



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,

During the sacred Season of Lent, bring me closer to you. Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may rediscover the grace of prayerful life.

Help me to fast from those things that threaten the wellbeing of body and soul, and remind me of the grace of simplicity.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in doing so, rediscover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

May this Season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for, and faith in, you.

Amen.

This week, within many faiths associated with the Christian tradition, we entered the Season of Lent. This is a 40 day period that leads to the celebration of the Easter Season. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, and this was acknowledged here at school with an Ash Wednesday liturgy that was held in Homerooms. The core themes of Lent are Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. It is also a time to repent, so as to renew our relationship with God and with others. Thank you to Terry for providing our staff and students with the liturgical focus to mark the beginning of the Lenten Season

It seems fitting that the theme of 'sorry' and 'forgiveness' has been a focus this week for our community, as it was also the anniversary of the Australian Government's national apology to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders which took place on the 13th February, 2008. May we pray for a future where the intent for this apology continues to build a nation of inclusivity and respectful interconnectedness.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Beginning of the New School Year Mass

Thank you to Terry and Fr Kelvin for leading the community in a special faith-filled celebration to mark the introduction of the new school year! It was a lovely way to come together in prayer, and to give thanks for the many gifts that exist within our College. We were able to welcome our new staff and students, and to formally bless our College Leaders for 2024. This occasion was also a time for us to reflect on the work and legacy of blessed Edmund Rice and the values we seek to bring to each other each day – that of Faith, Joy, Relationships and Community.

To our new students and staff, we welcome you warmly! Bara, Leah, Diesel, Chloe, Lucas, Brandon, Sebastian, D'arcy, Lizzie, Aliyana, Russell, Sam, Jaydon and Jack; Elycia, Lin, Melissa, Jodie and Nicola. May Jesus live in your hearts...forever.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Eddie's Big Night In

Thank you for making the time to be present with us at our 2024 Eddie's Big Night In on Tuesday 13th February. Many people coordinated and organised the occasion, so that it provided for all in attendance, a sense of connection and belonging that we value here at St Edmund's. It was so lovely to have many parents and carers experience the new spaces in such a joyful way! This is the first time in quite a number of years, where we have been able to host such an event onsite for all to attend.

A particular thank you to Mrs Rebecca Kirwan, our Deputy Principal, and Ms Louise Wytenburg and Mrs Susan Dickenson who are members of our Marketing and Development Team. I also thank all staff who attended, and the Homeroom Teams who facilitated an input session. If you were unable to come along, please email your child's Homeroom Teacher to receive a copy of the slides.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Personalised Planning Meetings

As mentioned by Rebecca at our EBNI evening, bookings are now open for parents/carers to secure their timeslot to meet. These bookings will take place through the Sentral Parent Portal App, and all meetings will take place onsite. We invite students to come along and contribute to their goals, and a goal setting scaffold will be sent home to support this process ahead of the meeting time. Please find further details in Rebecca's section of the Newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE:

Eddie's Big Night Out

As was mentioned at our EBNI, our next community event – which is also our biggest and most significant community event – is Eddie's Big Night Out! It will be held on Saturday 15 June 2024 7pm at the beautiful Miramare Gardens in Terrey Hills.

Tickets are \$200pp and will go on sale in March. The ticket price includes a 3 course meal, beverages and live entertainment. In the past

this has raised funds for initiatives such as the development of our new hall (staging, AV, lighting), laser cutters and 3D printers, buses, commercial kitchen and more. We will announce the fundraising objective for EBNO 2024 soon.



Words of Reflection

Some parents who were present on Tuesday evening have asked that I include my words of reflection for the year in this newsletter. And so, I shall end my section this week with those. I hope they bring for you a sense of what we hope to be able to achieve together, so as to greatly benefit your children and our students, and all within this wonderful community of St Edmund's...

During the recent holiday break, I was lucky enough to go to Hobart for the first time. And, as part of my trip, I went to MONA. There were many artworks and installations that captivated my interest and curiosity, in particular the White House by Ai WeiWei.

