Edition 1: 28th January 2015

A Student’s Prayer at the Beginning of School Year

We give you praise, O God,
for everything that is new and beautiful,
for everything which holds promise and brings us joy.
Bless us as we start this new year with our friends and teachers.
Help us to make the most of every chance we have to start afresh.
May we show love to one another and to all.
May the new beginning of this school year
remind us that you give us chances to start over again and again.
Help us to forgive others as we receive your forgiveness.
Help us to learn and to work together.
Help us to listen when we should
and to know the best words when we speak
and when it is better not to speak.
We thank you for our friends
Help us to be good friends this year.
Help us to be patient with ourselves and with others.
Bless our school and keep us safe.
Be with us as we travel each day.
Help us to be aware of your love shown to us in the
people around us.
Bless all those who care for us in school and at home.
Help us show our care for them and to say sorry when we need to.
May the Blessed Mother Mary protect us
and help us to live as well as we can,
Giving thanks and glory to God as she did. Amen

Welcome Back

Welcome to the beginning of the 2015 school year! I trust that the holiday break was relaxing and allowed you the time to enjoy each other’s company.

A special welcome to the following families:
Past students returning: Dannah Knight (2R) & Samantha Golden (6G).
New students: Jack (3M), Mia (5A) and Maddison Honess (6G) from Tom Price Primary School; Hope Madden (4O) from Carinya; Ashley (3G) & Katie (5L) Hill from Kootingal Public School; Mia Whitbread (3M) from St James, Rutherford; Tessa Thompson (3B) from South Tamworth Public; Kaytie Emery (8M) from Barraba Central School; Mariah (4S) and Brooklyn Walsh (6C) from Kootingal Public School.
We hope you enjoy your time in our St Ed’s community!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students, parents and staff a productive and happy first term. Next Monday 2nd February sees us welcome our Kindergarten students (half days only until 12.30pm for the first week).
Term 1 concludes on Thursday 2nd April.

Welcome to Staff for 2015

A warm welcome to our new staff for 2015: Mrs Judy McManus (1M); Miss Amy Richards (2R); Mr Andrew Millman (3M); Miss Brienne Allport (5A); Mrs Lisa Smith; Mrs Jenny Maloney and Mrs Paula Carter. We trust you will all enjoy your time with us here at St Edward’s!

We also extend a warm welcome back to Mrs Natasha Gippel and Mrs Jessica Clery who are returning to St Ed’s after a period of maternity leave.

Sadly due to personal reasons, Mr Tony O’Donnell, tendered his resignation over the holidays. We welcome Miss Brienne Allport to 5A who has been teaching in Brewarrina for the past 2 years.

Staff for 2015

Principal: Mr Gary McSweeney
Assistant Principal: Mrs Pauline Long
Religious Education Co-ordinators: Mrs Sally Clarke – Primary; Miss Amy Elliott – Infants
Co-ordinators: Miss Heidi LeBrocq – Primary; Mrs Claire Ryan – Infants
Curriculum Co-ordinator: Miss Heidi LeBrocq
Sports Co-ordinator: Mrs Natasha Gippel
KBC Mrs Belinda Barry-Cuppes 3M Mr Andrew Millman
KL Mrs Tess Lewis 4O Miss Robyn O’Rourke
KR Mrs Claire Ryan 4P Mrs Kizzy Pearson
1M Mrs Judy McManus 5A Miss Brienne Allport
1P Miss Sallie Pilgrim 5L Mrs Belinda Lane
1R Mrs Deb Rafferty 5M Miss Courtney Mace
2E Miss Amy Elliott 6C Mrs Sally Clarke
2R Miss Amy Richards 6G Mrs Natasha Gippel
2U Mr Tim Unwin 6M Mr Richard McIlveen
3B Mrs Alex Brownsmith 7G
3G Mrs Julie Goodwin

