in onsite tours for Allied Health and Learning Diversity teams. We are currently in talks with a number of web developers to re-design our school website for an April launch, and have been engaging in video podcasts – both those that are already in existence, and one that we are creating ourselves called 'Hidden Ability'. Another avenue we are taking is that of creating lines of merchandise using art that is being produced by our students 'in house'. Last week, we made delivery of items to two local stores – State Of Mind at Manly and Orda Kora at Balgowlah Heights. Novella Bookshop in Wahroonga will also soon stock our items. We have our stall booked for Wahroonga Village Christmas Fair on 7 December, too. This enterprising focus will continue into next year, with it being our major fundraising focus for Eddie's Big Night Out in June.

Whilst I have developed a strategy that includes ideas that have been outlined above, there is no

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denying the positive power and influence of 'word of mouth'. Next year, I will extend an invitation to any parents/carers who would like to assist us in broadening our profile and reach. Having this group actively involved in advocating for our school, and drawing interest from prospective families, will play a critical role in increasing our enrolment intake and ensuring the ongoing viability of the school. I hope to welcome many of you onboard in this capacity, and thank you for your care in supporting our community in this way.

Charity Challenge

Thank you to those staff who contributed in many ways to the success of this year's Charity Challenge Gala Event on Saturday 15th November!

To our Admin Team – Susan, Matt, Cathy Mac and Cassandra: thank you for what you did to support Smokey and Matt and Earl! They were so grateful!

To our Eddie's Performers Team – Meg, Lisa O, Larrissa, Lynda – thank you for the time and dedication you put in place over many weeks to support our students who performed on the night! Thank you also for assisting with the transporting and supervision of the students on this night, too. So very appreciative!

To our stars on the night – our Eddie's Drummers – thank you for what talent and skill you showcased on the evening! The audience of over 400 absolutely loved the energy and dynamic you brought to the evening. For many it is the absolute highlight for the event, and it is easy to see why!



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Eddie's Live at Abbotsleigh

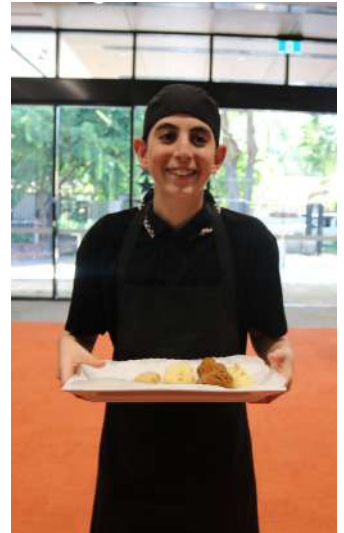
I am still recovering from sore facial muscles as a result of all the smiling and laughing I did last Thursday 20th November! It was a truly joyful experience, one that highlighted our students many gifts and talents in a collaborative and inclusive way. Thank you to those staff who helped create this wonderful for 2025! The students loved what they had to offer and showcase, and those who attended loved the experience. It was awesome seeing so many past students in attendance, too. Thank you to Meg, Katie C, Tracey D, Nicola, Tom, Julie M, Larrissa, Lisa O, Soo, Rosanne and Yvette for your support, guidance and enthusiasm either throughout the week and/or on the night!



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Year 11 Christmas Market

Congratulations to our Year 11 Hospo and Retail students prepared, organised and facilitated our annual VET Christmas market next week! The items that were available for purchase, the planned visual merchandising, and the very festive vibe matched, all contributed to a very healthy sales result! Thank you to all VET staff, in particular Jacqui C, for supporting the students in readiness for such a successful outcome on Wednesday!



Thank you to all our St Edmund's families for the year that has been! It is one that has brought forth the living of our College Values – Joy, Faith, Relationships and Community. We value always your support and collaboration. Partnering with you to ensure the wellbeing and learning needs of your child are met, is an integral part of what it means to belong here at Eddie's.

For our leaving families, we pray that life will continue to provide much joy and promise for you and your young person. Please be sure to always keep us informed of the wonderful achievements made and goals met!

I wish you all a magical Christmas and New Year ahead. May it be filled with wonder and awe, and all the love and joy that you deserve to receive at this time of year!

