FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MR DAMIAN MESSER

“The night was an extremely successful one and I am pleased to announce the community raised just over $19,000 on the night”.

Gala Dinner Auction
Last Saturday evening 160 members of the St Virgil’s College community came together at the New Town Bay Rowing Centre and took part in the biennial Gala Dinner Auction. The night was an extremely successful one and I am pleased to announce the community raised just over $19,000 on the night.

Thanks must go to all who helped in the organisation, especially those who took time to canvass our supporters to gain the wonderful items that were put up for auction.
The Parents & Friends did a wonderful job organising the venue and set up under the wonderful guidance of President, Susan Roberts. I thank, once again, that group for their continued support.

The coordination of the event was managed by Mr Mark Waddington and ably supported by numerous members of the office staff. The team worked tirelessly to ensure that the evening was a success.

I again take the opportunity to thank all those who were involved who helped make the night so enjoyable.

Renewal Visit
In the middle of next week the College will be hosting a renewal team from Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) who will be assessing the College’s authenticity as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition. They will take the opportunity to interview many members of our community across three days, analysing the way the College is true and faithful to the Edmund Rice tradition. We look forward to their visit as it gives us a chance to assess where we are at, establish what we do well and identify areas for improvement.

Brother George
On my recent visit to Africa I met the Deputy Leader of the East African District, Br George Massay. Br George is visiting Australia in the coming weeks and has extended his visit to Australia to spend some time with us in Hobart. He will be visiting us on Wednesday August 20 and he will take the time to visit both campuses. The Junior School campus in the morning and the Senior campus in the afternoon.

We hope that Br George will be able to speak to all of our students and staff and spend some time in the classroom telling the students his story and the purpose of his visit to Australia. The connection we have with our international Brothers is significant and we very much look forward to welcoming him into the St Virgil’s College community.

Dr Ian Colrain
Last night a number of parents took up the opportunity to listen to Professor Ian Colrain and enter into a dialogue around the importance of sleep for adolescent students. Ian as an Old Virgilian was very generous again to give of his time as a follow up of his talks to the Grade 7 and 8 students last week. He spoke of the importance of the regular routine of sleep and emphasised that this routine is extremely important to ensure that students are successful in all their endeavours. He emphasised the four essential elements to living – breathing, eating, drinking and sleeping. - without air you will die within minutes, without water you will die in days, without food you would die in weeks and without sleep you would die in months. Ian has dedicated his life’s work to studying sleep patterns and sleep in general and I know parents gained much from his talk.

I would like to thank Ian for his generosity in giving of his time to our community. We wish him well in his return to California to continue his important work.

Junior School Open Day
Next Tuesday August 12 the Junior School will host their second Open Day for the year. Parents are encouraged to talk to friends and advise them of the opportunity to come and visit the site and meet with staff. There are a limited number of positions available in 2015 for Grade 3.

Grade 10 Retreats
Today and tomorrow the Grade 10 boys in their House groups will participate in the Grade 10 retreat programme. The days will be facilitated by Br Damien Price who is a formation specialist from EREA. The focus of the retreat is ‘Journey’ and the importance that journey plays in young adolescent male lives. The conversations over the day will hopefully help the students to sit comfortably with where they are at in their journey so far, whilst exciting them about the possibilities that their journey may bring in the future. Br Damien is an excellent presenter and I am sure the days will be well received and very successful.
GYC Enrolments
Over the past few weeks, Grade 10 boys have been actively involved in their Pathway planning and beginning the process of subject selection for 2015. A reminder that the initial round for subject selections will be due at the Front Office by August 22. The boys had the opportunity yesterday to have some conversation with some staff from the College and our Liaison Officer Robert Gregg will be visiting the College every Wednesday to meet with individuals and answer any questions during recess. A reminder to those who haven’t completed their enrolment, that it needs to be done as a matter of urgency.

