



MAGDALENE NEWS

Vol 16 Term: 2 Week 3
16 May 2014

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

As was mentioned in the last newsletter the Cyclic Review of Magdalene Catholic High School will take place on 26 May. This is an opportunity to review the improvement journey since the last Cyclic Review, in 2011, and a chance to look forward and plan the future directions based on the review. A team from the Catholic Education Office will meet with staff, students and parents on the day to gain different points of view. This will be followed by class visits and meetings with the leadership team. I thank all those who will be involved in the process and look forward to the final report.

This week students in Year 7 and 9 undertook their NAPLAN tests. The tests can be viewed differently by various individuals and groups, some view it in a positive light and others negatively. The results, however, do provide valuable information about individual student's literacy and numeracy skills. This information can be used to inform teachers in their instruction and allow students to be given the support they need. I look forward to the results of the tests, which will be released later in the year.

This week Year 11 began their Half Yearly Examinations and in coming weeks other year groups will be undertaking examinations in various subjects. I remind everyone that examinations provide a valuable learning experience for students if they are approached in the appropriate manner, that is revision and review of subject matter is ongoing. Students need to plan their study well in advance and be organised in their approach and preparation. This will allow for a good understanding of each subject, rather than a preparation under pressure due to lack of time. Each student should have a study timetable and ensure they use it to guide their study program.

This week students returned to school in winter uniform. I thank those parents who ensured that their sons and daughters have their uniform in immaculate condition and wear it with pride. The majority of students are a credit to their parents and the school and do wear their uniform with pride. At present, however, there are still some students who are not meeting expectations. Two areas of concern are student hair cuts and the wearing of make up and jewellery. As has been stated on a number of occasions the way students present is not only reflective of the individual student but a reflection of the whole school. I ask for parent support in this area and remind parents that a copy of the school's uniform policy can be found on the school's website at www.mchsdow.catholic.edu.au and in the student diary.

Last Monday evening Mrs Dobbie organised for two members of the Macarthur Workplace Learning (MWPL) group to meet with a number of parents to offer support with careers and post school directions. The aim of the evening was to inform parents of what is available and how to access post school options. It is now hoped that the parents involved will share their new found knowledge and skills with other parents looking for advice for their children. I thank Mrs Dobbie, members of the MWPL group and the presenters involved for a very worthwhile evening.

Last Tuesday the Parents and Friends Association and Parent Consultation Committee met for the Term 2 meeting. The focus of the Parent Consultation was on the removal of marks from Year 7 reports and the new merit system to be introduced next term. I thank Mrs Forner and Mrs Kaperonis for their presentations and acknowledge and thank the parents in attendance for their input into these new directions.

It is with disappointment that I announce Mr Waddell's resignation from Magdalene. Mr Waddell will conclude his time at Magdalene on Friday 23 May. Mr Waddell has made a substantial contribution both as a teacher and coordinator and I am grateful to him for his contribution.

Strong minds, gentle hearts



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Last Sunday was Mothers' Day, a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge our mothers. I would like to acknowledge and thank our mothers for the significant contribution each makes, to the lives of their children and the total care and concern they have for their children. Each mum makes a massive difference to the lives of the young people in their care.

Prayer

Loving God,
As a mother gives life and nourishment to her children,
So you watch over your Church.
Bless these women,
That they may be strengthened as Christian mothers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
May honor them always
With a spirit of profound respect.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

God Bless

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

PRINCIPAL APPRAISAL Letter from Catholic Education Office

As part of the Catholic Education Office *Principal Professional Development* Planning and Review Processes an Appraisal occurs for each Principal every four years of his or her contract. This provides system and community accountability that is aligned with the School and Improvement processes, but focused on the Principal's leadership achievements and future directions.

The Appraisal will be occurring for your Principal John Lo Cascio over the coming weeks Parents, Year 11 students and staff will be invited to participate via a short survey. An electronic tool for the administration of this survey for the Parents will use a link to Survey/Monkey. Please click or type this link for your survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JohnLoCascioPrincipalAppraisalParentSurvey>

Year 11 students will be sent the link directly through their school email account. Staff will be provided with a paper copy of the survey to complete.