Vanessa Dillon | Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Given this is the final “in Term” communication for the 2025 school year allow me to take this opportunity to express my commendation and admiration for the positive manner in which every student, supported by their teachers, parent, families and significant others, have applied themselves fulsomely to their learning and growth this year.

I have been inspired by the work of your daughters and sons, and the way in which the St Edmund’s College Community supports parents and students in developing a culture of determined inclusion and resilience to contribute positively to the world in which we live.

It is my great privilege to have been invited to extend my tenure at St Edmund’s into the 2026 school year, acting for Mrs Kirwan who will remain working with EREA head office for another year.



Year 12 Graduation Formal

Congratulations to our Class of 2025 who were superb in celebrating their learning and gifts to parents, families, friends, staff and the wider community at their Graduation Formal on Thursday night at Avondale Golf Course. Each student spoke eloquently of their journey at St Edmund’s and the dance floor endured a great workout in celebration. Much preparation goes into ensuring the success of this great community night and we thank Mrs Susan Dickenson and her promotions team, our Allied Health and English Teams who supported the speech presentations, our MC Mr Terry O’Keefe, Parent Speaker Mr Chris Brown, our supportive Year 12 and Pastoral staff, Maintenance Team, and Parent Team led by Con Karantzis.



It was a great celebration of all that is good about St Edmund’s including our wonderful students!

Student Leadership Team 2026

Well done to Sienna, Finley, Ben, Isaac and Sam: our student leaders 2026 elect, who last Friday joined student leaders from each of the NSW EREA Schools: CBHS Lewisham, Edmund Rice Wollongong, St Doms Penrith, St Edmund’s Gosford, St Pats Strathfield, and St Pius X Chatswood at Mulgoa EREA Retreat Centre to share their ideas and vision for student leadership of our school in 2026. The students were addressed by my former NSW Liberal Opposition Leader and EREA St Pats Vice Captain 1986: Mr John Brogden who is a great advocate for empowered leadership and mental health / wellbeing advocacy and support.



The Team then joined our 2025 Student Leadership Team of Arpita, Nathan, James, Ella, Will and Liam for an important leadership transition meeting this week at which the Teams shared their experiences and leadership goals for St Edmund’s.



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Next week our Year 11 Student Leadership Team 2026 will meet again to develop their strategic leadership plans and actions which they will then present to Mrs Dillon and the St Edmund's Leadership Team.

We thank our outgoing team led by Arpita and Nathan and wish our new leaders well as they take on the mantle of Leadership of our great school in its 75th year as a place of excellence in learning and community of great integrity and authenticity at which our students can thrive to offer their great gifts to our society and cause as a whole.

Eddies Live at Abbotsleigh

Our Week 6 learning interactions with Abbotsleigh were again a great highlight with our Year 10 - 12 students engaged with producing the Eddies Live - Abbotsleigh Performing Arts Concert and our Year 5 - 7 students working in the Fun Fit and Full of Ideas learning interaction between St Edmund's and Abbotsleigh Outdoor Learning Spaces.

The Year 5 - 7 students were really engaged with activities around personal wellbeing as well as understanding the environment through Bee and Tadpole study activities at Abbotsleigh. We are grateful to former Eddies staff member Ms Viv Gilkes for coordinating this program with our Year 5 - 7 Pastoral staff.

Without stealing the thunder of our Creative Arts Team, some students mentioned for outstanding performances include:

- Arpita Yr 12 for her incredible dance choreography and Leadership at Eddies Live
- Matthew Yr 10 on an amazing self developed drum solo performed again at Abbotsleigh
- And at our recent Charity Challenge performance to Chloe Year 8B and Jeremy 7S for drumming above and beyond the call of duty, while Monique in Year 9M has impressed all and with her recent dance performances.

Go Eddies!

St John's The Dish Social Outreach opportunity

With our continued commitment to this social justice initiative in 2026 there will be an opportunity for our senior students and parents to support our school in cooking, preparing and serving dinner at St John's Church Hall Hornsby.

