FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MR DAMIAN MESSER

"Have courage; the good seed will grow up in the children's hearts later on."

_Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice_

Edmund Rice Mass

On Tuesday we acknowledged the Feast Day of our founder, Blessed Edmund Rice. The acknowledgement of this feast allowed us time to reflect on how fortunate we are that our founder created and formed the Christian Brothers, the result of which established the tradition upon which St Virgil's was formed in 1911.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK 13A

May 12-14 – NAPLAN Testing
Grade 3, 5, 7 & 9

WEEK 14B

Monday May 18 – Grade 9/10
Time and Space Evening, 7pm

Tuesday May 19 – Grade 8 Time
and Space Evening

Thursday May 21 – Grade 3-10
Cross Country at Austins Ferry

Please visit the College website
www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au to
download the calendar

'Shave for a Mate' – supporting Jordan Cowen and Brain Cancer Awareness
Edmund’s vision, based upon the Jesus story, remains as valid today as it was when the story motivated him to begin his amazing journey with boys’ education. We are indeed privileged to follow in his footsteps and to play our role in “sowing the seed” in the heart of each boy at St Virgil’s.

In celebration of the Feast Day the annual Edmund Rice Network Mass was held today at the Derwent Entertainment Centre hosted by Brother Sean McManus. The celebration was wonderfully led by Father Richard Ross. Our students were joined by students from Guilford Young, Holy Rosary, MacKillop, St Cuthbert’s, St James, St Mary’s, St Pauls, and St Patricks schools and colleges.

It takes much effort and organisation to bring so many people together as part of the Eucharistic celebration today. On behalf of Brother Sean, I would like to thank all those that participated and/or had a part to play in the significant organisation that went into today’s event. It was pleasing, as part of the 1600 strong crowd, to see a number of our parents and friends celebrate with us.

Enrolments Grade 7 2016
A reminder that if any current students have siblings wishing to enrol at St Virgil’s for next year that applications need to be lodged.

Junior School Open Day - Enrolments
Enrolments for Grade 3 2016 will close on June 30. We are accepting enrolments for all grades and there are currently limited spaces available for Grade 5 and Grade 6 in 2016.

NAPLAN Testing
Next week from Tuesday to Thursday we have the National Testing in Literacy and Numeracy for our Grade 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. These tests give us important information about the achievement of our students and of our College, as well as providing valuable comparative State and National data.

If you have any queries about the testing please call or email at Austins Ferry (62496555), Mrs Bev Pettit bpettit@stvirgils.tas.edu.au or at Patrick Street (62342440), Mrs Jo Messer jmess@stvirgils.tas.edu.au.

Mother’s Day
I wish all the mothers in our community a wonderful Mother’s Day this Sunday as they celebrate motherhood. I encourage all the boys to do something special for their mum this weekend to show their love and gratitude for all that their mothers do for them every day. As the Jewish proverb extols:

God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers.

Canteen
The College provides a canteen service to students as part of our commitment to building an inclusive community. The provision of breakfast, recess and lunchtime services supports all boys, particularly those travelling from considerable distances.

The canteen is a service to support our boys, who love the food but also love interacting with our wonderful canteen helpers. If you are to give of your time, whether it be as part of a regular shift, a part shift or as a casual helper, your help would be greatly appreciated by the College – and in particular the boys. If you can assist please contact our Canteen Manager Mrs Carol Hilyer.

In the spirit of Blessed Edmund.

Damian Messer
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
MR TERRY BLIZZARD

“Two very different speakers who in many ways encapsulate the dynamic nature of our school and the range of experiences we aim to provide boys”

This week we welcomed two very different guests to the College. Our Grade 7 students were entertained by Tasmanian author Lian Tanner. The aim of this one hour workshop was to provide the boys with valuable writing tools and to inspire their creative writing.

Grade 9 and 10 students listened to American Priest Fr Ken Geraci who is in Hobart giving talks outlining his story from establishing a $4.5 million dollar internet software company to devoting his life to others as a member of the Fathers of Mercy. Two very different speakers who in many ways encapsulate the dynamic nature of our school and the range of experiences we aim to provide boys.

NAPLAN

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted next week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The results of these tests provide schools with valuable data and I would encourage all boys to treat these tests with the seriousness they need. Preparing by being well rested, having a good breakfast and being organised can only help.

