FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MR DAMIAN MESSER

“We thank each boy for their contribution to the ongoing story of St Virgil’s College”.

Thanksgiving Liturgy
Tonight marks the final event for our Grade 10 students for 2014 with the annual Thanksgiving and Prize ceremony. This marks the end of a significant week in the lives of our senior students who have just completed exams. They enjoyed a wonderful evening at their final dinner on Tuesday evening and have taken time to say farewell to all those connected with them. We thank each boy for their contribution to the ongoing story of St Virgil’s College and wish them well for tonight and every success in their future, whatever it is they decide to undertake.

Tonight’s ceremony begins at 7.30pm and we would like all students to be at the Derwent Entertainment Centre (DEC) by 7pm so that the event can start right on
7.30. We anticipate the event will finish between 9 and 9.15pm.

A reminder for Grade 7-9 students that school tomorrow begins at 10.08am. The students have been given a revised bus table and all routes have been carefully explained to all students. A copy of the timetable is available in Mr Blizzard’s section of The Star.

Grade 10 Final Week
Despite the hectic pace of life around the campus this week, I have had some wonderful moments of clarity, inspiration and celebration as I have engaged with boys making the exciting transition to the next stage of their lives. These moments remind me that it is important to stop and be present for our boys – even when life seems incredibly busy. If we do not, we may miss some precious experiences and memories. I am drawn to the line of scripture:

*Be still and know that I am God.*

(Ps. 46:10)

As I share a laugh, a reflection or a memory with our Grade 10 boys, I am reminded that there are so many people at St Virgil’s doing great work to honour our mission as a Catholic school for boys in the Edmund Rice tradition. I am literally stopped in my tracks by the small, quiet voices of prayer and give thanks that I have been still for a moment. In doing so I have experienced the transformative power of a graced moment in Catholic education.

Maths and Science Award Winners
Recently at our final assembly we were able to acknowledge the boys who performed exceptionally in both the Australian Mathematics Competitions and the ICAS Mathematics Competition as well as the Great Australian Science Byte Competition. In each of these competitions we had a number of boys who gained Distinctions and High Distinctions. Special mention must go to one of our Grade 9 students Nicholas Ashlin, who in the ICAS Maths Competition, won the Award for the Best Student in Australia. Nicholas will travel to Melbourne on December 8 to be presented with his National Award. This is a significant achievement for one of our students and highlights the College’s commitment to the pursuit of academic excellence.

SMC Grade 7-9 Social Day
Next Wednesday December 3, Grade 7, 8 and 9 students will have their annual social gathering with St Mary’s College students at Tolosa Park. The day begins at the end of Period 1 and will continue for the rest of the school day. This is a great opportunity for the boys to spend time with their sister school counterparts in a casual but semi-formal setting with organised activities as part of the day.

Reporting Timeline
| Grade 10 | Monday December 15 – Student reports available for collection from the Front Office at Austins Ferry. |
| Grade 7 – 9 | Reports posted on December 16. |
| Grade 3 – 6 | Reports will be given to the students on Monday December 15. |

Volunteer Appreciation Evening
Thank you to anyone who has volunteered this year and in the process supported the College in providing better educational opportunities for our boys. In appreciation for your hard work, I invite you to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Evening which is being held on Thursday December 11 from 5.30 pm – 7pm at the Junior School.

For catering purposes it is important that you contact Mrs Michelle Moate at the Junior School if you wish to attend. mmoate@stvirgils.tas.edu.au or phone 62342440.
Finishing Date for Students
As we rapidly approach the end of the school year, I would like to remind parents that the students finish school on Wednesday December 17.

Mary Rice Centre Craft Stall
Many parents will have noticed the amazing African craft items for sale at the Fair. The goods are manufactured by the parents of the children of the Mary Rice Centre as part of a micro-finance project at the MRC which enables parents to produce some income to support their family. Manufacturing occurs on-site at the MRC further strengthening the sense of community at the school.

The College has items such as bags, Massai blankets and jewellery on sale at the Front Office at Austins Ferry. Please call in and pick up a wonderful Christmas present whilst supporting the children of the MRC and their families.

