



Villa Maria College NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 WEEK 8 – 10 SEPTEMBER 2009

Dear Parents/Caregivers

I read in NZCEO "Lighting New Fires" that "the character of a nation is determined by the character of its peoples". New Zealand is making progress in establishing itself as a nation of character and integrity. At a Catholic School, building the character of our people is our most important responsibility.

It is interesting to reflect on the fact that more than 90% of our students are young women of good will, strong personal values and willingness to act responsibly in considering the needs and rights of others, as well as their own.

To live with the Common Good in mind is, today, to be counter cultural. To live with the common good in mind is to live by different values and principles, than those in our neighbourhood, our friendship groups and may be even a challenge to our extended family.

To act responsibly means:

- *I do not put anyone down - in the playground, on MSN, in a text message or by passing a note.*
- *I seek to look after my friends - this sometimes means discouraging them from making poor decisions or challenging them about selfish or thoughtless behaviour.*
- *Thinking of the needs of others in the exam room/hall rather than walking out when I feel like it.*
- *Challenging and even going against the current attitudes to alcohol. Why would a mature, responsible Mercy woman want to get drunk?*
- *Being honest with ourselves and those who love us: our parents, siblings, grandparents, teachers and friends.*

To live responsibly means "doing 'the ordinary things extraordinarily well'. It can be simple things like saying *thank you*, being truthful or taking pride in wearing your uniform well; or it can be demanding things like valuing learning and striving to do your best. It can be taking a minute each day to thank God for all the blessings you enjoy - including living in Aotearoa New Zealand where we are so richly blessed and so readily able to help and support others – to work for the Common Good.

Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women

Christ the King Parish Centre, 90 Greers Road, Burnside
Bring a Friend Saturday 12 September 1.30-3.30 pm
"There's more – our new Springtime"

"Mercy, the principle path pointed out by Jesus Christ to those who are desirous of following Him, has ... excited the faithful in a particular manner, to instruct and comfort the sick and dying poor."

Catherine McAuley

PTA RAFFLE RESULTS

- 1st prize;** Weekend Queenstown & Shotover Jet (House of Travel) voucher. Winner: Shari Palmer
2nd prize; Weekend Escape at Terrace Downs. Winner: Carmel Brown
3rd prize; Reiker 2009 Wolverine MTB (Reiker Cycles) Winner, Brittany Woodham
4th prize; Grocery Hamper \$500.00 Winner: McDonnell Family
5th prize; Grocery Hamper \$200.00 Winner: Densie Family
6th prize; 5 x 2 Gourmet Meals and Dessert (Traiteur Merivale) Winner: B Davison
7th prize; Quinns Voucher (Quinns of Merivale) Winner: D de Gouw

All winners have been notified. The PTA would like to thank all families for their support. A fundraiser which costs 50 cents per family per College week can be put to very good use for our students.

FROM THE PTA

The PTA is seeking new members. The next meeting at the College is on Tuesday 13 October at 7.30 pm. All welcome or contact Brendan Morahan, Chairman, phone 352 8665.

Remember to see Mr Taffs if you want to sign up for the Hip Hop classes on Tuesdays at lunch time.

Languages Faculty: German

Congratulations to the Year 10 German class who won the first price in this year's Oskar German competition recently. Students had to write and perform a short drama skit in German including the line "Du spinnst wohl!" (You must be crazy). The Villa skit was based on the Berlin Wall as it is the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Berlin Wall this year. The students gave a polished performance with excellent pronunciation and fluency and were praised for their original ideas. The judges were Bernd Schliephake (National German Advisor, Wellington), Susanne Gentejohann (German Embassy, Wellington) and Susanne Ledanff (University of Canterbury). Well done, girls!

UNIFORM

With the summer weather approaching you will be aware that the girls have moved to summer uniform. We would appreciate parents checking the hem lengths as some of the uniforms are now far too short for girls who have obviously grown over the last few months. In addition, many blazers have lost buttons. We appreciate your assistance with keeping the Villa uniform sharp. It is one of the many disciplines that reflect our values and represents us in the wider community.

Megan Cassidy, Assistant Principal Pastoral Care



SPORTS NEWS

Netball Prize Giving – please note **Sunday 20 September at 2:00 pm** in your diary. All players, coaches and parents are welcome to the break-up in the Auditorium. Afternoon tea will be served following the Prize Giving.

Netball – A huge congratulations to our two teams who won their Christchurch Netball finals on Saturday 30 August:

- B Team – beat Middleton Grange, 38-36, in a very exciting extra time in the U19 Div 1 final
- N Team (Year 10C) – beat CGHS M, 21-19.

