



# Villa Maria College NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 WEEK 4 – 13 AUGUST 2009

## Dear Parents and Caregivers

For a couple of days we have enjoyed weather promising spring, fewer of the girls and teachers are absent because of sickness and we are all feeling a lot brighter!

Term 3 is always busy for teachers and girls. The College examinations loom large on the horizon for students in Years 11-13. These examinations are an important part of their learning:

- ❖ they can do some serious revision in all subject areas which allows them to organise the material and to formalise their answers to possible questions
- ❖ they get a clearer understanding of what they need to know and what they do not know!
- ❖ the revision they do now forms the basis of success in the external assessment events at the end of the year.
- ❖ the results of these examinations contribute significantly to Prize Giving awards
- ❖ the results of these examinations are sent to parents so that they can encourage their daughters in the determination to learn and improve in Term 4.

Next week the Years 10, 11 and 12 girls make their subject choices for 2010. The *Senior Course Books* are issued this week so that you and your daughters have the opportunity to learn about the subjects offered, the course requirements and any pre-requisites for successful completion of a course. Please make the time to discuss these choices with your daughter and come along on Thursday evening to discuss her options.

Two important dates and times will be sent home to you this week, too.

1. We have been informed that there is a **PPTA Paid Union Meeting on Thursday 20 August from 8.30 – 10.30 am.** The students will attend Vertical Group at 10.15 am and classes will begin with Period 2 at 10.30 am.
2. A reminder that **Monday 24 August is a Professional Development Day for teachers.** The focus of the day is on the implementation of the new curriculum from 2010. Students are not required at school that day. It is a wonderful opportunity for senior students to prepare for the College examinations which begin early September.

This morning those at the Ennis House Breakfast had the benefit of Tracey Tims' story about women in Ethiopia – addressing Millennium Goal 3 – Empowering Women.

Congratulations to the Hockey First XI and the A Netball Team on making the finals of their respective top team competitions. It is a Villa/Rangi derby next week and the players in each code would welcome lots of supporters on the sidelines! Well done girls!

*"Have real faith in the Divine promise,  
"Ask and you shall receive." God will never let you want for  
means to do His work, Our confidence in Him must be  
unshaken, but we must let ourselves be guided by Him, and  
not resist the means He takes."*

Catherine McAuley

## Dear God

**May all those hungry, be feed  
All those thirsty, be satisfied  
All those homeless, be sent home  
All those who have lost a loved one, be loved  
All those sick, be healed  
All those who have died, rest in peace**  
Anon Year 7 student 2006

## Library Week

As part of Library Week some of our students have entered a video competition. You can view their video 'Epic, Swanky, Elite Establishments' at [www.libraryweek.org.nz](http://www.libraryweek.org.nz). The winners will be decided by public vote. Please vote for them.

## Nau mai, nau mai, haere mai.

The annual whanau hui for Maori students and parents has been organised for Tuesday 18 August in the Villa Maria College Library from 7-9 pm. Mr John Tait (CEO) and Ms Anna Kelly from Te Tapuae O Rehua will be there to discuss Ngai Tahu education initiatives with parents and staff. The Board of Trustees, Senior Leadership and Heads of Faculties look forward to meeting you and discussing your concerns. Supper will follow the korero.

## TAHITI EXCHANGE

*Attention Year 11 to Year 13 students learning French:*

The information and application details for the 2009 outbound exchange to Tahiti will be posted on [www.tahitiexchange.org.nz](http://www.tahitiexchange.org.nz) by the end of the week. Completed applications must be received by the organisers by 18 September. This year's group will leave on Christmas Day and return on 24 January. Thanks to the New Zealand-France Friendship Fund, which subsidises the exchange - the cost to students will be kept to \$1500 for airfares (ex Auckland), taxes and insurance.

**"Willing workers on organic farms." Getting joy from work this week on [www.inspirationlty.net](http://www.inspirationlty.net). Great for sharing with a friend."**

## FROM THE PTA

The next **PTA meeting is on Tuesday 1 September** at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room - all welcome.

You will have received the **PTA Raffle Books** in the post this week. There are some great prizes and at \$2.00 per ticket or \$20.00 per book, this is a great way to support your College. The PTA NEEDS support to enhance the College facilities and if everyone contributes the PTA can achieve a great deal. Any queries please contact PTA Chairperson, Mr Brendan Morahan, 027 434 7355

## FEES FOR ENTRY TO QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Please pay NZQA fees to the College by Monday 31 August

Entry fee for domestic candidates is \$75

Entry fee for international fee-paying candidates is \$375



**SPORTS NEWS**

**Canterbury Secondary Schools' Duathlon** – Congratulations to **Haley Mercer** 3<sup>rd</sup> placing in the Senior Individual Girls; **Charlotte Anderson** 5<sup>th</sup> in the Junior Girls; **Salome Lennon** was 6<sup>th</sup> in the Intermediate.