Handover of Leadership
As a part of the second half of the year, the House Representatives from Grade 7, 8 and 9 change and provide the opportunity for 12 more boys to assume leadership roles. The handover ceremony took place last Friday where we welcomed the new leaders into their roles. The culmination of the afternoon was an afternoon tea held with the parents of the boys who have and will be leaders this year. Again I thank the boys for the work that has been done and look forward to working with the new group as we continue through the year.

Canteen
The canteens on both campuses provide a valuable service to students and parents through the provision of a range of food and drinks at different times of the day. For students travelling long distances to Senior School the canteen provides a breakfast service that ensures boys do not go into class hungry. For busy parents the canteens can provide a relief from the challenge of coming up with exciting and nutritious luncheon options.

Thanks to the generosity of our parents who volunteer for Canteen duty we are able to keep prices low and also provide another opportunity for parental engagement in the life of the College. This year we have had challenges in fully staffing the canteens with volunteers. I would ask that if you can spare a few hours once a month that you contact Mrs Carol Hilyer (Austins Ferry) – chilyer@stvirgils.tas.edu.au or Mrs Olga Leon (Junior School) – oleon@stvirgils.tas.edu.au to enquire about getting on the roster. Please be assured the College greatly appreciates your support.

Coming Events
Please keep an eye out in The Star and via the website and your emails for a number of significant events coming up this term, including:
- Luncheon with the Stars
- Old Scholars and Band Concert
- SVC Community Race Day
- Grade 8/9 Subject Selection Evening
- Junior School Fair
- House Athletics Carnival

In the spirit of Blessed Edmund.

Damian Messer
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
MR TERRY BLIZZARD

“A 10 day period of unauthorised absence in a year is sufficient to drop a child about a band in the NAPLAN testing.”

Grade 7 and 8
This week we spoke to the Grade 7 and 8 students about the importance of reflecting on their results in the mid-year reports, and in particular the comments written by the teachers. The comments are structured in three parts with the third part centring on future learning, in other words how the student can further improve. We have asked them to re-read all of their reports and to write down the future learning part of the comments and bring this with them to the Welfare class next Wednesday. This will then be used to construct some learning goals for the remainder of the year. The details of this should be listed in their diaries so that they “don’t forget”.

Maths Competition
This week around 100 students have participated in the Australian Maths Competition. Participation in activities such as this is valuable for two main reasons: (1) the results data from such competitions is invaluable for the Mathematics Department, and (2) boys like competition and need challenges. I’d like to commend all of those boys who took part and wish them well on their results.

Hair styles
Every year there is a trendy new hair style that does the rounds of the school. This year’s style features a fairly dramatic contrast in the length of hair from the top to the sides (probably not one that I will subscribe to!). It is timely to remind boys of the haircuts policy listed in the Student Diary that states that “there should be no dramatic grading in length or undercutting”.

Student Absence
We often get notification from parents of a lengthy absence of students due to family holidays or similar. Understandably in Tasmania families have to make the most of affordable airline prices, as well as the obvious matter of parents who have their holidays out of the school holiday period. It is however timely that the release of a recent analysis by the Australian Council for Educational Research of the attendance records and NAPLAN results of more than 400,000 students found that any absence of school leads to a slip in academic performance.

The study found that missing just one day of school has negative consequences for a student’s academic achievement. Further it showed that school attendance patterns established as early as year 1 can predict how often a student will show up to class right throughout high school. “Australia is alarmingly slack when it comes to school attendance, with high school students skipping more days of school than almost any other developed country”. The study dispels the common belief there is a safe level of absence students can get away with before their grades will suffer.

The concluding statement from the study is compelling - “A 10 day period of unauthorised absence in a year is sufficient to drop a child about a band in the NAPLAN testing.”

It is a difficult balancing act for parents and we always appreciate advance notice of any absence.
BR PETER FLINT

I am saddened at times that the story of the real Jesus has been lost among a lot of pious nonsense.