Surveys need to be completed before the **Friday 13 June 2014**. The information you provide will be kept confidential to the Panel that will be undertaking the Appraisal. If you are unable to access the electronic tool, hard copies of the survey will be available from your school's front office.

Another part of the process is a Panel Review and this will be occurring on **Wednesday 25 June**. The Panel is comprised of an external educational consultant, a peer Principal and a member of the CEO Leadership Team. On this day the Parish Priest, members of the Staff and Student body and a Parent group (approx. 12 Parents) will meet with the panel for approx. 45 min. Please speak with John Lo Cascio if you are interested in being involved.

I wish to thank you in advance for taking part in this important process which is aimed at continual enhancement of the Catholic Education provided at your child's school.

Gayle McMahon
Acting Head of Human Resource Services



Curriculum News

At the conclusion of the Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations and the start of Preliminary and Year 10 Exams, it is timely to highlight some points for students and parents to help them in future Examination events. It was great to see the majority of Senior students attempt this intense time with determination and purpose. Most were well prepared and confident in the direction they were taking. Congratulations to those students and we hope that the Exams contributed to a positive learning experience in preparation for the Trial HSC and HSC Examinations.

It can be difficult for Parents and Carers to support their sons and daughters in the lead up to the Exams and throughout the Exam period. Many students find it difficult to organize their time effectively and simply settle down to studying. This can cause great tension in the household as you try to support and encourage your child. Some simple ideas that parents could use to support students in preparation for the Exams include:

Provide a quiet space for your child where distractions are limited (siblings, TV etc)

- Suggest that they remove the social media distraction of facebook etc and perhaps insist they switch off all those appliances. Maybe you could offer to 'confiscate' the distraction for small periods of time and build up the time away from your son or daughter while they study.
- Ask them to show you the summaries they are making to prepare them to answer questions in the paper. Perhaps engage in some quick quizzes with them to reinforce their learning. Even older students will enjoy the challenge!
- Encourage them to answer questions from past papers which can be accessed on-line on the Board of Studies website. Subject teachers would be pleased to give feedback to your son or daughter if they attempt to practice written responses in their own time.
- Question your son or daughter if they are accepting too many shifts in their part time work. Sometimes this is difficult as a teenager with their own income is such a relief for parents! However, studies must take priority at this stage as your student approaches the end of their school career.
- Use positive reinforcement with students and ensure that all your own words support their learning. Even if your son and daughter has only just decided to apply themselves with diligence now, it is never too late! Encourage, encourage, encourage!
- After exams ask specific questions about their performance-
Which question did you find most difficult?
Which question was easy for you?
What do you think will be your result?
- As your son or daughter receives feedback about their performance, continue to support them by asking them what they have learnt from the Exam experience. If they are disappointed with their results, ask them what they can do to improve for next time and help them set a goal to improve results.
- Encourage them to build a stronger relationship with their teacher during class time through discussions and perhaps asking for extra help. Homework club and lunchtimes can be spent in quality conversations with their teachers one- on- one. Email can be a less public way for students to contact their teachers.

Building resilience and skills of persistence is probably one of the most valuable gifts you can give your son or daughter as they enter the world of work and future. Today, many young adults will change their career paths and study patterns more often than their parents. It is because of this that they will need the skills of coping with change. The ability to get back up to the next new challenge will be vital.

It is natural to feel helpless sometimes as a parent as your child becomes more independent and seems to be taking some risks with their academic life. You can still insist on a high standard for your son or daughter! Accept nothing less than what you know he or she is capable and always feel you can contact teachers, coordinators at the school about issues that may be concerning you. In partnership with you, we can achieve the best possible outcome for your son or daughter in their learning journey and for their future.

NEW SOUTH WALES COMBINED HIGH SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATION JACK NEWTON SHIELD GOLF TOURNAMENT

On 6 May and 7 May I participated in a NSW high schools golf tournament, which was for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. The tournament was held over two rounds both played in the Blue Mountains area. Day 1 at Blackheath Golf Club and Day 2 at Wentworth Falls Country club.

It was an early start and very cold in the mountains as well. Students came from all across the state and my playing partners were from Forbes Country NSW.

