



# Villa Maria College NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 WEEK 9 – 17 SEPTEMBER 2009

## Greetings Parents and Caregivers

I take this opportunity to congratulate *Abigail Pelenato* on her election as Student Trustee to the Board. The Student Trustee brings a valuable and respected perspective to Board deliberations.

In Special Character mode, on Monday and Tuesday of this week I had the pleasure of being at Living Springs with our Year 13 students on Retreat. The theme of the Retreat was *Making a Difference as a Mercy Woman*. This theme was part of their reflection on their journey from entering Villa in Year 9 or Year 7 as a Villa girl and looking forward to their 2009 Graduation where they are sent out as Mercy Women. It is so rewarding to spend time with these young women and share in their interactions, their memories and their sense of fun.

Right now our Year 12 students are fully participating in a Leadership Training Day. It is wonderful to observe and interact with students in this quite different setting. At the end of the leadership process, which began at the time of Year 12 Retreat in May, the girls have explored leadership in many different ways. At Villa we emphasise the service component of leadership while acknowledging the differing strengths of students. Each year it is an exciting process as we say farewell to our Year 13 students and welcome the next generation of leaders emerging from Year 12!

On the academic side, our students in Years 11-13 will complete the preliminary examinations this week. These examinations are a significant factor in identifying our students for awards at Prize Giving and Merit Assembly. It is of significant concern, therefore, to find that not all students remained in the Hall or examination room for the duration of the examinations. The examinations give the girls a very real sense of what they know and what knowledge they need to consolidate, interpret, analyse and understand and what skills they have yet to master. They can prepare or refine their study and revision schedule in order to be better prepared for the external examinations in November.

Next Thursday, 24 September, the universal Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy. At Villa we claim it as our College Feast Day and we celebrate what it means to be Mercy in our community. This year we welcome our special visitors from around Christchurch. Our students provide hospitality, food for lunch and provide entertainment for the visitors both in their Vertical Groups and at the afternoon concert. We look forward to another exciting and unique day!

On behalf of the Villa community we extend our prayerful sympathy to Mrs Van Kasteren and Siobhan on the death of mother-in-law and grandmother; and to Ms Walkey on the death of her father-in-law.

## 2009 VILLA MARIA COLLEGE FASHION SHOW

**Date: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**Time: 7.30 pm**

**Venue: Villa Maria College Auditorium**

**Tickets: \$15**

Tickets can be bought from the Con Brio girls or the Student Office from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009.

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

## UNIFORM

With the summer weather approaching you will be aware that the girls have moved to summer uniform. We would appreciate parents checking the hem lengths as some of the uniforms are now far too short for girls who have obviously grown over the last few months. In addition, many blazers have lost buttons. We appreciate your assistance with keeping the Villa uniform sharp. It is one of the many disciplines that reflect our values and represents us in the wider community.

*Megan Cassidy, Assistant Principal Pastoral Care*

## Uniform Shop

Special price for Villa Maria sports socks (size 4-7 only) - \$17.50 for two pair pack.

Second-hand old-style summer dresses are much reduced, some for as little as \$15.00. We are approaching the last summer for these dresses – they must all go!

The Uniform Shop is open from 1.00-5.00 pm every Monday.

*Lisa Bennett, Uniform Shop Manager*

**FROM THE PTA: The PTA is seeking new members.** The next meeting is on Tuesday 13 October at 7.30 pm at the College. All welcome. Enquiries: Brendan Morahan, 352 8665.

**ACTIVATE**

**TV2**

**SATURDAY 9.30 AM**

**Make sure you catch the second semi-final. This week  
Villa plays off against Southland Boys' High School.**

Catriona Thow and Bridie Frost (Year 12 students) are working on a project as part of their Sustainability programme. They want to gather magazines suitable for teenage readers to send to Samoa to the school where Sr Anna is working. The aim is that these magazines will be suitable for the students to read in the hope that their reading age will increase. With a higher reading level they will be able to perform at a higher level in examinations which will enable them to get better jobs - the best way to escape poverty. After gathering the magazines the next step is to seek donations of \$3.50 which will allow for postage to Samoa. Magazines and postage donation can be handed in to the Student Office. Thank you for your support.

