



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

We are fast approaching a very welcome Christmas break. I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to our families for the festive season.

I extend my thanks and admiration for the collective efforts of all members of our schools for their tenacity, hard work, generosity, expertise and compassion – every day they live and demonstrate in practical ways, our values of Growth, Relationships, Community and Joy.

I shared with parents this week:

***It's our privilege to contribute to your child's flourishing***

***It's our vocation, our mission and it's our reward***

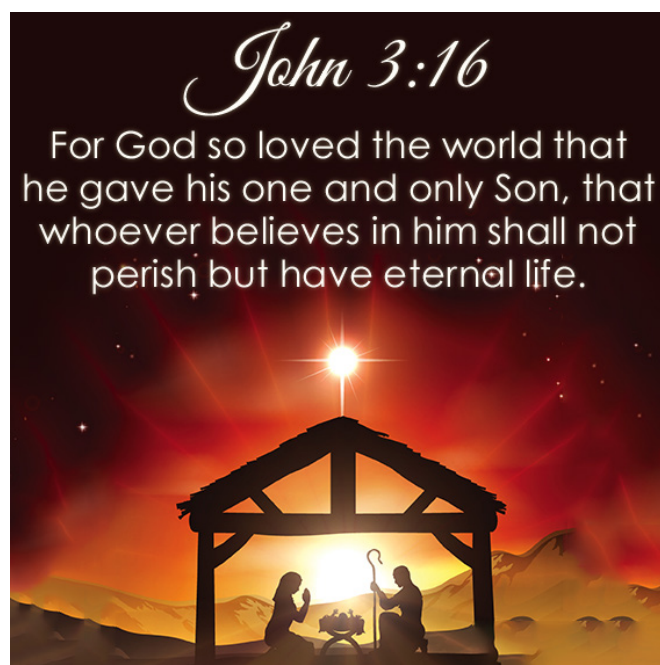
Our Children flourish because they receive the essentials in life, and we provide them freedom through a Liberating Education. Our collective education encourages a strong optimistic outlook. Our staff and parents walk in partnership to provide a sense of community, extending our mutual support of our young people and sustaining our spirit of collaboration and generosity.

We extend our warm wishes to your family for Christmas. May this festive occasion be full of celebrations, and we wish you a blessed Christmas. May you enjoy this holiday season with your family and friends.

Sing carols in full voice (like no one is listening) and celebrate the birth of Jesus with joy and thanksgiving. We pray that you have a safe and rewarding holiday.

Warm Christmas Regards,

**Michael Farrell | Principal**



# DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

## Reports

As you are aware, Semester 2 reports will be released after 5pm on December 9. Again these reports will be published on Sentral. If you need assistance accessing the parent portal on Sentral, please refer to the [attached parent portal instruction guide](#). You are also welcome to contact myself by email [kirwan@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au](mailto:kirwan@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au) or via calling the school office if you require any assistance.



## Presentation Day

Thank you to parents and friends who attended our College Presentation Day last Tuesday. It was very special to have our community together to celebrate the achievement of students, for our current Year 12's to graduate and to acknowledge our incoming Year 12's. It was also wonderful to see some great performances and to provide our students with an opportunity to experience such an occasion in such a lovely venue as the Gillian Moore Performing Arts Complex at PLC. We are very grateful to Pymble Ladies College for their support of this important event.

## Year 12 and Families

I would like to take this time to say farewell to our Year 12 students and their families. It has been a great privilege to see these wonderful young people grow over the last 6 years and to work alongside families with the aim of preparing our students for the journey. Thank you to our families for being so willing to engage with us, to create partnerships to address challenges and to celebrate accomplishments and goals that have been achieved with us. Thank you to the staff who have supported the learning of these students and whose dedication is so evident in what they do each day. Finally a huge thank you to our students who have brought myself (and all of our staff) joy on a daily basis – we will miss you and the contribution you make to our unique community however we will keep you in our prayers for the next chapter in your journey.

**Rebecca Kirwan | Deputy Principal**



## WELLBEING

“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.

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."

So, when I was asked the question, "Do you believe in magic?", I did not even hesitate to respond... "Yes, I do. Of course I do."

### **Thank You to our Friends At C3 Church, Hornsby**

On and off throughout the year, we have been grateful for the support of our friends at C3 Church, Hornsby. They have been very generous in supporting the school community in many ways, including the donation of Christmas hampers. We look forward to continuing this connection and partnership with them into 2023, and exploring many ways to strengthen this bond which will serve many within our community! C3 Church extend a warm invitation for you to join them at their upcoming Christmas Carols Celebration on Sunday 11 December from 10am at Hornsby Westfield Event Cinemas, Cinema 6.