I discovered a Jesus I could believe in when I read "Bind the Strong Man" by Ched Myers. There are many other authors who have enriched my knowledge and understanding of Jesus since. Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossin are but two.

For me, the words of the Gospels had become so familiar that I never saw the real meaning. When the cultural and social environments have been brought to light, the person of Jesus becomes so much more believable. I commend these writers to you and would be happy to engage in any subsequent conversation.

For those with an appetite for heavier material, I can recommend Teilhard De Chardin - The Divine Milieu Explained" by Savary Louis M. This is essentially "Teilhard de Chardin for Dummies." It suited me!

You might like to have a look at: Ten Political Things You Cannot Do While Following Jesus. from the Sojourners' network. It is American but easily adjusted to Australia.

http://sojo.net/blogs/2013/06/12/10-political-things-you-cant-do-while-following-jesus

On a lighter note!

JUNIOR SCHOOL

MR ANDREW PINELLI, HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

“I have not failed, I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.”

Albert Einstein

ICAS Science Skills Assessment
Last term, a number of boys from each class undertook the ICAS Science Skills Assessment. Congratulations to the boys listed below who achieved special awards for their results.

Grade 5 Distinction  Callum Parssey, Riley Ringrose
Grade 3 Credit  Caerwyn James, Daniel Tang
Grade 4 Credit  Will Lukianenko, Sahib Singh
Grade 5 Credit  Joseph Fracalossi, Joshua Whylie
Grade 6 Credit  Nicholas Dexter, Edward Staley
Grade 5 Merit  Phoenix Robey
Grade 6 Merit  Jordan Baker

Grade 5 Excursion to Molesworth
Mrs Karen Ogle
As part of our Science unit on Adaptations the Grade 5 classes went to Molesworth Environment Centre this week. Whilst there we got insects out of a dam and classified them and looked at how they had adapted to their environment and examined their predators. We were amazed at how much life there actually is in a dam! We then walked into the bush to eat lunch and looked at this environment and all it contained. At the Centre we went into a nocturnal room and learnt a lot from the displays around the room.
Woodwork
Grade 6 W are well underway with their rotation of Woodwork at the Austins Ferry Campus. The boys have started cutting out and sanding their timber for the construction of a bird house. We look forward to sharing pictures of their progress with construction and their finished project over the coming weeks.

P & F Association
2014 Junior School Fair
The P & F held a special meeting on Tuesday evening to finalise arrangement for the 2014 Junior School Fair to be held on Sunday September 14 from 11 am to 2pm. It promises to be a fantastic day with great food, games and bargains so please mark the day on your calendar. All boys will be involved in Grade stalls and notes will come home in the next week to explain how students and parents can get involved.

This is a great school community day and our major fundraiser for the year with all proceeds going back to projects which benefit all boys. If you can assist in any way, for example as a volunteer on a stall or as part of the pack up crew please email P & F President, Mark Waddington mwaddington@stvirgils.tas.edu.au.
Next meeting Tuesday August 19 at 7pm.

Gala Auction
It was great to see so many parents affiliated with the Junior School at the Gala Auction over the weekend. It was a great College social activity – with some funds raised on the side. A big congratulations and thank you to the organisers for such an enjoyable evening.

Japanese Visitors
Ms Amelia Showers
This week the Yaizu exchange students, host brothers, teacher and host teachers visited the Junior School for an afternoon. One of the Grade 5 classes worked with the boys, and they enjoyed practising their Japanese with them. All of the boys worked together on some cultural activities, the favourite being learning to use chopsticks to pick up M and M’s!

