



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It has been a terrific term and I want to acknowledge all in our communities who help bring our schools to life. A special thanks to all staff who have been called to contribute extra this term. You would know through the media a focus on teacher shortage and the impact on our schools is real. It is thanks to a great team of staff, and their dedication, patience and perseverance that every day is a 'normal' day.

The students have leapt ahead in their learning and social skills. They are deserving of praise for their hard work and their contribution to making our schools safe and inclusive. Our students are amazing when it comes to changes as we move into new learning spaces. Our staff prepare them well for all changes and the students regularly rise to the challenge with ease. At St Edmund's, the students are enjoying their refurbished science labs and TAS rooms. The next instalment of classrooms is going well and the optimist in me believes we will move into these new spaces in Term 3. St Gabriel's will look different next term as our Juniors will move into the refurbished classrooms attached to the new admin building. You will notice the Infant demountable will be gone and hopefully, we will be using the undercover drop-off area from day one next term – fingers partially crossed.

I had not broadcast that both schools were undertaking NESA registration. St Gabriel's a minor inspection and St Edmund's a detailed inspection. All schools undergo registration every 5 years. St Gabriel's has undergone registration every 2 years as a new stage of learning has been added. The result is we passed with flying colours. It was never in doubt because we exceeded the standards but nevertheless, registration is a great opportunity to reflect, review and make changes. There is a lot of extra work preparing for Registration and I extend my thanks and appreciation to the staff involved in presenting our high professional standards.

Easter is approaching and as we approach the end of Term 1, it is my hope that we can all now turn our attention to the final moments of the Lenten season. That we now stop, breathe and prepare our way for the remembrance and reflection of Christ's death and resurrection. A time to search deeply within us for the true messages that the Easter pilgrimage of Jesus has to share with each of us at this time. Believe in the Risen Lord, he is our saviour!



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*One night I had a dream...*

*I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and*

*Across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; One belonged to me, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life, There was only one set of footprints.*

*I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life*

*This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about it.*

*"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,*

*You would walk with me all the way;*

*But I have noticed that during the*

*most troublesome times in my life,*

*There is only one set of footprints.*

*I don't understand why in times when I needed you the most, you should leave me.*

*The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child. I love you, and I would never, never leave you during your times of trial and suffering.*

*When you saw only one set of footprints,*

*It was then that I carried you.*

Parents at both schools, don't forget to organise your tickets and tables for [Eddie's Big Night Out](#) on June 3 at Doltone House, as well as [Golfing for Gabes](#) on May 23 at Castle Hill Country Club.

I hope you enjoy a wonderful Easter break filled with love and joy.

Kind regards,

**Michael Farrell | Principal**



**St Gabriel's School**  
EXCELLENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION K-12

## *Save the Date* **Charity Golf Day**

Tuesday, 23rd May 2023  
Castle Hill Country Club Golf Course

18-holes (Ambrose), breakfast and sit-down lunch.  
Or if you're not a golfer, join us for 2-course lunch and fun!  
Bookings at [stgabriels.nsw.edu.au/golfing-for-gabes](http://stgabriels.nsw.edu.au/golfing-for-gabes)

[SPONSORSHIP  
PACKAGES AVAILABLE](#)

Please email us at  
[events@stgabriels.edu.nsw.au](mailto:events@stgabriels.edu.nsw.au)  
for more information.



EST. **GOLFING** 1997  
FOR GABE'S



## EDDIE'S BIG NIGHT OUT

BOOK  
YOUR  
TICKETS

CORPORATE  
TABLE  
OPTIONS

SHARE  
ON  
FACEBOOK

DONATE  
AUCTION  
PRIZE

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### Year 7 Spirituality Day

Last Friday our Year 7 cohort travelled to St Pius Oxford Falls campus to participate in our Year 7 Spirituality Day. This day included learning all about the history of St Edmund's College which was originally a school for boys with a vision impairment. Students experienced what it was like to use a cane and to play a ball game with a special bell ball. Students also heard the story of the Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers who are part of the history of how the school came to be. Understanding more about our House teams – Waterford, Callan, Kilkenny and Mt Sion was a fun activity and students made posters to represent their teams. We finished the day with a liturgy which reflected on learnings from the day, as well as enjoying our school song together. Perhaps a highlight for many were the amazing fields that students were able to run around at lunchtime. We were blessed with fabulous weather and a great day was had by all! We are very grateful to our friends at St Pius who shared their facilities with us for the day.