Coming to know a bit about Ai WeiWei's life as both an advocate and an artist, led me to read more of his life and some of the teachings and insights he has become known for. One of his quotes had particular resonance;



"The seed is a household object but at the same time it is a revolutionary symbol"

I like this saying because it highlights how something relatively small and insignificant can give life and purpose in abundance, which in turn, brings benefit to many.

Another artist, Laura Fantini, highlights how seeds have always been considered a metaphor for survival and rebirth. They are small, but complicated and mysterious. They have the ability to pause their growth for months or years, yet still be alive and come out of their inactivity at the right moment. What they do

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

is extraordinary and magnificent. Without seeds, life would be threatened, from human beings to plants and animals. Sometimes a seed is all that remains of a plant. It is the beginning and the end, but also the hope for the next generation.

There's a parable that Jesus shared regarding a sower, a farmer, and how there is an additional element required in order to allow the seed the opportunity to grow, and that is for it to be cared for and nurtured. Jesus' message here was to remind his followers of the need to nurture their relationship with God so as to deepen the growth of their connection with God.

I see that there is a similar message for us as a community.

The seeds we sow here can be many and varied, just like there are many and varied fruits and vegetables, trees and flowers, and bushes. Our seeds might have the opportunity to give birth to ideas and initiatives, they might give birth to evaluation and reflection, they might give birth to connection and cohesion, they might give birth to possibility and potential, they might give birth to joy and positivity.

Yet, if we don't see the role we all have as the soil from which they germinate, and we don't collectively nurture these many and varied seeds as they sprout, then they may not develop and grow in a way that we would want for them to. This would greatly inhibit our chance to nourish our community. We would want for all these outcomes to eventuate in a positive and healthy way that brings longevity and sustenance for all.

We want these seeds to sprout here at St Edmund's, because all that comes forth helps bring alive our four core values - that of Faith, of Joy, of Community and of Relationships.

We want these seeds to sprout here at St Edmund's because they provide for your children, and our students, a life that they deserve. A life that is full of hope and full of promise. A life that inspires independence and transforms lives.

Tonight is the first opportunity we have had for quite some time, to come together as a whole community. You will have the opportunity to meet the wonderful staff of Eddie's, to catch up with friends, to meet new people. It will be a time to view the new facilities that have since been made available for your children, and to sneak a peek at what else is still to come. It's an occasion where we are able to give thanks for the connection we share in belonging to this special community of Eddie's. I look forward to enhancing this connection and this sense of belonging for you as the year continues, and to invite your input and feedback that will help shape the direction we are headed in as a community over the coming years.

Another of Ai WeiWei's writings alluded to this, when he said

"You have to be always ready to engage, willing to participate. I regain my energy by making a very small difference that won't cost me much. My favourite word? It's 'act'. A small act is worth a million thoughts, and your own acts tell the world who you are and what kind of society you think it should be."

And so, I see tonight as an opportunity to consider how we might each individually look to nurture the seed that is within each of us, so that it might grow and provide much benefit for others here at St Edmund's. I hope that, collectively, each of these seeds – whether they be of ideas or initiatives, joy or positivity, possibility or potential, cohesion or connection – bear much fruit for which we can all be grateful.

Vanessa Dillon | Principal



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It was wonderful to see so many of you at Eddies Big Night In this week and was fantastic to finally be able to provide the opportunity for you all to explore the new spaces that your children are now accessing within the College. During the whole school presentation that evening, I spoke about the following topics which I have included in this newsletter as a reminder and for those who were unable to attend:

Communication

At the College we have several options for you to keep in touch with us and to gain an understanding of the learning that your child is engaging with.

These include:

Sentral Parent Portal App

We are now using the app version of the Sentral Parent portal which I would strongly advise you to download. It is much more user friendly in comparison to the previous parent portal website and has options for ways to log in more quickly. At this stage, this app may be used for viewing past report cards, newsletters from 2024, student timetables, booking personalised planning meetings and reporting absences. We are looking to move towards summarising the College calendar and digital permission forms in the future and will update you with further information when these functions come online.

