



# Villa Maria College NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 WEEK 5 – 12 NOVEMBER 2009

**Parents are reminded that on Thursday 19 November there is a Paid Union Meeting for PPTA members from 1.30-3.30 pm.**

Students in Years 7-10 will be dismissed from school at the beginning of lunchtime ie 12.20 pm. Non-PPTA members will be available to supervise those students who choose or are obliged to stay at school. They will report to the Library Information Centre at 1.30 pm.

Dear Parents and Caregivers

In the recent Mercy News – an online communication from Mercy International – this is the opening message: In an interview broadcast on November 11, 2008, Alice Walker, American author and Pulitzer Prize winner said:

*This is how change happens. It is a relay race, and we're very conscious of that, that our job really is to do our part of the race, and then we pass it on, and then someone picks it up, and it keeps going. And that is how it is.*

We are all conscious of how quickly the world in which live changes – it has always been changing but modern technology brings into our living rooms the news of change from the farthest reaches of the planet. As parents and caregivers, and as teachers, we are particularly conscious of the need for our students to be prepared for this changing world. The Alice Walker quote offers some assurance! We need to prepare our students to run their part of the race as well as they possibly can; and help them to know when and to whom they must pass on the baton.

On Monday we celebrated our Thanksgiving Mass – and we have so much for which to thank God. Our College community is richly blessed in so many, many ways. As our Year 13 students leave, we pray that they will continue to join with the Catholic community in prayer and liturgy, and that they will draw strength from that community while giving generously of their enthusiasm, energy and talents.

We ask your prayers each day for our students sitting examinations – NCEA for Years 11-13 and College exams for Years 9-10. We pray that they will be calm and can thus tap into their knowledge and skills in order to achieve to the best of their ability.

We pray also for members of the College community who are grieving the loss of loved ones and we pray for those who are anxious about relatives who are seriously ill.

Sr Anna has shared with us some of the trials that her school community is facing. We pray also for the people of Tonga and Samoa as they cope with the natural disasters and misfortunes of recent weeks and months.

May God bless you with a relaxing and enjoyable Show Weekend!

*“What is the world but a school, in which souls are trained and prepared for the other?”*

**Catherine McAuley**

Hello!

The latest edition of **VMail** is now available online on the all new College website.

As one of our online readers, you have access to this edition of VMail much sooner than those who have opted to receive a hard copy, plus you are supporting the College's sustainability efforts. We thank you!

If you have any suggestions for the next issue of VMail or for our new website, please let me know.

*Jill Borland, Villa Maria Development Officer*

## **PRIZE GIVING**

**Wednesday, 9 December, 6.30 pm.  
Isaac Theatre Royal**

Please arrive from 6.00 pm so we can begin promptly at 6.30 pm. *Attendance at Prize Giving is compulsory for all students. Tickets for parents will be available from Monday, 23 November at no cost.* Students will be able to pick up tickets from the Student Office. There are limited numbers for wheelchair access, so please ask for Level 1 if there is a disability requirement. There will be a **limit of TWO tickets for each family.**

Junior students will complete sign out procedures during the last week of term, Monday 7 – Friday 11 December. Students must clear out their lockers completely before they leave school.

**“The things we don't want to talk about require a broad mind.”** Post abortion trauma this week on [www.inspirationaltv.net](http://www.inspirationaltv.net). Great for sharing with a friend.

## **Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women**

Christ the King Parish Centre, 90 Greers Road, Burnside, Saturday 14 November, 1.30-3.30 pm. Women of all ages are invited to come along to celebrate our 9<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bring your friends!

## ***Tell of your achievements!***

We like to profile of the accomplishments of our students, staff and graduates - in Academic pursuits, Music, Singing, Performing Arts, Art, Sports, Scholarships, Exchanges and Career Achievements.

If you are the recipient of a notable award, experience or achievement, or know of another Villa student or graduate who has been, please contact us and let us know! [villa@villa.school.nz](mailto:villa@villa.school.nz)



**SPORTS NEWS**

**New Zealand Representative** – we already have our first NZ Rep for 2010!! Huge congratulations to **Cecilia Tufuga** (Year 9) who has been selected in the New Zealand Artistic Gymnastics Team. They are travelling to Hawaii in January to compete in the World Champs. Well done Cecilia and we look forward to hearing your results in Term One of 2010.