### Holy Week

In this week, we remember the story of Jesus spanning from Palm Sunday, through to the Last Supper, Good Friday and His death on the cross. Following this week, we look forward to celebrating Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. This special time of year in the Church calendar reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice for us and we are inspired by the Risen Lord and the teachings of the Gospel. This week on Thursday our students will be participating in a liturgy where we will explore some of the Stations of the Cross to understand the journey of Jesus. Students will spend time in their homeroom classes during the last period of the day to join in on this celebration.

### Farewell

Just a final short note to farewell you all for a while as I finish up at the end of this term and undertake maternity leave for the birth of my second child. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you all and being a part of such a special community and I look forward to retuning in 2024. In the meantime, I know you are left in good hands with Vanessa Dillon in the role as Acting Deputy Principal and Judi North in the role as Acting Head of Wellbeing. In the case you have any matters where you would usually get in touch with me, please contact Vanessa Dillon at [dillon@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au](mailto:dillon@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au)

I look forward to hearing about all of the exciting things that are happening at Eddies this year!

**Rebecca Kirwan | Deputy Principal**

# WELLBEING

## Whole School Homeroom Focus: Using Online Technology

This term, we have used our Morning Homeroom sessions to focus on a particular theme each week. These themes have covered topics relating to the SoSAFE Program, the Zones of Regulation Framework and other topics that are of benefit for the students, such as social skills, and the appropriate use of online technology.



With the holidays approaching, our Morning Homeroom focus will support ways that students can Be Caring, Be Safe and Be A Good Learner when using online technology. Many of the resources used with the students have come from the eSafety Commissioner website and address such concepts as:

- what to do when someone is contacting me and I don't want them to
- what to do when someone is being mean to me online
- what to do when you have seen something online that isn't appropriate

A recent webinar was made available for parents/carers to view. The webinar was about helping your teenager navigate online friendships.

[Detailed summary sheets and parent resources can be found here.](#)

Other concepts are also shared through the following short videos:

- [Parental controls](#)
- [Cyberbullying and online drama](#)
- [Online sexual harassment and image-based abuse](#)

To remain up to date on ways to support your child/young person when using technology, you may wish to subscribe to the [eSafety newsletter](#).

Wishing you all a safe, healthy and enjoyable holiday period!

**Vanessa Dillon | Head of Wellbeing**



# FIRST RECONCILIATION

On Tuesday 21 March, Dominic, Year 12O, celebrated his First Reconciliation at Holy Name Church, Wahroonga.

Dominic prepared for the sacrament, taking time out of classes at school to learn all about the sacrament. He also worked with his family at home, completing tasks set for them in the program. Dominic then joined with the other children at Holy Name parish and received the sacrament for the first time.

At Reconciliation the child spends some time talking with the priest. Dominic can be seen talking with Fr Kelvin. They talk about all the things they wish to say sorry to God about and then the priest blesses them and absolves them of all their sins.

On the way back to their seats all the children went to the Baptismal font and blessed themselves with the sign of the cross and return to their family.

It was a lovely celebration of God's forgiveness.

## Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Communion

Please note we will be running a Confirmation program later in the year for any students interested. In 2024 our College will also have First Reconciliation and First Communion programs running.

**Terry O'Keefe | Homeroom Teacher**



# LOST PROPERTY & EDDIE'S SHOP



Please collect or ask your child to collect any lost property you recognise from the Office.

## Eddies Shop 12GO



Jelly Cups



Brownies

Thursday 6th April  
Recess  
School Foyer  
\$1

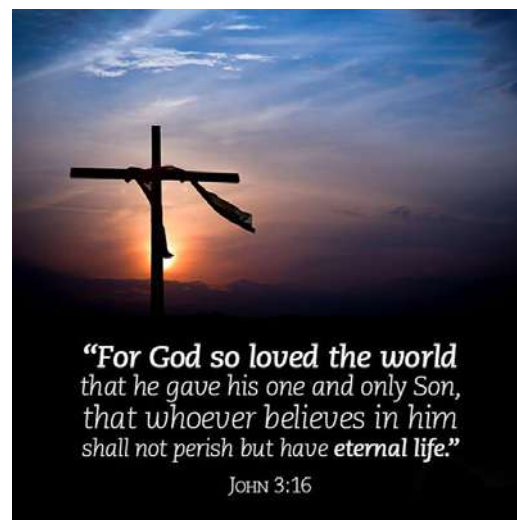
Please note Eddie's Shop is open on Thursday 6 April. \$1 for a jellycup or brownie.