Grade 8 Outdoor Education

The Grade 8 Outdoor Education programme gets underway next week with a one day orientation activity planned. Over the coming weeks all learning groups will take part in the one day session in readiness for the longer overnight expedition planned for later in the year. The boys have been given all of the relevant information and I would ask parents to check the list of requirements. The dates for the one day activity are as follows:

Monday May 11 – 8A     Tuesday May 12 – 8B
Wednesday May 13 – 8C    Monday May 18 – 8D
Tuesday May 19 – 8E

Touchstones of the EREA Charter

Liberating Education
We open hearts and minds, through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement each person is hope-filled and free to build a better world for all.

Gospel Spirituality
We invite all people into the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community.

Inclusive Community
Our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and committed to the common good.

Justice and Solidarity
We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself.
Gospel Spirituality

*We invite people into the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community.*

*Edmund Rice Education Australia Touchstone*

As this week St Virgil’s College joined with other schools, colleges and organisations that are guided and inspired by the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice it is timely to reflect on the legacy that has been left for us today to cherish and pass on to future generations. *Something our Catholic faith still does today also!*

*It is interesting talking to the boys and many parents about their religious beliefs and practices. Sadly, many have let the practice of their faith slip and explain it by noting some of the scandals and inadequacies that the secular media willing share and divulge. So today, why do so many parents send their sons to St Virgil’s College – a Catholic boy’s school in the Edmund Rice tradition? From what parents have relayed to me during enrolment interviews, it is for what the College offers as opportunities in the formation of their son across all domains of their lives. This is founded in the charism of Blessed Edmund who wanted so much for young boys, initially in Ireland, to be educated and well skilled for their world. We do this today, not having seen Blessed Edmund in action or being able to discuss his methods with him. For many, we do this today having never experienced an education with a religious (a brother, nun or priest) at the front of the classroom.*

*We have faith and belief because of what has happened in the past and what we see in the students that are, or have been, part of our College. The charism of Blessed Edmund, and the values of the Gospel, so well expressed in the day to day actions and lives of our boys.*

**Mother’s Day**

I would like to wish all mothers and grandmothers a wonderful Mother’s Day this coming Sunday and hope that you get spoilt! This week, the boys had the opportunity to purchase from a fantastic range of gifts from the P&F Mother’s Day stall – we hope you enjoy this special gift. We are also looking forward to celebrating this special day on Friday with the annual Mother’s Day breakfast.
**Weekend Sport**

Last weekend, the idea of a Saturday morning sleep in was dashed as the season commenced for many of our weekend sports. Whilst results will be noted in the Sport section of the Newsletter, it is pleasing to see so many boys participate and compete in a variety of weekend sports on behalf of the College. This year along with soccer teams in the CRJSA competition and water polo we have been able to field two hockey teams also.

This is not an easy feat to achieve. I would like to acknowledge the work of Mrs Moate and Mrs Leon is assisting with all the paperwork that needs to be completed to enter teams – especially with the requirements of the working with children checks. To Mrs Messer for organising the teams, completing nominations and trying to secure coaches and managers for each of our teams.

Finally, to all the coaches and managers who happily give of their time and expertise so that the boys have these wonderful opportunities – this year we also have a number of Old Virgilians who attend GYC helping out. I look forward to a great season ahead and hope that the boys enjoy the hard work of training and the benefits this will afford in the thrill of competing on the weekends.

**Woodwork**

Grade 6 W have been enjoying their trips to the Senior School Campus to complete their woodwork project as part of the Technologies Syllabus under the Australian Curriculum. The boys have cut all their pieces and sanded them down in readiness for gluing and nailing them together over the next two weeks.

**Grade 5 Science**

On Tuesday Grade 5 had a great day doing experiments with Dry Ice, making Bath Bombs for Mothers’ Day, working in small groups doing a variety of activities with Mrs Messer and keynotes on our iPads to teach Grade 3 about States of Matter. We learnt so much and it was so much fun.

**Liturgy of the Word for Nepal**

This week Grade 6 C joined with students from other school and colleges in the Cathedral Parish and Parishioners to reflect upon and pray for the Nepalese people who have suffered as a result of the recent earthquake and aftershocks. The boys are to be commended for the reverent manner they participated in this important ceremony for those suffering so much.
Edmund Rice Network Mass
This week, we joined with the wider Edmund Rice Network across Tasmania to celebrate Mass and commemorate the Feast Day of Blessed Edmund Rice. This is a significant day and event in the life of the College. The Junior School choir joined with the Senior School choir and sang beautifully. What a very special day for us all to remember the legacy that Blessed Edmund has left for us all so many years later.