Sensei Hennessey from the Senior School taught the boys a really unique way of remembering numbers up to ten, and Sensei Suzuki from Yaizu school explained that the children in Japanese schools clean their own classrooms! It was a wonderful afternoon for the boys, and we look forward to exchange students visiting again in 2015.
Calendar update

Parents and guardians are reminded to subscribe to the College’s online calendar. The great advantage of this is that if there are necessary changes to dates these changes can be made immediately. Please check the calendar at: http://www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au/calendar/

August
Grade 5 attending National Hockey Championships August 8
Grade 6 Footy game against Hutchins August 8
Catholic Education Week commences August 11
ICAS Mathematics Assessment August 12
Junior School Open Day August 12
Feast of the Assumption Mass @ 9.00am August 15
Junior School Book Week August 18 – 22
Grade 5 M Excursion Marine Studies – Woodbridge August 18
Grade 5 O Excursion Marine Studies – Woodbridge August 19

Junior School Sport

Water Polo
The team had a fantastic battle with Mt Stuart PS finishing in a nail biting eight-all draw! We were ahead until the last seconds of the game thanks to great team forward play from Josh, Jordan, Max and Tadhg. Great defensive efforts from Harry, Liam, Max, Josh and goal keeper Lachchie kept us in front for most of the game. Riley and Cameron played valuable minutes in a great team effort. Player of the game was Sebastian Brown who played a selfless game, still managing to score a fantastic goal despite his tendency to be the ultimate team player – well done Bas!
The team play their final game this week against Eastern Shore at 7.30 pm.

Basketball
Grade 5/6
SVC Green 8 lost to SVC Gold 48
The ‘Green Team’ battled strongly but were outplayed by a talented experience line up, with Liam Wilson, Deegan Nicholls and Riley Best playing some polished, team oriented basketball. Luke Kreune and Tadhg Waddington battled hard scoring 4 points each from limited opportunities and were well supported by Harry Fisher, Cameron Monks and the tenacious Baker Smith. A great learning experience that will help the team immensely for games to come.

Player of the Week: Luke Kreune for great ball handling skills.

Soccer
With this weekend’s heavy rain forecast please check the website for game times and match status.

Football
The re-scheduled Grade 6 Football game against Hutchins will be played on Friday August 8 at Queenborough – weather permitting!

Junior School Canteen

Friday August 8 R Chivers / J Gray
Wednesday August 13 E Zeeman / T Donohue
Thursday August 14 K Read / L Strong
Friday August 15 R & L Langshaw

If any volunteers are available on the following dates, please contact Mrs Leon on oleon@stvirgils.tas.edu.au - August 27, September 24 and October 22.
Grade 8&9 Subject Selection Evening
The Subject Selection Evening for Grade 8 and 9's will be held on **Tuesday August 26**, beginning at 7.30pm in the Joyce Performance Centre. This evening is a chance for current Grade 8 and 9s to begin the process of selecting their elective subjects for 2015.

The information session in the JPC will be followed by a Subject Exhibition in the Edmund Rice Hall, where parents and students can discuss possible subject choices with the teachers.

Homework Club
**Ms Claire Graham**
All students are invited to attend ‘Homework Club’ each Wednesday after school. A number of teachers will be present to provide assistance in a range of learning areas. Homework Club runs from 3.15 pm to 4.15 pm and students will be provided with a Milo and snack prior to the session commencing. A bus will run from the College to the CBD following each session.

For more details please email cgraham@stvirgils.tas.edu.au

Drama
**Mrs Jennifer White**
On Thursday September 4 2014, all Grade 7 students will be attending a shadow puppet comedy entitled *Swamp Juice* – a playful and immersive theatrical experience with astounding visual effects. Students will depart at approximately 10.10am from SVC Basketball Court and travel by bus to the Theatre Royal Backspace (29 Campbell Street, Hobart) for an 11am performance. They will then depart the Theatre Royal Backspace Theatre at approximately 12.15am to return to SVC by 12.30pm. All students must dress in formal school attire.

And

On Friday September 8 2014, all Grade 8 students will be attending a shadow puppet comedy entitled *Swamp Juice* – a playful and immersive theatrical experience with astounding visual effects. Canadian born performer Jeff Achtem’s second one man show, *Swamp Juice* played to sold out houses at the Adelaide Fringe and Edinburgh Fringe, and won a ‘Total Theatre’ award in 2011.

