



# Villa Maria College NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 WEEK 3 – 18 FEBRUARY 2010

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you to parents and students who attended the House Warmings over the previous two weeks. The Pastoral Care Team including Heads of Houses, AP Pastoral Care, Careers Advisor and Guidance Counsellor did a tremendous job in organising the evenings and in providing useful information for parents/caregivers and students, and also ensuring that you had the opportunity to speak with Vertical Group Teachers and others with whom you might communicate by phone or by email.

After such meetings I take the opportunity to remind our students of how fortunate they are to have parents who care about them; parents who take a real interest in their learning, their achievements and their general well-being. We appreciate such parental support of the College and all we do.

At each House Warming, the PTA representative spoke about the importance of parent involvement in College activities. We hope that many of you will welcome the chance to work more closely with the Board and with the students and staff to help fulfil our goals for the year and 'to put the icing on the cake' as one representative said. The PTA is a wonderful forum for the Senior Leadership Team to gauge parent interest and responses to possible changes, improvements and new initiatives. So please sign up at (or before) the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 9 March – in the LIRC at 7.30 pm.

The first weeks of the year are both exciting and busy! We have joined together for the Opening Mass; we have competed in the Swimming Sports; we have co-operated in the House Athletics; and we have been learning and teaching according to a functional timetable – since day one. I take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr Baugh for his amazing work in ensuring that classes, teachers, students, rooms and timetables all synchronise!

We extend our prayers to all families who have suffered illness or bereavement in recent weeks. We particularly pray for Ms Walkey and her family on the death of her sister, Jackie.

*Concerned by the deepening effects of the global food crisis and climate change on Africa's ability to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, world leaders attending a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 22 September recommitted themselves to strengthening a "global partnership of equals", based on shared responsibility and determination to mobilize resources.*

*"When God sends you a cross, be sure He has in store for you some extraordinary consolation."*

Catherine McAuley

## **FROM THE PTA**

**The PTA AGM is on Tuesday 9 March  
in the College Library at 7.30 pm.  
Supper to follow.  
All welcome!**

## **CLAVER HOUSE BREAKFAST**

The Mercy Action group are organizing the first of six continental breakfasts throughout the year on:

**Tuesday 23 February 7.30-8.15 am**

**College Auditorium** (Doors open at 7.15 am).

*Ms Beate Dix will be guest speaking on her experience in Myanmar.*

**Claver House** will be hosting the breakfast. However, all other students, parents and friends are welcome. If you know past pupils from Claver House, please encourage them to come also! Tickets are \$6.00, available from Claver Yr 13s.

**Are you worried about your daughter's physical or mental health? Did you know that we have a Public Health Nurse whom you can talk with about your child's health concerns?** This is a free and confidential health service provided by the Canterbury District Health Board. The Public Health Nurse for the College is **Belinda Ritchie**. She is a registered nurse who specialises in child and family health. Belinda can arrange with you to meet at home, school or work. She can provide health support, advice, child and family assessments and co-ordinate any other family health or support services if required. Belinda can be contacted through the College or by phoning the Public Health Nursing Service on 383 6877 extn 99939 or Lincoln office 325 6218.

**"Community is a precious thing."** Join the community of Warkworth this week on [www.catholicv.net](http://www.catholicv.net) as they give generously in response to the crisis in Samoa.

## **UNIFORM SHOP**

Last week we held our winter 'fit-out' for new entrants in Yrs 7 & 9. Those who missed the fit-out and new entrants in other year groups need to come to the Uniform Shop for their winter fitting during normal shop hours as soon as possible please. To cope with extra demand, shop hours will be Mondays 12.30pm to 5pm AND Fridays 12.30pm to 4pm until further notice. Lisa Bennett, [lbe@villa.school.nz](mailto:lbe@villa.school.nz)

## **LOST PROPERTY**

**To avoid many expensive items of uniform being lost this year, could all items be clearly named over the up-coming weekend, including sports shoes and ties. Your assistance in this matter would be much appreciated.** *Mrs Cassidy, Assistant Principal*

Come and check out the Lost Property table outside the Student Office – there are many pairs of sports shoes and lots of clothing, togs and towels, after the House Sports day and Swimming Sports. Parents are welcome too.



**SPORTS NEWS**

**Winter Hockey** – There will be an information meeting for all parents and players who are interested in playing hockey for Villa Maria this winter – Tuesday 23 February, 7 pm, Gym classroom.

**Good luck to our Supertouch team** competing in the CSS Touch Championships at Sheldon Park this Saturday and to **our swimmers** competing at the CSS Swimming Prelims on Tuesday 23 February and the Finals on Thursday 25 February. We wish you all the very best!

**Huge congratulations to Haley Mercer (Year 13)** who came 1<sup>st</sup> in the Senior Individual event at the Canterbury Secondary Schools' Triathlon Championships. This is an awesome result!

**Congratulations to Chelsea Ziolo** (Year 12) who has been selected in the Paul Kelly Motor Company Dancers who will perform at the Crusaders home games – keep an eye out for her!

Congratulations to **Georgia Mackwell and Mikayla Wieblitz** (Year 9), who have been invited to join the Mainland Football Academy. The aim of the academy is to train the girls' team to play in a boys' league, with the intention to increase their skills to compete at National level. Also, Mikayla travelled to Sydney in January after being selected for the NZ Futsal U14 Girls Team. They played in the Australian regional finals tournament.

