



Villa Maria College NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 WEEK 8 – 3 DECEMBER 2009

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As from December 1, summer is here and the sun has just realised it's late!!!

However, our Year 9 girls have not noticed the weather. They are immersed in the Enquiry Learning Week: determining their specific focus on an aspect of Sustainability affecting on water, food or energy. They are working in groups utilising every source of information they can access and preparing a presentation on how a community of 20 families might implement strategies to be sustainable regarding water, food or energy. You might enjoy having that conversation with your Year 9 daughter.

Year 10 girls have faced different challenges. I spoke with some of the returning campers from the Boyle River Camp. It is interesting how girls, having had the same challenging experiences, come home with quite different responses. Several of the students looked beyond a wet night's camping to the 'good' things ... the food was great, friends, "going across the high wire when I didn't think I could". Others struggled to acknowledge one good thing about the three days!!! Hopefully, the girls who are at the Boyle River Camp now will enjoy better weather!

As always we thank the teachers whose generosity of spirit, in accompanying the students on camp, makes the whole adventure possible. Please note, too, that if the cost of camp (or other curriculum related trip) is prohibitive for your family, we can assist. I would hate a student to miss out because of problems with finance.

Talking of finance if you have outstanding amounts on your account, please contact me this week - before your daughter is timetabled to sign out next week. It is usually possible to come to some agreement about what needs to be paid at this time.

We pray that God will bless you and your family in this Advent time of preparation for Christmas – the birth of Jesus and a time for great celebration as Catholics.

"Building on the excitement of chocolate Advent calendars." Rowan Williams on Advent, this week on www.inspirationaltv.net.

"Those who arrive at perfect love of God will feel such peace of soul as nothing can disturb."

Catherine McAuley

LAST WEEK OF TERM

Monday 7 December:

Sign out sheets will be given to Juniors to begin sign out procedures.

Wednesday 9 December:

Prize Giving Rehearsal in the morning
Prize Giving 6.00 for 6.30 pm Isaac Theatre Royal

Thursday 10 December:

Yr 7, 8, 9, 10 start school at 10.00 am. Sign out procedures carried out during the day.

Yr 12 meet for House Leaders' elections at 8.45 am in the Hall, then to rooms for voting: Brodie Music Room, Ennis Room 31, McAuley Room 51, Claver Room 61, Mercy Room 52, Grace Room 65

Begin sign out procedures at 9.15 am in Auditorium

Yr 13 sign out procedures 8.45 am Auditorium

Friday 11 December:

Vertical Group 8.30 am, Merit Assembly 8.45 am.

House Assemblies follow Assembly for Yrs 7, 8, 9, 10 to meet House Leaders 2010.

Yr 13 Graduation practice (bus leaves at end of Merit Assembly).

Yr 12 collect magazines Room 65 if sign out complete

Yr 11 begin sign out 10.15 in Auditorium

Yr 9/10 complete sign out 12.15 in Hall

Yr 7/8 complete sign out 12.15 in Rooms 1 & 2

Congratulations to Samantha Crews (Year 7) who has successfully auditioned for the ASB Classical Kids' group to perform in Hagley Park at the CSO Classical Sparks Concert in February 2010.

TERM DATES 2010

Term 1: Friday 29 January – Thursday 1 April

Term 2: Monday 19 April – Friday 2 July

Term 3: Monday 19 July – Friday 24 September

Term 4: Monday 11 October – Friday 10 December

Women of all ages are invited to come along and celebrate a thanksgiving Mass with Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women – bring your friends. Christ the King Parish Centre, Greers Road, Burnside, 1.30-3.30 pm Saturday 5 December.

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.

Parents please note, in order that your daughter can sign out at the end of the year and receive her magazine, all school accounts need to be paid. Please contact the principal, Mrs Lynch, today, if this is a problem.



SPORTS NEWS

Canterbury Primary Schools' Athletics Champs – On Tuesday 8 of our students competed at QEII in the Primary Schools' Athletics. **Congratulations to Tara Erenskjold** (Year 7) who won 11 Years' High Jump with a PB of 1.38 - a fantastic achievement and this has equalled the College Year 7 & 8 record!

Canterbury Cricket – Last week we congratulated Natalie Cox on her fantastic cricketing achievements playing for the Magicians team. We now congratulate some more Representative achievements: Congratulations to **Samantha Swain** (Year 9), **Sarah Gagliardi** (Year 13) who have been selected in the Christchurch Metro Under 17 team and to **Olivia Simmons** (Year 10) and **Jessica Wadley** (Year 10) and **Thomasina Loeffen** (Year 9) who have been selected in the Under 15. Jessica has also been selected in the Under 17 team. Well done to you all!

Congratulations to Charlotte Anderson, Year 9, who was selected for the Swimming NZ Age Group Development Camp held in August in Oamaru. Selection was based on a National points ranking and was offered to the South Island's top 15 female and top 15 male swimmers who were born in 1995/96. Charlotte was also selected for the Swimming Canterbury West Coast Development Camps.