Congratulations to **Brooke Hudson** and **Abi Tillard-Lowe** (Year 7) who came 2<sup>nd</sup> as a team in the Year 7/8 Girls' event at the Primary Schools' Mountain-Biking Relay last weekend.

**Our Lady of Victories School Fair – 7 March 2010**

Are you having a late spring clean? The following items are required for our school fair and garage sale: furniture, good household items, bikes, toys, books, etc (no broken items please). These items can be left outside the container at the school (behind OLV Church) before 9.00 am weekdays and 3.00 pm after school.

**PART TIME ADMINISTRATION POSITIONS  
- February to June 2010**

Centre for Evaluation & Monitoring (CEM)  
University of Canterbury

CEM is currently advertising two part-time administration positions in their busy centre on the College of Education site. Applications close 19 November. See University of Canterbury website: <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz> for more details 'Job Vacancies'. CEM vacancies are coded G261-09V.

**CANTEEN**

***Our grateful thanks to all the parents who have helped in the Canteen during the year. We look forward to working with many of you next year.***

**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.

**Easy Shopping For You – Easy Fundraising For Us**

Leading stores including Noel Leeming, Bond & Bond, Dominos Pizza, Dell and many more. You can shop for DVD's, fashion, holidays, baby, home, iPods, books, magazines, toys, gifts, electrical and even your groceries! Just select Villa Maria College when you shop or browse online at [www.yourfastshop.co.nz](http://www.yourfastshop.co.nz). All shopping raises money for Villa at no extra cost to you.

**LOST PROPERTY**

Please check out the lost property on the trestle table outside the Student Office. There are brown school shoes, 13 pairs of sports shoes, cardigans (plus 3 un-named new uniform cardigans), an un-named new white blouse, sleeping bags, 6 un-named pencil cases. PLEASE come and check – parents are welcome also.

**Plastic Supermarket Bags**

If you have any spare, please hand into the Student Office for Sr Maureen to give to the Mercy Outreach Team for their bread deliveries. Thank you.

**Change *is* possible:**

With support from the Red Cross, Red Crescent, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the United States Centres for Disease Control, African countries such as Niger, Togo and Zambia have successfully launched national campaigns for measles vaccination and distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated anti-malaria bed nets. These campaigns were rolled out nation-wide within a period of two weeks and led to at least a halving of malaria incidence.

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

**CON BRIO'S UNIFORM COMPETITION**

Do you think your daughter is the next Trelise Cooper, then this is the competition for her. We want a creative individual to design the new uniform for the College's award-winning Choir, *Con Brio*. The closing date is Monday, 1 February 2010. Excellent prizes are available for the winner and runners-up. Entries are welcome from all ages, please check the College's website or see Miss Bennewith for further information about the requirements. Good luck and get designing!

**COMING EVENTS**

**Friday 13 November:** Show Day – school closed  
**Monday 16-Wednesday 18 November:** Yr 9/10 Exams  
**Monday 16 November-Friday 5 December:** NCEA Exams  
**Tuesday 17-Thursday 19 November:** Y7/8 Retreats  
**Monday 23 November:** Prize Giving tickets available at the Student Office  
**Wednesday 18 November:** Wednesday sport concludes  
**Wednesday 25 November:** Itinerant Music Concert P.3  
**Monday 30 November-Wednesday 2 December:** Yr 10 Camp classes 10B, 10M and 10A.  
**Wednesday 2 - Friday 4 December:** Yr 10 Camp classes 10C, 10E and 10X  
**Monday 30 November-Friday 4 December:** Yr 9 Integrated Studies Week  
**Tuesday 1 December:** Cauty Primary Schools Athletics  
**Monday 7-Friday 11 December:** Students complete sign out procedures during the week  
**Wednesday 9 December:** Prize Giving Isaac Theatre Royal begins at 6.30 pm  
**Friday 11 December:** Merit Assembly, Graduation, T4 ends  
**Saturday 12 December:** NZSS Athletics Timaru

Yours sincerely

Mary Lynch  
Principal