Day 1 got off to a good start and I was hitting the ball well. The highlight of the day was the 17th hole a Par 3 130m. Doesn't sound very long does it? When I stood on the tee off area I looked ahead to where the green was and said to myself. "Farout, this hole is a challenge". What lay ahead was water and trees to the rear and right side of the green. We had no choice but to fly over the water, which was approximately 115m. So I went for it. Made my club selection, teed the ball up and hit it with confidence. As I looked up I saw the ball sailing right over the water, land on the green and roll towards the back. I thought. "WOW I'm happy with that shot". I managed to sink the putt in two which gave me a Par for that hole. After 18 holes of golf and with the putting greens at Blackheath the quickest I have ever experienced, Day 1 was a success and I was sitting in 2nd Place.

Day 2 was a little different and much colder as well. The course played longer and narrower tree lined fairways. I played slightly over my handicap but overall I was happy with my golf game over two days. No real highlights on Day 2 with the greens at Wentworth Falls also playing quick once again.

Overall scores were posted on the board as the players were finishing their rounds. In the Year 7 category I ended up in the top 10. In the entire field of 75 players between Years 7, 8 and 9 students, I ended up in the top 15. I was really happy with my performance. Between golf competitions, practise and schoolwork I'm pretty busy but I always look forward to the next Major Golf Tournament, which won't be too far away. Happy Golfing!!!

Brandon Vella - 7 Sedgwick



Brandon Vella

Graphic Designer - Vanessa Tracey - Visits Year 9 IST Students

Year 9 Information and Software Technology (IST) students were fortunate to be visited by noted Graphic Designer and former Magdalene Student Vanessa Tracey at the end of Term 1. Vanessa currently works as a Graphic Designer at "For Arts Sake" as well as a freelance graphic designer on numerous projects from TV to magazines.

Nelson and Bailey from the 9IST class interviewed Vanessa during her visit with questions devised by the class. Through Vanessa's experience and knowledge the students were able to gain a clear understanding of the pathway from Year 9 IST classroom at Magdalene to a successful IT and design based career. Everything from study options such as universities and colleges; to skills and course choices for Year 11 and 12 were discussed. Students also got an insight into how to prepare themselves to be employable and the skill sets needed to succeed at University and in the cooperate world.

The students are better for Vanessa's visit and have been even more highly motivated with their work since. We are very grateful that Vanessa and For Arts Sake were able to make this visit possible.

Mr Collins and Mr Cornett
Information and Software Technology Evangelists
TAS Faculty



We are looking to connect our students with other IT, Film, Television or design based careers, companies or organisations through future visits or virtual visits. If you or someone you know is able to assist us we would love to hear from you. Please contact *Mr Collins* (peter.collins@dow.catholic.edu.au) or *Mr Cornett* (Andrew.cornett@dow.catholic.edu.au) directly or via the school on (02 4631 300 or info@mchsdow.catholic.edu.au)



2014 Privacy Awareness Week

2014 Privacy Awareness Week is a good time to review your family's privacy settings and discuss online security. You'll find lots of practical information and resources to share with your children at www.ipc.nsw.gov.au

Below are the ratings that Google uses for Android devices – the Google Play Store, and also for Apple – the Apple App store. When looking for the rating look under the description of the app, it will be there. Parental RESTRICTIONS on Apple devices have an option whereby a parent can determine if an app gets installed or not.

This table is to help you understand which apps young people should and should not be using.

Google Play Store

Everyone	Applications in this category should not collect user's location data or contain objectionable material. Applications should not share user content or include social features.
Low Maturity	Applications in this category may include instances of mild cartoon or fantasy violence or other potentially offensive content. Applications may collect user location data for the purpose of providing location specific information or otherwise improving the user experience, but should not share the data with other users. Applications may include some social features but should not focus on allowing users to find and communicate with each other.
Medium Maturity	Applications in this category may include sexual references; intense fantasy or realistic violence; profanity or crude humour; references to drug, alcohol and tobacco use; social features and simulated gambling. Applications may collect user location data for the purpose of sharing or publishing with the user's consent.
High Maturity	Applications in this category may focus on or include frequent instances of sexual and suggestive content; graphic violence; social features; simulated gambling; and strong alcohol, tobacco and drug references. Applications may collect user location data for the purpose of sharing or publishing with the user's consent.