Thanks you to all who have supported the Dish initiative this year and particularly our Hospo team and Bernie who brought together the student and community input in this space. The commitment involves driving the Hospo prepared food and collected grocery items to Hornsby from 5pm and serving the patrons there from approx 6-7pm



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

We have indicated to St John's that we are keen to support and have been nominated for the following 2026 dates:

Term 1 Tuesday 24 March

Term 2 Tuesday 26 May

Term 3 Tuesday 11 August

Term 4 Tuesday 10 November

Please let me know if you can support across this roster of dates either preparing portions at school 4.30 - 5.30pm, delivering around 6pm or serving at St John's Church Hall from 6pm.

There is also opportunity to donate needed grocery and care items through Bernie in the front office!

I refer your attention also to the Hotel Etico visit to Mt Victoria venue coordinated by Family Engagement Officer Mrs Lisa Duffy and Curriculum Leader Mrs Judi North. Hotel Etico offers independent living and working experiences for students such as ours, and a good representative group of our parents and community travelled up to learn about it last Thursday.

Recent Events

Wednesday 26/11/25 Christmas stall provided by Retail and Hospitality VET students and teams 2-3 pm @ school foyer.

Thursday 27/11/25 St Edmund's Year 12 Formal and afternoon tea with transport Providers

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 3/12/25 St Edmund's Presentation day - Parents welcome 10 - 12pm

& Eddies Got Talent - Parents welcome 1.35pm - 2.50pm

Thursday 4/12/25 Year 11 serving Year 12 BBQ Event @ Clontarf

Friday 5/12/25 Graduation Mass Years 6 & 12 and Farewell Ceremony

Mass 11.30 - 12.30pm all Staff and students - parents and friends are welcome, please rsvp if you are able to attend at www.stedmunds.nsw.edu.au/graduation-mass.

12.30 - 1pm Year 6 and Year 12 Parents and Students speeches, 1-1.30pm Sausage Lunch all Year 6 and Year 12 parents, staff and students, 1.30-1.55pm Farewell Ceremony and Farewell Arch for Year 12.

1.55 - 2.55pm Ice blocks and Homeroom gatherings for Years 5 - 11.

Sunday 7/12/25 Wahroonga Fair - Student Performances and Eddie's Stall. Please let us know if you can support this initiative.

"Too much fun" leading into Christmas!

Start to 2026

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and great restorative holiday break when you get there, whether it be with family time, at the beach, the bush, or the city. There is a lot to like about a Sydney Summer and equally wonderful if you get further afield.

Without wanting to wish the Summer Holiday Season and Christmas away in any way shape or form, I look forward to seeing all of our students back and better than ever in full polished Summer Uniform, and ready for a year of productive growth and learning on Day 1, Thursday 29th January 2026.

Fide et Labore

Sean Brannan | Deputy Principal



St Edmund's
COLLEGE

THE PRINCIPAL, MRS VANESSA DILLON
INVITES OUR FAMILIES & FRIENDS TO THE
ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE

Presentation Ceremony

WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER
10AM - 12PM

ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE
60 BURNS ROAD, WAHROONGA

Eddie's Got Talent, our annual talent
show will be held that afternoon
from 1.35pm - 2.50pm.
All welcome.



St Edmund's
COLLEGE

Please join us to celebrate

THE YEAR 6 GRADUATION &
YEAR 12 STUDENTS' LAST DAY
AT ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE

Friday 5 December

11.20am arrival for an 11.30am start

Whole School Year 6 &
Year 12 Graduation Mass
with Fr Gaspar

School hosted BBQ for
Year 6 and 12 students and families

Presentation of school gift
to Year 6 and 12 students

Leaving archway for Year 12 students

Finishing at 1.55pm

RSVP

**STEDMUNDS.NSW.EDU.AU
/GRADUATION-MASS**



CAPTAIN'S CORNER



This is our last newsletter entry! We have loved representing St Edmund's and being part of the student leadership team. On Thursday we all had a great time at our Graduation Formal. We walked down the red carpet on entry, made speeches, ate a delicious dinner, received a special gift, chatted with our friends, families and Eddie's staff then finished the night on the dance floor. We will miss everyone very much but are also excited to start our post-school lives! Thank you to everyone who has supported us in a variety of ways.

