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

This week students from Magdalene competed in the F1 in schools competition in Avalon Victoria. The students were wonderful ambassadors for the school and performed admirably. The fact that each achieved to this level was remarkable, to harness their talents and work closely as a team was also inspiring. The team won the “Best Innovation in Development Class” Award. Congratulations to a successful team and their “coach” Mr Gorrie.

Last Wednesday the first formal assembly for the year was conducted at the school. This year the assemblies are celebrations of success, which are meant to highlight student successes across all areas of school life. I congratulate students who were acknowledged for excellence in their learning during the assembly.

Cameron Duncan – 1st in Preliminary Physics in 2012, First in Mathematics Preliminary exam 2012
Matthew Miskell – Highly commended in Physics 2012
Daniel Vannan and Robert Mennon who received High Distinctions for the Australian Chemistry Competition
Lauren Turner who won the Lion's Club Youth of the Year Competition
Caroline O'Sullivan who was nominated as our VET Student of the Year for Hospitality

The Community also acknowledged the eight students who participated in the CSDA public speaking competition. We also congratulated our age champions for swimming and announced that Bruchhauser was the winning house for the carnival. Finally had the privilege of presenting the Senior Rugby League Team with their representative jerseys. Congratulations to all these people who have achieved excellence in their learning and aspects of school life.

Last week the school began the MATE Program for Year 10 students. This program is the Magdalene Alternate TAFE Experience (derived from the Macarthur Alternate TAFE Experience) the program allows students to become ready for senior school, work and/or TAFE. This is an experience that very few students in the local region are actually able to access. At present 14 Year 10 students are involved in the program. It is hoped that their experiences will give them greater confidence beyond Year 10 as they move into senior school or TAFE. I thank Mrs Dobbie for her liaison with South Western Sydney TAFE and our presenter Mrs Linda Smyth for organizing the experience.

As we progress further into the school year, I remind all parents of the importance of a regular and consistent attendance pattern at school. It is essential that students are present, taking advantage of every opportunity offered to them. It is an expectation at Magdalene that students aim for an attendance rate of 95% which means students have a maximum of 5 days absent from school each semester. The school discourages families from planning holidays during school terms as this has a disruptive impact on individual’s education. Parents should instill in their sons and daughters the value of learning and a good education. A poor attendance rate will certainly detract from student’s ability to attain to their potential. I ask that all parents support the school in this area. An outline of attendance is included later in this newsletter.

Strong minds, gentle hearts
As we continue through Lent it is appropriate to seek the guidance of Christ as we promote peace and justice.

**Dear Lord show us:**

*How to be frugal, until all are fed;*

*How to weep, until all can laugh*

*How to be meek until all can stand in pride;*

*How to mourn until all are comforted*

(Peter Millar)

God Bless

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

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**Year 11 English**

On Thursday the 21st February, Year 11 English Studies students were given the opportunity to meet with a guest speaker, Mr Mark Turner, General Manager of Lexus of Parramatta.

Students were given advice on how to prepare and perform for future job interview situations.

The students came away from this experience with an increased knowledge and understanding of how to prepare more effectively for job interviews and also became aware of the do’s and don'ts when participating in interviews.

We would like to thank Mr Mark Turner for taking the time to come and speak with us and sharing his knowledge and experiences. We would like to thank Mrs Jones for arranging this opportunity for us.

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**Is this your first child going to University?**

**Perhaps you could attend "Bridges’ Parent Visits to Universities"**

You can experience university so you can better support your child. Find out about courses, costs, uni life, finance etc. Registration is essential and lunch is provided.

Tue 5th March – Macquarie University
Wed 10th April – Sydney University
Wed 29th May – Australian Catholic University

Contact: (02) 8627 8515

YEAR 7 ENGLISH

The last 5 weeks have been very busy in Year 7 English. We have been challenging ourselves to become “Active Learners” and to take risks with our writing. We have been looking at what makes an interesting piece, in particular when writing descriptions. Below is an example of our work.