In the spirit of Blessed Edmund.

Damian Messer

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
MR TERRY BLIZZARD

“This was a wonderfully reverent occasion and a reminder that our Catholicity and rituals are the defining characteristics of our College. Who are we without them?”

It has been a busy week of celebration with the Grade 10 students as we prepare to farewell them at the Thanksgiving Ceremony tonight (Thursday). Following the completion of the exams we commenced the formalities with the celebration of Mass with the Old Virgilians at St Mary’s Cathedral. This was a wonderfully reverent occasion and a reminder that our Catholicity and rituals are the defining characteristics of our College. Who are we without them?

The Leavers’ Dinner on Tuesday evening was again a wonderful way for the cohort to come together with the staff of the College to share a meal and recognise the significant events in the school lives of the boys over the past four years. A number of stories were shared of the ‘goings-on’ of the boys in their time at the College and our 2014 College Captain, Patrick Vout spoke of the passion that defines a St Virgil’s man. Sadly for parents the age old creed of what is said at the Graduation Dinner, stays at the Graduation Dinner remains strong!
In the afternoon on Tuesday, the entire senior school gathered together for the last time and were entertained by the ‘staff’ as they conducted interviews for the Principal’s position. Very few convincing applicants I’m sorry to say!

As we near the final farewell I would like to not only pay tribute to all the young men of the St Virgil’s College Grade 10 cohort but also to the Staff of the College. I particularly note Mr Cameron Alexander for his organisation of the Leavers Week, and Miss Heidi Gregg and Mr Mathew Derrick for their work in ensuring the Exam period ran so smoothly.

My hope is that the Class of 2014 continue their development into good men of faith, and I wish them all the very best as they move into the challenges of higher education or work. We wish them all well and hope that their memories of SVC go with them always.

**St Mary’s College Social Day**
A reminder that next Wednesday December 3 is the Grade 7-9 Social Day with St Mary’s College at Tolosa Park. Sports uniform should be worn. St Virgil’s has a long standing relationship with St. Mary’s College and the day provides the boys the opportunity to continue this tradition. Students will depart the College at 10.30 am and return by 3.00 pm for dismissal at the end of the day. Boys are reminded that they are to bring their own lunch, a drink and that hats are compulsory.

**Friday November 28 Bus Arrangements**
Mr Simon Orlowski
With the late finish to Thanksgiving Ceremony classes on Friday November 28 at Austins Ferry will commence at 10.08 am. To accommodate this late start the following bus timetable will operate:

- 9.00am from Lauderdale (South Terrace) via Acton, Cambridge, Lindisfarne.
- 9.00am from Blackmans Bay (Garnett Ave) via Kingston Central (9.10am), via Brooker Highway
- 9.00am from Camelot Park via Clarence Street, Eastlands, via Lindisfarne.
- 9.30am from New Norfolk (Warner Ave), via Central 9.45am
- 9.30am from Bagdad (United Servo), via Brighton Primary 9.45am
- 9.30am from St Mary’s College via Lenah Valley
- 9.25am from City (103 Macquarie St), via Main Rd, Glenorchy Bus Mall 9.55am.

Any enquiries about bus arrangements can be directed to Mr Simon Orlowski – sorlowski@stvirgils.tas.edu.au

**COLLEGE CHAPLAIN**

**BR PETER FLINT**

I sat with some Grade 10 lads at the Leavers Dinner and listened to their plans for the years ahead. I had asked them, “Where will you be in ten year’s-time?”

It was very affirming to hear the maturity and thoughtfulness, but with both realism and uncertainty in their visions.

The phrase “A work in progress” came to mind, and it seemed to me that they, and so many others of the departing group, are making very good progress in their task of preparing for adulthood.

I’ve been privileged to share something of the personal battles that a number of these young men have and are experiencing. I stand in awe at the resilience and determination they have that is known only to those intimate to them.
A recent statement from Pope Francis came to mind: "The starting point of salvation is not the confession of the reign of Christ, but rather the imitation of Jesus’ works of mercy through which he brought about his kingdom...."

So many of these lads are at or past that starting point.