PARENT GROUP

As this is my final contribution as Parent Leader, and on behalf of the entire parent community, I want to say a heartfelt thank you.

Thank you to ALL the staff at the school. From the warm greetings at the front door, to the calendar of events shared on Class Dojo, to the numerous activities and celebrations held throughout the year—thank you. We are deeply grateful for the engaging learning experiences you provide, the positive and safe environment you create, and the nurturing community you continue to build. Our students—and their parents—have truly benefited from your dedication.

I would also like to thank all our families for your partnership, your support, and your unwavering commitment to making this school year a success.

Throughout the year, we have been fortunate to come together at so many events—each one a reminder of how powerful parent involvement can be when rooted in connection, shared experiences, and a genuine desire to support our children.

My heartfelt thanks also go to all our class representatives, who so generously volunteered their time. You kept our classes organised, supported communication, and played a vital role in coordinating the many activities and initiatives that enriched our school community. Your commitment made a real and meaningful difference.

Finally, I want to take a moment to acknowledge our departing students. I wish you every success in your future endeavors. Dream big, soar like an eagle, live your life fully—and most importantly... look after your parents.

As the holiday season approaches, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this festive season bring you joy, rest, and precious time spent with loved ones.

Thank you.

Con Kalantzis | Parent Group Leader



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Curriculum Corner

Semester 2 Student Reports

Semester 2 student reports will be published to Sentral on Friday the 5th December, the last day of school. Families can access reports through the Sentral Parent Portal. If you need support accessing the parent portal, please contact Sean Brannan brannan@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au

Library Book Returns

Please return all library books now!

Reminder notifications have been sent home to families this week with book titles that need to be returned.

School Holidays – Looking for holiday activities!

Remember you can access these sites over the holidays using your student login:

Mathletics: <https://www.mathletics.com/au/>

ePlatform: <https://www.eplatform.co/au/>

Typing: <https://www.typing.com/>

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Judi North | Head of Teaching and Learning



BIRTHDAY ICEBLOCKS REMINDER

Birthday Ice Blocks

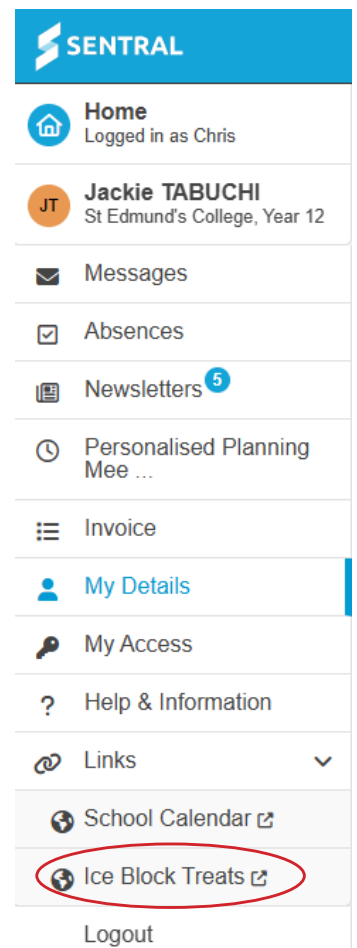
Our food safety protocols have been developed to safeguard our students from allergens and food cross contamination.

In this context the “Class Birthday Celebration” procedure has been simplified. A class serve of Ice Blocks purchased through the canteen replaces cupcakes, cakes, lolly bags, etc brought from home. The Ice Blocks are very popular amongst the troops.

As such please see below the Sentral Parent Portal, through which ice blocks can be ordered for your child’s class or year group. (Refer bottom tab). \$10 buys sufficient ice blocks for a Year group. You can also access the [link directly here](#).

We thank all of you for adjusting seamlessly to this hopefully streamlined procedure.

If you have any questions or difficulties with the portal, or this process, please contact the school admin team.



ALLIED HEALTH

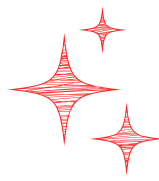
The Allied Health team wanted to say a massive thank you for the incredible year it has been at St Edmund's.

