



# Villa Maria College NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 WEEK 2 – 11 FEBRUARY 2010

## Greetings Parents and Caregivers

Today we say farewell to our 20 visiting students and teacher who return to St Dominic's High School in Taiwan. We are particularly grateful to the families who provided Homestay accommodation and entertained the students – boys and girls – with rides in the family vintage car, bonfires at the farm, trips to Christchurch scenic attractions, and even visits to grandma. Mrs McCormick and Mrs Wright are to be congratulated on the organisation that allowed the exchange visit to run so smoothly. St Dominic's High School will welcome exchange visits from groups of Villa students and teachers.

This week we learned that three girls were successful in the Scholarship Examinations: *Ying Zi Lin* in Calculus, Statistics, Chemistry and Outstanding Scholarship in Physics; *Sarah Holmes* in biology and Classics; *Francesca Chapman* in English. Congratulations, girls, we are tremendously proud of your achievements. These and other high achievers will be acknowledged at the Academic Assembly on 22 February.

Tomorrow we celebrate the 2010 Opening Mass. It is important that we, as a Catholic school, acknowledge the loving presence of God in our community. The Special Character of the College encourages and promotes the development of a personal relationship with Jesus. Sometimes, you or I might think "it's ok God, I can manage without you now". My personal experience has been that I stumble and fall and am grateful to turn again to my forgiving God.

Sometimes we, as Catholics, only give real attention to prayer when we want or need something, when we are suffering illness or coping with loss. At Villa we are always promoting an attitude of gratitude. We have so much for which to be grateful – our lives in Aotearoa NZ are indeed blessed. So our Opening Mass gives us a chance to put our faith, our friendships, our learning in perspective – to thank God for what is and to say "yes" to all that God asks of us this year. We pray especially for our College and House Leaders as they lead and serve and enthuse our students!

We extend our prayerful sympathy and love to our Priest Chaplain, Fr John O'Connor on the death of his father, Con. We pray that Fr John will be comforted, supported and strengthened by the faith community he generously serves.

*A new UN report finds significant progress in providing debt relief to the world's poorest countries, but not in fulfilling trade and development aid commitments.*

*"We must have a warm, cordial affection for all and manifest it by word, actions and manner... Our charity must be in our hearts, and a charity such as Jesus Christ practised on earth."*  
Catherine McAuley

**Congratulations to Tess O'Rourke**, Year 13, who has successfully auditioned for two musical theatre productions: *High School Musical 2* playing at the James Hay Theatre from 13 -21 February, and the Showbiz production of *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, which is on in April at the Theatre Royal.

**Are you worried about your daughter's physical or mental health? Did you know that we have a Public Health Nurse whom you can talk with about your child's health concerns?** This is a free and confidential health service provided by the Canterbury District Health Board.

The Public Health Nurse for the College is **Belinda Ritchie**. She is a registered nurse who specialises in child and family health. Belinda can arrange with you to meet at home, school or work. She can provide health support, advice, child and family assessments and co-ordinate any other family health or support services if required.

Belinda can be contacted through the College or by phoning the Public Health Nursing Service on 383 6877 extn 99939 or Lincoln office 325 6218.

**"Parachute Festival celebrated twenty years in style."**  
*If you weren't able to make it, live the experience on [www.catholicv.net](http://www.catholicv.net) this week. Great for sharing with a friend.*

**Tell of your achievements!** We like to profile 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)

## SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTERS!

Villa Maria College would like to thank the following organisations for their support in 2010 as advertisers in the College's biannual magazine, VMail. The College is grateful for this on-going support which enables the College to produce this high quality publication.

- Airways NZ
- Bishop, Toomey & Pfeifer Chartered Accountants
- Brandts-Giesen McCormick Barristers, Solicitors and Notary Public
- Edmonds House Private Boarding Hostel for Girls
- Jeff Greening Harcourts Gold Real Estate Group Ltd
- The Caxton Press Print and Design
- University of Canterbury
- Lincoln University

If you know of other organisations that might be interested in advertising in VMail please contact Jill Borland, Villa Maria Development Officer, email [development@villa.school.nz](mailto:development@villa.school.nz).

**Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women**  
**Saturday 13 February, 1.30 pm, Christ the King**  
**Topic: Fruit of the Spirit: LOVE.**  
**Speakers are Roger & Rita Peterson. All women welcome.**  
**Enquiries to Janet on 359 4305.**



**SPORTS NEWS**

**ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS** – At assembly on Tuesday we acknowledged our first New Zealand Representative for the year!! **Cecilia Tufuga** (Year 10) competed for New Zealand in January at the Aloha Gym Fest in Hawaii. Other countries included Canada, USA, China, Japan and Australia. Cecelia competed in the 14/15 year age group and came 1<sup>st</sup> in the Floor and Vault and overall was placed 5<sup>th</sup> in her age group. This is a fantastic result and we wish you all the best for your future gymnastics career!

**Amelia Coleman**, Year 9, competed in two Rhythmic Competitions in the holidays. In her first, in Seattle, she won a silver medal for her clubs routine and a bronze medal for her hoop routine and she was placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall with gymnasts from all over America. In her second competition in Los Angeles, Amercia's largest Rhythmic competition, she was placed 12<sup>th</sup> out of 45 gymnasts from over 20 countries around the world. An amazing result of which she can be very proud.

**ROWING** – Our rowers had a successful weekend in very hot conditions in Twizel, competing in the SI Club Championships.

