Mr John Messer RIP
As this edition of The Star goes to press the Messer family will be gathering in Perth to celebrate the life of a much loved and admired husband, father, grandfather, brother and mentor.

On Monday morning, students from both campuses gathered to pray for the repose of the soul of Mr John Messer, father of our Principal Mr Damian Messer. John Messer passed away in Perth on Friday afternoon and the students and staff of the College were united in praying for Mr Messer and his entire family at this sad and difficult time.

“God of mercy, through the resurrection of your Son you have given us hope of eternal life”.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK 19A
Thursday December 12 – St Mary’s Social for Grade 5&6 boys
Volunteer Appreciation Evening, from 5.30 pm at the Junior School.
Friday December 13 – Junior School Assembly, 1.15 pm at St Mary’s College, Nagle Centre
Friday December 13 – last day for Grade 7-9 students. Students finish at 12.30 pm.

WEEK 20B
Monday December 16 – Grade 10 Report Collection
Junior School Picnic Day
Wednesday December 18 – Junior School Thanksgiving and Awards Ceremony, St Mary’s Cathedral
Conclusion of Term 4 for Junior School Students

For the most up to date list of calendar events go to www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au – and download the days straight to your smartphone or tablet!

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
MR TERRY BLIZZARD

“God of mercy, through the resurrection of your Son you have given us hope of eternal life”.

Grade 9 students working at local support agency ‘Foodbank’ as part of their Service Learning Programme – ‘By deeds, not words alone’
As many of the boys know, Mr Messer has often spoken with great emotion about his dad who he missed terribly living on the opposite side of the continent. He described him as a quiet and gentle man with a very deep devotion to his faith. He was a devoted and much loved Grandfather to Tom Grade 6 and Meg, father in law of Head of Junior School Jo and the patriarch of a large extended family, all of whom take great inspiration from his well lived life.

I am sure all in our community join us in offering our sincere condolences to the whole Messer family and as the staff and students did on Monday, pray: “God of mercy, through the resurrection of your Son you have given us hope of eternal life. We place the Messer family in your care. Bring them to a place of light and peace so that even as they mourn they know comfort and peace”.

Final Days for Students in 2013

Senior School
A reminder that the final school day for senior school students will conclude at 12.30pm on Friday December 13. The normal bus routes will then transfer boys home. As mentioned in the previous edition of The Star, this is a compulsory school day and all boys are required to attend. Formal uniform must be worn on this day.

At the end of school on Friday we assume that all boys are going home, and I would certainly encourage them to do so. I would once again remind boys that they are identifiable as St Virgil’s students and their behaviour should reflect this.

Junior School
The final day for students is Wednesday December 18. School will finish at normal time – 3pm. Mr Pinelli’s section of The Star provides additional information about events in the last week of the Junior School academic year.

Returning for 2014
Day one for Grade 3 to 7 students and new students in Grade 8 to 10 will be on Friday February 7. Grade 8 to 10 students will commence the 2014 academic year on Tuesday February 11.

I am sure that for some boys the summer will be a time to experiment with hair styles and colour, but could I emphasise the importance of your son returning to school with an appropriate hair style in accordance with the College expectations.

Reporting
As we come to the end of 2013, final academic reports are being prepared for delivery. At the Junior School these reports will be distributed to the students on Friday December 13. At Austins Ferry the Grade 7 to 9 reports will be posted on Friday December 13. Grade 10 students are invited to return to the Senior Campus on Monday December 16 to collect their reports and also their 2013 copy of ‘The Virgilian’.

Junior School Dates
All upcoming dates are on the College website www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au and can be downloaded to your smartphone or tablet calendar. A summary of more significant events is listed below:
December
St Mary’s social for Grades 5 and 6 boys
Volunteer appreciation evening
End of year assembly
Junior School Picnic Day
Thanksgiving liturgy

December 12
December 12
December 13
December 16
December 18

(Please note change of date)

Confirmation of 2014 Dates
Below are listed the commencement dates for our 2014 school year. With the introduction of a number of regulatory requirements and the disruption to the College with the re-development of the Hamilton Wing, Grade 3 to 7 and all new students will commence the academic school year on Friday February 7. Grade 8 to 10 will commence on Tuesday February 11 2014.