Student Support Teachers: Mrs Amanda Sheridan; Mrs Jessica Clery; Mrs Maureen Ayton; Miss Jodie Boyd
Release from Face to Face Teachers: Mrs Andy Lockwood – Primary; Mrs Cecily Hankin – Infants
Executive Release Teachers: Mrs Amanda Scott – Primary; Mrs Cecily Hankin – Infants
Educational Assistants: Mrs Judy O’Brien; Mrs Toni McNeill; Mrs Julie George; Mrs Amanda Allen; Mrs Melissa Salvestrin, Mrs Jo Munro, Mrs Priscilla Collins, Mrs Katrina Ashford; Mrs Lisa Smith; Mrs Jenny Maloney; Mrs Paula Carter
Aboriginal Educational Assistants: Miss Codie Allen – Primary; Mrs Joy Spreadborough – Infants
Librarians: Mrs Jackie Barratt – Primary; Mrs Marisa Cartan – Infants
Secretary - Primary: Mrs Leanne Richards
Administration Assistants – Infants: Mrs Angela Sauer – Primary (Mon & Tues): Mrs Sue Kellett
Infants’ Office Volunteer (Mon & Wed): Miss Kylie Fairlamb
Canteen: Mrs Claire Dubois

School Leaders Induction – next Mon 2nd Feb

Congratulations to our new School Leaders for 2015. We are certain these students will be very confident leaders and role models of St Edward’s School. An Induction Ceremony for our new Leaders, including Years 3 & 5 SRC Reps, will be held next Monday 2nd February at 11.35am in the Primary School Hall.
Parents, grandparents and friends are most welcome to attend.
School Captains: Jayden Daly & Taylor Gambrill
Vice Captains: Brendan Scott & Mia Johnson
Sports Captains for 2015:

MacKillop Gold
Chisholm Red
Therry Blue
Kennedy Green

Xane Bateup & Olivia Whitemore
Bailey Jameson & Macy Gillies
Joshua Cruickshank & Georgia Horniman
Tom Davison & Sara Sinclair

St Edward’s School
Committed to Excellence in Catholic Education

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www.stedwardstamworth.nsw.edu.au
Staff News - Congratulations to……

Trish and Scott Mitchell on the safe arrival of their first child, Sophia Jane Mitchell, born 9th January weighing 8lb 7oz. We wish both Trish and Scott every happiness as they enjoy this special family time together.

Sports Uniform Requirements (Weeks 1 - 3)

Week 1 - This Friday 30th January all Year 1 to 6 students will wear their sports uniform as normal.

Week 2 – Swimming Carnival Trials next Wednesday 4th February at Scully Pool - All Year 3 – 6 children, and any Year 2 children who will be attending the swimming trials (turning 8 year old and can swim 50m), are requested to wear their sports uniform next Wednesday 4th February. All Year 3 – 6 students will then wear normal summer uniform on Friday 6th February. All Infants children (K – 2) will wear their sports uniform as normal on Friday 6th February.

Week 3 – St Ed’s Swimming Carnival at Scully Pool – All Year 3 - 6 students, and any Year 2 child attending the carnival, will wear their sports uniform on Thursday 12th February.

Twilight Swimming Carnival

Our 2015 School Swimming Carnival will be Australia Day Night. The Twilight Carnival held at Tamworth Scully Pool (Kent Street) on Thursday 12th February commencing at approximately 3.30pm and finishing at 8.00pm. PLEASE NOTE the Swimming Carnival is part of our school sports program and ALL Primary aged children, along with Infants students who are 8 years old, or turning 8 in 2015, and able to swim 50m are expected to be there. Having a Twilight Carnival is a positive move in a number of ways, these being:

* The majority of parents will have an opportunity to attend and become involved in our wonderful School Swimming Carnival.
* It avoids having the children swimming in the hottest part of the day.
* The evening will allow for a fabulous family atmosphere.

A Permission Note and information regarding the time trials and our swimming carnival, together with a Parental Assessment Swimming Ability Note, went home today.

PUPIL FREE DAY – Friday 13th February

Due to the Twilight Swimming Carnival on Thursday 12th February, please note that ALL children from Kinder – Year 6 DO NOT ATTEND school on Friday 13th February 2015.

IMPORTANT Information for Parents – Grade Nights

In the coming weeks we will be holding Grade Information Nights for parents covering important information about your child’s education. We strongly encourage all parents to attend.

PRIMARY Grade Night – Monday 9th February

5.00pm – Year 3 parents – Room 4 (Mr Millman’s Room)
5.45pm – Year 4 parents – Room 7 (Mrs Pearson’s Room)
6.30pm – Year 5 parents – Room 10 (Miss Mace’s Room)
7.15pm – Year 6 parents – Room 3 (Mrs Clarke’s Room)

INFANTS Grade Night – Wednesday 11th February

5.45pm – 6.30pm – Year 2 parents – Room 11 (Miss Elliott’s Room)
6.30pm – 7.15pm – Kindergarten parents – Room 5 (Mrs Barry-Cupples’ Room)
7.15pm – 8.00pm – Year 1 parents – Room 1 (Miss Pilgrim’s Room)

Pedestrian Crossing Supervisors

We welcome back our Crossing Supervisors for 2015. We ask that parents use the pedestrian crossing to show our children the correct procedure to follow in crossing the road at the designated pedestrian crossing.

