



MAGDALENE NEWS

Vol 16 Term: 1 Week 5
28 February 2014

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of the Magdalene Community,

Last week I had the pleasure of visiting the Year 7 camp and each of the Year 12 retreat sites. On visiting each site I was most impressed with the positive sense of community that always pervades these activities and both staff and students were very supportive of each other. I am always conscious of the generosity of staff in ensuring that students are able to access such worthwhile character building and community building experiences. I thank the teachers for their involvement and acknowledge the students for their positive approach to the events. I also thank the parents for their support of these worthwhile events.

Last week the Parents and Friends Association and the Parent Consultation Committee met for our first meeting. The Parents and Friends meeting considered ways the group could support the school. One of the areas of discussion was the recent decision to remove the bus travel subsidy from a significant number of students. The Parents and Friends Executive has decided to contact other Parents and Friends Associations to establish whether other schools are in a similar situation. The group has also offered to support the parents whose children have been denied the subsidy. There was also discussion of an extraordinary Parents and Friends Meeting on March 25 to discuss progress with the issue.

Following the Parents and Friends meeting a meeting of the Parent Consultation Committee was conducted. The members of the committee had the opportunity to consider the annual priorities for 2014 as outlined in the 2014 Annual Improvement Plan. The focus of the meeting was on the priorities related to assessment and using assessment to improve learning. One of the challenges of assessment has always been to ensure that assessment strategies improve student learning. At Magdalene in 2014 this will involve using formative assessment and summative assessment. The parents at the meeting were able to give their insights into assessment, which provides valuable information as directions for 2014 and beyond. A copy of the Annual Improvement Plan Priorities for 2014 is included in this Newsletter.

As part of the review of assessment to improve learning, the Key Learning Coordinators met last Monday to consider ways to ensure assessment leads to improved learning. The school's approach to both assessment and assessment tasks is under review so that students gain the most from their experiences. One approach may be to remove marks from reports and to use descriptors and grades to give a clearer understanding of what students know and can do, while at the same time understanding ways to improve. This approach will be further explored throughout this semester.

Strong minds, gentle hearts



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Last Wednesday evening the parents of our new Year 7 students met their Pastoral Care Teachers to gain some insights into life in Year 7 at Magdalene. This was quite a productive evening and was helpful in establishing the very important link between parents and the Pastoral Care Teacher. I reinforce once again that in all years the Pastoral Care Teacher provides a very important point of communication for the parents. They are often the first point of contact and can resolve issues as they arise. I thank the Year 7 parents and teachers for their involvement in this fruitful evening.

One of the major aims of the school this year is to promote a culture of “High Expectations” among students. This means that students expect the most from their performance in all that they do. I am often concerned when students are asked how they can improve that they say that they will work harder. This is a term that is very broad and gives little direction. Students need to set simple achievable goals that will help them to improve. If they set goals every two weeks the improvement will follow. I ask parents to discuss these goals with their sons and daughters to ensure that they continually strive to improve on previous performances.

Next week the school will farewell Mr McMartin who will take up the position of Science Coordinator at All Saints Catholic Girl’s College Liverpool. I take this opportunity to thank Mr McMartin for his contribution to Magdalene.

This week we have the pleasure of welcoming Mr Hani Nematella to the position of English Coordinator at Magdalene. Mr Nematella is a senior English Teacher at Mount Carmel Catholic High School and brings extensive experience to the position.

Next Wednesday we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time of reflection and renewal for each of us. The church traditionally sees Lent as a time of Prayer Penance and Alms Giving. May each of us embrace this opportunity for spiritual growth and a positive contribution to the lives of others.