**Netball –**

1. It is the last game of pool play this Saturday and we have 14 of 27 teams sitting in first or second place. Good luck to you all!
2. Umpiring – A number of Villa students give up their time each Saturday to umpire under the Villa "umbrella". This season **Mollie Quinn** passed her regional theory, **Katie Rasmussen** passed her centre badge, **Anna Hibberd** has Level 2 from last year, **Rosie Rasmussen** and **Bridie Diver** both passed Level 2 this year and **Sinead Rennell** and **Lexi Ratcliffe** Level 1. We congratulate you all, as well as the other Villa girls we see umpiring each week!
3. Congratulations to the following girls who have been named in the Christchurch Under 14 Netball Development Team - **Bailey Jeffrey-Butler, Georgia Hale, Libby Bell, Lucy Shingleton and Naomi Williams.**

**Rowing** – the Rowing Committee advise there is a New Parent (and student) Information Evening on **Wednesday 19 August** at 7.30 pm in the Gym classroom. Information regarding all aspects of the rowing season will be explained. There will be an Open Day at Kerr's Reach on Sunday 23 August at 1pm. Everyone is welcome - you can give rowing a go (including parents!!). Come along and join in the fun – BBQ included!

**Christchurch Royals Softball Club** (which is based in Hornby) is holding their registration days on Sunday 23 August and Sunday 30 August 2009 at the Harvard Lounge Hall, Corsair Drive, Wigram from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. For more information about playing softball, come along to our registration day or phone Elena Gapper 349 8885 (after 6 pm).

**Entertainment Books** – still some left – please contact the College Office – 348 4165 extn 881.

**LIFE SKILLS FOR TEENAGERS**

**Discovery** is a high energy, 7-day residential programme to assist teenagers to realise their potential. Discovery is designed to develop personal responsibility, confidence and self-esteem. It's a unique academic and personal growth experience that shows teenagers how to learn quickly, confidently and successfully.

Come to a **Free Information Evening** and go into the draw to **WIN one free place** on the October Discovery programme.

**Free Information Evening** 7.30-9.00pm Thursday 20 August  
Open Polytech, 166 Moorhouse St, Christchurch  
Phone 0800 493 968 for a Free Information Pack.  
info@discoveryforteens.co.nz [www.discoveryforteens.co.nz](http://www.discoveryforteens.co.nz)

**Change is possible: In 2006 Zambia cancelled fees for basic rural health services and Burundi introduced free medical care for mothers and children.**

**STREET TALK ADVANCED DRIVING SKILLS**

School Holidays September 2009

Reduce the time to your full licence by 6 months. You must have held your restricted drivers licence for 6 months to be able to attend. Street Talk is made up of four group sessions of two hours each and one practical coaching and assessment session with an accredited Driving instructor Session 5. Check website for other dates. For bookings please phone Carolyn Green 376 4997, 027-229-8018 or download a form from [www.fusiontrust.co.nz](http://www.fusiontrust.co.nz)

**July 2009 Cost \$155.00**

Monday 28-Wednesday 30 September, Friday 2-Monday 5 October  
at Upper Riccarton Library Community Room, Main South Road

**MEASLES OUTBREAK IN CANTERBURY**

**[Advice from the Ministry of Health]**

- Vaccination is crucial in providing protection from measles. This normally involves the administration of an MMR vaccination at 15 months and 4 years of age. Parents are being asked to check their children's vaccination status and contact their GP to ensure their children are vaccinated appropriately (a catch-up vaccination can be given where necessary).
- Symptoms of Measles in the early stages resemble those of a cold, seasonal influenza, or swine flu. The typical measles rash often appears after up to 4 days of flu-like illness, and a child is considered infectious from approximately one day prior to symptom onset until 4 days after onset of rash. For this reason, the advice to keep children away from school or preschool when unwell until a probable diagnosis is clear, remains pertinent.
- When a child is diagnosed with suspected measles, we will contact the affected preschool or school and request class lists to identify children who have been exposed. Where immunisation records are held, these will be valuable in assisting us to identify those requiring follow-up. In some cases, children who are unimmunized and do not receive appropriate preventative treatment will need to be excluded from preschool or school for up to 14 days.

*Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the communicable diseases team at Community and Public Health on 364 1777.*

**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: *Maureen Thow, Jennifer Ward, Pamela Mercer, Yvonne Hogan, Trudi Nelis.*

**COMING EVENTS**

- Friday 14 August:** Assumption Day Mass, Choral Festival
- Tuesday 18 August:** Maori Hui 7-9 pm LIRC
- Wednesday 19 August:** ICAS Maths Assessment, Rowing Meeting 7.30 pm Gym classroom
- Thursday 20 August:** Students report 10.15 am for Vertical Group, Yrs 10-12 2010 Subject Choices Evening
- Friday 21 August:** Effort & Attitude Reports, Yr 10 German Oskar Competition, Basketball concludes
- Monday 24 August:** Teacher Only Day
- Tuesday 25 August:** Yr 12 Chemistry Field Day
- Wednesday 26 August:** Wednesday Sport concludes
- Wed 26 Aug-Tue 1 Sept:** Correspondence School Practice Exams
- Thursday 27 August:** Public Health Nurse Clinic at lunchtime
- Thu 27/Fri 28 /Sat 29 August:** Big Sing Finale Dunedin
- Saturday 29 August:** Equestrian Champs
- Monday 31 August-Friday 4 September:** Tournament Week
- Tuesday 8-Friday 11 September:** Yr 13 Prelim Exams
- Thursday 10 September:** Public Health Nurse Clinic at lunchtime
- Friday 11-Wednesday 16 September:** Yr 12 Prelim Exams
- Monday 14-Wednesday 16 September:** Yr 11 Prelim Exams
- 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

Yours sincerely

Mary Lynch  
Principal