School Hours and Supervision

The school grounds are supervised from 8.30am until the last bus leaves in the afternoon. No child is to be at school before 8.30am and all should leave the school grounds as soon as possible after 3.00pm.

School starts: 8.45am (first bell)
Recess: 11.00am – 11.35am
Lunch: 1.10pm – 1.45pm
School finishes: 3.00pm

Special arrangements will be made for authorised school activities outside these hours. In such cases parents will be notified.

Office Hours

Primary & Infants Office: 8.30am to 3.30pm daily when fee payments and general enquiries can be made by parents.

School Fees

School fees per term for 2015 are:

1. child $245.00 Tuition fees plus $45 St Edward's Development Fund Levy (SDF) = $290
2. 2 children $422.00 Tuition fees plus $90 SDF Levy = $512
3. 3 or more children $554.00 Tuition fees plus $90 SDF Levy = $644

Fees can be paid for the full year in advance (by the 6th week of Term 1 2015), in which case a 5% discount will apply on the Tuition fee ONLY.

Accounts are sent out in Week 2 of each term and are payable by the end of Week 6 and overdue accounts are sent out in Week 7.

Payment of Fees

Payments may be sent with your child through the classroom teacher. Please enclose money in an envelope with the child’s name, class and the purpose for which the money is enclosed. A receipt will be sent home the following day. Parents may also pay in person at either the Primary or Infants Office with a receipt being issued immediately. Please note: Fees may be paid by cash, cheque, internet banking, EFTPOS or direct debit (through the Armidale Diocesan Investment Group, at no cost to you). If you would like to pay by direct debit which is by weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments, please contact either school office for the relevant forms. Eligible families may also take advantage of making payments through Centrelink.

Appointments

If you wish to speak to the Principal at length on any matter, please ring either the Secretary (Mrs Richards) at the Primary or the Administration Assistant (Mrs Sauer) at the Infants between the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm to make an appointment.

Teacher Availability Times

Teachers’ time before school is extremely limited as they are involved in staff meetings or supervision from 8.30am, therefore an interview at this time is inappropriate. Please avoid conferring with class teachers during lesson times as valuable teaching time is lost. Teachers are normally readily available after school.

In addition to this we ask that teachers are not interrupted whilst on playground duty. It is imperative that while they are on duty their full attention is on the supervision of the children and this is impossible to do if parents interrupt them at this time. Please make all enquiries at the Office.

No Hat – No Play

Our policy of No Hat No Play extends to all terms. This means the children must wear a school hat at all times when they are in the playground, otherwise they will sit in the shaded areas. All children are expected to wear a St Edward’s hat which is royal blue with the school emblem on the front. No substitute headwear is acceptable. Hats are available from the Infants’ Office and the Primary Canteen. Please ensure your child wears the correct St Edward’s headwear.

Visitors to the School

To protect students all visitors who come to the school must report to the front office. If you are to be involved in any activity at school you must sign the Visitors’ Book at the front office and collect a badge and wear it whilst you are on school grounds. This allows staff to know the identity of all visitors.
**Student Attendance**
The St Edward’s School day commences with the first bell at 8.45am. Students are expected to be in class ready for learning by 8.50am. Students who arrive late have a partial absence recorded against their name. We encourage all students to arrive at school before the 8.45am bell.

Remember also that our school day ends at 3.00pm and parents should not be collecting children 10 - 15 minutes early for convenience or to avoid traffic congestion – frequent occurrence of this can add up to a lot of school time missed!

**PLEASE NOTE** that all students arriving late, or being collected early for an appointment, **MUST REPORT** to Mrs Richards at the Primary or Mrs Sauer at the Infants Office. We have implemented a Register Book which must be completed by an adult when a child arrives late and the Book must also be signed by an adult when a child leaves for an appointment. **It is also MOST IMPORTANT upon returning to school to report to the Office and sign your child back in.**

Please also note that frequent late arrivals and partial absences will be questioned by the Principal.