## FROM THE PARENT GROUP

Last week we held our first Parent Group meeting for the year. Thank you to everyone who attended. Michael took us on a tour of the new Science, Woodwork and TAS classrooms. Such wonderful spaces for learnings and being creative. We also discussed as a parent body ways in which we can support each other as parents in our school community. Some great suggestions were made. We are a Parent Group. A group for parents to gather. To learn from, to grow with, to navigate and support each other. It is not a P & F or a P & C. If you attend you will not be given a job or a role. We hope to see more of you at next term's meeting.



Eddie's Big Night Out is fast approaching! After the holidays it is only a few weeks to the biggest school event of the year. For the event to be a success we really need your help. We need donations for our silent auction. Vouchers, alcohol, gift cards, beauty products. Please send these items to school. It would be greatly appreciated. We also need you to [book your seats](#). Ask your friends, your year group, your neighbours or your work colleagues. It is such a fun night. Doltone House is such a beautiful venue, you will be served a three course meal with your drinks included. You will be entertained, we guarantee you will enjoy yourselves. All for such a worthy cause, our children.



Rebecca Kirwan will be taking leave at the end of the term to welcome her new baby. On behalf of the parents and carers of Eddie's I would like to send Rebecca and her family our very best wishes for the healthy and safe arrival of their baby. We wish them joy and happiness at this special time. Thank you Rebecca for your commitment and dedication to St Edmund's and it's students and families, especially these past months as you near your due date. We look forward to hearing your exciting news.

As this is our last newsletter for the term I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter and wish you all safe and enjoyable holidays.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but will have eternal life." John 3:16

**Janine Eastham | Parent Group Leader, Tom's Mum (Year 12)**

## KEY DATES

### Term 1

**Tuesday 4 April**  
School Photo Day

**Thursday 6 April**  
Last Day of Term 1

### Term 2

**Wednesday 26 April**  
Students Return

**Saturday 3 June**  
Eddie's Big Night Out

**Wednesday 7 -  
Friday 9 June**  
Years 7 & 8 Camp  
**Tuesday 13 June**  
Staff Day

**Friday 23  
June**  
Last Day of  
Term

# AWARDS

## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

7G	An-yu and Aaliyah	7M	Nathan and Kwasi
8S	Sebastian and Olive	8V	Holly and Daniel T
9C	Ben and Leela	9F	Riarna and Louis
10M	Bradley and Rosie	10N	James and Seul Yi
11J	Elliot and Moses	11S	Annamieke and Luke
12G	Seb and Olivia	12O	Anna and Mark

## EDDIE'S BEST OF THE BEST

7G	Matilda	7M	Maxyne
8S	Ashley	8V	Rachel
9C	Sienna	9F	Daniel
10M	Ella	10N	Antonio
11J	Chloe	11S	Hugh
12G	Athena	12O	Mikayla

## PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

Christian	Ben W
Dom	Mikayla

## SILVER LEADERSHIP AWARD

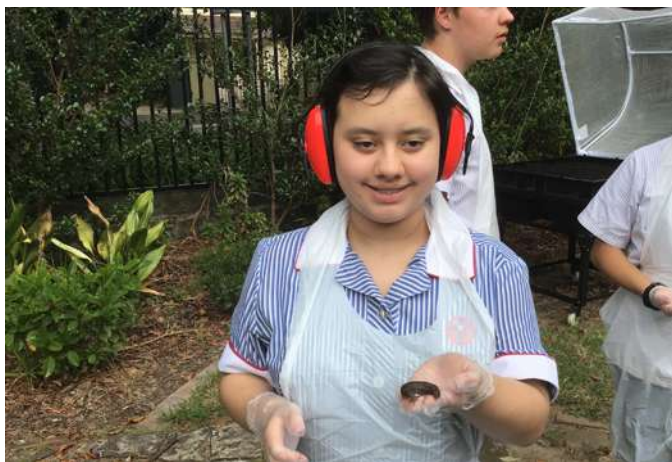
Mikayla

*congratulations*

# AWARDS



## YEAR 8 EDEN GARDENS INCURSION



# YEAR 10 MAGPIES WORK EDUCATION



# YEAR 12 TARONGA ZOO EXCURSION



# YEAR 12 HOSPITALITY WORK PLACEMENT



# COMMUNITY

*Please note any external events or organisations listed in the Community section are not necessarily endorsed by the College, but are included as they may be of interest to our families.*