2014 promises to be another year of exciting change and development and we look forward to it. Official dates are listed below:

Term Starting Dates
Grade 3-7 and all new students
Grade 8-10

Friday February 7
Tuesday February 11

Term 1
February 7 – April 17

Term 2
May 5 – July 4

Term 3
July 22 (July 21 student free day) – September 26

Term 4
October 13 – December 18

We respectfully ask that if you are planning family holidays during the 2014 school year that where possible you fit them into the scheduled holiday times.

Good Tidings
To all in our College community I wish you a happy, holy and importantly safe Christmas and summer holiday. I thank all students for the contributions they have made to the ongoing story of St Virgil’s College and congratulate them upon achieving personal excellence in a broad range of curricular and co-curricular endeavours. We sincerely thank the parents of each student for supporting boys in these endeavours and to contributing to the rich sense of community that we enjoy at St Virgil’s College.

We look forward to once again working with the young men of St Virgil’s College in 2014.

In the spirit of Blessed Edmund.

Terry Blizzard
JUNIOR SCHOOL

MR ANDREW PINELLI, HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

Each of us can lead with.....

Humility
Excellence
Authenticity
Reliability
Trust

End of year
As this is the last edition of The Star, I would like to thank all the boys, staff and parents for a wonderful year. It is quite hard to believe that the school year has flown by so quickly. I would like to wish everyone a happy, safe and Holy Christmas and look forward to a fantastic year ahead in 2014.

Grade 5 Band concert
Last Thursday, the Grade 5 Band performed to a packed Junior School Hall as the Band programme wound up for the year. The boys, their teachers and tutors as well as their parents are all to be congratulated for their contribution to the fantastic performance that was put on. There have certainly been great leaps of progress made during the year. We look forward to the boys enrolling in the Grade 6 programme next year to build on this year’s efforts.
End of Year Assembly
Tomorrow will be our final assembly for the year commencing promptly at 1.15pm in the Nagle Centre at St Mary’s College. Parents, guardians and friends are warmly invited to attend.

Thanksgiving Liturgy
All families are reminded of our Thanksgiving Liturgy to be held in St Mary’s Cathedral on Wednesday December 18 commencing at 7.00pm. All boys must be in attendance and be dressed in their full, formal uniform (cap excluded). The Thanksgiving Liturgy will be an enjoyable and appropriate way to celebrate a fantastic year and focus everyone towards Christmas. We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday.

Bethlehem House
Families have generously donated a great supply of items for the boys to package for Bethlehem House to try and make Christmas time a little more comfortable.

2014 Academic Year
The teachers have already started preparing for the 2014 school year. Part of this preparation will be the formation of classes. Families, especially of boys in Grade 5 and Grade 6, will be notified during the holiday break of their son’s allocated class.

Teachers for 2014 are as follows:
Grade 3          Mr Luke Fitzpatrick
Grade 4          Mr Tim Birthisel
Grade 5 M        Mrs Jo Messer
Grade 5 O        Mrs Karen Ogle
Grade 6 C        Mrs Fiona Chambers
Grade 6 W        Mr Chris Waugh
Sport
Well done to the following boys who have achieved exceptional results over the past weeks:

- Zac Hills recorded the fifth fastest time in the Australian fin swimming short course titles in the Under 12 and 13 100 metres, 200 metres and 400 metres.
- Campbell Hills recorded the fifth fastest time in the Australian fin swimming short course titles in the Under 11 100 metres, 200 metres and 400 metres.
- Cody Lane recorded excellent times in the Australian fin swimming short course titles in the Under 12 and 13 100 metres (6th), 200 metres (5th) and 400 metres (4th).

Canteen
Mrs Olga Leon
Please note that there is no canteen next week. Sincere thanks to the wonderful volunteers who have assisted feed our hungry boys throughout 2013! Thank you – we wish you a relaxing and joyous Christmas and holiday break.

DIRECTOR OF TRANSITION
MR CAMERON ALEXANDER

Time and Space Dates 2014

The dates for next year’s programmes are listed below. Please save the relevant dates to your calendar.

Grade 9/10 Time and Space
Night 1  Tuesday March 18
Night 2  Wednesday March 19
Weekend  Friday March 21 – Sunday March 23
Dinner  Monday March 24
Final Night  May 19

Grade 7 Mother/Son Evening
Thursday March 20

Grade 8 Stepping Up
Tuesday May 20

These programmes are facilitated by Mr Bill Jennings and have been greatly successful in past years. Further details of each of the programmes will be outlined in editions of The Star in 2014.