### **Packing of Christmas Hampers for Vinnies**

Our senior students recently assisted our friends at Holy Name Parish, with the packing of Christmas Hampers that were to be delivered to families in need by the St Vincent de Paul Parish Group! Our students were awesome and attended to the task with tremendous spirit and cooperation!

Wishing 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 | Head of Wellbeing**





# PRESENTATION CEREMONY





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# FAREWELL YEAR 12





# PDHPE/SPORT

## National Track and Field Games in Launceston (Special Olympics)

Zane travelled to Tasmania to compete in the 800m, 1500m, and 3000m events for the National Games in October. He performed very well in these events, coming away from the Games with two Bronze Medals. He achieved: 3rd - 3000m (Division 1) and Relay (Division 2), 4th - 1500m (Division 1) and 6th - 800m (Division 1).

Congratulations Zane!



## The Australian All Schools Championships

The Australian All Schools Championships will be held in Adelaide between 9-11 December 2022.

Koosha departed from Sydney on Thursday 8 December with the rest of the NSW team to compete in the Shot Put Under 20 Para Boys category.

Congratulations Koosha and best wishes for your event!

## Swimming | Term 1 2023 Schedule

	Wednesday A	Thursday A	Friday A	Wednesday B	Thursday B	Friday B
Sport Periods 3 and 4	Year 11 Sport Swimming	Year 9 Sport Swimming	Year 7 Sport Swimming	Year 12 Sport Swimming	Year 10 Sport Swimming	Year 8 Sport Swimming
Venue	Moving Bodies Aquatic Centre, 10/2 Marina Close, Mt Kuring-Gai	Moving Bodies Aquatic Centre, 10/2 Marina Close, Mt Kuring-Gai	Moving Bodies Aquatic Centre, 10/2 Marina Close, Mt Kuring-Gai	Moving Bodies Aquatic Centre, 10/2 Marina Close, Mt Kuring-Gai	Moving Bodies Aquatic Centre, 10/2 Marina Close, Mt Kuring-Gai	Moving Bodies Aquatic Centre, 10/2 Marina Close, Mt Kuring-Gai
No. on bus	11A=10, 11S=9	9M=11, 9C=10	7E=8, 7V=8	12M=11, 12=11	10J= 10, 10O=10	8F=8, 8D= 8
Dates	1/2, 15/2, 1/3, 15/3, 29/3	2/2, 16/2, 2/3, 16/3, 30/3	3/2, 17/2, 3/3, 17/3, 31/3	8/2, 22/2, 8/3, 22/3, 5/4	9/2, 23/2, 9/3, 23/3, 6/4	10/2, 24/2, 10/3, 24/3
Recess	Meet in foyer	Meet in foyer	Meet in foyer	Meet in foyer	Meet in foyer	Meet in foyer
Lunch	Return for lunch	Return for lunch	Return for lunch	Return for lunch	Return for lunch	Return for lunch

Swimming runs during Term 1, 2023 from 1/02/23-6/04/23

Please refer to individual timetables for your double Sport lesson. A few important things to remember: Make sure that you have a suitable swimming costume (a one piece for girls and speedos or equivalent for boys).

1. Pack a towel, goggles, underwear, deodorant, brush and plastic bag on swimming days.
2. Wear your sports uniform on swimming days in case an alternate activity takes place.
3. Please wear your swimming costume to school if possible. If this is difficult to manage, you can change at the pool.
4. All students will change into sports uniform at the end of swimming, ready to return to school for lunch and Period 5.



## FROM THE PARENT GROUP

On behalf of all the families and carers of St Edmunds I would like to congratulate our Year 12 students for graduating. How exciting for them to be taking the next steps in their life's journey. We thank you all for your leadership and friends to all of our students and wish them all the very best for the future. Also special wishes to our parents, carers and families leaving Eddie's. I'm sure this is a time that leaves you with mixed feelings. We wish you all strength, happiness and love as you embark on this journey and we look forward to hearing what your amazing children do next year.



Thank you to all the staff for a wonderful 2022 and for getting us through Covid safely, through building works and for always putting the needs of our children first.

Wishing all of our families and the community of St Edmund's a happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year and for a safe holiday season.

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



## THANK YOU DIANE



Our college is blessed to have Diane, a dedicated volunteer who generously gives her time helping our students - and always with a smile! Year 12 were pleased to thank her for another great year and present her with a small token of our appreciation.



