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

Welcome back to 2013 and for our new staff, Year 7 and new students in other years, a special welcome to Magdalene Catholic High School. This term we have eight new teachers joining the staff at Magdalene. I take this opportunity to acknowledge and welcome Ms Michelle Walker (HSIE Coordinator), Mr Darren McMartin (Science Coordinator), Mr Paul Waddell (Mathematics Coordinator), Mrs Sharon Murphy (Science), Mr Samuel Luff (Science Temporary), Mrs Mandy Hrvatin (Temporary TAS), Mrs Virginia Fantini (Temporary English) and Mr Ralph San Pedro (Temporary Visual Arts/RE). We also welcome back Mrs Jodie Andruschko and Mrs Gemma Brislane from their leave. I know each teacher is very keen about joining the staff at Magdalene and their contribution will certainly make a difference to the young people in our care.

During the last few days of the school year last year the HSC results were released and the students in Year 12 achieved some commendable results. The students achieved 43 band 6 results and 223 band 5 results which is certainly impressive. The school had 16 subjects above state average which was pleasing. A number of students deserve special mention. Melissa Smith was acknowledged on the Premiers All Rounders list while 23 students were acknowledged on the Board of Studies Distinguished Achievers list. These students achieved over 90 percent in one or more subjects. Finally when the ATAR results were released Magdalene had further reason to celebrate Melissa Smith achieved the top ATAR result of 97.95. The following students achieved an ATAR above 90 which is a truly wonderful effort; Melissa Smith; Annelise Sutherland; Rachel Brown; Oliver Enriquez; Nicholas Dahler; Thomas Vella; Tabitha Brown; William Thackeray and Alexandria Stone.

A total of 43 Band 6’s were awarded to our HSC students. We are proud to present the names of students who have received Band 6 in one or more subjects and appeared on the “Distinguished Achievers List”. Their names are included later in this newsletter.

Congratulations to each of these students on their outstanding effort and commitment to study. The school acknowledged the outstanding performances at our Opening School Mass and High Achievers ceremony today.

As we begin the school year I remind parents of the importance of working in partnership with the school. This partnership is heavily dependent on communication. There are a number of ways to communicate with the school. The first method of communication is through the diary, which students should have signed weekly. Parents can make a note in the diary and have their son or daughter take it to the appropriate teacher. If parents wish to discuss an issue the first point of contact is the individual subject teacher or the pastoral care teacher, this may be done through a phone call or by making an appointment. If there is still an issue the next point of contact is the coordinator. I encourage parents to use this approach as it ensures that issues will be solved quickly and at the point where they begin.

I take this opportunity to thank parents for ensuring that students have returned to school well presented and well equipped for the year ahead. It is always important to begin school in a manner that ensures that the little things are addressed well. This often ensures more serious issues do not arise.

On Tuesday 12 February the first Parents and Friends meeting will be held, starting at 7pm in the Patrician Learning Centre. I encourage as many parents as possible to become involved and offer support to the education of your sons and daughters through the Parents and Friends Association. The meeting will be followed by the first Parent Consultation Committee meeting. Any parents who would like to be involved in the Parent Consultation Committee should contact the school office and leave their contact details.

Strong minds, gentle hearts
This year the school has moved to a new welfare package, which will enable the school to more accurately track students and offer greater support. The package, also enables a text message to be sent to parents if students are absent. At this stage only one parent will be informed of the absence. If parents have a preference as to which parent will be notified please send the details to your child’s Pastoral Care Teacher and this information will then be transferred to the office.

Last week the staff of Magdalene were involved in two days of intense professional development. The professional development was conducted by Cath Hogan. Cath led the teaching staff in the development of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). This approach involves teachers working in small collaborative groups with a clear structure and an emphasis on learning. The aim of PLC’s is to continually seek ways to improve student learning. This was certainly a worthwhile activity which will no doubt enhance the learning opportunities of students at Magdalene.

Last Monday evening the Welcome to Year 7 Parents and distribution of Year 7 notebooks was conducted. This was a great opportunity to meet parents and allowed the parents an opportunity to meet their child’s Pastoral Care Teacher. It also provided parents with an opportunity to ask questions of the teachers who will work very closely with their sons and daughters. I thank the parents for their attendance and also acknowledge and thank Mr Avalos and Mrs Hulme, for their leadership, and the Year 7 and ICT teams for their organisation and involvement in the evening.

Parents are reminded that they should contact the school if their child suffers any form of infectious disease. The reason for this is that there are a number of students who are suffering from illnesses and parents are asked to keep their child at home for the required period of time. Further information can be obtained from the website: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/infectious.phus.asp.

I remind all parents that newsletters are emailed to all students. Parents who supply the school with their email address will also receive a copy of the newsletter via email. The newsletter may also be received via the school website. Finally a small number of hard copies of the newsletter are available from the school office.