Prayer

*Compassionate God,
thank you for your
understanding heart.*

*Remind me of this whenever I fail
so that I may seek your help
and take the steps I need
to have my burden lifted.*

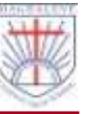
*When the opportunity comes
be with me that I may ease
another’s burden.*

*I pray with confidence,
in Jesus’ name.*

Amen

God Bless

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal



Just Leadership Day - Bowral

JUST LEADERSHIP DAY - BOWRAL

Congratulations on the great participation in the Just Leadership day at Bowral recently. 90 attendees from 14 secondary schools was a fantastic turnout. The presentation by Caritas was excellent and engaged students in a deeper understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and how they can lead Project Compassion in their schools and beyond.

Our Year 10 students in Religious Education are exploring the topic Social Justice in Australia at the moment. They are exploring the richness of our tradition in Catholic Social Teaching. The four guiding principles of Catholic Social Teaching are:

HUMAN DIGNITY - The principle of the dignity of the human person reminds us that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God and has an inalienable and transcendent human dignity which gives rise to human rights. It is the bedrock of all Catholic social ethics.

SUBSIDIARITY The principle of subsidiarity concerns how participation and decision making should be organised.

SOLIDARITY - Human beings are social by nature. We cannot survive without others and can only grow and achieve our potential in relationship with others.

THE COMMON GOOD - The principle of the common good reminds us that we are all really responsible for each other – we are our brothers and sisters 'keepers' - and must work for social conditions which ensure that every person and every group in society is able to meet their needs and realise their potential. CARITAS AUSTRALIA works very hard in applying these Catholic Social Teachings and here at Magdalene, we are working in support of these teachings both in the classroom and also in practice through various fundraising activities in partnership with Caritas. We had a sell-out of flowers on Valentines day at the Swimming Carnival recently raising much needed funds for the BRAZIL 2014 Campaign. We will provide more information about the appeal this year after the Diocesan launch next week.



The day at Bowral was engaging, interesting and lots of fun, with group work, discussions, and networking between the various schools. Thanks to everyone for supporting this Caritas initiative. The time of Lent is soon upon us beginning with the Diocesan Project Compassion launch next Tuesday 4th of March at John Therry, including the traditional Shrove Tuesday Staff vs Students Pancake cook-off here at Magdalene, followed by a special assembly and Ash Wednesday liturgies here at school on Wednesday 5th March. Special thanks to Mrs Violi, Ms Simonetta and Mrs Walker in overseeing the CARITAS CLUB as they continue to raise both awareness and funds.

Marty Pannell
Mission Coordinator



Magdalene Catholic High School Annual Improvement Plan 2014

The following is an excerpt from the Magdalene Catholic High School Strategic Management Plan 2013 - 2017. This Plan is a combination of the Magdalene Catholic High School strategic directions The School Review and Improvement Framework and The Wollongong Catholic Education Office Strategic Management Plan Beyond 2011. The Annual Improvement Plan will enable the school community to give priority to, improve and develop certain nominated aspects of school life over the years 2013 - 2017.

Key Area 1: Catholic Life and Religious Education.

By the end of 2017, Magdalene Catholic High School will be a school where all members of the school community will understand, appreciate and celebrate the school's Catholic identity

To achieve the above the school will focus on the following Strategic Management Plan goals during 2014:

1.1. The school will have a strong commitment to and understanding of the vision and mission of Magdalene Catholic High School.

1.4. The teaching and learning of Religious Education will be supported by a depth of highly relevant and stimulating programs and resources, which are effectively utilised, by students and teachers.



Key Area 2 Students and Their Learning

By the end of 2017, Magdalene Catholic High School will be a school where Individuals value and accept responsibility for themselves and others as learners and strive for personal excellence.

To achieve the above the school will focus on the following Strategic Management Plan goals during 2014:

2.1. Relevant criteria and assessment and evaluation data will be used consistently to track, monitor and review student progress and to inform the teaching and learning cycle.

2.2. A whole school approach to literacy and numeracy will be in place to ensure that all students can access the curriculum at an appropriate level.

2.6. Structures programs and practices will encourage student enjoyment of learning and skill them to be successful learners.