## YEAR 11 & 12 CLONTARF



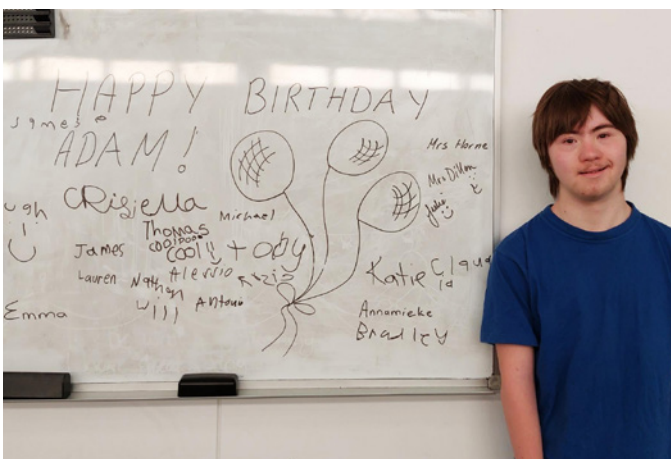
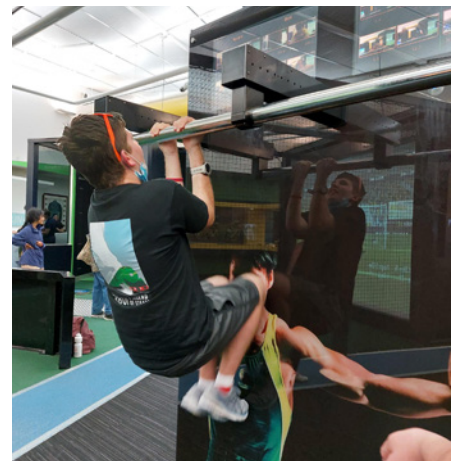
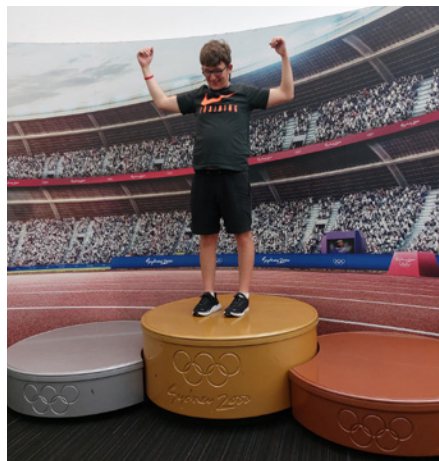


## YEARS 9 & 10 CAMP





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## YEAR 10 WORK EDUCATION



The Year 10 charity fundraiser has been an important element of their Work Education this term. Our industrious students carefully selected a charity to support – the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal, then found a way to raise funds and spread some Christmas cheer around the college - by selling delicious chocolate speckles, jams, lollies, sauce and hot chocolate powder to our school community. After raising the money, they enthusiastically selected the gifts to purchase to help less fortunate children receive a present this Christmas. The gifts will be taken to Kmart for donation, then collected by a Salvation Army representative for distribution. Well done Year 10 – we are sure your collaboration and efforts will help make Christmas that little bit brighter for many in our community.

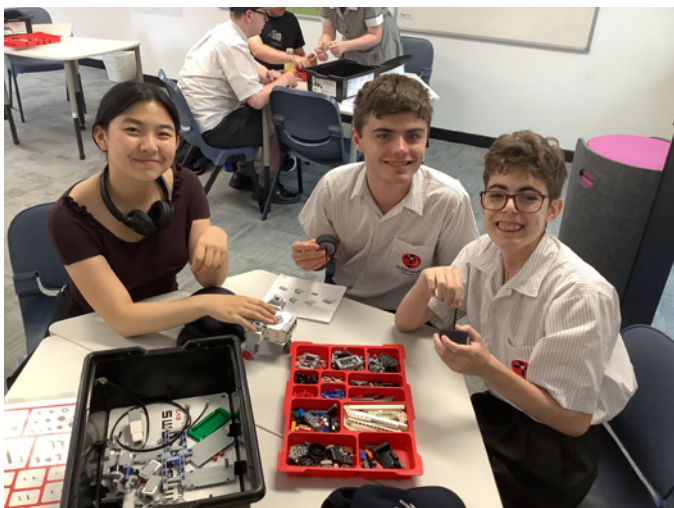


This week Year 10 were also busy preparing the yearbooks, calendars and birthday lists for distribution. They formed efficient production lines and made sure each envelope was labelled and filled so that each student can take home a nice memento on their last day of school. They also organised calendars and donor letters for our wider community supporters. Year 10 were very proud to help with this important job!





## ROBOTICS CLUB WITH ABBOTSLEIGH



## PRESENTS FROM PYMBLE LADIES COLLEGE