As we begin the new school year I include the following prayer which can be a focus for all of us throughout this year and into the future.

Lord God,
At the beginning of this new term teach us to
be your hands and feet where we are,
At the beginning of this new term teach us to
love as you love us
At the beginning of this new term teach us to reach out and pray for those in need
So that You are honoured and glorified
Amen

Recently we received sad news of the death of Mrs Moothoo mother of (Julian in Year 12). I ask you all to keep the Moothoo family and Mrs Moothoo in your prayers at this very sad time.

God Bless

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

Family members are always welcome to attend Friday lunchtime Mass in our Chapel at 12.15pm. It would be particularly good if mums, dads or grandparents attended on the day of their child's or grandchild's Pastoral Class Mass.

Mr Kevin Wright
NEW STAFF 2013

Mrs Virginia Fantini  
Mrs Mandy Hrvatin  
Mr Ralph San Pedro  
Mr Darren McMartin  
Mrs Sharon Murphy  
Mr Paul Waddell  
Ms Michelle Walker  
Mrs Jodie Andruschko  
Mrs Gemma Brislane

OUR PASTORAL CARE/YEAR COORDINATORS 2013

Mrs Nicole Hulme  
Year 7 Coordinator  
Mrs Lena Foti  
Year 8 Coordinator  
Miss Simone Rose  
Year 9 Coordinator  
Mr Ewen Sinclair-Kidd  
Year 10 Coordinator  
Mr Brent Lipscombe  
Year 11 Coordinator  
Mr Spiro Zakris  
Year 12 Coordinator

Parishes Planning for the future by working together

Commencing in February 2013, all Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong will be taking part in a process to plan for the future Church in the Diocese. We are one of the fastest growing Dioceses in NSW! This growth in the next 20 years provides us with the opportunity to build new parish communities while at the same time there is a need to re-configure some of our present parishes. School communities will be working closely with parishes to work for successful outcomes in this planning process for growth and renewal.

The process for planning for the future will be launched by Bishop Peter Ingham on Sunday 3 February. Every family in the Diocese will receive a Workbook which gives information about our role as baptised people in the Church as well as particular information about our Diocese. Parishes will have information sessions for all interested people to discuss the Workbook content and give parishioners a chance for feedback at various dates and times.

Please check the diocesan website www.pastoralplanning.dow.org.au for dates and times for your parish. We want all families to be involved in this important process of planning for our future. We need your wisdom to guide our planning!

With this Newsletter today every family at our school will be given a copy of the Workbook. There is also an accompanying DVD which can be downloaded from the website www.pastoralplanning.dow.org.au. You are encouraged to listen to the DVD and read and reflect on the contents of the Workbook.

Responses to questions and comments can also be sent to netty.broekman@dow.org.au

Parish Education Process 2013

CAMDEN
St Paul’s Parish  
Part 1 Wednesday 6 March  
7.00pm - 9.00pm  
Anne Simington  
Part 2 Wednesday 20 March  
7.00pm - 9.00pm  
Netty Broekman
Congratulations Year 12 2012 HSC Students

The School Community of Magdalene Catholic High School extends congratulations to our 201, Year 12 students on their outstanding HSC results.
In particular, DUX Melissa Smith (ATAR 97.95) and was acknowledged on the “Premier’s All Rounders” list.

Students who achieved BAND 6

Kimberley Borg  
Rachel Brown  
Tabitha Brown  
Daniel Colley  
Isabella Coluccio  
Daniel Conte  
Nicholas Dahler  

Oliver Enriquez  
Robert Gorringe  
Luana Harris  
Laura Jones  
Joshua Kenny  
Zaccariah Knobel  
Brooke Lawrence  

Hannah McLaren  
Jordan Peruzzi  
Kieren Ross  
Corinne Rugolo  
Patrick Sanda  
Nicole Sandrone  
Matthew Serone  

Melissa Smith  
Alexandria Stone  
Annelise Sutherland  
William Thackeray  
Analise Vella  
Brianna Warren  
Georgia White  
Laura Zanatta
Magdalene Catholic High School

Year 7, 2014 Open Afternoon and Enrolment Information Evening

The Magdalene Catholic High school community invites prospective new parents and students to find out more about the school on Monday 11 March 2013
4pm - 7pm Open Afternoon
7pm Enrolment Information Evening

Prospective new students and parents should attend, to enable them to view the school facilities and meet with staff. Parents and students presently attending Magdalene are also invited to view the school.

Enrolment packages will be available on this evening. For further information please call the school office 4647 7055.
Sport for Term 1, 2013

Sport re-commenced on Tuesday 5 February, 2013 with the Term 1 MISA Trials being held for the following sports:

10-12 Boys’ Cricket; Open Boys’ Cricket; 8/9 Boys’ Basketball; 8/9 Girls’ Basketball; 7-9 Boys’ Softball; 7-9 Girls’ Softball; 10-12 Boys’ Oztak; 10-12 Girls’ Oztak; 7-9 Boys’ Volleyball; 7-9 Girls’ Volleyball.