Uniform Expectations
Although we have spoken to the boys directly, and published the uniform requirements in recent Newsletters, there are number of boys at the Junior School Campus who are still not wearing their uniform correctly. The expectations in regards Winter uniform at the Junior School Campus are noted below for reference:

1. The boys may continue to wear shorts during Term 2.
2. The boys are to wear their College jumper until the end of Recess.
3. The boys are to wear their track pants and spray jackets when they wear their sports uniform.

All larger items are available from the Uniform Shop based at the Senior School. Smaller items like caps, socks and ties are also available from the Junior School Office.

Parent Volunteers
The College as part of its commitment to community and the integral home-school partnership, welcomes parental involvement in a wide range of College activities including music, sport, canteen, camps, events, classroom help, tutoring and fundraising activities. With new legislation for volunteering coming into effect on April 1 it will be essential that all parents having a 'Working with Children Card'. These will be required for all community organisations including scouts, sporting clubs, art, craft and music activities – any activity that brings adults into regular contact with children. More information about the Working with Children Card (including online applications) can be obtained through the Service Tasmania Website – http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children/application
More information about the card and the College's arrangements for management of card requirements will be outlined in upcoming editions of The Star.

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:

May
Week 12 B
Mother's Day Breakfast

Week 13 A
Family Life Night Gr 4 & 6
Assembly led by Gr 3 @ 2.30

Week 14 B
Junior School Cross Country
**Week 15 A**

Assembly led by Gr 6C @ 2.30  
P & F Disco in the Hall  

May 29

**Junior School Sport**

**Soccer**

**SVC Under 11 0 lost to Kingborough Lions 7**

A tough first game for the boys against Kingborough Lions.  
**Player of the Week:** Dillon Graves – Playing with Determination.

**SVC Under 10 9 defeated Hutchins Magenta 1**

Great start to the season. It was a very enthusiastic start to the season.  
**Player of the Week:** Wyatt Townsend

**SVC Grade 3/4 Hockey**

First game of Hockey for many boys and a 2-2 draw was a great result. Some sound defence by James and Jewd and good running by Sam and Oliver helped keep Hutchins to 2 goals. Riley, Hugo and Francesco all assisted well with Will netting 2 goals.

**Player of the Week:** Will Ashby – 2 Goals and strong passes.

**Canteen**

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ASSISTANT DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
(MIDDLE YEARS/TRANSITION)
MR CAMERON ALEXANDER

Time and Space Programmes
Grade 8 Stepping Up Evening
When: 7.00pm for 7.15pm Start. Tuesday 19 May 2015.
Where: Joyce Performance Centre
Registrations are now open and can be completed by:
or
email - svc.dads@time-space.com.au

Grade 10 - Guilford Young College Transition
As we commence Term Two the process of enrolment for Guilford Young College (GYC) begins. In the coming weeks Grade 10 students will have the opportunity to hear from staff from GYC as well as visit the Hobart Campus. There are a number of key dates throughout this process that parents should be aware of, further information and reminders will be provided throughout the year as these significant events and deadlines occur:

- May 22 – Enrolment packages sent to all families
- May 28 – Introduction to GYC – visit to Hobart Campus
- May 28, June 2 & 4 – Parent Information Evening (GYC Hobart)
- June 17 – GYC Career Expo, including visit to GYC Glenorchy
- July 3 – GYC Enrolments due (including preliminary course selection)
- November 17, 18 & 19 – Course Counselling at GYC
- December 2 – Orientation Day

SPORT

Archery
Well done to Jarrod Hunet who attended the Youth National Archery Competition in Penrith, Sydney over the Easter Holidays and came away with 3 Gold Medals.

This year he shot as an Intermediate Boys Recurve Barebow and his results were:
- Clout – Gold
- Target – Gold
- Field – Gold

He currently holds a number of records for his class.

Mountain Biking
Congratulations to all the boys who represented the College in the Tasmanian Schools MTB championships in Launceston.