Football – Congratulations to the following Canterbury Football reps: **Georgia Mackwell** (Year 8) has been selected in the Canterbury U14 Team and **Tessa Naughton** (Year 8) has been selected in the 12th Grade team. We wish you good luck for your up-coming tournaments.

Opportunity for youth to get involved in the decision making process around Christchurch.

If you are passionate about youth issues then come to the OYC forum on Saturday 19 September. There will be food, a quiz and other passionate youths. For more information hit up our face book, just search: **The Otautahi Youth Council**

Change *is* possible:

Despite an economic slowdown, a global food crisis and stalled progress toward meeting funding commitments for the Millennium Development Goals, huge gains are being made worldwide. Millions of children are newly in school and getting access to life-saving medications and anti-malarial bed nets.

Catriona Thow and Bridie Frost (Year 12 students) are working on a project as part of their Sustainability programme. They want to gather magazines suitable for teenage readers to send to Samoa to the school where Sr Anna is working.

The aim is that these magazines will be suitable for the students in the school to read in the hope that their reading age will increase. With a higher reading level the students will be able to perform at a higher level in examinations which will enable these young people to get better jobs - the best way for them to escape poverty. After gathering the magazines the next step is to seek donations of \$3.50 which will allow for the postage to Samoa. Magazine and postage donation can be handed in to the Student Office. Thank you for your support.

**Kate Sheppard Suffrage Celebration
Christ Church Cathedral 5:30 pm Saturday 19 September**

Following on until 7:30 pm there will be a shared finger food tea with entertainment at the Canterbury Women's House, 190 Worcester Street (between Barbadoes Street and Latimer Square). Senior students are welcome to attend and it will be of particular interest to those studying humanities, NZ History or those who have family members who signed the 1893 petition getting Women the Vote. This is an important public event which we hope all Canterbury Women will support. Some students might like to attend with their Mothers/Grandmothers. To assist with planning it would be helpful to know approximate numbers of students attending - email lynettehardiewills@xtra.co.nz or phone 343 0900 by Wednesday 16 September.

2009 VILLA MARIA COLLEGE FASHION SHOW

Date: Thursday 15 October 2009

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Villa Maria College Auditorium

**Money being raised will go towards Con Brio
Special guest Con Brio and Genius Clothing
Hair and Makeup by Mod's Hair**

More information to follow later in Term 3

FUNDRAISER – GARDEN COMPOSTER

- A great fundraiser for your garden. **\$10 per composter is donated to Villa Maria College.**
- Get your garden organized, help your plants grow and help the planet too.
- The Earthmaker composter is so easy to use. Add kitchen and garden waste in the top at anytime and take compost out of the bottom.
- No need for heavy lifting or turning, no need for three compost heaps.
- 30 day money back plus usual guarantees.
- Very popular, great 466 litre size and Made in New Zealand.
- **Free delivery** direct to your door if you are within 75km of Christchurch (includes Ashburton, Waikari and past Oxford).
- RRP is \$200, but you pay only \$175 a special fundraiser price.
- The Earthmaker composter can be viewed at www.earthmaker.co.nz

To order post cheque and order to Yourfastshop Ltd, PO Box 180, Lincoln 7640, Canterbury. Phone Dave 027 351 2538 or email dave@yourfastshop.co.nz for further information.

A reminder to students who received trophies at last year's Prize Giving – please return them to the College cleaned and engraved by the end of this term.

CANTEEN

Our grateful thanks to the parents helping in the Canteen next week: *Jacinta Allen, Karen Wilson, Lynne Crews, Katrina Lowe.*

COMING EVENTS

- Friday 11-Wednesday 16 September:** Yr 12 Prelim Exams
- Monday 14-Wednesday 16 September:** Yr 11 Prelim Exams
- Monday 14-Tuesday 15 September:** Yr 13 Retreat Living Springs
- Tuesday 15 September:** Christchurch Orchestra Festival
- Thursday 17 September:** Yr 12 Leadership Day
- Tuesday 22 September:** Kore Theatre Company Yrs 11 12 13
- Thursday 24 September:** Mercy Day- special visitors
- Friday 25 September:** Term 3 ends
- Sat 26 Sun 27 Mon 28 Sept:** NZSS Cycling
- Tuesday 6-Friday 9 October:** NZSS Netball
- Monday 12 October:** Term 4 begins
- Tuesday 13 October:** Volleyball begins
- Wednesday 14 October:** Wednesday sport begins
- Wednesday 14-Friday 16 October:** Yr 7/8 Camp Woodend
- Thursday 22 October:** Senior Reports issued
- Monday 26 October:** Labour Day

Yours sincerely

Mary Lynch
Principal

TOURNAMENT WEEK

Cycling – Last week the Cycling Team competed in the 2 day SISS Cycling Tour in Blenheim. The first day of racing consisted of a reasonably early start as we needed to bike to the Time Trial course. The first race was the U20 and all in all this went really well, with many girls earning top 5 placings and giving them points towards jerseys at the end of the tour. The next event was the Criterium where the U20 girls had heats as well as finals, while the other age groups were straight finals. This was a strong event for the Villa girls as we dominated the fields, with the Villa blue jerseys taking control of every race.