The Term 1 MISA competition commences on Tuesday 12 February.

2013 Elective Sports and Year Group Sports

During Term 1, 2013 the following Year Groups will be participating in the following sport activities.

Year 7 - Indoor Sport rotations; Year 8 - Multi-Sport; Year 9 - School Sport.

There is an information note that has previously been given to students to take home detailing individual sports that Years 7-9 will be participating in. This note also details sports expectations and procedures for non-participation. A copy of the Sports Information note is available on the School Website.

Students in Years 10 and 11 have chosen their Electives.

Year 10 students will be choosing from the following sports:

Elective recreational Tennis may also run if required.

Students have previously been given notes detailing these sports. These information notes are also available on the school’s website. This note also details sports expectations and procedures for non-participation.

2013 NSWCCC and ALL-Schools Sporting Information

Year 10 students are participating in the following sports:

Dance Group; Camden Power Walking; Beach Soccer Volleyball; Boxing for Fitness; Ten Pin Bowling at Macarthur Square and Mount Annan Walking Group.

Information for individual nominations can be accessed via the following website link www.csss.nsw.edu.au. This allows parents/students to apply for individual nominations for sports on-line.

These sports are for students already competing at a high representational level e.g. district or regional.

NSWCCC and All-School Sports coming up in Term 1 include:

NSWCCC Tennis - (4 March) - closing 18 February
NSWCCC Girls Cricket - (4 March) - closing 15 February
NSWCCC Baseball - (6 March) - closing 19 February
NSWCCC 15 Years Netball - (9 April) - closing date 14 March
NSWCCC Open Netball - (10 April) - closing date 14 March

Parents need to register through the website to nominate students for these sports: www.csss.nsw.edu.au

Well Done Thomas Gallagher (inter-state Tennis)

In the January holidays, Thomas was selected to compete in the U13's Foundation Cup Interstate Challenge for tennis. The Foundation Cup involves teams of four players from rural regional NSW/QLD/SA/VIC/WA/TAS who competed at Parramatta from 7 – 11 January 2013.

Thomas was the number three player for the NSW Country Team, who were undefeated throughout the week. NSW defeated Victoria in the Final and won the 2013 Foundation Cup.

Thomas was presented with a sportsmanship award from sponsor Jetstar and received a free return flight to anywhere in Australia.

Congratulations
NOTICEBOARD

February

8  Fri  Opening School Mass - 9.30am  High School Achiever’s Ceremony
11  Mon  Second Hand Uniform Shop open 7.50am—8.20am
11 – 13  Mon – Wed  Year 7 Camp Teen Ranch
11  Mon  Year 11 Information Evening 7.00pm
13  Wed  Ash Wednesday
15  Fri  2nd Hand Uniform Shop open 7.50am—8.20am
15  Fri  Swimming Carnival
20 – 22  Mon – Wed  Year 12 Retreat

March

11  Mon  Year 7, 2014 Open afternoon and Information Evening
14  Wed  Year 7 and 9 Vaccinations
25  Mon  Year 10 Information evening 7.00pm

Kids & Bullying

2 sessions, 2 ½ hours each session
CatholicCare, 35A Cordeaux St, Campbelltown NSW 2560

This course is designed for parents who are seeking to better understand the issues surrounding bullying.

Booking (essential): Campbelltown - 4628 0044  
www.catholiccare.woll.catholic.org.au

Canteen Roster Term 1, 2013

The Canteen roster is now available on the school website:
www.mchsdow.catholic.edu.au

40 DAYS FOR LIFE 2013:
KICK-OFF RALLY TO PRAY FOR THE LIVES OF UNBORN CHILDREN AT RISK OF ABORTION on Tuesday 12th February @ St Peter Church, Surry Hills. Mass 6pm with Bishop Julian Porteous followed by candle lit procession to Preterm abortuary. Pancake Supper afterwards.

Contact: Family Life International (Aust) 95199111, Email@mail@fli.org.au  Web:www.fli.org.au
"Help us give witness on the street, to the wonder and uniqueness of every human life"

Donations

The Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open on the following dates:
Monday 11 February 7.50am–8.20am
Friday 15 February 7.50am–8.20am

Or by appointment, please call Kelly O’Keeffe on 0410 553812.

Donations of current sports uniforms are required as we are in very short supply and coat hangers.

Head Lice

Recently there has been a case of head lice reported at the school. Parents are asked to regularly check their child’s hair for head lice.

An effective and inexpensive way of treating this problems is as follows:
After shampooing the hair, apply conditioner and comb the hair through with a special comb which can be purchased from pharmacies. Using this routine on a regular basis will remove any eggs that may be clinging to the hair. More information www.health.wa.gov.au/headlice