The Rainforest…

The palm trees beckoned me towards them desperate to give shade
I nestled beneath them feeling the warm sunshine breathe over me
The luscious coconuts teased me as they dangled way up in the tree
My thirst was growing as I swallowed what I wanted to be liquid
The air filled my lungs like a cigar I longed for
The freshness of the atmosphere was one so different to a city life
The birds lulled me to slumber
Water trickled in the distance
Like a dream, a fantasy
Peering through the tree tops sneering, snickering, staring
Eyes like a devil, wanting me to leave
Their daring souls coming closer as they swung from tree to tree
Monkeys
Even though they hated me their protectiveness lured me in
Parrots squawked as though a predator was hunting
Feathers, colours seeping through my mind
Perched with confidence, opposite to me
Behind their eyes I could sense fear cowardice
Butterflies though graceful soared angrily through the sky
To them I was an intruder
Hearing growls in the distance
A prowling tiger waits
He too hates me
The tension in the air had the potential to create electricity
The slithering, sound of snakes pricked my skin
These animals were afraid they were riddled with nerves
They have a reason to be scared
Humans are torturing them
Four trees are cut down in the world every second
The unpleasant emotion I gave them was gone
Because I was…

Teagan McConchie

Storm

Standing here looking at the sky is daunting because its about to engulf us. It’s staring at innocent houses, which are trembling in its glare. Hail is pelting down tearing up the fields, live stock scrambling in all directions trying to escape its path.

Trees are falling like soldiers in battle, one by one they are torn from the earth. Water is pouring over the dam walls dramatically cascading into the valley below. If I listen carefully I can hear the waterfall gushing down like rapids in the Amazon.

As quickly as it started all is quiet, devastation is everywhere….

Bradley Bishop
SPORTS NEWS 26/2/2013.

MISA SPORT

This week our softball teams games against St Benedict’s were cancelled due to wet fields. Next week all of our MISA teams will be playing against John Therry.

YEAR 9 SCHOOL SPORT

This week Year 9 School Sport continued with students playing opposing Homerooms in Soccer, Touch Football, Netball, Volleyball and Basketball. Homeroom teams score 3 points for a win, 2 points for a draw and 1 point for a loss.


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
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<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>Win</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruchhauser</td>
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<td>Dunne</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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<td>Hogan</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Moore</td>
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<td>Sedgwick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilson</td>
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</table>

Well done to the following Hockey players:

Congratulations to the following students who made the Wollongong Open Diocesan team for Hockey:

Jordan Parker
Sarah Musico
Bianca Suraci
Brittany Rasmussen
Samantha Coupe

The girls will be playing at the NSWCCC Hockey Championships on Monday 25th March. We wish them the best of luck in this next level of the selection process.

Upcoming Diocesan teams events and Swimming Carnival

The following teams have been picked and well done to those students who have been selected represent the school. Notes are being distributed this week. Students are reminded to return their permission notes to the office by the due date. Notes are also saved on the school website (Go to “community”, then to “sport” and into the Diocesan events link) if needed.

Team lists will be published after the event along with results for the following Diocesan team sports and Swimming Carnival:

Girls Soccer and Boys Touch (Playing 7th March)
Rugby League (Playing 11th March)
Diocesan Swim team (Diocesan Swim Carnival – Corrimal 13th March)
Tennis teams event (Playing 13th March)

Individual nominations for NSWCCC events

Parents of students who play any sport at a high level are reminded to check the website www.csss.nsw.edu.au to look at the list of sports available and relevant information for specific sports. Parents should look at the ‘sports specific information’ link for any sport considered. This contains information and restrictions pertaining to particular sports.
### NOTICEBOARD

#### March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Year 7, 2014 Open afternoon and Information Evening—School Tours 3.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Catholic Schools Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Year 7 Reflection Day</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Caritas Mufti Day</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Year 12 Half-Yearly Exams</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
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#### April

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Year 7 Vaccinations</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 9 Boys Vaccinations</td>
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<td>LAST DAY OF TERM 1</td>
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### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:

A weekend for married couples. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset Your Marriage!

This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again!

Weekend date: 15 – 17 March at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW
Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe.
tel. 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au
Information: website [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)

### Second Hand Uniform Shop

To arrange an appointments please call Kelly O’Keeffe on 0410 553812.