To the second day which consisted of a Hill Climb and Road Race. Both of these were again our strong points after many practise hill rides on Sundays throughout the season.

At the prizegiving we came away with five of the 12 jerseys that were available to the girls in the tour, as well as being the highest point scoring school.

Results are: Tour Leader (Yellow Jersey) – U15 Chloe McCaughan 1st, U17 – Emily Mercer 2nd, U20 – Haley Mercer 2nd, Cara Smith 3rd

Sprint Ace (Green Jersey) – U15 Chloe McCaughan 2nd, U17 Emily Mercer 1st, Olivia Wieblitz 3rd, U20 – Cara Smith 2nd, Haley Mercer 3rd

Queen of the Mountain (Polka Dot Jersey) – U15 Chloe McCaughan 1st, U17 Emily Mercer 1st, U20 Haley Mercer 1st, Carly Burgess 2nd.
By Rebecca Heffernan and Cara Smith

Football – Our 1st XI Football Team competed at the Christchurch Satellite tournament here at Avonhead Park. Even though we had a good week of sunshine, the blustery nor-west winds were pretty hard to deal with and often changed the field of play. We began with a really positive start by drawing 1-1 with STAC and beating Papanui 2-1. We then went on to score 6 goals against Kaiapoi winning well before losing to Burnside 2-0. A loss 1-0 against Mt Hutt saw us playing for the 9th-12th placings and our first game against Rangī Ruru saw us win 2-0. On Thursday morning we played Middleton Grange which was a fast, competitive game and unfortunately we lost the game 1-0. Our final game against Central Southland saw us win 4-0 which meant we ended up finishing 11th out of 19 teams. This was a great achievement for our team. On behalf of the team I'd like to thank our coach, Jackie, our manager Carolyn Mangan and Mrs van Kasteren who were all very supportive throughout the week and helped us enjoy our week at tournament.

By Anna Mangan and Kim Noah

Netball - The Senior A Netball Team left for Timaru on Sunday 31 August to compete at the South Island Secondary Schools' Netball tournament. The tournament ran from Monday to Thursday and included two games per day. Having lost one of our key shooters just prior to the tournament was a huge blow, but we were confident despite this! In the first round of pool play we won one and lost two, which meant we were then placed in the bottom 16 and unfortunately we couldn't quite pull off the wins when we needed to, ending up 24 out of 32 teams in A Grade (and out of 78 teams overall). We had an amazing time down south and I am really proud of the girls for all their effort and dedication throughout the season – and the best of luck for next year's season. On behalf of the team I would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful coach, Kate, for all her hard work and also a big thank you to Mrs Ratcliffe, our manager, for all her organisation throughout the year.

By Addie Keast

Hockey – Last week, the 1st XI Hockey Team left for Rotorua to compete in the Marie Fry tournament (the second tier National competition). We arrived at our accommodation to find there was no reception and we may as well have been in tents we were so far into the bush. The girls didn't seem to mind this too much when the Hamilton Boys Basketball Team arrived the next day in time to sing us a few songs before we hit our beds for a big week ahead. A 5.30am start left the girls a bit tired and meant we didn't fire in our first game, going down to Epsom Grammar 2-1. The girls picked up for the second game of the day, taking down Rosehill College 3-1. This left us in a "must-win" situation the next day in our last game of pool play. After a huge effort from the team, we came out on top with a 2-0 win against our best opponent yet, Kamo High School. Due to other results going our way we qualified top of our pool, leaving us with a lot of confidence moving into the quarter-finals. Next we took out the Southern girls from Gore with a 2-0 win. The semi final against Otamotai College was where the girls had to really step up, as this semi proved to have the two strongest teams from all pools. After a structured first half, we were up 1-0 and came out hard at the start of the second half, scoring a goal in the first five minutes. After withstanding constant pressure for the remainder of the game, the girls held on to come out on top 2-1. Unfortunately it seemed we'd played our final and when it came to the actual final against Marian the next day, the girls didn't have much more to give, going down 1-0. We would like to say a massive thanks to Matt Ling, our coach, Mandy O'Donnell, our manager and Ms Catherwood – you were awesome! And finally to the team – well done girls, good effort and bring on Federation Cup next year!!!

By Rachel McCann