FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MR DAMIAN MESSER

“The Christian faith can never be separated from the soil of sacred events, from the choice made by God, who wanted to speak to us, to become man, to die and rise again, in a particular place and at a particular time”.

Pope Benedict XVI

Junior School Thanksgiving

Next Wednesday evening is our final major function of the year, the Junior School Thanksgiving Awards Ceremony. All Junior School parents are warmly invited to attend the evening at St Mary’s Cathedral commencing at 7pm.

"Wishing all members of the St Virgil’s community a safe, joyous and peace-filled Christmas"

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK 20B

Monday December 15 – Junior School Picnic

Wednesday December 17 – Junior School Concludes 3 pm.

Thanksgiving Ceremony – 7pm
St Mary’s Cathedral
Senior School Concludes 12.30 pm

2015 TERM 1 DATES

Thursday February 5
Grade 3-7 commence

Friday February 6
Grade 8-10 commence

Thursday April 2
All students conclude

Full calendar at College website
www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au
Finishing Dates and Times
All students finish the 2014 school year on Wednesday December 17. Austins Ferry students will be dismissed at 12.30pm and Junior School students finish their day at 3.00pm before returning for the evening function.

Appreciation Evening
Thank you to anyone who has volunteered this year. In appreciation for your hard work, the Volunteer Appreciation Evening was held on Thursday evening from 5.30pm. It was great to share this night with so many members of our community who give so freely of their time. This is a hallmark of our St Virgil’s College community and is greatly appreciated.

Board
On Tuesday of this week the Board of Management had its final meeting for 2014. This meeting was the final meeting for Dr Natalie Brown and Mr Simon Cooper who have both been long standing members of our team. I took the opportunity to thank them for their contribution to the St Virgil’s College community and wish them well for their future endeavours. Both Dr Brown and Mr Cooper were involved in many significant decisions, helping to ensure the College stayed on track. Dr Brown also spent time as the Chair of our Board, a position she held for four years. We thank the Board for their contribution this year and look forward to reconvening early in the new year.

Grade 6 Southern Schools Mass
Last Thursday the Southern Schools Grade 6 Mass was held at the Cathedral. This saw the coming together of all Grade 6 students in Catholic schools in Southern Tasmania with just over 700 students involved. The Mass was celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Julian Porteous and was concelebrated by eight other priests from the Archdiocese. The Archbishop spoke of the importance of transition between primary and secondary school and wished all students well with their onward journey into high school.

Visiting Schools
As part of our continuing connection with the Catholic Primary Schools in Southern Tasmania we hosted another three schools during this week with our annual Grade 5 visits programme. Students get to look around the College as well as being involved in a number of activities. A big thank you must go to Mr Cameron Alexander, Mr Terry Blizzard, the Grade 9 Leaders, Administration and the Grounds and Maintenance staff for their excellent support of these days.

Office Opening Hours – 2015
Please note that the Administration Offices on both campuses close on Thursday December 18. The Senior School Office re-opens on Monday January 12. The Junior School Office re-opens on Thursday January 22. For all enquiries please contact the Senior School Office on 6249 6555.

Reporting Timeline
Grade 10 Monday December 15, students to collect their report from the front office at Austins Ferry.
Grade 7 – 9 Reports posted at the end of this week.
Grade 3 – 6 Reports will be given to the students.

Clothing Store
As part of the clothing store re-development, the Uniform Shop service will be closed as of today until January 23. In the coming days you will receive a letter fully explaining the changes to operation of the clothing store. If you have any queries please contact the Austins Ferry office.

In the spirit of Blessed Edmund.

Damian Messer
**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**

**MR TERRY BLIZZARD**

“To all in our College community I wish you a happy, holy and importantly safe Christmas and summer holiday. I look forward to once again working with the young men of St Virgil’s College in 2015”.

**Final Day for Students: Wednesday December 17**

A reminder to families that the final school day will conclude at 12.30pm. The normal bus routes will be available to transfer boys home. As I 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 Wednesday 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.

**Returning for 2015**

Day one for Grade 7 and other new students will be Thursday February 5. For Grade 8 to 10 students, day one will be Friday February 6.

I am sure that for some boys the summer will be a time to experiment with hair styles and colour, but could I please emphasise the importance of your son returning to school with an appropriate hair style in accordance with the College expectations. As is always the case there will no doubt be a new style over the summer so a gentle reminder of the College’s expectations might be necessary.

I have written on a number of occasions about appropriate sports footwear, outlining that only colours that do not clash with the uniform are acceptable, i.e. predominantly white, blue or similar. Red and fluoro colours are unacceptable and are to be avoided. I am a little disappointed with the number of new sports shoes that are not in keeping with the above expectations. Could I ask that this is kept in mind as new shoes are purchased for 2015.