The whole statement can be found at: http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2014/11/23/pope_frandis_homily_for_christ_the_king_canonization_mass/1112112

ACTING DIRECTOR OF IDENTITY

MR DANIEL LAPOLLA

OVA Grade 10 Mass
On Tuesday November 25 our Grade 10s were formally welcomed into the Old Virgilians Association. Our Mass commenced at 11:30 at St Mary’s Cathedral following a year group photo at the Junior School. The Grade 10s were welcomed by many Old Virgilians and also the entire Junior School. The Mass held significant symbolism as it represented a new group of young men moving into their next stage in life. It also allowed the Old Virgilians a chance to reflect on their time at the College as no doubt many memories returned when the sea of blue entered the Cathedral.

It was great to see many parents coming to support their boys. A huge thank you to Fr Michael Tate for conducting the service and the Old Virgilians Association for working in partnership with the College to present this special event in the lives of our students.
JUNIOR SCHOOL

MR ANDREW PINELLI, HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.”

Robert Collier

Farewell
It is with great sadness that at the end of this year we will farewell Mr Luke Fitzpatrick from the Junior School teaching staff. Mr Fitzpatrick has been on the staff for seven years and has been a very hard working teacher for all the boys who have moved through the Junior School Campus. In 2015, Mr Fitzpatrick will be taking up a new position at St Therese’s. We wish him every success in this new role. Recruitment processes have been commenced to fill Mr Fitzpatrick’s position.

Junior School celebrations of the Arts – December 3
On Wednesday December 3, all families are invited to our Arts Evening where the Grade 5 Band will perform followed by the official opening of the 2014 Junior School Art Exhibition featuring art created by all the boys and six framed art works up for auction. All families are invited to join with us to celebrate the achievements of the boys this year. Details of the evening are below:

5.30 – 6.30 pm Grade 5 Band perform in the amphitheatre and receive information about the Grade 6 Band programme.

6.30 – 7.30 pm Sausage sizzle snack for all visitors prior to opening of Art Exhibition

7.00 Official opening of the 2014 Art Exhibition by Mr Tony Woodward (Principal Education Officer - Curriculum, Dept. of Education) and commencement of silent auction of framed Grade art works.

The silent auction will be finalised at our end of year assembly on Friday December 12.
Art – Christmas Cards
The beautiful cards produced by our boys have now all been sent home to parents and guardians. It has been great to witness a steady stream of payments and requests for a re-order of this year’s Christmas Cards. Under the guidance of Ms Stary the boys have been very busy producing this year’s Christmas Cards. Thank you to the very generous mums led by Monique Careless and Simone Ashby who assisted in placing the photographed image onto the actual card. A special thank you also to Focal Printing for their generous donation of envelopes and card stock that come pre-printed with the Christmas message. If you haven’t received them as yet, please check your son’s bag or contact the Junior School Office.

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/ Significant, upcoming events are summarised below:

November
Thanksgiving and Awards Ceremony
Advent commences
November 27
November 30

December
Junior School Orientation Day
Grade 5 Band performance and Arts evening
Grade 6 Southern Tasmania Schools Mass
Invitational Cricket game vs Sydney Grammar
Volunteer appreciation Evening
End of Year Assembly
Social with SMC
December 3
December 3
December 4
December 8
December 11
December 12

Grade 5M Excursion
Grade 5M were fortunate to be invited to visit the Hobart Fire Station by Fireman Mark O’Donnell, father of Liam in 5O. We arrived at the Fire Station after a brisk walk where we were met by Mr O’Donnell. He gave us a brief introduction in the fire house classroom before we broke into two groups.

Each group visited the Fire Station museum where we saw fire trucks and firefighters uniforms that dated back to the early 1800s. We also were able to hold onto a fire hose and feel the pressure as the water surged through it. We were trying to knock over the bollard with the pressure from the hose. The boys also were able to sit inside the newest of the fire trucks. All in all, this was a fascinating experience for the 5M boys.