Apple App Store

4+	Apps in this category contain no objectionable material.
9+	Apps in this category may contain instances of the following content that may not be suitable for children under the age of 9: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Infrequent or mild occurrences of realistic violence ● Infrequent or mild profanity ● Infrequent or mild mature, suggestive, or horror-themed content ● Frequent or intense cartoon or fantasy violence
12+	Apps in this category may contain instances of the following content that may not be suitable for children under the age of 12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Infrequent or mild medical or treatment-focused content ● Infrequent or mild references to alcohol, tobacco, or drug use ● Simulated gambling ● Infrequent or mild sexual content or nudity ● Frequent or intense profanity ● Frequent or intense realistic violence ● Frequent or intense horror-themed content
17+	Apps in this category may contain instances of the following content that may not be suitable for children under the age of 17: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unrestricted web access, such as with an embedded browser ● Gambling or contests ● Frequent or intense mature or suggestive content ● Frequent or intense medical or treatment-focused content ● Frequent or intense references to alcohol, tobacco, or drug use ● Frequent or intense sexual content or nudity

Year 10 News

During our Pastoral Care Lessons this year, Year 10 have been looking at their skills, interests and hobbies to help them make decisions about their future career paths.

Many students in Year 10 will continue with formal education next year and will complete their HSC at Magdalene. To that end, we have started the senior subject selection process. More details about senior subject selection will follow this term.

In our pastoral lessons, Year 10 have learnt about study skills, and have completed a study timetable. We have looked at the subjects commonly offered at Magdalene in years 11 and 12 and looked up TAFE and University courses. I encourage all parents to speak to their child regarding their intentions for next year.

A Career Pathways Evening will be held for parents on Wednesday 21 May. Representatives from TAFE, universities will be speaking and taking questions from parents. Year 10 students were given invitations this week; parents are asked to return the reply slip to their child's Pastoral Care Teacher this week.

Please note Year 10 will be completing their Half Yearly Exams in Week 4. All students should be completing a minimum of 3hrs of homework and study each night in order to achieve their potential on these assessments.

Mrs Simone Duke
Year 10 Co-ordinator

CAREER PATHWAYS EVENING WEDNESDAY 21 May 2014 6:00pm - 7:00pm



**Invitation to Yr 10
PARENTS ONLY**

On the evening you will hear about attending University, TAFE, private colleges, differences between TVET courses & VET courses, apprenticeships and traineeships.

Your child will have your invitation. Please return the page indicating whether you can attend or not.

If there are any questions about the night please direct them to Mrs Carol Dobbie on 4631 3300 or email at

carol.dobbie@dow.catholic.edu.au



need an
apprentice
or trainee?



If you are coming on the night, please bring a pen

Australian Catholics Young Journalist Award 2014



Australian Catholics Young Journalist Award 2014

All students in **Years 7, 8 and 9** are invited to write a story for the *Australian Catholics* Young Journalist Award 2014. This story should be no longer than 500 words and it should be about someone inspiring within your community.

Entries close 30 May 2014.

Winning stories will be published in the magazine and there are prizes awarded. More information is available from:

<http://www.australiancatholics.com.au/content/view/4/9/>



Dr. Steven Walker (Brief Therapy Solutions) in partnership with Community Links Wollondilly.

Funded by Camden Council

Managing Challenging Behaviours Collaboratively
8 Session Parent Workshop



You have tried everything else and nothing works? What will you learn?

- Child development and the relationship to seriously challenging behaviours
- You will consider the influence of the child, parent and the environment in the development of challenging behaviours over time.
- Looking for and identifying lost skills in AD/HD, ODD and CD. What's behind the behaviour.
- Parents can be partners in managing a child's challenging behaviour.
- Strategies to reduce outbursts and to teach new skills to your child.
- You will have the opportunity to think about your challenging child in a different light.