Please visit this link to help you get started <https://www.sentral.com.au/getting-started>

There is a video 'how to' guide for downloading and signing in to the app. If you have registered with the portal before, you may use the same username and password that you have previously used. You don't need to register again. If you are new to the parent portal and require an access key, please get in touch with Bernadette in the office or myself at kirwan@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au. If you need some general help with the Portal app please visit the FAQ section which may be of use, otherwise reach out and I am happy to assist <https://www.sentral.com.au/portal-app-help>

Email

Homeroom teachers provided you with their email address during the presentation on Eddies Big Night In. If you were not able to attend and do not have your child's new homeroom teacher's email address, please contact Bernadette Acret, College Secretary. Email is used for wellbeing issues and concerns and to get a message to your homeroom teacher during the school day.

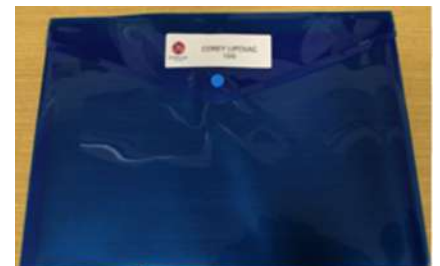
Blue Communication Folders

Each student should have one of these folders in their bag daily. Please use this folder to place any notes, forms and correspondence that you need to send in. Homeroom teachers will check these folders each day during homeroom.

Class Dojo

This app is used for sharing curriculum updates and activities.

Various subjects will post photographs to provide you with an insight into the topics and learning experiences that your child will enjoy at the College. If you have any difficulty accessing this app please get in touch with Judi North, Head of Teaching and Learning.



ClassDojo

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Reporting Absences

As mentioned above, there is now the ability to report any student absence reasons via the Sentral parent portal app. This year we will require parents to use this app function to provide the 'official' explanation for student absence rather than using emails that have been sent to homeroom teachers. This will ensure that our record keeping for student attendance is kept streamlined. I will email a 'cheat sheet' in the coming days to assist parents in being able to report absences in this way. Thank you in advance for your support of this change in procedure. Please be aware that any longer-term absences will still require a leave application form to be completed and submitted to Vanessa Dillon, Principal for approval. This form can be obtained via your child's homeroom teacher.

Personalised Planning Meetings Semester 1

This is an important opportunity for students, parents, and teachers to collaborate. Together you plan student goals based on identified priorities and establish pathways and consistent strategies for students to achieve their goals.

Dates: Tuesday 27th February and 12th March 2-7pm

Bookings open on the Sentral parent portal/app from 13th – 22nd February closing 5pm

Please book your appointment as soon as possible so that we can finalise slots for your class.

A planning sheet for goals will be sent home with each student on Monday to assist you in planning for this meeting. Please note that meetings will take place onsite on the dates listed above, and students are invited to come along to contribute to their goal setting.

If you have any questions regarding the Personalised Planning process, please feel free to get in touch with me either by phone via the college office or at kirwan@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au

Sacramental Program

We will be offering our Sacramental Program again this year in association with Holy Name Parish. The programs will be Confirmation, Reconciliation and Eucharist. We will run the programs during school hours, but the celebration will be with the Parish during the evening or weekend times. If you are interested in your child being involved in any of these programs, please contact Terry O'Keefe at okeefe@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au

Rebecca Kirwan | Deputy Principal

KEY DATES

Thurs 4 April **Men's Group**

Tues 7 May **School Photos**

Wed 15 – Fri 17 May **Yrs 7 and 8 – TOP Wollongong**

Sat 15 June **Eddie's Big Night Out**

Tues 6 Aug **Athletics Carnival**

Thurs 12 Sept **Charity Challenge Golf Day**

Thurs 19 Sept **Eddie's Art Show**

Wed 25 - Fri 27 Sept **Yrs 11 and 12 Retreat Mulgoa**

Tues 22 Oct **Swimming Carnival**

Mon 28 – Wed 30 Oct **Yrs 9 and 10 Chittick Lodge, Gerringong**

Sat 16 Nov **Charity Challenge Gala Dinner** (Year 11 and 12 performers)