2.8 Students will be supported by a network of pastoral care, which reflects the school's mission and vision for learning. The school holds high expectations for all students and requires that they be treated with dignity and respect at all times.

Highly effective school-based policies and practices facilitate and reflect an innovative approach to the use of ICT to improve contemporary student learning. These are regularly reviewed and updated and maximise access for all students in a flexible learning environment.

Key Area 3: Pedagogy

By the end of 2017, Magdalene Catholic High School will be a school where student learning is a collective responsibility, enriched by a dynamic curriculum enhanced by effective pedagogical practice

To achieve the above the school will focus on the following Strategic Management Plan goals during 2014:

3.1. Students will be provided with a range of differentiated assessment opportunities that assess their learning in authentic ways and allow them to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and potential as learners.

3.5. The school will function as a learning community and will adopt a collaborative and reflective approach to teaching and learning that is enhanced by ongoing, well-targeted professional development.

Swimming Carnival 14 March 2014



Year 7 Camp Teen Ranch 2014

On Wednesday 18 February Year 7, 2014 turned up to enjoy the biggest and best camp yet at Cobbity's Teen Ranch. We had two nights of 'sleep' and three days of great activities. The activities were designed to challenge us mentally and physically. The challenge course was designed to make us work together with people we didn't necessarily know and the idea was for us to finish the course as a team.

The crate climb required us to rely on ourselves to reach the top, it was great seeing everyone cheer each classmate on as they tried their best to reach their goal. What also made camp great was that teachers got in and shared the fun. The people at Teen Ranch were friendly and made sure everything was running smoothly. Thank you to Mrs Foti and the teachers for coming along and making our camp an enjoyable experience - *Lucas Barreto*



Teen Ranch was great fun we had many different activities and the food was great.

My group had the Challenge Course which was a team building obstacle course. During the course, whilst it was raining, a little mini river started coming around the borders, it was really cool. The next day was the first and only full day. We had 3 activities plus a night hike, but first we had Connect which was about explaining how to live a life of discipleship. Then my group had canoeing, then archery (I almost got a bulls eye) and then I had crate climbing, my highest was 12 crates and even I touched the roof.

The next day it was time to pack up and leave but we had one more activity the Giant Swing it was the best. You basically get more nervous when you had to pull the ripcord and it doesn't come out but when it does you feel like you go in slow motion and then you sped up and then slow motion again on the other side. I had great fun. I made new friends and I had the



Year 7 Camp Teen Ranch 2014

Camp was so fun I made new friends, faced new fears, ate good food and got to know the teachers. Some of the activities I did were archery, high ropes, challenge course, canoeing, crate climb and horses. Some of the new friends I made were Preston, Brendan, Ollie, and more. My

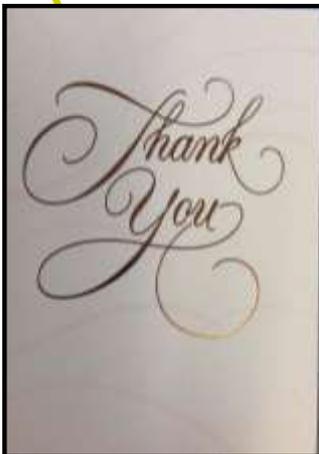
favourite activity was high ropes because I faced my fear and I did it, even on the rainy day so yay! Me and my best friends James and Henry were in the same cabin and activities group so another yay to me!



The rainy day was my favourite because I did the best activities and I like the rain. Canoeing was so much fun we paddled up the river and played with some balls



and swam around and obviously canoed too. Archery is a strategy based game, it was my first time and I managed to hit the white and black targets, but it was hard. High ropes was my favourite. It was death defying at the start but then I got the hang of it. Crate climb was very difficult for me and I scraped my leg too trying to climb up the crates. The challenge course was fun and weird at times but it helped me get along with new people and see their ideas. Whilst horses was my second favourite activity. The horse I rode was called Cruise, who was a big brownish black horse. I got to ride first and it was a bit scary. - Max Greffenis



To all the year 7 camp teachers
Thank you so much for
giving up your time and taking
time away from your busy
lives and families to take
Monique on camp. I am
so grateful. She had an
amazing time and was so
well looked after by all of
you.
Thanks heaps
Simone Newton
(Monique Newton 2014)



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Year 9 Advice speeches to Year 8 students

Good morning Year 8

So I was asked to give you some advice and here is what I have.

