



Villa Maria College NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 WEEK 10 – 24 SEPTEMBER 2009

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Today is Mercy Day! The universal church recognises the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy. At Villa Maria College we claim it as our 'feast day'. It provides an annual opportunity to celebrate what it means to be Mercy at Villa and in our world today.

It is interesting to read in a history of the Mercy Sisters that Catherine McAuley opened "her house" which was not quite finished. The date co-incidentally was 24 September 1827. A year later it was given the formal title "House of Mercy". The account goes on: "Soon the poor children from the local lanes and alley-ways found their way to the house." At this stage the House of Mercy was not a convent! We read that Foundation Day of the Mercy Institute was 12 December 1831. "Love of God and, for his sake, love of the neighbour, were to be their rule of life".

As we welcome our special visitors to the College today we are opening our hearts in the way the Sisters of Mercy have always done. We welcome the opportunity to extend our spirit of Mercy into the community.

For our new students it will be a very memorable occasion. For Year 13 Villa girls, soon to graduate as Mercy women, the day will be tinged with the sadness of their last Mercy Day.

We pray that Jesus, through the intercession of Mary Mother of Mercy, will bless our day and our lives.

VILLA MARIA COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CASUAL VACANCY

A casual vacancy has occurred on the Board of Trustees for an elected parent representative. The Board has resolved under Section 105 of the Education Act 1989 to fill the vacancy by appointment. If ten percent or more of the eligible voters on the College roll ask the Board, within 28 days of this notice being published to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held. Any eligible voter who wishes to ask the Board to hold a by-election should write to:

The Chairperson, Board of Trustees,
Villa Maria College
21 Peer Street, Ilam, Christchurch, 8041

by Monday 12 October 2009.

"...be convinced that no work of charity can be more productive of good to society, or more conducive to the happiness of the poor, than the careful instruction of women; because, whatever the station they are destined to fill, their example and their advice will always have great influence; and wherever a religious woman presides peace and good order are generally to be found."

Catherine McAuley

College Prize Giving December 9 at the Isaac Theatre Royal

We are delighted to announce that 2004 Head Girl Patricia Phelan has agreed to address the College at our Prize Giving ceremony. In the past four, nearly five years, Patricia has been studying the art of Directing. Through 2005 and 2006 she completed a Diploma in Acting and Directing for Theatre at the Hagley Theatre Company. She moved to Auckland in 2007 to undertake a Directing Degree in Screen and Theatre. It has been an amazing journey thus far and the people that Patricia has worked with and the stories she has to tell are inspiring and have assured her that she is on the career path. We look forward to hearing Patricia share those stories with us on December 9.

2009 VILLA MARIA COLLEGE FASHION SHOW

Date: Thursday 15 October 2009

Time: 7.30 pm, Venue: Villa Maria College Auditorium

Tickets: \$15 (from the Con Brio girls or the Student Office)

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

Remember to bring magazines suitable for teenage students and donations of \$3.50 to enable Catriona and Bridie to post them to Sr Anna with the aim of helping those students in Samoa improve their reading level to gain better exam results and better jobs. Magazines and postage donation can be handed in to the Student Office. Thank you for your support.

Change is possible: In Kenya, since the first week of tuition-free school in January 2003, more than 1.3 million children entered school for the first time, pushing national enrolment from 5.9 million in 2002 to 7.2 million in 2004.

Don't miss the final of **ACTIVATE**
this Saturday on TV2 at 9.30 am

"Honouring our parents, a Buddhist tradition" - this week on www.inspirationaltv.net.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be open on the first Monday of school holidays next week from 1.00 to 4.00 pm.

We have just received more summer socks in all sizes and still have plenty of reduced old style summer dresses in stock.

Lisa Bennett, Uniform Shop Manager

Trophies from last year's Prize Giving must be returned immediately to the College cleaned and engraved.

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. Enquiries to Brendan Morahan, Chairman, phone 352 8665.



Congratulations to **Samantha Downes** (Yr 10) who competed in the National Hip Hop Championships last weekend - her Team, *Xalt*, placed 1st in the Secondary Dance school team category.

SPORTS NEWS

We have a number of congratulations to give this week:

- 1. New Zealand Rep!! – Rachel McCann** (Year 12) was presented with flowers at this week's assembly as she has been named in the New Zealand Junior (Under 18) Hockey Team. The team will be playing a series against the Queensland Secondary Schools' Team in October and they will also be training as part of the New Zealand Academy in these holidays, as well as in January and March 2010. We congratulate you Rachel on this fantastic achievement and wish you all the very best with this team!
- 2. Sophie Shingleton** (Year 11) has been selected in the New Zealand Under 17 Netball Talent Identification programme. This involves two camps and leads on to trials for the New Zealand Secondary Schools' team. We wish you all the very best for this Sophie.
- 3. Danielle Mather** (Year 12) competed in the NZCAF National Schools' Aerobics Champs last weekend here in Christchurch and we are very pleased to announce that she was the winner of the Senior Novice grade – a brilliant result for all your hard work!!
- 4. Swimming** – recently four Villa girls competed at the South Island Club Swimming Champs in Invercargill (Rachel Craythorne, Charlotte Anderson, Monique Dalzell and Caitlin Rennell). All girls qualified for finals with Caitlin finishing 3rd in the 13 years 100 Butterfly. Well done Caitlin!!!
- 5. Rachel Craythorne** has also won the Canterbury Swimming Grand Prix for her age group – this is a series of events held over several Club Meets over the past three months – a fantastic effort! On top of this, Rachel also became the top Under 19 female in the South Island for Surf Lifesaving pool champs. Well done, Rachel!