Fri 22 Nov **Abbotsleigh Concert**

Thurs 28th Nov **Yr 12 Formal**

Wed 4th Dec **Presentation Day**

WELLBEING

Student Wellbeing Profiles Parent Input

Thank you so much to those who have already emailed through their input form to help create part of our Student Wellbeing Profiles. This valuable input supports us in creating a Wellbeing Profile for each student, enabling us to share a consistent approach across the whole school. If you would like to provide your input, please email the completed to mulkeen@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au, or alternatively you can send in with your child in their blue folder.



Carers Gateway

Some of you may already be familiar with Carers Gateway but for those of you who are not, it is a government run program that provides support for families and carers of those with a disability. It provides a range of free services delivered in-person, online and over the phone, ranging from counselling and peer support groups, to respite care, home help and equipment.

If you would like more information about accessing these services, you can visit <https://www.carergateway.gov.au/services-and-support>

Niamh Mulkeen | Head of Wellbeing

TEACHING AND LEARNING

A huge thank you to our St Edmund's families who so generously purchased a book to donate to our library at Eddies Big Night In. The sale raised a massive \$1,205! This is a significant contribution to our growing library collection, providing our students with a greater variety of quality literature.

The accession process is underway, so these wonderful books will be coming home soon!

Thank you for your support in fostering a passion for reading and learning at St Edmund's.

We also extend our appreciation to Novella Fine Books, Cards and Gifts, Wahroonga for their support.

Judi North | Head of Teaching and Learning



TYPING PROGRAM

Within English lessons for the first 3 weeks of school, all of our students have been working very hard in our new schoolwide typing program [Typing.com](https://www.typing.com). The program uses a graded approach, along with fun games and repetition to improve accuracy and typing speed. The program has supported our students to become more familiar with the layout of the keyboard, gaining independence in logging in and logging off and improving confidence in using a laptop.

Certificates will be handed out at assembly to congratulate them on achieving certain milestones. All students should be commended on their hard work and persistence with the program so far.

In upcoming weeks, we will provide login details and instructions so students can continue with the program at home if you so choose. There will also be opportunities to continue working on the program throughout the year at school.

If you have any questions about the typing program or wish to know more details, please feel free to email me at moait@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au.

Rachelle Moait | School Occupational Therapist



CAPTAIN'S CORNER & STUDENT VOICE



We enjoyed representing Eddie's as college captains at Eddie's Big Night In. It was a fun night. Some of our roles included chatting to parents, speaking at the presentation and saying the Acknowledgement of Country, helping parents find their child's classroom and more. We hope all the attendees also had a nice night.

Hugh, Christian, Sonnet and David | College Captains

There are many important school rules at St Edmund's. This week I will talk about why it is important to be caring. Being caring helps you make friends, make your friends, classmates and teachers feel good. You should care for yourself, others and the environment.

Chloe | Student Voice

PDHPE AND SPORT

School Carnivals 2024

School Athletics Carnival at PLC

6/08/24 - Athletics Carnival

13/8/24 - Athletics Carnival back-up

School Swimming Carnival at PLC

22/10/24 -Swimming Carnival

Catholic Schools Broken Bay Dates 2024

CSBB Swimming - Tuesday 12th March - SOPAC, Homebush

CSBB Cross Country - Tuesday 21st May - Gosford Racecourse

CSBB Athletics - Monday 3rd Sep - SOPAC, Homebush

NSWCCC Carnival Dates 2024

4/04/24 - NSWCCC Swimming & Diving

5/06/24 - NSWCCC Cross Country

16/09/24 - NSWCCC Athletics

Cole Classic and Special Olympics

On Sunday 4th February, Zane competed in the Cole Classic at Manly and did 20 min for 1km in rough conditions with big swell. He did amazingly well. He loves ocean swimming and swims 2km each weekend at Shelly beach in a swim club.