We acknowledge that whilst many of us are excited for the holiday season, this is also a time that can be challenging for many. Remember to be kind to yourself, and try take time for the small acts of self-care that can make all the difference.

Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you back in 2026!

Morgan Meyer and Andrea McDermott | Allied Health





Come and see us at
Wahroonga Village Fair

Sunday 7th December 2025

Check out our incredible range of student designed products!



Rotary
Club of Wahroonga



AWARDS

	Student of the Week	Eddie's Best
5/6	Alexandra	Adam
7S	Lucinda	Jeremy
7V	Hunter	Jonny
8B	Sebastian S and Diesel	Chloe
8P	Brandon and Aliyana	Jack
9P	Nicholas and Ted	Maxyne
9M	Holly and Monique	Aaron
10D	Jack and Holly	Zara
10O	Daniel and Lucy	Sophia
11A	Cameron and Bridie	Alexander
11J	Gemma and Elle	Isabella
12D	Toby and Lauren	Michael
12E	James and Andreas	Bradley

congratulations

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

At the end of the first year of the Family Engagement Officer role at St. Edmund's, I would like my newsletter entry this week to be a big **thank you**.

First of all, **thank you** to you: the parents and caregivers of our St. Edmund's students. You have trusted me to listen, source and provide information, and provide guidance about your personal questions and support needs. **Thank you** for also supporting me with my questions!

Thank you to the staffing team at St. Edmund's: the holistic, collaborative, respectful approach to individualised care towards each student is beyond comparison. When a student or family has a question or specific needs, there are multiple staff members who will come together to brainstorm collective ideas and strategies, and work closely with families and their other supports and team members. I've truly never seen anything like it!

Thank you to the community members and service providers who are so committed to supporting our students and families.

Thank you in particular to:

Hireup: whose generous support has helped to turn our Boardroom into Eddie's Hotel: a space where our students can practice and build their confidence in independent living skills and prepare for their post-school world. <https://hireup.com.au/>

My Plan Manager: who generously plan to support our enrichment ensembles next year, with new co-designed shirts! <https://myplanmanager.com.au/>

WeFlex: who have supported a pilot program to deliver personal training on a Monday morning in Terms 3 and 4 to teach some students about the role that movement and exercise can play in emotional regulation, confidence, social skills, and independence. <https://weflex.com.au/>

Cerebral Palsy Alliance: for facilitating a successful Afternoon Club on Thursdays, that supports the independence and social goals of some of our students. <https://cerebralpalsy.org.au/>

Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai Community College: for working with us to develop a Peer Mentoring program for Eddie's Alumni to support our senior students: something we hope to roll out in 2026! <https://www.hkcc.nsw.edu.au/>

Northside Enterprise and Bushlink: for working with us to develop ways that their post-school Bush Regeneration work skills program can be included in our new curriculum for the Certificate I VET in Skills for Vocational Pathways, which will support our Year 11 students to apply their learning and skills in practical environments. <https://www.bushlink.org.au/>

Resourcing Inclusive Communities: for providing bespoke training to our families in Customised Employment and Circles of Support. <https://www.ric.org.au/>

Sheridan McCarroll and Robyn Brown: Sheridan and Robyn are two people who already volunteer their time and expertise to support our school, and both are endeavouring to continue to support our students in post-school pathways - I look forward to working with Sheridan and Robyn more in 2026!

And the many service providers who have collaborated with me and other staff to provide opportunities for excursions, tours, and who co-presented with me in Family Engagement workshops or webinars:

Jigsaw: <https://jigsawaustralia.com.au/>

Avenue: <https://avenuecoworking.org.au/>



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Studio Artes: <https://www.studioartes.org.au/>

Hotel Etico: <https://hoteletico.com.au/>

Hireup: <https://hireup.com.au/>

Carer Gateway: <https://www.carergateway.gov.au/>

BuddyAssist: <https://www.buddyassist.com.au/>

SILC: Supporting Independent Living Co-operative: <https://www.silc.coop/>

Base Housing Collective/Fighting Chance: <https://base.org.au/>

CPA: Cerebral Palsy Alliance: <https://cerebralpalsy.org.au/>

Anne Cregan/Gilbert and Tobin Lawyers: <https://www.gtlaw.com.au/our-people/anne-cregan>

My aim for 2026 and beyond is to continue to create new connections and opportunities for students and their families to feel more confident and empowered to self-advocate and thrive. As always, if there is something you'd like to know more about, or a topic you'd like to have a presentation on, or a service provider you'd like to connect me to: please let me know!