To be a successful learner you need to put in what you have, to get out what you want. This means pushing your boundaries. Break the barriers and explore the unknown.

For example, I want you to think about this.

When was the last time you did something for the first time?

Can you remember?

To get something you've never had means you need to do something you have never done.

Stop repeating your old habits and get into a new and improved routine. You'll feel happier and be more successful.

But don't get confused with perfection and successful. Success is not a doorway, it's a staircase.

So smile, and try something new! What's stopping you? - *Peta Alvaro*

Last year when I started Year 8 I could have been much more organised. I often didn't get my homework in on time, I didn't do as well in assessment tasks and ultimately ended up dropping most of my classes.

If I could have gone back I would have tried to do things like write more in my diary, start assessments earlier and just generally worked harder.

It's really important that you guys do that now because the work load is going to become greater and the content is going to become more difficult going into the older years. So if I had to give one tip it would be to try and be organised because it's going to make school much easier in Year 8.

Your teachers probably stress organisation, but if the time comes that you are not prepared at all, it can really stress you out and cause you to not do as well as you could have in any work you are doing. - *Aiden Berenger*

What does it mean to be a student at Magdalene?

Right here, right now, when I as a student of Magdalene I think about how Mary Magdalene had seen the Lord. When Mary Magdalene saw that Jesus wasn't in the tomb, she would have felt shocked and wondering where he was. That's the feeling that I got when I walked in the gates at MCHS. I was shocked to know what it feels like to have a fresh start, and worried that I couldn't or wouldn't make any friends or understand high school. But I followed in the footsteps of Jesus and had hope, trust and belief that this school would make me a strong person on the inside.

Now I do understand my nerves at the start of high school because it's a new start. I have great friends and many new ones, including the amazing teachers that help guide us through our learning. I am going to try hard like all the Year 12 students of 2013 who achieved their goals. I am impressed by one student in particular: our Dux of 2013, Jessica Grech. She was my big Year 6 buddy and she has inspired me since Kindergarten. Through her achievements she has made my goals feel achievable.

I love being a student at Magdalene and there are already so many opportunities and exciting years to go.

Isabelle Borg 7.5 RE

Year 12 Retreat

On the 19 May, the Year 12 students of Magdalene were separated into three groups, each group retreated to a location where they would spend the next three days embarking on a spiritual adventure with their peers. The female population dominated at Mittagong, 37 girls to the mere 13 boys. The retreat focused on the relationships the students had with their families, the individuals bonded over there experiences as we were able to share our involvement within our families. The lodge we stayed in was surrounded by luscious farmland, the activities were plentiful for the students to partake in; most found the volleyball courts, ping pong, bush walking and snooker a highlight of the retreat, it was also an enjoyable activity during free time. The residency we stayed at was full of history, it added great vibrancy to the atmosphere of the retreat. The retreat broke down the barriers between peers and allowed students to make new friends as well as get to know one another on a different level. Overall the retreat was a great experience and started the HSC year off on a high note. - *Molly Poyntz*

For my Year 12 retreat experience I was lucky enough to be able to spend three days at Kiah Ridge with an amazing group of students and staff. As a group we bonded and learnt so much more about each other, discovery that there was so much we were yet to know. This retreat was significant for us as a year group, especially as we will be undertaking our HSC together. Knowing that you have the support from those around you is something that we as a class attained from this retreat and will hold with us throughout this last year we have together.