On Saturday 3rd February, Zane was at the Special Olympics awards and was handed the 'Sports Personality of the Year' trophy across all sports by Lisa Vineburg. He is involved in swimming, tennis, athletics and basketball with the Special Olympics, Northern Beaches group. Congratulations on these outstanding achievements Zane!

Head Above Water Swimathon

Monique from 8G is taking part in the Head Above Water Swimathon in Collaroy in March.

Head Above Water Australia Ltd was founded in response to the high rate of suicide on Sydney's Northern Beaches and the mental health challenges faced by many in the community. We are proud of Monique's efforts to support this worthy cause. If you would like to donate please follow this link <https://headabovewaterswimathon24.grassrootz.com/headabovewater/monique-hilton/>

Lois Horne | PDHPE and Sports Coordinator



NURSE ALI

Redfeb

As well as red hearts for Valentines day, February is also the month for raising heart health awareness REDFEB.

Heart disease is the single biggest cause of Australian deaths. Every 10 minutes an Australian suffers a heart attack (myocardial infarction).

The signs and symptoms of a heart attack can vary by person and may be different to what is presented in this list. If you suspect you or someone else is having a heart attack call 000 immediately and report possible heart attack.

The symptoms of a heart attack can be any or all of the following:

- Chest pain that may feel like pressure, tightness, pain, squeezing or aching
- Pain or discomfort that spreads to the shoulder, arm, back, neck, jaw, teeth or sometimes the upper belly
- Cold sweat
- Fatigue
- Heartburn or indigestion
- Lightheadedness or sudden dizziness
- Nausea
- Shortness of breath

For further information on the importance of activity, diet and heart health checks please visit the links below

<https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/heart-health-education/physical-activity-school-resources>

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/heart-disease-and-food>

<https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/bundles/heart-health-check-toolkit>

Alison Andrews | College Nurse



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

We will be continuing to offer a sacramental program for our students (and their siblings) this year.

This Sacraments of Initiation will be offered to all students of the College.

These include Confirmation, Reconciliation and Eucharist.

If you are interested in any of these sacraments this year, please contact me at okeefe@stedmunds.nsw.edu and I will forward you the appropriate registration forms from our local parish church.

The program will be run during school hours – usually four sessions for each sacrament – and we will join with the Parish community for the celebration of the Sacraments. As part of the program you are also invited to attend any of the activities at the Parish on weekends, including masses and sausage sizzles for sacramental participants.



The dates for this year are:

First Reconciliation – Tuesday 19th March at 6pm.

(Registration next week)

First Communion – Sunday 16th June at 11am mass.

Confirmation dates are still to be announced (they are usually in Term 3)

We would love to see as many students as possible involved in these very special milestones in their faith journey.

There is also the opportunity for students to be baptised into the church as well, prior to receiving all the other sacraments.

Please contact me if you have any questions relating to the sacraments or faith development for your child.

Terry O'Keefe | Homeroom Teacher

PARENT GROUP

It was lovely to meet all the families that were able to attend Eddies Big Night In on Tuesday evening. From a parents perspective, it was especially exciting to see the building progress and the great facilities that the students now have access to. It was also a great opportunity to meet the teachers in the Home Room and sit at Jameson's seat!

To those who volunteered to represent their class this year it is greatly appreciated.

I plan to co-ordinate more social and informative events in the future to get the school community to gather and connect and I will keep you posted on that but for the meanwhile, make sure you pencil in the date for next significant event - Eddies Big Night Out on Saturday 15 June!

Welcome to 2024 and here's to a wonderful year!

