Principal News

Vale Mr Terry Matthews OAM: I share the sad news of the death, on Monday evening, of Mr Terry Matthews OAM. Terry was the founder of Matthews Construction (now Voss Constructions) and has a connection to the College that spans its history. While early relationships were related to the construction of the College, most recently, Terry and his wife, Joan have provided $10,000 per year as scholarships for students, an offer that Terry made at our 50th anniversary celebrations in 2010. Terry was a selfless and uncompromising man who was passionate about this region. “Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.”

Year 5 Visit: Yesterday we welcomed Year 5 students from Catholic Primary schools in our region. The day provided them to have a taste of life at St Brendan-Shaw College.

Artrage: I am pleased to be able to share that, again, some of our art students’ work has been selected to be part of the Artrage items that will be exhibited around the state next year.

ICT: This week I met with Mr John Lovell from Reflex Technology Group (RTG) who provides ICT support services for our school. RTG works with an increasing number of schools in the state, expanding from a strong educational base on the Mainland. John has insight into the ICT environment of many schools and indicated that our school is better placed than most. In reality, he used the phrase: “light-years ahead” in how we are situated. The College will be sending a letter home in this week’s mail to give more information in relation to the technology students can access at the College.

Terms and Conditions of Enrolment: Together with all other Catholic schools in the Archdiocese we are introducing new Terms and Conditions of enrolment which will take effect on 1 January 2105. These will apply to all current enrolments as well as new enrolments. The final draft of the Terms and Conditions will shortly be approved by the Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission. As soon as this has occurred new Terms and Conditions will then be available on our College website or from the College Office, and a separate letter will also be posted home to every family.

Mr Frank Pisano
Principal

‘Consider carefully what you hear’ he continued. ‘With the measure you use, it will be measured to you- and even more.’ - Mark 4:24
“Quite frankly, parents who think it’s okay to let 14-year-olds have a couple of beers need their heads examined! The National Health and Medical Research Council’s 2009 Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol advises young people not to drink at all until they’re 18. That’s because the research is clear: alcohol has devastating consequences for the developing brain, damaging the parts responsible for memory and learning.” (Michael Carr-Gregg, Strictly Parenting: Everything you need to know about raising school-aged kids, 2014).

“The focus on getting drunk rather than on having a good time is a growing feature among some groups of teenagers...It is even sadder that such drinking binges seem to take place on those occasions one rather hopes will be remembered, such as 18th-birthday parties.” (Dr Tim Hawkes, Ten conversations you must have with your son, 2014).

Carr-Gregg, an internationally recognised authority on child and adolescent behaviour and Australia’s leading parenting expert doesn’t recommend it.

The National Health and Medical Research Council doesn’t recommend it.

Hawkes, one of Australia’s most respected educators doesn’t recommend it (he then goes on to mourn the death of one of his past students who was ‘king hit’ on a Sydney Street, all because of alcohol misuse).

In fact, it would be hard to find any sort of medical or child expert who does recommend Australian teenagers should start drinking early. So as the time of year comes around where teenagers request of their parents to attend a party, here are a couple of things to keep in mind:

Always make contact with the parents of the teenager who is having the party. This does two things. Firstly, it lets you know if they know there is a party on or whether teenagers are going to meet up at a third person’s place. Secondly, it lets you find out if there is going to be alcohol present, and who will be drinking it.

Make sure there is adequate supervision at any parties. Adults who are consuming alcohol themselves would not usually be considered as providing adequate supervision.

Find out who else will be attending the party. Will their social or mental health needs be met? Teenagers who are struggling with mental health issues and are consuming alcohol in a party situation is not a good mix. Are the adult supervisors aware of the needs of everyone?

Finally, it is worth reminding ourselves of the current Tasmanian law regarding providing alcohol to under 18s. To do this and not have permission to do so from the child’s parents or guardian (responsible adult) is breaking the law and you can be fined or face imprisonment. More information is attached to today’s newsletter.

Let’s all work together to keep our community safe, especially at this time of year.

Mr Richard Chapman
Deputy Principal

Immunisations

Immunisations notice

Next Wednesday will see the last of our immunisation sessions by the Devonport City Council. These will take place in the morning so students involved are asked to make sure they have some breakfast on that morning to avoid reactions.

The students involved will be the Year 7s and Year 9 boys who have already had their first two shots of the HPV vaccine. Any questions about the immunisations need to be directed to the Devonport City Council.

Mr Richard Chapman
Deputy Principal
Justice

The Church recognises sport to be one of the great institutions of our society that helps individuals realise their human potential and builds up the bonds of the community, fostering communal initiative and responsibility. We acknowledge the great contribution over the years made by Catholic schools and communities. We must continue to recognise that sport is a vital aspect of the society around us.


Business Class

On Tuesday and Wednesday the Business, Enterprise and Technology class ran their own business stalls. One group sold sausages and burgers, another group offered guessing the number of lollies in the lolly jar, while others served tacos and pretzels. As part of their Enterprise Unit they have to come up with a business idea, write up a Business Plan and operate their actual businesses on those days.

Imelda Saunders
Congratulations to all who received awards and we thank you all for a great year of assembly.

Dear Parents,

The college has always made every effort to provide your son or daughter with the best possible access to technology for use in their education.