SPORT

Grade 7&8 Cricket – ‘Hurricane’s Cup’
SVC Blue 3-146 defeated Dominic College 7-53
Declan Waddington 27, Reece Williams 22 no, Luke Swinton 16 no, Austin Keeling 18 no, Jack Anders 12 no. Austin Keeling 2/6, Fletcher Keeling 2/12

A strong end to the season for the Blues who finished second in the competition – ultimately by one run! The boys improved in every game and have set a strong platform for key Grade 9 and 10 games in the coming years. They were also outstanding ambassadors for the College playing each game in the true spirit of cricket. Well done boys!

Final Round
SVC Green 5/140 defeated MacKillop College 48
An emphatic win to finish the season. In another great sign for SVC cricket, the Green team finished third. Well done to skipper Brad Percey and coaches Mr Barry Maxwell and Mr Jamie Holland.

Sailing
Br Peter Flint
‘Learn to Sail’
All current students and next year’s Grade 7 boys are invited to attend ‘Learn to Sail’ classes which are being conducted each Sunday morning at 9.30 am at the Austins Ferry Yacht Club.

To register and to receive more details please email Br Peter Flint – pflint@stvirgils.tas.edu.au
SPORT

1st XI Cricket

Mr Cameron Alexander

The St Virgil's College cricket team maintained the Di Venuto-Saunders Shield with an emphatic seven wicket win against The Hutchins School. Bowling first the team bowled tight and disciplined lines and wickets fell regularly on an excellent batting pitch, restricting Hutchins to 10/130. Liam Devlin took 2/9, Nathan Percey 2/20 and Sam Leon 2/31.

In reply the batsman scored at a steady rate reaching the target in the 34th over. Lachlan McLeod made 38, Liam Devlin 16 and Luke Webb finished the job off in no uncertain terms with a hard hitting 47 from 42 balls. Nathan Percey finished the innings with 14 not out.

Captain Isaac Salter led the team extremely well and was very proud to receive the Di Venuto - Saunders Shield – his final accolade in a highly decorated cricket career with St Virgil’s College. Thank you to all Grade 10s for the way in which they have represented the College over the past four years. Good luck to each player as they continue with their studies and development as cricketers in school and club cricket!
COLLEGE COMMUNITY NEWS

Uniform Shop
Mrs Cindy Gangell

2013 UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS

SENIOR SCHOOL CAMPUS
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30 am to 3.30 pm
Thursday 2.00pm to 3.30 pm.

JUNIOR SCHOOL CAMPUS
Tuesday 8.30am to 9.30 am

Please visit the website www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au to see the opening days and times for January and February 2014. A reminder that orders for all uniform items can now be placed online and collected from the Office of either campus.

Austins Ferry Canteen
Mrs Carol Hilyer, Manager

If you are interested in helping in the Canteen next year please return your Volunteer Form ASAP, as Carol is already working on next year’s Roster. Even if you are a current volunteer, please return a new form to confirm your availability.

To download the form please go to http://www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au/news-publications/

Parish of Moonah

The Moonah Catholic parish is inviting people to a Blue Christmas Mass of Hope at Midnight on Christmas Eve. The invitation is especially extended to those who have experienced loss, grief or disconnection from the sentiments of those around them at Christmas. Sometimes people can feel broken, and the cheer of the Christmas celebrations can seem out of step with their own life. As the letter says, this Blue Christmas Mass is aimed at reflecting on the hope that Christ’s birth brings to the world no matter what is happening in our lives at present.

To download an invite please go to: http://www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au/news-publications/

Brother Sean McManus
on behalf of the Moonah Parish Liturgy Committee

- TCEO Reporting and Assessment Information for Parents
- Edmodo Flyer
- Junior School iPad programme – FAQ Brochure
- iPad Information Session – Parent Notes
- Canteen – Summer Menu 2013/2014
- Grief and Bereavement files
- Metro Soccer Club flyer
- Hockey Tasmania Summer Clinic
Please follow St Virgil’s on Twitter - @svctas

Tweet of the Week

Michael Di Venuto

"@svctas: SVC 1st XI retained the Di Venuto-Saunders Shield with an emphatic 7 wicket win over Hutchins School." Love beating Hutchins!

The new rowing shed at New Town Bay is taking shape!
There is always time for reflection!

Each week boys at St Virgil's College are involved in a wide range of exciting curricular and co-curricular experiences. These experiences provide a rich source of learning, fun and personal growth – here is just a snapshot of these activities, captured through the lens of Br Peter Flint and Mr Andrew Pinelli.

Additional photos can be accessed at: Svcpics.phanfare.com