And before I sign off for 2025, I'd like to ask you all to please complete my **Family Engagement Officer Role: Feedback Survey**: it will help me to make sure that my work best suits your needs and goals!

The link to the survey is below- **I would love to hear from all of you!**

[Survey link](#)

Thank you in advance ;)

I hope you have a restful and rejuvenating holiday period! See you in 2026!

duffy@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au

Lisa Duffy | Family Engagement Officer

COMMUNITY

Please note any external events or organisations listed in the Community section are not endorsed by the College, but are included as they may be of interest to our families. As with any service provision sourced by families for their young person, we encourage due diligence in making informed decisions.

Social media age restrictions

What you need to know

From 10 December 2025 Australian young people under 16 will not be allowed to create or hold accounts on certain social media platforms.

Delaying account access allows more time for young people to build digital literacy and greater resilience.

How will it work?

Under the law, the responsibility lies with the age-restricted platforms to find and deactivate existing accounts held by under-16s and to prevent under-16s from creating new accounts.

There are no penalties for under-16s who access an age-restricted social media platform, or for their parents or carers.

Social media platforms

The age restrictions are likely to apply to **Facebook, Instagram, Kick, Reddit, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, X, YouTube** as well as other platforms. [See the latest list.](#)

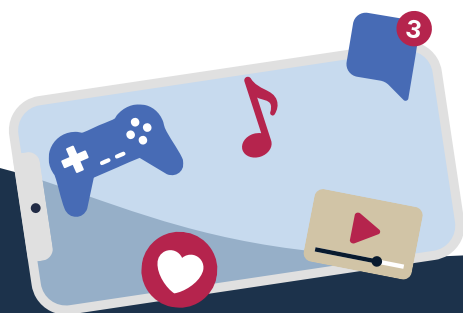
Most standalone gaming and messaging apps, as well as many services that support health and education, will not be affected by the new law.

Information and resources

Visit **eSafety's social media age restrictions hub** to find out what's happening and how to prepare.

The hub includes practical guidance for parents and carers and young people, including get-ready guides and actions plans to prepare for the change.

Updated 05/11/25



For more **information and resources** to help you prepare, visit **eSafety.gov.au**

January School Holidays Course Program




**Half Day
\$100
Full day
\$180**

**Ages
5-14**

**Week 1 -
Wednesday 14th - Friday 16th January**

**Week 2 -
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd January**

Morning Session 9:30am - 12pm

Reading Skills

Cooking Skills

Physical activity

Afternoon Session 12:30 - 3:00pm

Fine Motor Skills

Life Skills

Social Skills and Games

Daily Themes

Each day, our activities will be centred around the themes below

Wednesday 14th	Summer Fun
Thursday 15th	Disney Day
Friday 16th	Let's Build Lego
Monday 19th	Marvellous Music
Tuesday 20th	All around the world
Wednesday 21st	Science Day
Thursday 22nd	Amazing Animals
Friday 23rd	Back to the Bush

Come dressed to match the theme!

**Enrol by
November
28th to
receive 10%
off full day
course cost**

**Enrolments close
Friday 6th December**

Enrol by contacting:
02 8850 0555 thehillslc.com.au
info@thehillslc.com.au



Danny &



Joel Cohen



The father & son team are back!