Traditionally this has been done through the deployment of desktop and laptop computers throughout the College.

After monitoring the development of personal owned computing devices for many years, iPads were introduced into Year 7 in 2013.

A review of this trial found the overall experience to be a positive one and the program was repeated (for Years 7 and 8) in 2014.

At the same time, expansion of our infrastructure has enabled us to provide wireless access for any Yrs 9-12 students who have chosen to bring a personal device to school this year to use as part of their learning program.

A number of students have taken up this option and this experience has also been a positive one.

In 2015 we will be asking all Years 7, 8 and 9 to come equipped with an iPad (minimum iPad2) and we would continue to encourage students in Years 10-12 to bring their own computing devices if they have one available.

The need for students in many subjects to have immediate access to their own personal technology has continued to grow.

At the same time the cost of this technology has steadily decreased. As a consequence of these developments the College is considering adding a personally owned computing device on the booklist for all students in 2016.

There will be a process of consultation involving key stake holders (parents, students and staff) early in 2015.

If you have any queries prior to this time please contact the College.

Mr Frank Pisano
Principal
Media Release

5 November 2014

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council, has called on all Catholic communities and agencies to stay in touch with the reforms which are starting to take place in the Church as the Royal Commission into child sex abuse continues its work. Contact details with the TJ&HC are below. “The Catholic Church is playing a very important role in contributing to the public debate around reforms which need to be made, particularly across civil litigation and redress for survivors of abuse. “It is vitally important that the Catholic community, at the very least, is aware of these changes.

Media contact: Michael Salmon 0417 495 018 - The Truth Justice and Healing Council is coordinating the Catholic Church’s engagement with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. For more information on the TJHC go to: www.tjh council.org.au - For more information on the Royal Commission go to: http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/
The Sale or Supply of Alcohol to Youths (Police Offences Act 1935) legislation regulates the supply of alcohol to people under the age of 18 years, on private property.

This legislation supports a responsible approach by parents, guardians, and other adults with parental rights, who choose to supply young people with alcohol.

What does the legislation mean?

If you supply someone under the age of 18 years with alcohol on private property, and:
- you are not the responsible adult
- do not have the permission of the responsible adult, and
- do not supply alcohol in a responsible manner
you will be breaking the law, and may be fined or face imprisonment.

The current National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol advocate that there is no safe level of consumption of alcohol for anyone under 18 years.
Who is a responsible adult?

A responsible adult is a parent, step-parent, guardian, or someone with parental rights and responsibilities for a young person. Additionally a responsible adult can also be a person who has been authorised to supply alcohol to a youth.

Responsible supply of alcohol means appropriately supervising consumption, ensuring food is available and limiting the quantity and type of alcohol.

Can I still let my teenager have an alcoholic drink at home?

Yes, if you are a responsible adult for the youth and:

- consideration is given to the age of the youth, and
- neither the responsible adult nor the youth is intoxicated, and
- the supply is consistent with the responsible supervision of that youth, and
- a responsible adult is supervising the consumption of liquor, and
- consideration is given to the quantity, type and time period over which the liquor is supplied, and
- food is provided for the youth to consume with the liquor.

What happens if my teenager has a party or gathering at home with alcohol present?

If there is a possibility that alcohol will be consumed at the party or gathering, then you must obtain permission from the responsible adult for each of the young people. The way in which you obtain the permission is up to you: it can be written, verbal or electronic, just make sure that it is legitimate and reliable.

What are my responsibilities as an adult in supervising the use of alcohol at a teenage party or gathering?

As the responsible adult, in addition to gaining permission, you must supervise appropriately. You must ensure that you are not intoxicated and that the young people do not become intoxicated. You need to provide non-alcoholic drinks and food. You need to be aware of the age of the young people, and the type and quantity of alcohol being consumed.

What happens if an adult doesn’t act responsibly?

Fines for minor offences may be imposed by infringement notice. Significant fines or a jail term of up to 12 months may be incurred for more serious offences.

www.police.tas.gov.au
18 November 2014

Dear Parents / Students

I write to advise that throughout the remainder of the year, various Health and Physical Education (HPE) classes may be conducted external to the College site at Coles Beach and Splash- Devonport Aquatic Centre.

Students will be participating in a range of summer activities, including but not limited to beach volleyball, beach cricket and surf safety, as well as pool based activities. Students will also be given the opportunity to participate in some water based activities such as swimming and board paddling.

Students must be properly prepared for such activities and are reminded to bring appropriate footwear (for walk to beach), towel, bathers, hat and protective clothing. Sunscreen is provided by our department.

Students are reminded of the expectations when undertaking water activities. Walking to or from venues including the beach is to be in an orderly fashion. Students must follow the instructions of teachers and no one is to leave the specified area without approval. For beach swimming no one is to go over head-height depth or go outside set boundaries.

Could you please update your son/daughters swimming proficiency and any medical conditions (that have not previously been advised) that may impact on your son/daughters participation.

If you do not consent to your son/daughters participation please contact their HPE teacher as a matter of urgency. If you have any questions, or concerns please contact myself or other HPE staff.

Yours Sincerely

[Signature]

Mr Steven Ryan
Head of Health and Physical Education