The team finished 2nd overall and Josh Gittus rode superbly to finish 3rd in U17 boys’ race.
DIRECTOR OF IDENTITY
MRS RENEE MACGREGOR

We invite all people into the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality.

A Prayer for Nepal
Gracious God, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. In the wake of the recent earthquake in Nepal, reveal your presence so that all may know your healing, hope, and love. As one community on earth bound together by your grace, inspire us to pray, serve, and help all those who suffer.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Amen

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND TEACHING
MRS BEV PETTIT

Grade 10 Animal Farm Performance
Miss Imogen Gray
As part of the Year 10 English curriculum, this term students are studying the classic text Animal Farm by George Orwell. The text focuses on a group of animals rising up to take over a farm, but with dire consequences. The satirical tale of Animal Farm reflects the events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917. Coinciding with our text study, Elizabeth College are performing Animal Farm as their major production this year.

The performance is being held at Elizabeth College; 256 Elizabeth Street Hobart, at 7pm on Monday May 11. The College has reserved a number of seats, at no cost.

Students are required to arrive at the venue by 6.30pm to be seated in time for the start of the performance. The performance will conclude at approximately 9.15pm. As it is out of school time, students can dress in neat casual attire, keeping in mind that they are still representing the College. This performance provides an ideal opportunity for your son to engage with the text and we highly recommend that your son attends. Students have received a permission slip which must be returned by Monday at the latest.

Science and Engineering Challenge
Aidan Sullivan
On Tuesday May 5 a group of Grade 9 and 10 students took part in the Science and Engineering Challenge at UTAS. It was a busy and enjoyable day, where we got to put our combined skills and ingenuity to the test along with students from several other schools.

There were 8 different activities that the teams were involved in: Future Power, Grasping at Straws, Helter Skelter Shelter, Stringways, Mission to Mars, Hover Frenzy, Eco-Habitech and Bridge. The challenges tested problem solving abilities and teamwork, as we were supplied with only limited resources to fulfil the brief.
For the Hover Frenzy challenge we were provided with: Polystyrene, a plastic bag, balsa wood, a ruler, cutting block and saw, a controller and battery pack and some fans. From this we had to construct a working hovercraft which had to pass a test for speed, agility and ride height.

Some of the activities went for the whole day, others were divided into two half-day sessions. By the end of the first session, St Virgil’s were in the lead. After the last event of the day, which was the Bridge Challenge, the final results were released and we finished in fourth place.

Thanks to Mr Ellis and Mr Derrick for their support.

Geography
Ms Maryanne Saxton-Hillier
I really enjoyed meeting so many parents last week at Parent, Student and Teacher Interviews, all of whom were interested in what their son was learning in Geography this year. Whilst our Field Study Excursions are an exciting and important component of Geography, what also happens in the classroom is just as interesting. Grade 7 students are currently studying a new unit Place and Liveability.
One activity the boys complete in small collaborative groups, using a Real Estate guide to examine how properties are marketed. They look for evidence of how liveable the area is, what amenities are in the area, what type of buyer the property is pitched at, for example, young families, singles or retirees and whether the distance from work or school could be a consideration.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

MRS JODIE WILLIAMS

Grade 7 Music
Assessment for Grade 7 music is based upon each student’s performance on their instrument. Please encourage your son to work hard at their instrument. Grade 7 students should be attending their group tutorials once a week as well as taking their instrument home at least three nights a week to practice; this is considered their homework in music. Below are some helpful tips to help encourage your son’s practise at home.

Helping Your Son to Succeed in Grade 7 Music
- Find a quiet place away from distractions such as TV, computer, siblings for him to practise.
- Use a chair, such as a dining chair, that lets him sit up straight, with his feet flat on the floor.
- Use a music stand or something similar so he can sit up straight and have the music at the right angle.
- Short, regular sessions of practice are the most effective. At this age, aim for three to five sessions of ten minutes per week.
- Irregular practising stops information being ‘learnt’. The basics must be learnt if they are to be built upon and progress is to be made.
- Consider practice time as a chance for your son to perform to you, even if it is while you are doing something else, such as preparing dinner.
- Use positive language that praises his effort.
- Please do not make fun of the sound he makes when he first starts. Encourage him to play long notes that will strengthen his lips. Praise him when you hear them getting stronger and clearer.
- Don’t banish your son to a backyard, a shed or caravan.
- Encourage performance – Music needs to be shared! He can play for you, his grandparents, a neighbour, his class or at our regular concerts and assemblies.
- Look regularly at his diary for messages from his music teacher.
- Attend his concerts and show an interest in your son’s progress.
- Help him remember to bring an instrument home to practice.