Mrs Jo Messer
5M Class Teacher
Canberra Trip
The boys in Grade 6 from St Virgil's College last week undertook a wonderful educational tour of the national capital. The boys were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $150.00 per boy under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

Canteen
Friday November 28  
T Donohue / J Hickey
Wednesday December 3  
F Oliver / C Monks
Thursday December 4  
J Bourke / M Powell
Friday December 5  
R Ferguson / HELP NEEDED

Any changes or concerns please contact Mrs Olga Leon – oleon@stvirgils.tas.edu.au

Junior School Sport
2014 Primary Schools Triathlon Challenge
On Friday November 21, 82 boys from the Junior Campus braved the conditions at the 2014 Primary Schools Triathlon Challenge at Bellerive Beach. The weather was reminiscent of last year, maybe even colder! This year we had a greater number of individual participants, particularly from the athletic and competitive Grade 5 group. We were down on numbers from Grade 6 this year, simply because they only arrived back from Canberra the night before. Those that did compete from Grade 6 are to be commended for their effort in turning up.

The conditions were freezing, with the water temperature making many of the boys’ lips turn blue. Bike conditions were also treacherous, as it was wet and slippery, with rain persisting all day. Max Newett and Liam O’Donnell both had nasty falls from their bike but still managed to smile at the end of the day. It will be interesting to see if the Grade 3s will put
their name down again to compete again next year after this year's cold experience. All boys are to be commended on their behaviour on the day and the way in which they competed and represented St Virgil’s College.

**Grade 3**

**Grade 4**

**Grade 5**

**Grade 6**
Jordan Baker, Sam Cornelius, Ben Waller, Hunter Smith, Felix Kinghorn Lewis, Joshua Harvey, Marcus Hastie.

**Mrs Jo Messer**
Triathlon Coordinator
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND TEACHING
MISS HEIDI GREGG

What’s Happening with iPads at the End of the Year?
Mr Richard Lawler
Director of Information Services

Grade 3 - 6
iPads, chargers and covers will be collected from all students at the end of the year. Parents will be invoiced for any damage or missing parts. Between now and the end of the year, we will need to make sure that the iPads are backed up and ready for collection. We will wipe the iPads at the end of the year. All students will receive a new iPad Air at the start of next year.

Grade 7
As a trial, we are allowing Grade 7 students to take their iPads home at the end of the year for the summer break. We expect students to take good care of the iPads and ensure that they are ready to use on the first day back to school in Grade 8.

Grade 8
iPads, chargers and covers will be collected from all students at the end of the year. Parents will be invoiced for any damage or missing parts. Between now and the end of the year, we will need to make sure that the iPads are backed up and ready for collection. We will wipe the iPads at the end of the year. All students will receive a new iPad Air at the start of next year.

Grade 9
As a trial, we are allowing Grade 9 students to take their iPads home at the end of the year for the summer break. We expect students to take good care of the iPads and ensure that they are ready to use on the first day back to school in Grade 10. As this is the third year of use with their iPads, it is anticipated that students will be able to take ownership of their iPads at the completion of Grade 10 with no extra charge.

Grade 10
It is anticipated that students will be given the opportunity to purchase their iPad at the end of the year. The cost is yet to be determined, as we are still negotiating end-of-lease arrangements with these iPads. There will be further advice given when this is known. Students not wishing to purchase their iPad will need to return the iPad, along with the charger and cover. Parents will be invoiced for any damage or missing parts.

SPORT
Mr James Dalton
Director of Sport

Touch Football
Grade 7 / 8
SVC II defeated Clarence High
Grade 8
As a result of their excellent results during the Roster, the Grade 7 / 8 team finished second on the ladder. Well done boys.

Grade 9 / 10
Unfortunately in this team’s final game for the season, MacKillop decided not to turn up so handed a forfeit win to the SVC boys. This was unfortunate, as this was our Grade 10s final hit out in school colours. As a result of their strong season the Grade 9 / 10 boys also finished second on the ladder.
SPORT

Learn to Sail
Anyone interested in trying out sailing is encouraged to attend Br Peter 0439 738327.