Netball Coach - Applications for the Senior A Coach are invited. Applications must include your CV. Coaches are also required for other grades in the 2010 season. Please apply to The Secretary, Carmel Brown, 78 Bowenvale Ave, Cashmere, or via email typerite@xtra.co.nz. Applications close Friday 12 December 2009

All 12 Christchurch Colleges involved in **rowing** get together each year for **Oarsome O'Fare** - a wonderful gala cocktail evening and silent auction, held in the showrooms of McKenzie & Willis. The Villa Maria College Rowing Club sees this event as their major fundraiser - all money from the sale of our tickets comes to our club. We ask local businesses to support us by donating goods and services for the silent auction. In the past we have been very fortunate to have had goods donated directly from people within the wider Villa community. We invite Villa families and friends to consider helping us - if you would like to donate an auction item or purchase a ticket (\$20) to this event which will be held **Friday 19 February** 2010, please contact Cathy Shingleton on 3426 026 or email jcshingleton@gmail.com.

FITZ BOXING – SUMMER FUN 4 GIRLZ - Grab 2 friends and "GET READY TO LAUGH". This is the most FUN activity you will do this summer! Run by NZ Women's Olympic Boxing coach, Paul "Fitzzy" Fitzsimons. Incredible fun, a real blast, great for confidence, for girls only (13-18). For more information visit www.summerfun4girlz.com.

OLYMPIA GYMNASTIC SPORTS January Holiday Programme 18-29 January, two sessions available 10-12 pm, 1-3 pm, Trampoline and General Gymnastics Classes. Enquiries and bookings phone 344 6060 or email maria@olympia.org.nz

VOLLEYBALL – Any Year 7, 8 or 9 student interested in a volleyball course on 14, 15, 17, 18 December, run by the Eastern Volleyball Club, can obtain a registration form from Mrs Ratcliffe.

TE WAI POUNAMU NETBALL TRIALS – Sunday 20 December, 4 pm, Hagley Courts – if you are interested please contact Kiri Thomson at kiri@livingstones.co.nz.

The Oberammergau Passion Play is only held every 10 years, and 2010 is your opportunity to experience this world class event. The Passion Play has been held since 1634 in the Bavarian village of Oberammergau and 2010 marks the 41st performance of the play held to honour their pledge to God. There are 12 varied tour itineraries from New Zealand incorporating the 2010 Passion Play. Contact us to discuss group or individual traveller requirements. *Phone:* 0800 356 728, *Email:* info@travcorp.co.nz, www.passionplay.co.nz.

Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award Canterbury 2010

Youth Tramping/Bronze Duke of Edinburgh
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Bush Training
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Bush Training
River Safety Course
Application forms are available from Mrs Devonport in Room 2

CHRISTMAS TREES

Fundraiser for Villa Maria College Rowing
\$20 a tree (includes delivery)
Order now – delivered on Saturday, 12 December
Contact Carolyn Cantwell 358 2984 or 021 115 0752

UNIFORM SHOP

Now is a good time to be taking a careful look at your daughter's summer dress. Is it creeping up to knee length? Is it getting a wee bit tight over the chest or hips? A good test is to look at the 'action' back pleat when your daughter's shoulders are relaxed. If the pleat is open and the dress is starting to strain under the arms – it is too small. If the fabric is catching on her hips – it is too small. If you are not sure, send her into the shop to show me! *We are seeing a few broken zips* because girls are leaving it too late to move up a size. Zips are fiddly and expensive for you to replace. Please be aware that the College will not cover the cost of a zip replacement unless the zip is actually faulty. Second-hand dresses can be sold 'on behalf' through the Uniform Shop. Demand is outstripping supply in sizes 12 to 16, so we are always happy to take on clean dresses in good condition. Remember, the sale of a well-cared for dress can help towards the cost of a new one. *A reminder, that blazer/cardigan buttons are available from the Student Office (\$1.30/50c).*

The last day of opening for the Uniform Shop for 2009 is Monday 7 December 1-5pm and it will re-open on Thursday 28 January 2010 1-5pm; thereafter from Monday 1 February 2010 - open as usual from 1-5pm.

Lisa Bennett, Shop Manager

Our Lady of Victories School Fair – 7 March 2010: These items are required for our school fair and garage sale: furniture, good household items, bikes, toys, books, etc (no broken items please). Items can be left outside the container at the school (behind OLV Church) before 9 am weekdays or 3 pm after school

The PTA are still collecting **Jetstar boarding passes**. Please hand them in to the Student Office – thank you!

CANTEEN: The last day the College Canteen will be open will be Wednesday 9 December.

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 9 December: Prize Giving Rehearsal morning for performers/prize winners, Prize Giving Isaac Theatre Royal begins at 6.30 pm (please be seated by 6.15 pm)

Thursday 10 December: Yr 12 Student House Leaders 8.45 am Hall, sign out 9.15 am Auditorium, Yr 13 sign out 8.45 am Auditorium

Friday 11 December: Vertical Group 8.30 am, Merit Assembly 8.45 am, Graduation practice (bus leaves at end of Merit Assembly, Yr 11 begin sign out 10.15 Auditorium, Yr 9/10 complete sign out 10.15 Hall, Yr 7/8 complete sign out 10.15 Rooms 1 & 2, Graduation 7 pm, Term 4 ends

Saturday 12 December: NZSS Athletics Timaru

Yours sincerely

Mary Lynch
Principal