**Good luck to the dragon-boaters** competing at the Early Bird regatta at Pegasus Lake on Sunday.

**Tracksuit top** – Ms Holdstock has mislaid her tracksuit top. Could all girls and parent coaches please check to see whether they have accidentally picked it up. It has Coach/Manager embroidered on the front and a name on the label.

**"Learn To Sail"** courses starting - after school and weekends - with Canterbury sailing school. Phone Simon 021 669 076 of [www.canterburysailing.co.nz](http://www.canterburysailing.co.nz) for details.

**CON BRIO UNIFORM COMPETITION UPDATE**

We have judged all of the fantastic designs that we received for the new Con Brio uniform. We were very impressed by the standard of the entries and the innovative ideas that came through. We decided, as a panel, on five merit winners who have now been given an opportunity to look at their designs before further judging. The merit winners are: **Demelza Salisbury Yr 13, Kristina Mentink Yr 13, Georgia Cone Yr 12, Pieta Shaw Yr 10 and Claudia Stanley Yr 10.** Congratulations girls and many thanks to everyone who submitted a fabulous design idea. We will keep you posted, as the design process progresses.

**INK AND TONER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING**

When you change the ink in your printer at home, or the larger toner cartridges at work, think of Villa. We are part of a recycling scheme whereby we get money back for anything recovered from the used cartridges. Freepost envelopes are available at the Student Office for your daughter to collect for you, to send your home cartridges away.

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION**

During the house meetings this week and last week, Mrs Moore, Director of Religious Studies, discussed the sexuality programme with parents and students present. A brochure outlining the programme at different year levels was distributed. If there are any parents who could not come to the meetings, they are free to send their daughters to pick up a brochure at the Student Office. Mrs Moore can be contacted by email: [rom@villa.school.nz](mailto:rom@villa.school.nz)

**ATTENTION ALL PARENTS OF GIRLS NEW TO VILLA**

Are you able to help Mrs Jane Turner in our Canteen for 4 hours once a term? Its lots of fun! You will be helping to prepare the food – sandwiches, rolls, etc, serving the girls at morning break and lunch time and cleaning up afterwards. Time is 9 am to 12.30 pm. We need lots of new helpers please to take the place of parents whose daughters left last year. Please email the Student Office: [pja@villa.school.nz](mailto:pja@villa.school.nz) or phone 348 4165 extn 0 to leave your name, phone number and week days available.

**CYCLISTS AND MOTORISTS TO SHARE THE ROAD**

Bicycles are vehicles and they have every right to be on the road. We are asking drivers to consider good driving practice, such as checking for cyclists before turning left or opening car doors, giving them plenty of space and not overtaking them where it is unsafe. At the same time, cyclists also have an obligation to obey the road rules. They should bike defensively – watching for car doors and turning vehicles, as well as keeping as far left as reasonable and riding a maximum of two abreast. For more information visit [www.ccc.govt.nz/cycling](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/cycling).

**STREET TALK DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE-Land**

**Transport New Zealand approved course:** This course takes 6 months off the time needed on restricted licence. There are four in class sessions followed by a 1 hour driving session with a driving instructor in session 5. Cost \$155.00 Please send enrolment form and payment to Fusion Driver Education, P O Box 19672, Woolston, Christchurch. Visit our website [www.fusiontrust.co.nz](http://www.fusiontrust.co.nz), phone Carolyn 376 4997 or email [Carolyn@fusiontrust.co.nz](mailto:Carolyn@fusiontrust.co.nz).

March	Mon 1, Wed 3, Mon 8, Wed 10 Each session 2 hours 6-8 pm Upper Riccarton Library, Main South Road
April School Holidays	Wed 7, Mon 12, Wed 14, Fri 16 Each session 2 hours 9-11 am Upper Riccarton Library, Main South Road

**PSIS CHILDREN'S DAY**

**Sunday 7 March 2010 – 11am-4pm**

Come along and celebrate Children's Day - a FREE community event. Pack a picnic lunch and bring along family and friends. Over 40 fun filled activities that are all FREE. So come along and join in on the excitement at the Groynes Park on Johns Road. For more information contact 941 8999 or check the Be There website <http://bethere.co.nz>

**KIRKWOOD INTERMEDIATE 50TH JUBILEE  
Easter weekend 2-3 April 2010.**

Details on website [www.kirkwood.school.nz](http://www.kirkwood.school.nz),  
email [kirkwood@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kirkwood@xtra.co.nz)

**OUR LADY OF VICTORIES SCHOOL FAIR  
7 March, 11 am-2 pm  
See you there!**

**COMING EVENTS**

- Friday 19 February:** Claver House Assembly at VG time
- Saturday 20 February:** Touch Champs Sheldon Park
- Monday 22 February:** High Achievers' Assembly
- Tuesday 23 February:** Claver Breakfast, CSS Swim Champs
- Thursday 25 February:** CSS Swim Champ Finals QEII
- Friday 26-Sunday 28 February:** SISS Volleyball Wharenui/Cowles
- Tuesday 2 March:** Yr12 History Field Trip
- Friday 5 March:** Effort and Attitude Reports issued
- Friday 5- Sunday 7 March:** Cauty Snr Volleyball Champs Pioneer
- Saturday 6-Sunday 7 March:** SISS Rowing Twizel
- Saturday 6 March:** SISS Dragon Boating
- Sunday 7 March:** SISS Triathlon/Duathlon
- Monday 8-Tuesday 9 March:** Travelling Art Show-parents and families welcome-more news next week
- Tuesday 9 March:** CSS Athletics Prelims QEII
- Wednesday 10 March:** West Zone Swimming Jellie Park

Yours sincerely

Mary Lynch  
Principal