To all in our College community I wish you a happy, holy and importantly safe Christmas and summer holiday. I look forward to once again working with the young men of St Virgil's College in 2015. My thanks as always to parents for your ongoing support of the College.
“Advent is a time to wait, listen and ponder, the awesome wonder of God who sent his only son as a baby to save us. Pause and spend some time this season reflecting on God’s gift of love.”

Jean Wise

Technologies Syllabus – Woodwork
Monday of this week saw the end of woodwork for the year. The boys have had a fantastic opportunity presented to them this year and they have risen to the challenge producing many fine pieces of work. Grade 5 O finished their time this week with all boys taking home with them their whirly gig.

On behalf of all the boys at the Junior School I would like to thank Mr Maxwell and his staff for helping the boys to produce the range of projects that they did this year.

Grade 6 invitational Cricket Game
In a low scoring affair, St Virgil’s was narrowly defeated by a visiting cricket side from Sydney Grammar School. A lot of skill was evident from both sides in a fiercely fought out game. Sam Collins starred with the bat and James Bourke took a swag of wickets but it wasn’t enough as the SVC team lost the game with only a couple of balls to be bowled. Well done boys on a fantastic game and thank you to Mr Waugh for his organisation.

Grade 6 at Eastside Activity Centre
The Grade 6 boys certainly had an enjoyable time on Tuesday at the Eastside Activity Centre. Lots of energy was burnt off as well as many tests of skill and balance. A very special thank you to Felicity Harvey and her staff for generously allowing the boys the chance to have some fun as the last days of their primary schooling come to a close.

Art Exhibition
The Junior School Art Exhibition has certainly been a big hit. Many visitors have been very impressed by the quality and variety of pieces of work that the boys have produced during the year under the guidance of Ms Stary. Each Grade has produced a framed piece that features a piece of work by each boy. These works have been display in the Library where bids have been placed as part of a silent auction. Bids can be placed at tonight’s volunteer appreciation evening. The silent auction will run all of next week with the winning bids announced at our End of Year Assembly tomorrow Friday, December 12.

Trying Out Water Sports
Today, Grade 6 have had the opportunity to try out sailing and rowing. This is a great opportunity for the boys especially as we are able to use resources that the College already has. By all accounts, even though it was a bit cool, the boys had really enjoyable experiences. Thank you to Br Peter, Mr Dalton and all the other people connected with the sports that worked together to make it happen.
Merry Christmas
As this is the last edition of The Star for 2014, I would like to wish all the staff, students and parents a safe and Merry Christmas. To our Grade 6 boys I wish them well as they commence their new leg of the education journey into High School. I look forward to seeing all the boys, and all the new boys, when we commence the 2015 school year on Thursday February 5. As this day is a Thursday the boys will wear their full sports uniform on this day.

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/](http://www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au/calendar/)

Significant, upcoming events are summarised below:

**December**
- Volunteer appreciation evening
- End of Year Assembly
- Social with SMC for Grades 5 & 6
- Junior School picnic day
- Junior School Thanksgiving liturgy
- Last day of school year for boys

**December 11**
- Volunteer appreciation evening

**December 12**
- End of Year Assembly
- Social with SMC for Grades 5 & 6
- Junior School picnic day
- Junior School Thanksgiving liturgy
- Last day of school year for boys

**December 17**
- Last day of school year for boys

**February 2015**
- First day of school year

**February 5**
- First day of school year
National Knock Out Athletics Final
The SVC Knock Out(KO) Team consisting of Fraser Rose, Bailey Elmer, Will Atkin, Jed Morgan and Will Kaden travelled to Adelaide on Saturday to compete in the National Final. After arriving we travelled to AAMI Stadium to meet Sam Siggins (Old boy) to have a tour of the Adelaide Crows Football club. Unfortunately the players were not there but the boys still thoroughly enjoyed the tour.

We then travelled to the track to support the other members of the team (Jack Hale, Henri Norton & Nathan Coleman) competing in the Australian All Schools athletics Championships.

We were fortunate to witness Jack’s sensational run 10.13sec in the 100m Final. It was a very proud moment for the boys and something we will all treasure.

Sunday morning we ventured to the Adelaide Oval where the boys were moved by the Phil Hughes memorial and then we caught up with the Australian Cricket Team Batting Coach, Michael Di Venuto and watched the Aussies train.

Then it was back to the Track to again watch Jack and Henri in the 200m Final. Jack again won the Gold medal with a blistering 21.29 second run – not bad considering he had a tight hammy!