Con Kalantzis | Parent Group Leader



SHROVE TUESDAY





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kwasi 8V

Seul Yi 11P

Bradley 11P

Riarna 10S

Campbell 10M

Daniel 9C

Nathan 8V

Lucy 11P

Sienna 10M

Luke 12O

Michael 11D

Daniel 9E

Emma 11D

Diesel 7M

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Maxyne 8G

Harley 8V

Bridie 10S

Matilda 8G

Ella 11P

Ruby 9E

Krish 12J

COMMUNITY



READY-SET-CONNECT




Hello, Hornsby!

FREE NDIS NETWORKING EVENT

 Tuesday 20/02/2024

 9:45 AM to 12:30 PM

 Magpies Waitara 11-37
Alexandria Parade, Waitara
NSW 2077 Waitara NSW

WHO?

Support coordinators, support workers, people with disability, teachers, parents and carers are all welcome.

WHY?

Get to know NDIS providers servicing your local area and boost your contacts in a fun and informative networking session.

HOW?

Register at onecommunity.net.au/Ready-Set-Connect

JOIN US

EVENT SPONSORS



www.caringapproach.com.au



JOIN US!

NON CONTACT RUGBY LEAGUE

Try Time has been developed for both females and males who have Special Needs and Intellectual Disabilities ranging from but not limited to Autism, Down Syndrome, Developmental Delay and Vision Impaired with the core focus on ability not their disability.

ALL PLAYERS RECEIVE

- ✓ Jersey
- ✓ Shorts
- ✓ Socks
- ✓ Training Shirt
- ✓ Polo

Team Coach

Jared Anderson

📞 0431 600 209

Learn how to

- train to play the game
- play the game
- be part of a team

Conducted on a weekly basis on weekends either by training or a game.

SAFE, ENJOYABLE & INCLUSIVE

The Try Time Junior Rugby League program provides a safe (non contact), enjoyable and inclusive environment where children, teenagers and adults with Special Needs and intellectual disabilities can play Rugby League in their local community.



WENTWORTHVILLE UNITED

COMMUNITY

Pymble Ladies' College



I am writing to invite the St Edmund's College families to apply for an opportunity to be a part of Sony Foundation's Children's Holiday Camp run by Pymble Ladies' College and Shore School. This is a fully-funded program for successful applicants.

The Children's Holiday Camp is a unique respite program that sees high school students take on the responsibility for the care of children with special needs between the ages of 7 and 14, allowing their families to have valuable time off.

The four-day camp, hosted by selected Year 11 students and staff of Pymble Ladies' College and Shore School (including medical staff), is being held from Monday 9 December to Thursday 12 December 2024 on the Pymble Ladies' College main campus.

[Learn more and apply here](#)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us on the number and email provided below.

+61 2 9855 7610 | E: Sonymcamp@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au | Avon Road, Pymble NSW 2073

Marriel Lombard | Camp Co-ordinator



PITTWATER TIGERS JUNIOR AFL CLUB INC

KICKABILITY!

Pittwater Tigers Junior AFL has launched Kickability - "All-Ability", modified AFL for kids aged 5 to 17 with disability!

Held Sundays 10:30am at North Narrabeen Reserve from May to August 2024 excluding school holidays.

There will be Specialist Coaches from AFL Kids + professional Disability Sports Support Staff (1:5). You can bring your own carer! Groups based on similar ages/sizes/abilities will be made.

Registration is heavily subsidized at \$100 (Active Kids Vouchers accepted) thanks to AAMI. Socks and shorts are free! A Team Playing Guernsey is loaned.

Amazing optional opportunities include a Sydney Swans half-time demonstration game and Sydney Club Gala Days. There is also a Kickability Representative pathway through to Nationals.

Registration is NOW OPEN - Go to: www.pittwatertigers.com.au



COMMUNITY



GIANT BOOK FAIR



70,000
books at
great prices

**Huge scope
of fiction &
non-fiction**

**CDs, DVDs,
jigsaws, vinyls
& video games**

**Fresh stock
arriving
daily**

FRI 23 to SUN 25 FEBRUARY
8am–5pm

Civic Pavilion, The Concourse
409 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood

WITH THANKS TO