What should you hear when he’s practising?
1. Long notes or some kind of warm up (brasses will buzz or do sirens for example). Percussion boys should be counting along with their exercises sometimes.
2. A selection of exercises or songs that he has been asked to learn.
3. From Term 2, he will also have Band music to rehearse. These will be sheets of music in a folder.
4. Some of his favourite songs – but he should always be attempting to get better at new things.
5. A strong, clear sound, but it should not blast and his cheeks should not puff out.

For all enquiries about music @ SVC - please contact Mrs Williams - jwilliams@stvirgils.tas.edu.au

Yours in tune,

Mrs Jodie Williams
SPORT NEWS

Sport Sign Ups and Responsibilities.
Parents and students must be aware of the importance of signing up for sports at the correct time. As team nominations are due weeks before rosters start, it is imperative the students sign up (online @ SVC Sport) and attend meetings when requested. Unfortunately, some boys have missed out on teams due to not signing up or not attending meetings at school.

Water Polo
Water polo training will be held at the Hobart Aquatic Centre from 7am–8am from next Tuesday May 12. A bus will be provided to take students to school. Games commence Friday May 15. Game times will be published in the daily messages on SIMON during the week and will be available on the College’s Sports Website.

Basketball
Congratulations to all the boys in the Grade 7 Gold team that defeated MacKillop College 38 - 23 in the SSATIS Basketball Roster. Special thanks to College Business Manager Mrs Narelle Green for Coaching and managing the boys. Also a special mention to the Grad 7 Blue team that finished the season in third position.

In the Grade 8 Roster, well done to the SVC team on making the final, but unfortunately they were outplayed on the day by MacKillop College going down 37 - 28.

Well done to all the players and thanks also to Mr Lucas and Mr Prior for their assistance.

We now look forward to the Grade 9 & 10 Rosters, starting soon and the selection of the EREA Team to contest the EREA Tournament in Brisbane in early July.

COLLEGE COMMUNITY NEWS

Austins Ferry Canteen
Mrs Carol Hilyer
Parents are reminded that the winter menu has commenced and that lunch orders can be placed and paid for via secure online portal from the College website or via QKR mobile device payment system – please see the attachments to the
newsletter for how to download and use QKR to order lunch for your son from your smartphone -

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**RACT City to Casino Fun Run and Walk**

**Sunday 17 May 9:00 AM**

**How to enter:**
Schools can set up their school team via the online registration
Students can then enter as individuals online and join the school team. Use the code **SCHOOL** to receive the discounted pricing for teams of 10 or more.
Alternatively schools can request signed forms from students, collect money from students and pay prior to the event in cash if required.
Entry fees are $15 per child. For a team of ten or more students the cost is $12 per child.

**Special registration day for schools:**
Friday 8 May 2015
Domain Athletics Centre
11:30 am – 2:30 pm
For any further assistance call:
Jay Gordon 0434 407 966
Email: jaredmgordon@hotmail.com
Parents and Friends Association
Mrs Susan Roberts
President

The Perfect Gift for Mother’s Day!

Entertainment Book
The P&F on both campuses are again selling the ever popular Entertainment Book which this year has been even further enhanced to ensure all purchasers receive amazing value for money! Please support the St Virgil’s College Parents and Friends - Pre-order your 2015 | 2016 Entertainment™ Book now!

20% of every membership sold contributes to our fundraising. Help us achieve our goals by sharing this link with your Friends and Family. Thanks for your support!

The P&F are ready to take pre-orders for this year’s book and all pre-orders will include 6 Bonus Vouchers!

JUNIOR SCHOOL:

SENIOR SCHOOL:

- 2015 Instrumental Music Programme Enrolment Form
- Asthma and Anaphylaxis Flowchart
- How to Order your Lunch at the Senior School
- QKR lunch order and App download instructions
- Entertainment Book Flyer
- Nationally Consistent Collection of Data for Students with a Disability
- Mother’s Day Classic Flyer
- LINC Tutoring Programmes
- Hobart Football Club Auskick Program
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