Monday arrived and the boys were ready for the KO Final. They all performed exceptionally well and it soon hit home the scale of the competition. Injuries to a couple of the boys soon took its toll and we managed to finish off the competition in eighth position. Whilst we were disappointed with the end result, the boys are to be congratulated on their efforts and behaviour over the weekend. A special thanks the Mr Dalton and Mrs Coleman for the trip.

SPORT

Mr James Dalton
Director of Sport

St Virgil’s Retain Saunders-Di Venuto Shield

SVC 4-54 defeated The Hutchins School 10-52

The College 1st XI recorded a comprehensive 6 wicket win over The Hutchins School to retain the Saunders-Di Venuto Shield this week.

Hutchins batted first and seemed to be cruising at 0-35, however excellent bowling from Declan Waddington (4-13) and Reece Williams (3-1) quickly derailed the innings and the home team slumped to be all out for just 52.

In reply St Virgil’s had a couple of nervous moments losing four wickets on the way to achieving the target. Jarrod Kaye (20no) and Alex Blair (14 no) steadied the run chase with some positive batting, with Jarrod hitting several powerful boundaries and one massive six to chase down the target.

The win is a fitting farewell to SVC cricket for Grade 10 players Alex Blair, Caiden Workman, Joe Randall, Liam Tolland-Williams and Henry Prichard who have been excellent ambassadors for the College’s cricket programme along the way playing in winning teams against St Patrick’s College, Geelong College, St Bernard’s College and the Hutchins School.
The winning Saunders – Di Venuto Shield Team (above) and (below) members of the KO Team at AAMI Stadium
A reunion of the
St Virgil’s, St Mary’s & Guilford Young College Rowing Clubs
Will be held at the new rowing sheds, New Town Bay on
Saturday February 14 2015

The reunion is an overdue chance for any rowers, coaches, committee, parents, teachers, brothers, sisters & helpers involved in the proud history of rowing at the colleges to get together, take a tour through the new rowing shed facility to see how far the club has come. It’s an opportunity to catch up with old friends, coaches, rowers in the convivial atmosphere and additionally it will be a chance to raise some money for our rowing clubs. It is an informal function with people welcome whether they can make it for 10 minutes or 10 hours.

The programme of the day will be:

5pm to 6.30pm  Club rowers putting the boats through their paces on the water.
               Tours of the new clubhouse facility.

6.30 to midnight  Reunion function in the upstairs bar. Drinks available at bar prices.

During the day and into the evening there’ll be a BBQ where food can be purchased.
So get around your rowing mates, get a group together and let us know who will be coming. We need numbers purely for catering.

Please RSVP to rowing@stvirgils.tas.edu.au

Photos:  We hope to have club photos on a PowerPoint display. If you have club photos from yesteryear, please scan them and send them through to the email address above. Make sure you provide the names of the people involved, their role in the club and the year. Don’t worry about the photos in the Annual Virgilian as we will get these separately.

Sponsorship: We will hold a raffle on the night so if you are willing and able to donate a prize for the raffle, please let us know through the same email address. Your support in either donating prizes or buying tickets will be greatly appreciated.
COLLEGE COMMUNITY NEWS

Movember
Over the past month, Mr O'Keefe has been growing a moustache to raise money for the Movember fundraiser for men's health. A box was taken around Pastoral Care classrooms to collect donations from staff and students. On Friday November 28 we sold moustache cupcakes and stick-on moes to raise funds and awareness. The boys had a lot of fun wearing the moes during the day. Overall we managed to raise $267.50 for this great cause. Thank you to all of the people that donated, after all it is towards the boys and male teachers health and wellbeing.

Thanks Lucas Hlis

Austins Ferry Canteen
Mrs Carol Hilyer

Merry Christmas to all the Canteen Volunteers and thank you for all your assistance this year. If you haven't already put your name down for next year please contact Carol.

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<th>Friday</th>
<th>December 12</th>
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<th>Mandy O'Connell</th>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>Sharon Roach</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>December 16</td>
<td>Andrea Vout</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>December 17</td>
<td><strong>Clean Up</strong></td>
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<td>Breakfast &amp; Recess Only</td>
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<td>Leighton Hilyer</td>
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End Of Term Four

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

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 is now closed. 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 23 2015.

Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number Program in 2015

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN. Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office. Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC27248'

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC22604'

The ATO will continue working with teachers to educate students about tax and superannuation. The curriculum resource Tax, Super & You is a free, easy to use, online educational resource aligned to the school curriculum of each state and territory. This resource can be accessed at taxsuperandyou.gov.au

In the coming weeks we will provide more information by email on how students can apply for a TFN and the educational services we can provide. In the meantime if you require any further information you can phone 1300 130 282 between 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday.
Thanksgiving and Awards Ceremony – DVD For Sale

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: __________________________
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