Students will depart at approximately 10.10am from SVC Basketball Court and travel by bus to the Theatre Royal Backspace (29 Campbell Street, Hobart) for an 11am performance. They will then depart the Theatre Royal Backspace Theatre at approximately 12.15am to return to SVC by 12.30pm. All students must dress in formal school attire.
DIRECTOR OF TRANSITION

MR CAMERON ALEXANDER

Grade 10 – GYC Subject Selections
Boys are now required to complete their preliminary subject selection form by Friday August 22, which can be returned to the office at St Virgil’s. Next week staff from GYC will visit the College to allow for any follow questions or provide more personalised course counselling to assist with subject selection.

SPORT

St Virgil’s Pacers returning to the beach for team change over at the State Titles 2013.

Preparations for the Sailing Season 2014 - 15 have commenced.

Parents of interested boys, old and new, are invited to a gathering of parents at SVC, Austins Ferry, on Tuesday 12th August to assist in making some decisions around the new season.

Preparations for high quality involvement in the State, National and Interdominion Titles need some discussion.

Other areas for discussion include:
- Raising the Team Racing Skills of boys newer to the sport.
- Raising the sailing skills of the less experienced boys.
- Introducing newcomers to the sport.
- The availability of parental involvement in these.

We are hoping to be back on the water before the end of term.
Newcomers from Grade 6 classes are most welcome, especially those with some sailing experience.

Br Peter looks after sailing matters – for the time being.
0439738327
Austins Ferry Canteen
Mrs Carol Hilyer

The Winter Menu is available on the website or students can obtain a copy at the Office or the Canteen.

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Uniform Shop
Mrs Cindy Gangell

2014 UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS

SENIOR SCHOOL CAMPUS
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30 am to 3.30 pm

JUNIOR SCHOOL CAMPUS
Tuesday 8.30 to 9.30 am Thursday 2.00 to 3.30 pm


ONLINE ORDERS
All online orders can be collected from recess (10.00 am) on Tuesday or Thursday at the Uniform Shop
If you have paid you order and you son does not collect his order on these day you may collect at the Front Office on Wednesday and Friday.
ST VIRGIL’S COLLEGE PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Mrs Susan Roberts,
President

Our biennial Gala Auction and Dinner was held on Saturday night with outstanding results, considering the very chilly weather outside!

What a wonderful evening it was, with the New Town Bay Rowing Centre transformed into a venue worthy of any occasion. From the moment we stepped in the door we were greeted with smiles and some camera action from students, than as we moved up the stairs we were all greeted by a cozy warm feeling of electric heaters. Gone are the days of gas bottles freezing up, in fact within an hour of the evening beginning the heat switches were turned off.

The atmosphere was complemented by our amazing band. A delicious two course meal provided by Kate Quinn from Basil Catering and was very warmly received. The outstanding array of silent auction and out loud auction items, were all snapped up, with many attending "bagging a bargain".

Guests from all areas of the College community, and some invited guests, enjoyed coming together to not only raise much needed funds for resources for our boys, but also to celebrate the first and one of many functions to be held in such an amazing facility.

Events such as this require a lot of hard work, commitment and organisation, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their support and assistance both behind the scenes and on the night:

- Our P & F Executive Committee – Leon Ashlin, Sally Crosby, Shane Poulson, Fiona Attrill, Michelle Direen, Sally Fieldmanis, Katrina Manser, Cindy Gallahar, Narelle Freckleton, Melissa Lacey, Michelle White, Jill Gluski
- Damian Messer, Mark Waddington, Terry Blizzard, Monica Nugent, Narelle Green, Tracy Moschogianis, Kristy Harback, Carissa Briggs, Gaylene Ford, teaching staff and the wonderful grounds staff.
- Blair Brownless - our amazing MC and auctioneer extraordinaire!
- Volunteers who assisted with a variety of tasks on the day, including venue set up, auction supervising, taking of payments and clean up.
- Our wonderful student helpers – Thomas Attrill, Declan Waddington, Jake Roberts, Angus Rogers, Aidan Cannell, Jordon Cox, Nick Manser, Jack Direen, Liam Barr, Callum Stevens, Jack Gallahar, Jarrod Weisse, Harrison Lacey, Nathan Lovell.
- All the wonderful supporters of the school who donated auction items.
- Kate and her catering staff from Basil Catering for a delicious meal.
- Mr Jeremy Williamson and all members of the student band who so kindly volunteered their time to create such a great atmosphere.

A full list of Gala Auction Dinner sponsors will appear in next week’s edition of The Star.

Although we have not yet fully reconciled the finances of the evening, we are proud to advise that we have raised approximately $19,000 for the College. Thank you. We will be back in two years, bigger and better to make sure you are there!
Dear SVC Community Member,

St Virgil’s College are excited to be able to offer our members the exclusive opportunity to trial the new Entertainment Book Digital Membership for 7 days for Free!

These free trials are extremely limited. We have been given a small allocation due to our fundraising relationship with Entertainment Publications. Please take this opportunity to try the new digital membership so you can see firsthand the fantastic offers available and the hundreds of dollars you can save through owning one of these sought after memberships.

I have been using my digital membership and I love it! It’s super easy to use and it’s so convenient because you always have it with you.

Should you decide to purchase a digital membership now, you can do so by clicking on the “purchase now” link below.

$65 from each membership purchased goes directly towards our fundraising. We thank you and appreciate your support.

As a supporter of St Virgil's College, we have organised an exclusive opportunity for you to use the brand new Entertainment™ Digital Membership (what’s this?) for FREE for 7 days, starting today!

- Enjoy 25-50% off at your favourite restaurants, activities and attractions, hotels, travel, shopping and much, much more!
- Simply show your smartphone (is mine compatible?) to redeem valuable offers at Tasmania’s
most popular businesses.

- Use the Entertainment™ Digital Membership for **free for the next seven days**, and watch the value add up!

We know you'll love the Entertainment™ Digital Membership once you've tried it! At the end of your Free Trial, you will have the option to purchase the Entertainment™ Digital Membership for the whole year for only $65. Best of all, 20% from every Entertainment™ Digital Membership you buy contributes towards St Virgil's College!

**Hurry, your week starts now and will expire on 6/8/2014! These free trials of the Digital Memberships are limited in number so don't miss out, and start your trial today!**

![Start a Free Trial Now](url)  ![Purchase an Annual Membership Now](url)

St Virgil's College

Jackie Geale

Phone: 0418450050 | Email: jackiegeale@bigpond.com
The St Virgil’s College Community invites you to attend the ‘2014 Luncheon with the Stars’

Friday August 22 2014
12 pm to 2.45 pm
Blundstone Arena Function Centre

Featuring
David Noble (SVC 1980-85) Assistant Coach of Adelaide and other guests from the following day’s game between North Melbourne and Adelaide

Proceeds from the luncheon will go to the St Virgil’s College History Centre and the Edmund Rice Foundation

All ticket information at www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au
2014 JUNIOR SCHOOL FAIR
102 Patrick Street, Hobart

Sunday September 14 2014
11am to 2.00 pm

Come and enjoy a great day of fun, food and friendship! Highlights include the ever popular chocolate wheel, games, toys, wine tastings and a range of food delicacies to tempt all tastes.

Kids will love all the fun of the fair and especially the exciting Nerf Tag arena, 3 v 3 soccer arena, lucky jars, extreme makeovers, badge making, toys and much, much more!

Please come along with all the family and spend a little – or a lot! All proceeds will go to the P&F for projects that benefit all students.

- 2014 Instrumental Music Programme Enrolment Form

Our Japanese visitors
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