Sports Awards – Invitations have been given to a number of our talented sporting heroes at school, but we invite you all to attend our Sports Awards on Tuesday 20 October in the College Auditorium at 7.00 pm, to help celebrate our year in sport! Tickets are available from the Sports Office @ \$5 each or email cra@villa.school.nz.

Olympia Sports – Enrolments now being taken for Artistic Gymnastics, Trampoline and Rhythmic Gymnastics. For more information contact the office on 344 6060, website – www.olympia.org.nz or email marketing@olympia.org.nz

GKR Karate Self Defence and Fitness classes

Karate promotes concentration, confidence, discipline, self esteem, character development and of course fitness!

- Training from 5 years - 75+
- 16 locations and 36 classes every week around Christchurch
- Thousands of students training and 40-45% are female
- The karate is non-contact as are most martial arts today
- Classes run for 1 or 1 1/2 hours

Contact self defence consultant, Jon Hicks on 0275 2222 05

JOURNEY INTENSIVE to be held in Christchurch 17/18 October. Learn more by attending a **Free Introductory talk** on **8 October at 7.30 pm, South Christchurch Library, 66 Colombo Street**. This is a huge opportunity to gain a set of tools to liberate yourself and your children from the emotional pain and blocks that hold us back. Now is the time for action!

Robotics Holiday Workshop - No experience needed

Join us to explore the wonderful world of robotics!

When: 28 or 29 September, 9:00-16:00 **booking essential**

Place: Seabrook McKenzie Centre, 68 London Street, ChCh

Cost: \$80.00 per day. **Contact:** Sue, Special Needs 357 9519

sue@robokits.co.nz or Katana, Technology 358 5694

katanad@ihug.co.nz. See <http://www.robokits.co.nz/workshops>

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 - your daughter can collect one to send your home cartridges away. A big thank you to the Mum who recently brought in boxes of cartridges from her work.

Would your child like to learn **FRENCH**? **French Class for children aged 9+** on Mondays from 3.45-4.45 pm in Bishopdale. **Refresher French Conversation Class for Travellers** (Monday 6-7.30 pm). Deborah Williams is a well qualified, experienced, registered teacher. Enquiries phone 359 3478. See <http://www.minifie.co.nz/language>.

STREET TALK defensive driving course - Land Transport NZ approved

This course reduces 6 months off your full drivers 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, PO Box 19672, Woolston, Christchurch. Further information on www.fusiontrust.co.nz or email: Carolyn@fusiontrust.co.nz, phone 376 4997. We run courses monthly during the year and all school holidays.

School Holidays	Upper Riccarton Library, Main South Road, Upper Riccarton 9.00 am-11.00 am	28-30 September and 2-5 October
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Canterbury Ceramic Art and Canterbury Egg Art 2009 Annual Art Exhibition

Saturday 3–Sunday 4 October, St Teresa's Hall, Puriri Street, Riccarton, \$2 entry. Contact 348 0190 for more information

CANTEEN: Our grateful thanks to the parents helping in the Canteen in the first week of Term 4: *Doreen Holt, Jacinta Allen, Sally King, Karen Went, Cathy Griffin.*

COMING EVENTS

- 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
- Friday 16 October:** Yr 13 Assembly
- Tuesday 20 October:** BP Technology Challenge
- Thursday 22 October:** Claver House Breakfast, Senior Reports issued, Yr 11-13 Music Performance
- Friday 23 October:** Cultural Assembly
- Monday 26 October:** Labour Day
- Tuesday 27-Friday 30 October:** Yr 9-10 Study Skills Focus
- Thursday 29 October:** Zonta Sports Awards
- Friday 30 October:** Service Assembly
- Friday 6 November:** West Zone Athletics
- Tuesday 10 November:** Thanksgiving Mass 9.00 am
- Monday 16-Wednesday 18 November:** Yr 9/10 Exams
- Monday 16 November-Friday 5 December:** NCEA Exams
- Friday 14 November:** Show Day
- Wednesday 18 November:** Wednesday sport concludes
- Wednesday 25 November:** Itinerant Music Concert P.3
- Monday 30 November-Friday 4 December:** Yr 10 Camp
- Wednesday 9 December:** Prize Giving
- Friday 11 December:** Graduation

Yours sincerely

Mary Lynch
Principal