



Villa Maria College NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 WEEK 4 – 5 NOVEMBER 2009

Greetings Parents and Caregivers

For your students in Years 11, 12 and 13 this is the last hard copy of the newsletter for the year. However, you can access the newsletter on the website each week – during exam leave and up to the end of the year.

I take this opportunity to give formal notification 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.

The NCEA examinations go ahead as timetabled.

Education has been in the news a lot in recent days as the media seeks reactions to the introduction of National Standards. The guidelines have been sent to schools and we have issued them to our teachers of Years 7 and 8 as well as to the Heads of Faculty English and Mathematics.

On my initial reading, the standards relate very closely to the learning objectives of the current curriculum. What is new is the mandated requirement to report in writing twice a year to parents regarding your daughter's achievement against those standards. This will be most acceptable to parents whose daughter is achieving at or above the standard; it may prove to be challenging for parents of students who are achieving below the standard.

The assessment and reporting against the National Standards will make explicit the work that teachers already do in identifying learning needs and preparing and presenting programmes of learning to meet those needs. In 2010, when this testing is applied to our Years 7 and 8 girls, we will be able to keep you informed about our training and our amended procedures as they occur.

As NCEA external assessment begins, we ask that God blesses our senior students with wisdom, determination and the motivation to succeed at the highest levels.

"New Zealand continues to provide hope on nuclear arms", as told by an American, this week on www.inspirationaltv.net. Great for sharing with a friend.

"Some of our duties may appear trifling, but when done through a motive of virtue they are seeds for Eternal Life."

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.**

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!

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 9th birthday. Bring your friends!

LOST PROPERTY – OUT OF CONTROL!!!

With the end of the year in sight and senior students on exam leave after next week, it is a concern that there remains an enormous amount of lost property on the trestle table outside the Student Office. School shoes (black and brown), sports shoes and sports gear, blazers and cardigans (un-named new uniform cardigans also), sleeping bags and many items of street wear. PLEASE come and check – parents are welcome also.



SPORTS NEWS

Zonta Sports Awards – Last Thursday night these awards were held to recognise the elite sports people from secondary schools in Christchurch. We congratulate all our girls who were selected as finalists (a huge achievement alone with over 170 nominations received). We are extremely pleased to announce that two of our finalists won their categories. Huge congratulations go to:

Katie Rasmussen (Year 12) - who won Category Two – Contribution to Sports Administration by a Young Woman in a position of umpire, referee, coach or tutor. This year Katie has coached a netball team, gained her Centre badge for Christchurch Netball, so as well as her team umpiring commitments, she umpires additional games every Saturday and then on Fridays often refereed up to 3 games of basketball in the College Gymnasium. This is a fitting award for her commitment to sport at Villa.

2008 Senior A Netball team – who won Category Five – Most Outstanding Team of Young SportsWomen. The criteria period for these Awards is 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2009, so this win incorporated their outstanding wins at South Island Champs in 2008 and winning the coveted New Zealand Secondary Schools' title.

Touch – Congratulations to **Ella Hutchinson** who has been selected in the Canterbury Under 13 Touch team. We wish you the very best in your training with this team!

West Zones Athletics – we wish the best of luck to our 19 Year 7 and 8 athletes who are competing at the West Zones next Thursday.

Villa Maria College Netball Club – New committee members are urgently needed! If your daughter plays netball for Villa, your help on the committee would be much appreciated. If you think you can help, please contact Maria Foster (Chairperson) 349 9658.

Sailing Come to our yacht club and join in the fun at our Open Day at Naval Point Club Lyttelton, Magazine Bay, Lyttelton, Sunday 8 November 10 am – 4 pm. Meet and chat with club members and to see the wide variety of activities available and to have fun.

The Uniform Shop is open from 1 pm to 5 pm every Monday this term. Current Yr 12 students may choose to arrange for braiding to be added to their old-style blazers before next year. As the only year group in the old-style uniform, they will be clearly Yr 13 and Leaders. This service is offered by two local sewing professionals: Mrs Roche, phone 354 2222 and Mrs Harper, phone 348 3362. Cost \$45 (includes braid). Parents, please be aware that the braid has to be ordered ex-Australia, so it would be necessary to book your blazer in as soon as possible for working over the summer holidays. Any queries, please give me a call on 348 4165 ext. 855.

Lisa Bennett, Uniform Shop Manager

Change is possible:

In 2006, Zambia cancelled fees for basic rural health services and Burundi introduced free medical care for mothers and children.

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.

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

EF – HIGH SCHOOL YEAR OVERSEAS

Education First will hold an information meeting on their 'High School Year Overseas' programme on Monday, 23 November at CPIT (Room L203, Madras Street) from 7 to 8.30 pm. Find out more and register online at www.ef.com/highschool.

Gap Year Au Pair Programme to the USA: If you

- Have good babysitting experience
- Hold a NZ driver's licence
- Love travel and childcare

Then visit www.ark-international.co.nz

STREET TALK DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE-Land Transport New Zealand approved course:

This course takes 6 months off the time needed on restricted licence. There are four 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, P O Box 19672, Woolston, Christchurch. If you need further information our website is www.fusiontrust.co.nz or Email: Carolyn@fusiontrust.co.nz. Phone 376 4997. (We run courses monthly during the year and all school holidays).

November	Upper Riccarton Library, Main South Road, Upper Riccarton	16-18-23-25th 6-8pm
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ATTENTION YEAR 11 STUDENTS

Check out website www.soundclassroom.com - a website for NCEA Level 1 Science students which has lots of free content available that you may take advantage of leading up to exams.

CANTEEN

Our grateful thanks to the parents helping in the Canteen next week: *Carol Sissons, Jennifer Ward, Pamela Mercer, Yvonne Hogan.*

COMING EVENTS

Friday 6 November: West Zone Athletics
Monday 9 November: Thanksgiving Mass 10.00 am
Monday 16-Wednesday 18 November: Yr 9/10 Exams
Monday 16 November-Friday 5 December: NCEA Exams
Friday 13 November: Show Day – school closed
Tuesday 17-Thursday 19 November: Y7/8 Retreats
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: Canty Primary Schools Athletics
Wednesday 9 December: Prize Giving Isaac Theatre Royal 6.30 pm
Friday 11 December: Merit Assembly, Graduation, T4 ends
Saturday 12 December: NZSS Athletics Timaru

Yours sincerely

Mary Lynch
Principal