## Source Kids Expo

Our College recently exhibited at Source Kids Expo, the leading disability expo for children, teenagers and young adults. Our College Executive and Registrar, assisted by several of our Year 12 Hospitality students ably and enthusiastically represented St Edmund's at the ICC. Many thanks to Ben W, Mikayla, Dom and their parents for giving up part of their weekend to handle the coffee orders. We extend our gratitude to our friends at [Level Eighteen](#), Mobile Coffee for generously sponsoring and providing the coffee machine and supplies.



## Sahara Services School Holiday Program

Activities include Ninja 101, Walkabout Reptile, VR Quest and more. Please learn more via the [attached flyer](#).

## Morhaven Social Calendar

Morhaven Social programs are designed to support attendees to develop independence and help to engage in community, social & recreational activities. [Please see their latest program here](#).



positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

## FREE 1 Day Autism Workshop for Parents and Carers

**Location: Hornsby, NSW**

Join other local families to learn more  
about autism and ways to strengthen the  
partnership between home and school

### During the workshop you will learn about:

- The diversity of autism
- Understanding behaviour
- Working together with your child's school

*Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided*

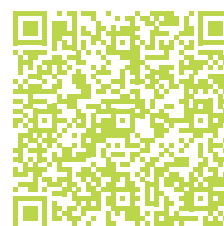


**Tuesday 4th April 2023**  
9.15am - 3.00pm



**Hornsby RSL Club**  
4 High St  
Hornsby NSW 2077

SCAN TO REGISTER



*Interpreters available upon request*

For more information or to register visit  
[www.positivepartnerships.com.au](http://www.positivepartnerships.com.au) or contact  
Karen Mackenzie [kmackenzie@positivepartnerships.com.au](mailto:kmackenzie@positivepartnerships.com.au)



For help, call:  
1300 881 971



## STRIVE Skills Day Program

The Support Society is thrilled to be offering a school leavers transition to day program! This school leaver program will include 5 hours of observation at school or in home so we really get to know each other and how we can best support your child! The STRIVE Skills Program for over 18's, run from Narrabeen Community Centre, is designed to work on building social and independence skills through fun and engaging activities.

### Tuesday



We spend our morning volunteering at OneMeal, which entails building sustainable herb gardens, general maintenance and packing of goods to be distributed to those in need within our community. After that, we grab our chefs hats and get to planning meals, using money skills buying ingredients & cooking lunch!

### Wednesday



Focused on movement and wellbeing, Wednesday's are all about exploring different ways to be active, including kayaking, tennis, bush walks and more. Each month has a roster of sports and activities that we are learning, all picked by our clients. Once we have moved our bodies, we all head to the local cafe for a healthy juice or smoothie together!

### Thursday



Focused on expression through creative outlets, on Thursdays we attend a local dance class in the morning and then continue on to a drama class in the afternoon. We are working towards putting on an end of year production, combining dance & drama.



Expressions of Interest: Get in touch today!



[olivia@supportsocietysocietyaus.com.au](mailto:olivia@supportsocietysocietyaus.com.au)



0449500933

## PASTORAL WORKS Broken Bay

### May 23 Appeal

Your generosity with our Pastoral Works appeals has helped us reach further and wider in helping our community of Broken Bay, and more deeply connect us to the mission of Jesus. I am deeply grateful for your support.

**Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL**  
Bishop of Broken Bay



### Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD)

supporting Catechists who take  
the Gospel to state school  
students



### Pastoral Care and Hospital Chaplaincy

helping those who are vulnerable,  
experiencing loneliness or sick  
in hospital

### *Pastoral Works Broken Bay also supports:*

#### **St Lucy's School**

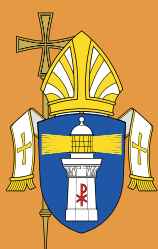
K-6 students with disabilities

#### **St Edmund's College**

7-12 students with disabilities

#### **Ephpheta Centre**

Catholic Deaf Community



Please donate generously for  
the May 2023 Appeal



Your tax-deductible gift supports vital pastoral  
ministries in our local community. Make your gift  
online at [www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks)