Art, Adventure & **CARTOONING** **HOLIDAY PROGRAMS**



Lower North Shore

Monday 22nd December - Friday 26th December
(Closed 25th December) We are open on Boxing Day

Eastern Suburbs

Monday 29nd December - Friday 2nd January, 2026
(Closed 1st January)

Bookings

www.illustrating-man.com.au

- Click the **Cartoon Workshops** button in the middle of our home page
- Select: **Lower North Shore** or **Eastern Suburbs**
- Check your junk, spam folders for the confirmation
- If using PayPal - we will write to your PayPal email
- For children aged 4 - 15 years



- Juniors: 5 - 7
- Intermediates: 8 - 10
- Seniors: 11 - 15

\$60 Short Day 9.30am - 3.30pm
\$65 Long Day 8am - 6pm (part thereof)
\$30 Thursday night 6pm - 9pm

Early Bird Discount 4 Day Programs

Book 3 Long Days Monday to Wednesday **NOT** Friday - don't select Friday by 4.30pm **Friday December 5th** & we'll give you the Friday for **FREE**. Your child will be added to the Friday list

Saving \$65

Limited spots available. Please try to book ASAP.

Lower North Shore

Monday 22nd December - Friday 26th December
(Closed 25th December) We are open on Boxing Day
2nd Willoughby (Antranig) Scout Hall
Corner Park Road & Station Streets, Naremburn

Eastern Suburbs

Monday 29nd December - Friday 2nd January, 2026
(Closed 1st January) Bondi Scout Hall
63a Wairoa Ave & Corner Hastings Parade, Bondi

Enquiries: 8.30am - 4.30pm (EST)

Calls outside of these times will be returned the following day

02 9343 0833

bookings@cartoonkingdom.com.au
www.illustrating-man.com.au

Mail: Suite 2, 29 Newland St, Bondi Junction NSW 2022





UMBRELLA
School of Music
Opening hearts and minds

COME TO OUR
MUSICALL



**GRAND DEBUT
SHOWCASE**

WED | 3 DEC 2025 | 6:30 PM



GREENHALGH THEATRE
100 Eton Road, Lindfield, 2070

**GET YOUR
TICKETS
NOW!**



\$15 - \$30





Connected & Active

International Day of People with Disability

December 3 2025

10am - 12:30pm

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai PCYC

1 Park Lane Waitara

**Come and join us to discover how
to stay connected, active and
happy!**

Join us for a fun and interactive day filled with activities, information and inspiration.

Community Services Expo

Discover a wide range of mainstream and community services supporting people with disability, their families and carers — including information from Services Australia on payments and services.

Scavenger Hunt

Explore the expo, visit different stalls and activities, learn about the incredible work of local organisations, and collect goodies along the way! Every participant receives a goody bag.

Interactive Activities

Get active and have fun with basketball and soccer goal shooting, cricket, archery, bocce and a range of other exciting games.

Networking & Refreshments

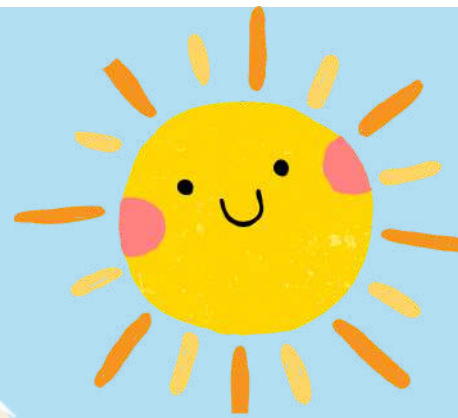
Meet community leaders, disability advocates and service providers while enjoying light refreshments.



SUMMER

School HOLIDAY

Program



THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2025 - FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2026

**TRANSPORT INCLUDED!
BETWEEN 08:00AM - 16:00**

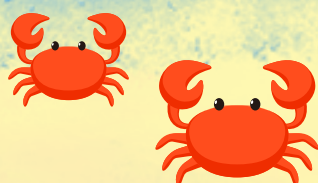
**COST OF PROGRAM AND
ACTIVITIES INCLUDED UNDER
THE NDIS PRICE GUIDE**

1:1 SUPPORT

AGES 3 - 25 YEARS



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ADMIN[AT]GROWINGROOTS.COM.AU



**Summer
2026**

**Participate
Australia**

**22 December 2025 –
30 January 2026**

[CLICK HERE
TO VIEW THE
PROGRAM](#)