**Electronic Rolls**
In compliance with Federal Government regulations, St Edward’s School now operates using electronic attendance rolls. It is therefore essential that **ALL WHOLE DAY ABSENCES** are explained by a signed note & this note is handed to the classroom teacher within 7 **WORKING DAYS**. If no note is received after 7 days, the absence is noted as “Unexplained” & cannot be changed after this time.

**Leave/Exemption from School**
Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as a part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences. It is a NSW Government requirement that absence or leave from school be approved in accordance with State guidelines. **PLEASE NOTE** as per recent changes to the National Standards for Student Attendance, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will NOW **BE INCLUDED** as absences. A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose.

**Library News**
**Library borrowing** will commence when class lists are finalised. Students will be advised of their borrowing day through the Grade Newsletter.

**Book Covering** – A huge thank you to all of the wonderful people who helped with the covering of books throughout 2014! We are very fortunate to have an ongoing supply of books coming into the school for our children’s use and once again these need to be covered. If you are able to assist with covering/or mending books in any way, please send in a note with your name and number. Yours in reading!

_Marisa Cartan, Infants Librarian_

**St Edward’s School – Website & Facebook Page**
Here at St Edward’s School we are very fortunate to have our very own website, please take the time to check it out – just go to www.stedwardstamworth.nsw.edu.au. Each week the school newsletter and sports newsletter are added to the site. You can also view and download the term calendar, canteen menu, uniform requirements and enrolment information. As well as having a school website, we also have a school Facebook page to provide regular updates.

**Canteen News**
Lunches are available daily and prepared at the Primary. Please ensure that your child’s name, class and order are written clearly on a paper bag with the correct money enclosed. **Please also note lunch orders may be placed on-line via our school website up until 10.30am each school day.** Apart from lunch orders, spending limits are $3.00 for Primary and Infants’ children. Parents are asked to help serve at the Canteen each term if at all possible. The Infants’ Canteen opens from 1.10pm to 1.40pm only and the Primary from 10.30am to 1.30pm. The Canteen is a very important facility which is unable to be run effectively without the generous assistance of parents. Look out for the Canteen Helpers Note going home to parents next week. Please note hours for the Canteen Supervisor at the Primary are 9.30am to 1.45pm only. Please direct all enquiries in regard to Primary and Infants to Clare Dubois between these times on 67 657 847.

**Security at the Infants**
For the security of the children parents need to be aware of the following procedures:

- **At 8.15am** the Hall gate, the Library gate and the small pedestrian gate near the staff carpark will be opened;
- **At 9.00am** the Hall gate, the Library gate and the small pedestrian gate near the staff carpark will be locked.
- **Parents please note after 9.00am the only access will be via the gate at the front office entrance;**
- **At 2.45pm** the Hall gate, the Library gate and the small pedestrian gate near the staff carpark will be re-opened.

**Canteen Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Infants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 29th Jan</td>
<td>NO HELP REQUIRED</td>
<td>Raylene Mihell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 30th Jan</td>
<td>NO HELP REQUIRED</td>
<td>Jo Kapeller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 2nd Feb</td>
<td>Kathryn Chapman</td>
<td>Sharon Sartori</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**RE News**
We hope that you had a very happy and holy Christmas. We will just give you a few dates so that you will be aware of the religious events at St Edward’s School.

We will be celebrating our School Leaders’ Induction next Monday 2nd February at 11.35am in the Primary Hall.

Our **Beginning of the Year School Mass** (Yrs 1-6) will be celebrated on Tuesday 10th February at 9.30am in Mary Help of Christians Church. We hope that many parents and friends will be able to join us for this celebration.

Fr Abmar is sadly leaving our Parish as he has been appointed Parish Priest at Warialda. A Farewell Morning Tea will be held after the 9.0am Mass on Sunday 15th February. All families are invited to attend Mass and stay for the Morning Tea after.

Wednesday 18th February is ASH WEDNESDAY. This is the commencement of the Season of Lent. The Primary classes will be attending Mass at 9.30am.

Our first **Family Mass** for the year will be on Sunday 22nd February at 9.00am in Mary Help of Christians Church. We hope that many families will be able to join with us for the Years 3 & 6 Mass.

**Your Prayers are asked for.........**

- Cath Long, Mother and Mother-in-Law, of Craig and Pauline Long, who sadly passed away recently in the holidays.

_Sally Clarke & Amy Elliott_
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- Fabric Protection and Flood Restoration

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