*Well done to the silver medal winners:*

U19 2 – **Michelle Barry, Grace Prendergast**

U19 8+ - **Michelle Barry, Grace Prendergast, Harriet Meates, Simone Woodford, Sophie Shingleton, Claire Shingleton, Katie Rasmussen, Tess Maitland, Katie Middleton-Tansey** (cox)

U17 4x+ - **Sophie Shingleton, Simone Woodforde Emma Hunt, Brooke Cantwell, Emily Harnett** (cox)

*And the bronze medal winners:*

U19 4 - **Michelle Barry, Grace Prendergast, Sophie Shingleton, Simone Woodford, Katie Middleton-Tansey** (cox)

U16 4 - **Tara Moore, Tess Maitland, Kelsey Tait, Gabby Watson, Roslie Calder** (cox)

Novice 4x+ **Lucy Shingleton, Georgia Hale, Jasmine Weston, Laura Burgess, Anelique Power** (cox)

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. 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 [icshingleton@gmail.com](mailto:icshingleton@gmail.com).

**SECOND HAND NETBALL UNIFORMS/SPORTS SOCKS:** There is a small number of second-hand netball uniforms, in varying sizes, for sale at the Netball Registration Night (Monday 15 February). The cost will be as follows: - Full set (skirt/top) = \$60.00 (this compares to \$104 new); Skirt = \$30.00; Top = \$30.00. Also on sale will be the new regulation sports socks at \$10.00 per pair.

**DO YOU TRAVEL WITH JETSTAR?**

The College 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 two return domestic flights. Please hand in your passes to the Student Office. Thank you!

**CYCLISTS AND MOTORISTS TO SHARE THE ROAD**

The Christchurch City Council has launched its 'Share the Road' campaign for the month of February, encouraging drivers and cyclists to respect the rights of all road users.

Asset and Network Planning Manager, Terry Howes, says drivers and cyclists can share the road safely by practising common courtesy and consideration.

"Bicycles are vehicles and they have every right to be on the road. We are asking drivers to consider good driving practice, such as checking for cyclists before turning left or opening car doors, giving them plenty of space and not overtaking them where it is unsafe."

"At the same time, cyclists also have an obligation to obey the road rules. They should bike defensively – watching for car doors and turning vehicles, as well as keeping as far left as reasonable and riding a maximum of two abreast," he says.

The Share the Road cycle safety education campaign is run by the Council each year to coincide with police enforcement campaigns. For more information visit [www.ccc.govt.nz/cycling](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/cycling).

**UNIFORM SHOP**

**This week is our winter 'fit-out'** for new entrants in Yrs 7 & 9. New entrants in other year groups need to come to the Uniform Shop for their winter fitting during normal shop hours, as soon as possible please. To cope with extra demand, shop hours will be Mondays 12.30 to 5 pm AND Fridays 12.30 to 4 pm until further notice.

**Senior ties** are now available in two lengths, price \$30/\$32.

**We are very short of second-hand dresses** at present. Please bring second hand items for sale direct to the shop or leave at the Student Office marked for my attention.

Lisa Bennett ([lbe@villa.school.nz](mailto:lbe@villa.school.nz))

**CON BRIO UNIFORM COMPETITION**

We have now received some fantastic design ideas for Con Brio's new uniform, but we are still looking for a few more before we commence judging. In light of this, we have extended the deadline date to Friday 12 February 2010 at 9.00 am. If you are keen to take part, please see Miss Bennewith for a design template that will help you with your idea. Please bring your completed design to the Main Office by the deadline date and time. Good Luck!

**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 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, P O Box 19672, Woolston, Christchurch. Visit our website [www.fusiontrust.co.nz](http://www.fusiontrust.co.nz), phone Carolyn 376 4997 or email [Carolyn@fusiontrust.co.nz](mailto:Carolyn@fusiontrust.co.nz).

March	Mon 1, Wed 3, Mon 8, Wed 10 Each session 2 hours 6-8 pm Upper Riccarton Library, Main South Road
April School Holidays	Wed 7, Mon 12, Wed 14, Fri 16 Each session 2 hours 9-11 am Upper Riccarton Library, Main South Road

**METRO CARDS:** Please put your daughter's name on her Metro Card – if it is lost and handed in to the Student Office (as so many of them are) we can return it her. At present we have one unnamed card at the Student Office.

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

There is a new stall for Label Clothing so if anyone has adults or kids Label clothing that they no longer need, please hand into OLV School Office or ring Katrina Roberts on 342 7935.

**CANTEEN**

Our grateful thanks to the parents helping in the Canteen next week: *Trudi Nelis, Clare Hardman, Karen Went, Lynne Crews, Lois Smith*

**COMING EVENTS**

**Friday 12 February:** Opening Mass 9 am Hall

**Monday 15 February:** House Warmings Ennis and Brodie 7 pm Auditorium, Volleyball begins

**Tuesday 16 February:** Shrove Tuesday, **VMC Swimming Sports at QEII – Day 0 – all parents welcome**

**Wednesday 17 February:** Ash Wednesday, Wednesday sport begins

**Thursday 18 February:** **VMC Athletics Papanui High 4.30-8.30 pm – all parents welcome**

**Friday 19 February:** Claver Assembly at VG time

**Saturday 20 February:** Touch Champs Sheldon Park, Cave Stream Tramp

**Monday 22 February:** High Achievers' Assembly

**Tuesday 23 February:** Claver Breakfast, CSS Swim Champs QEII

**Thursday 25 February:** CSS Swim Champ Finals QEII

**Friday 26-Sunday 28 February:** SISS Volleyball Wharenui/Cowles

Yours sincerely

Mary Lynch  
Principal