Where? Business Development Centre Macarthur 70 Topham Road, Smeaton Grange. <u>These workshops are not for service providers.</u>	When? From for 8 weeks 10:00 am—12:00am 17th July 2014 and every Thursday morning after until 4th September 2014.
Cost? Gold coin donation for morning tea <u>Child care: None available</u>	Contact for registration? Wollondilly Community Links Ph. 46832776

For parents who may have children diagnosed with ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD) Conduct Disorder (CD) or disruptive behaviour.



SPORTS NEWS

MISA RESULTS : Magdalene v Macarthur Anglican (Round 1)

SPORT	WINNING SCHOOL	SCORE	COMMENT
9 Girls Netball	Magdalene	31-13	Well done girls. MVP: Elizabeth Potts
10-12 Girls Netball	Magdalene	19-17	A great first game girls. Well done.
7 Boys Soccer	Magdalene	8-1	Double goal scorers: Elliott Birrell, Liam Lo Cascio, Craig Smith, Joseph Smith.
8-9 Boys Soccer	Magdalene	3-0	Great team effort. Scorers: Nicholas, Aiden and Lachlan. MVP: Tim
10-12 Boys Soccer	Macarthur	9-0	The team were outplayed by a very good opposition.
10-12 Boys Softball	Magdalene	10-8	Great victory. The boys played well with only 7 players.
10-12 Girls Softball	Magdalene	4-3	Great first game girls. Home run to Maddison Smith.
7-9 Boys Hockey	Macarthur	3-1	MVP: Jarrod Brookes MIP: Alex Vella
7-9 Girls Hockey	Draw	2-2	Goal scorers: Holly Rasmussen and Kailey McVittie. MIP: Bethany Perkins.

MISA RESULTS : Magdalene v Broughton Anglican (Round 2)

SPORT	WINNING SCHOOL	SCORE	COMMENT
9 Girls Netball	Magdalene	15 - 4	Well done girls. MVP: Elizabeth Potts
10-12 Girls Netball	Magdalene	31-15	Another fantastic result girls. Great intercepts by Nikki and Paige.
7 Boys Soccer	Broughton	5-1	Better luck next week boys.
8-9 Boys Soccer	Broughton	2-1	A tight game with Thomas scoring our goal. MVP: Matthew Williams.
10-12 Boys Soccer	Draw	0-0	A great team effort and a complete turn-around from last week. Well done.
10-12 Boys Softball	Broughton	11-10	The boys played well with an unlucky loss.
10-12 Girls Softball	Magdalene	11-2	Lots of good hitting and fielding. Well done to Maddison Smith for pitching, Victoria Stuart-Smith for catching and Isabel Staunton for playing 1 st base.
7-9 Boys Hockey	Magdalene	6-3	MVP: Jarrod Brookes MIP: Alex Nies
7-9 Girls Hockey	Magdalene	9-2	A fabulous result. MIP: Jasmine Bajada.



SPORTS NEWS 29 April 2014

MISA RESULTS : Magdalene v John Therry (Round 3)

SPORT	WINNING SCHOOL	SCORE	COMMENT
9 Girls Netball	John Therry	23-22	Good effort girls. MVP: Katie Paroz
10-12 Girls Netball	Magdalene	25-21	Another good game. A slow start and a bit of stress in the last quarter but we managed to win.
7 Boys Soccer	Draw	0-0	A solid game from the team.
8-9 Boys Soccer	Magdalene	3-2	Goals by Joshua and Cooper (2). MVP: Cooper O'Keefe.
10-12 Boys Soccer	John Therry	5-0	The boys need to hold position and talk to each other more. MVP: Braiden.
10-12 Boys Softball	Magdalene	8-4	The boys played well with only 6 players. Great work.
10-12 Girls Softball	Magdalene	10-5	An entertaining game against a quality opposition. Good effort girls.
7-9 Boys Hockey	Draw	0-0	A good attacking game from the boys who were unlucky not to score.
7-9 Girls Hockey	Magdalene	3-0	Goals: Holly x 2 and Taylor MIP: Jasmine Bajada It was good to see new Hockey players taking up the challenge.

Bethany Jenkins

Congratulations to Bethany Jenkins (Year 8) who has been selected in the NSW U14 Cricket Academy.

Bethany has also been selected in the NSW U17s Women's Indoor Cricket squad set to play in the Australian National Junior Championships in Adelaide in July

Well done!!!