Schools Golf Challenge
Mr Justin Mahoney
On Monday, eight students from SVC formed two teams to take on teams from MacKillop College, New Town High, Kingston High and Sorell District High in the inaugural Schools Golf Challenge at Royal Hobart Golf Club. In what were very trying conditions due to the continuous rain over the first six holes, both teams performed quite admirably. The younger of the two teams had an excellent start over the first few holes, which included a monster putt over 28 metres, however, the very challenging course got the better of them in the latter stages, still carding a respectable score. The senior team, captained by Tom North, were very consistent all day with some excellent drives, approach shots and some very solid putting. This team finished even with the card and scored the overall win by one stroke to Sorell. Thanks to Dale Kemp, father of Tom, who acted as caddy, coach and motivator to the Junior team. Well done boys!
Schools Triathlon Challenge
Mr Justin Mahoney

Last Thursday 37 boys represented the Senior School at the seventh Schools Triathlon Challenge. As usual it was a superb day with all boys behaving in an exemplary fashion. All boys participated with enthusiasm and should be proud of their efforts. There were some awesome individual results, in particular Jack Direen and Oscar Bannerman, however, all individual competitors deserve an honourable mention. Most of these boys also backed up to participate in the teams events. The Grade 8 team consisting of Riley Oakley, Mitch Gittus and Brady Hayden notched up a win in their event. Br Peter will be making some photos from the day available shortly. Well done to all participants.
Austins Ferry Canteen
Mrs Carol Hilyer

The Summer Menu has commenced in Term 4. Parents are also reminded that lunch orders can be placed and paid for via secure online portal from the College website.

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Marian MacLachlan</td>
<td>Lindy Laycock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>Rachel Kyle</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Socials</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Breakfast &amp; Recess Only</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Colleen Stanford</td>
<td>Frances Terry</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>Mandy O’Connell</td>
<td>Tony Wylde–Brown</td>
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<td>Sally Feldmanis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Lee Leon</td>
<td>Sharon Roach</td>
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Parents are asked to please complete and return the 2015 Canteen Volunteers Form which is an attachment to this newsletter – www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au

Uniform Shop
Mrs Cindy Gangell

2014 UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENIOR SCHOOL CAMPUS</th>
<th>JUNIOR SCHOOL CAMPUS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday and Thursday</td>
<td>Tuesday 8.30 to 9.30 am Thursday 2.00 to 3.30 pm</td>
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<td>8.30 am to 3.30 pm</td>
<td>2.00 to 3.30 pm</td>
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Uniform Shop Closure for 2014
Please note that to facilitate the smooth transition of the Uniform Shop from its current operations to the new Midford Shop in 2015, it will be closing for the year on December 2 2014. Uniform can still be ordered online and emergency stocks of some standard items will be available from the Front Office on both campuses.

The new Midford Store will open on Friday January 16 2015.

- YMCA E-Active Teen Challenge
Thanksgiving and Awards Ceremony – DVD For Sale

Dear Parent/Student,

A high quality DVD of the Thanksgiving and Awards Ceremony will be produced and will be available for purchase.

THE COST OF THE DVD IS $15.00

If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please complete the section below and return it to either the Senior or Junior School Office, with payment attached.

THANKSGIVING AND AWARDS CEREMONY DVD ORDER FORM

Student: ____________________________ PC Grp/Grade __________

I would like to purchase the Thanksgiving & Awards Ceremony DVD at $15.00 per copy

Number of copies required: □ Total cash enclosed, if paying cash: □

Alternatively payment can be made by cheque or credit card.

Please attach payment with this order.

MASTERCARD □ VISA □

CARD NO: ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________

EXPIRY DATE: □□ □□

NAME ON CARD: ________________________________________________

PHONE NUMBER: ______________________

PARENT SIGNATURE: ___________________________________________

DATE: ____________________
Joshua Gittus alongside Old boy and Team Sky rider Nathan Earle and newly crowned World U-23 Time Trial Champion Campbell Flakemore
A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE COLLEGE

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

ST VIRGIL’S COLLEGE – THE STAR

Daniel Groom and Ben Spinks receiving their Bronze level Duke of Edinburgh certificates from Mr Messer

Retaining the Coyle-Clingeleffer Trophy

Dunked! Miss Gregg takes a bath at the Senior School Fair

Triathlon Action

Grade 10 exams