SPORTS NEWS 25/2/2014

MISA RESULTS : Magdalene v Benedict's

SPORT	WINNING SCHOOL	SCORE	MOST VALUED PLAYER
7-9 Boys Softball	St Benedict's	10-6	Another tight game. Played hard and showed improved skills. Well played boys.
7-9 Girls Softball	Magdalene	7-1	A fantastic effort. A win and what a great team effort. MVPs: Danielle Flood and Maddison Saysanavongpheth
8/9 Boys Basketball	Magdalene	17-15	A brilliant 3 rd match, showing the potential and talent within the team. Great game by Matthew Talese.
8/9 Girls Basketball	Magdalene	20-0	Great game today. Well done the whole team.

Congratulations Sheree Farrell

Sheree competed in the 2014 Australian Age Open Water Swimming Championships, which were held on 15 & 16 February 2014 at Geelong, Victoria.

Sheree achieved 2nd place, 14 year girls, 10km swim, in a time of 2hrs 20mins.





SPORTS NEWS 18/2/2014

MISA RESULTS : Magdalene v Mount Carmel

SPORT	WINNING SCHOOL	SCORE	MOST VALUED PLAYER
10-12 Boys Cricket	Mount Carmel	51-49	Good effort but in the end not enough runs to defend. Well done Jacob Jenkins (12 runs and 1 for 2).
Open Girls Cricket	Magdalene	92-43	MVPs: Shannan Wright (20 Not Out and 1 wicket maiden), Celene Watson (20 Not Out), Jessica Whittall (1 wicket maiden)
7-9 Boys Softball	Mount Carmel	7-5	Another strong start but the opposition came home strong again. Great spirit.
7-9 Girls Softball	Mount Carmel	3-2	A great effort by all the girls. Every week our skills are improving. Keep up the good work.
8/9 Boys Basketball	Mount Carmel	26-14	Improved start to the season. A well-rounded team effort with some positive signs for improvement. MVP: J.C.Carating
8/9 Girls Basketball	Magdalene	18-9	After a slow start the girls rallied well to stretch the margin and secure a well-deserved win. Well Done.
10-12 Boys Oztag	Mount Carmel	6-3	MVP: Ryley Bennett
10-12 Girls Oztag	Magdalene	4-3	MVP: Maddie Taylor
7-9 Boys Volleyball	Magdalene	2-1	MVP: Mitchell Coleman
7-9 Girls Volleyball	Mount Carmel	3-0	Improvement across the board with 3 close games. MVP: Emily Harriott, MVP: Sofia Bazdaric .

YEAR 9 SCHOOL SPORT

There have been 3 rounds of Year 9 inter-Homerom School Sport with students participating in a range of sports such as Basketball, Netball, Volleyball, Soccer and Oztag. Homeroms receive 3 points for a win, 2 for a draw and 1 point for a loss.

The following players have been noted for their competitiveness and good sportsmanship. Players: Melinda Simon, Peta Alvaro, Shandelle Brown, Monique Grech, Emma Debernardi, Lauren Stendardo, Chloe Laxade, Kaitlyn Paroz, Tiarne Tippett, Thomas Carroll Michael Zbiljic, Shaun McGeough, Kaiden Roberts, Bailey Wray, Lachlan Abernethy, Sian Sherwood, Bethamy Dwyer, Shandelle Browne, Harry Bendtsen, Dayne Heward, Lachlan Opalniuk, Jessica Waite, Megan Major, Charlotte O'Flynn, Jessica Murphy, Joshua Clerke, Nelson Pellizzeri, Sean McGeough, Dayne Heward, Tyler Rullis, Isaac Percy, Matea Farkas, Jasmine Bajada

BOYS

GIRLS

House	Win	Draw	Loss	Points	House	Win	Draw	Loss	Points
Bruchhauser	0	0	3	3	Bruchhauser	6	0	1	7
Dunne	6	0	1	7	Dunne	3	0	2	5
Hogan	3	0	2	5	Hogan	6	0	1	7
Moore	6	2	0	8	Moore	3	0	2	5
Sedgwick	6	2	0	8	Sedgwick	9	0	0	9
Wilson	0	4	1	5	Wilson	0	0	3	3

Students attending Diocesan Events:

Sport notes issued to students for Diocesan sporting events have a section for "Wet Weather" and how to check if an event has been cancelled - as follows:

Wet Weather: Information about the cancellation/postponement of the event due to rain can be found via the CEO website (<http://www.dow.catholic.edu.au/>). Go into 'sport' and you will see "twitter" updates on the sports page indicating any changes.