*"In His mercy, Jesus Christ did not say, "Come to me, you who are free from sin" – but, "come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will refresh you."*

**Catherine McAuley**



**SPORTS NEWS**

**Netball Prize Giving** – please note the Prize Giving is next **Sunday 20 September at 2:00 pm**. All players, coaches and parents are welcome to the break-up in the Auditorium. Afternoon tea will be served following the Prize Giving.

**Football** – Congratulations to Laura Smith who has been selected in the 14<sup>th</sup> Grade Canterbury Football Team

**Sports Tops** – despite many reminders there are still 90 girls who have not returned the sports uniform loaned to them for winter sport. It is frustrating that girls do not return these following their last game and we ask that these are all returned immediately!

**Basketball** – Congratulations to the Year 7 & 8 combined Basketball team who competed in the Primary Sports' Indoor Tournament last week. The team came 2<sup>nd</sup>, only losing the final by 1 point! Well done to **Sophia Shaw, Sophia Shamy, Jessica Gorrie, Alice Clarkson, Megan Nelis, Ngariri Waitokia and Gemma Culling**, and also a big thanks to Mr Baugh for coaching the team!

**Aerobics** – Good luck to **Danielle Mather** (Year 12) who is competing in the NZCAF National Schools Aerobics Champs this weekend.

**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!

*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. Thank you.*

**Opportunity for youth to get involved in the decision making process around Christchurch.**

If you are passionate about youth issues then come to the OYC forum on Saturday 19 September. There will be food, a quiz and other passionate youths. For more information hit up our face book, just search: **The Otautahi Youth Council**

**Change is possible:** *The Measles Initiative has vaccinated over 500 million children since 2001, helping to reduce global measles mortality by 68% between 2000 and 2006. During the same period in Africa, measles deaths plunged by 91% from 396,000 to 36,000 deaths – four years ahead of the United Nations goal to reduce deaths from the disease by 90% by 2010.*

**Kate Sheppard Suffrage Celebration  
Christ Church Cathedral 5:30 pm Saturday 19 September**

Following on until 7:30 pm there will be a shared finger food tea with entertainment at the Canterbury Women's House, 190 Worcester Street (*between Barbadoes Street and Latimer Square*). Senior students are welcome to attend and it will be of particular interest to those studying humanities, NZ History or those who have family members who signed the 1893 petition getting Women the Vote. This is an important public event which we hope all Canterbury Women will support. Some students might like to attend with their Mothers/Grandmothers.

**ARE YOU TRAVELLING WITH JETSTAR  
THESE HOLIDAYS?**

**Villa Maria would be pleased to receive your boarding passes to apply for Jetstar flight vouchers in Jetstar's Collect4Schools Program.**

25 boarding passes equals a voucher for one return domestic flight. 50 boarding passes equals a voucher for two return domestic flights. Please hand in your passes to the Student Office. Thank you!

**FUNDRAISER – GARDEN COMPOSTER**

To order post cheque and order to Yourfastshop Ltd, PO Box 180, Lincoln 7640, Canterbury. Phone Dave 027 351 2538 or email [dave@yourfastshop.co.nz](mailto:dave@yourfastshop.co.nz) for further information.

- A great fundraiser for your garden. **\$10 per composter is donated to Villa Maria College**. Get your garden organized, help your plants grow and help the planet too.
- The Earthmaker composter is so easy to use. No need for heavy lifting or turning. 30 day money back plus usual guarantees. Great 466 litre size and Made in New Zealand.
- **Free delivery** if you are within 75km of Christchurch (includes Ashburton, Waikari and past Oxford). You pay only \$175 a special fundraiser price.
- The Earthmaker composter can be viewed at [www.earthmaker.co.nz](http://www.earthmaker.co.nz)

**At the Student Office, there are two new-uniform cardigans and one new-uniform scarf, all un-named.**

**CANTEEN**

Our grateful thanks to the parents helping in the Canteen next week: *Vicki Tinkler, Jennifer Ward, Michelle Ward, Karen Went, Jan Price.*

**COMING EVENTS**

- 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
- 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

Yours sincerely

Mary Lynch  
Principal