Under 18's



School Holidays

Fun School Holiday Program to build your Capacity

December 2025/January 2026

Mon 22nd



Painting Day

Create, color and shine, today's all about painting fun

Tue 23rd



Science Day

Sparking curiosity and creativity! Kids will explore amazing experiments and the magic of science in action

Wed 24th



Dance and Rhythm Day

Shake, twist, and groove! Kids will explore rhythm, express themselves, and dance their hearts out

Thurs 25th



Christmas Day

Service Closed

Fri 26th

Boxing Day

Service Closed

Mon 29th



Swimming Day (Homebush Swimming Pool)

Splash, swim, and smile

Tues 30th



GYM Day

Jump, stretch, and move! A day full of fun fitness games to keep kids active and smiling

Wed 31st



Service Closed

Thurs 1st



Service Closed

Fri 2nd



Obstacle Day

An adventure-filled day where every twist and turn brings laughter, energy, and a big sense of achievement



**Book now
Limited Reservation**

For More Information:

0450000920 @coordination@safecarensw.au
www.safecarensw.com.au

Fun School Holiday Program to build your Capacity

January 2026

Mon 5th

Tues 6th

Wed 7th

Thurs 8th

Fri 9th



Music Day/ Drumming Day

Candle Making Day

Craft Day

Air Dry Clay Day

Bowling Day

Feel the beat and move your feet, it's Music and Drumming Day!

Light up your creativity with fun candle making!

Tiny hands, big ideas let's make something amazing!

It's a day for kids to mold, play and make amazing clay art

(Timezone & Zone Bowling Villawood)
Roll, cheer and play, let's strike up some fun

Mon 12th

Tues 13th

Wed 14th

Thurs 15th

Fri 16th



Animal Adventures Day

Slime Making Day

Gardening and Plant Care

Flip out (Villawood)

Basket Ball Day

(Wildlife Sydney Zoo)
Meet, learn and have fun, today's all about animals

Roll, cheer and play, let's strike up some fun Stretch, squish and have some fun, today's all about slime

Plant, care and watch them grow, it's a garden day of fun

Bounce high, laugh loud, let's Flip Out today

(Little Boomers Basketball Bankstown)
Bounce, aim and score, today's all about basketball fun!



**Book now
Limited Reservation**

For More Information:

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www.safecarensw.com.au

Fun School Holiday Program to build your Capacity

January 2026

Mon 19th



Movie & Pajama Day

Wear your comfiest clothes and lets chill with a movie, hot chocolate and popcorn

Tues 20th



Outdoor Picnic Day

Cogee Beach Eat, laugh and play, it's Outdoor Picnic Day

Wed 21st



Sealife Adventure Day

Discover ocean creatures and have some fun at Sealife Sydney Aquarium!

Thurs 22nd



Making Smoothie Popsicles

Create, taste and smile all day, it's Smoothie Popsicle Making Day

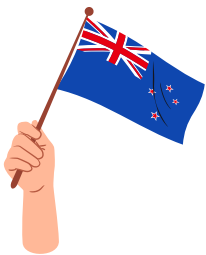
Fri 23rd



Pizza Making Day

Cheesy smiles all the way, it's Pizza Making Day

Mon 26th



Australia's Day

Service Closed

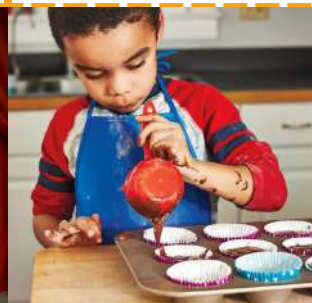
Tues 27th



Mini Talent Show Day

Let your talents shine today, it's Mini Talent Show Day

Wed 28th



Baking Day

Today, kids will mix, roll, and bake their very own delicious treats

Thurs 29th



Hiking Day

Today, kids will explore Royal National Park, discover plants and animals, and enjoy an outdoor adventure full of fun and fresh air.

Fri 30th



BBQ Day

Grill, chill and play, it's BBQ Day!



**Book now
Limited Reservation**

For More Information:

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www.safecarensw.com.au