The evening before the event please check the website and see if there have been any "twitter" updates for the Diocesan event. Before leaving to go to the event it would be a good idea to check the website again for any updates.



NOTICEBOARD

March		
5	Wed	Ash Wednesday Year 9 Boys Vaccinations
6	Mar	12 Business Studies Excursion
10-14	Mon-Fri	Catholic Schools Week
10	Mon	Year 7, 2015 Open Afternoon and preview 3pm—6.30pm Enrolment Preview 7pm - 8pm
13	Thur	Diocesan Swimming Carnival
14	Fri	Red Mufti Day for Caritas Year 9 ANSTO Science Excursion Year 11 & Year 12 Art Express Excursion Year 7 Reflection Day Spark Retreat: (IGNITE 2014)
17	Mon	F1 Engineering National Finals 2014 Year 12 Hospitality Excursion Year 12 Physics Excursion
18	Tues	Year 11 Studies Skills Workshop
19	Wed	Year 12 Hospitality Excursion Meet the Music Year 11 and Year 12 4pm—10.30pm.
21	Fri	Year 11—Vis Art to Art Express

ENROLMENTS YEAR 7, 2015
MONDAY 10 March 2014

Open Afternoon and Tours 3pm - 6.30pm
Enrolment Preview 7pm - 8pm

An open afternoon and tour of the school will take place on Monday 10 March from 3pm - 6.30pm.

An Enrolment Information Evening will be held from 7pm - 8pm on Monday 10 March.

This will give prospective new parents and existing families an opportunity to tour the school with their child, listen to an information session, question and answer time and an opportunity to speak with the Leadership team directly.

Enrolment Application forms will be available on this evening.

ALL WELCOME!

Enrolment applications for Year 7, 2015
open Tuesday 11 March 2014 and
close Friday 11 April 2014.

NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 2014

Years 7 - 9

All students in Years 7-9 are encouraged to participate in the Challenge for 2014. The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

The Challenge runs from **3rd March to 22nd August 2014**. Ongoing reading is encouraged as students aim for the target of 20 books. Books read from September 2013 can count towards the 2014 Challenge.

It is a condition of entry that students entering the Challenge maintain an online reading log and that those who successfully complete the Challenge will receive a certificate and appear on the online Honour Roll.

Permission slips need to be completed and returned to the Library



CANTEEN	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Term 1 Week 6B 3 March - 7 March	3 Mar Ebony Daw Cathy McDonald Julie Smith	4 Mar Racheal Gearside Kylie Greffenius Karen Saul	5 Mar Louise Fallshaw Bridget Fuller	6 Mar Sharon Jones Kristy Kenny	7 Mar Nicole Auckland Vanessa Crowe Desiree Kantor
Term 1 Week 7A 10 March - 14 March	10 Mar Fiona Hood Jutta Hamshere	11 Mar Janeen Brady Marie Duff	12 Mar Rosalie Lopez Michele Abbey	13 Mar Clare King Kelly-Maginn Dawson Michelle Crowe	14 Mar Suellen Fitzpatrick Allison Miller Rebecca Rafferty
Term 1 Week 8B 17 March - 21 March	17 Mar Kim Phillips Monique Peters	18 Mar Margaret Ryan Rachelle McVittie Rosa Vella	19 Mar Sandra Chamberlain Juliet Nelson Carmel Tedesco	20 Mar Lyndall Musico Kim-Ellen O'Shea	21 Mar Leanne Wolfe Renea Wales