Vanessa Graham

Congratulations
to

Vanessa Graham
who has been selected to play
Squash and represent Aus-
tralia against Malaysia in June.

Well done!!!

School Photographs Friday 23 May

The school photograph envelopes were sent home with students this week.

Please ensure you complete the instructions on the envelope and send back with your child who will personally hand it to the photographers on Friday 23 May.

Please ensure that you have the correct money in the envelope as this will assist the photographers immensely.

Family photograph envelopes can be collected from the front office.



NOTICEBOARD

May		
19	Mon	Year 12 Parent/Teacher/student Interviews
21	Wed	Year 10 Pathways Evening 7pm - 9pm
21-23	Wed-Fri	Year 10 Half Yearly Exams
23	Fri	School Photo Day
26	Mon	Cyclic Review at Magdalene
June		
6	Fri	Staff Spirituality Day - Pupil Free Day
13	Fri	4th Annual Winter Sleep Out from 4pm Fri - Sat 9am.
14	Sat	Magdalene Classics 2.00pm - Mater Dei



UWS Parent Information Evenings

Why attend one of the UWS Parent Information Evenings?
At the Parent information Evenings, you will have the opportunity to learn about:

The HSC basics: Subject selection, the ATAR, UAC, cut-offs and applications.

Getting into uni: The UWS Advantage, UWSCollege and pathways into university.

Fees, HECS-HELP and scholarships: Course bands, HECS-HELP loans and grants to help with your child's study costs.

The UWS experience: UWS student life through courses, social opportunities and The Academy.

What UWS has to offer: Speak with current students and staff at the course information stands to have your questions answered and find out about UWS courses, campuses, admissions, scholarships, pathways and student opportunities at the University.

Who is invited to the UWS Parent Information Evenings?
Parents and guardians of high school students are invited to attend. Students are invited to attend with their parents and guardians.

When and where are the UWS Parent Information Evenings?

- The UWS Parent information Evenings will be held on the following dates and at the following locations:
- Tuesday, July 29 at Bankstown Sports Club
 - Tuesday, August 5 at Campbelltown Catholic Club
 - Wednesday, August 6 at Penrith Panthers Leagues Club
 - Tuesday, August 12 at Rooty Hill Novotel
 - Wednesday, August 13 at Parramatta Leagues Club

To register - visit the link below
http://future.uws.edu.au/future_students_home/events_at_uws/parent_information_evening/parent_information_evenings_registration.

Magdalene Classics

The school's annual orchestral, choral and instrumental concert is on **Saturday June 14, at 2:00pm in Mater Dei Chapel, Wivenhoe, Macquarie Grove Road, Kirkham.**

Tickets are available at the door: Adults \$15, Children and Pensioners \$10.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

If you require uniforms from the shop please call Kelly O'Keeffe on 0410 553812 to organise an appointment time.

Vaccinations

12 Jun	Thurs	Year 7 HPV, Varicella Visit 2 Year 9 Boys Visit 2 HPV
9 Oct	Thu	Year 9 Boys Visit 3 HPV
7 Nov	Fri	Year 7 Visit 3 HPV

CANTEEN	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Term 2 Week 4A 19 May - 23 May	19 May Kathy Shephard Megan Tyler	20 May Kelly Hyland Rosa Vella	21 May Renea Magro Liz Jeffs	22 May Mandy Newton Thai Tyquin	23 May Michelle Howard Cathy Stewart Lisa Boaro
Term 2 Week 5B 26 May - 30 May	26 May Yan Fang Li Rochelle Bonning Leanne Sanchez	27 May Janeen Brady Marie Duff	28 May Coralie Kelly Jeannette Power	29 May Gabriela Varela Sharon Jones Kim O'Shea	30 May Nicole Auckland Desiree Kantor Suellen Fitzpatrick
Term 2 Week 6A 2 June - 6 June	2 June Julie Smith Tanya Harvey Lisa Burke	3 June Rachelle McVittie Marg Ryan	4 June Eva Farkas Sandra Chamberlain	5 June Michele Abbey Kirsty Kenni	6 June PUPIL FREE DAY