**Donations**

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

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### 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

- **3pm - 7pm Open Afternoon**
- **7pm Enrolment Information Evening**

Prospective 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.

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### CANTEEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Week 6B</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 March - 8 March</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicole Ferraro</td>
<td>Frank Gomes</td>
<td>Louise Fallshaw</td>
<td>Belinda Colusso</td>
<td>Sue Ellen Fitzpatrick</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Emma Grech</td>
<td>Sarah Penney</td>
<td>Bridget Fuller</td>
<td>Raquel Cosio</td>
<td>Linda Mcguire</td>
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<td>Betty Roberts</td>
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<td>Lisa Howell</td>
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### CANTEEN

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<th>Term 1 Week 7A</th>
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<td>11 March –15 March</td>
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<th>CANTEEN</th>
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<td><strong>Term 1 Week 7A</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tracy McConchie</td>
<td>Joann Lake</td>
<td>Janelle Moser</td>
<td>Elizabeth Bradbury</td>
<td>Cathy Stewart</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Diane Haines</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharyn Luke</td>
<td>Georgine Gunner</td>
<td>Michelle Heyward</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jody Gatt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kelly Maginn-Dawson</td>
<td>Lisa Boara</td>
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</table>
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

WHY MUST I SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age are legally required to attend school.

WHY IS REGULAR ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IMPORTANT?

Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life. Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other children. If your child doesn't learn the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years.

DID YOU KNOW? IF STUDENTS MISS AS LITTLE AS EIGHT DAYS IN A SCHOOL TERM, BY THE END OF PRIMARY SCHOOL THEY WILL HAVE MISSED A YEAR OF EDUCATION.

Must I send my child every day? YES. It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day. A small number of absences may be justified if your child has to:

- go to a special religious ceremony;
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral); and
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Must my child attend all activities, including daily fitness and sport? YES. Sport and other physical activities help to keep your children healthy. Children are expected to attend all regular school activities, including sport. Do not keep your child away from school for the following:

- birthdays;
- shopping;
- minding other children;
- routine checkups or care such as hair cuts;
- minor family events; and
- sleeping in.

Medical and other health appointments for your child should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

WHY IS ARRIVING AT SCHOOL ON TIME IMPORTANT?

Arriving at school and class on time:

- ensures that your child doesn't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert;
- helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine; and
• gives your child time to greet their friends before class and therefore reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHILD HAS TO STAY AWAY FROM SCHOOL?
If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:

• send a note, fax or email to the school;
• telephone the school or; and
• visit the school.

All absences must be explained to the school.

Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance. The principal of the school has the right to question parents’ or carers’ requests for their child to be absent from school. Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified. For this reason, Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness. If Principals don’t consider an explanation to be satisfactory, they will record the absence as unjustified.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF OUR FAMILY IS GOING ON HOLIDAY IN SCHOOL TIME?
Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. Families should try to arrange holidays during school vacations. If your family holiday is during school time, inform the school principal in advance and request leave and/or an exemption from school.

MY CHILD WON’T GO TO SCHOOL. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Here are some suggestions to help:

• have a set time to be out of bed;
• have a set time to go to bed;
• have uniform and school bag ready the night before;
• make lunches the night before;
• have a set time for starting/ending breakfast – routine is important;
• set time for daily homework activities;
• turn the television on for a set time and only if appropriate;
• be firm, children must go to school;
• provide lots of positive encouragement;
• be firm, a birthday is not a holiday and
• time arrival at school to coincide with bell time and leave quickly. If arranged with the teacher beforehand, place your child’s hand into that of the teacher and then leave.

If you are still having problems after trying some strategies you should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help.
WHAT IF MY CHILD CONTINUES TO HAVE UNSATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE?

It is important to understand that the New South Wales Department of Education and Communities may take further action in cases where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unjustified absences from school. This can include requesting that parents and sometimes their child go to a compulsory attendance conference to help identify the barriers to the child’s attendance and implement strategies with parents, the school and other agencies who might be able to assist. If all attempts by schools and systems to improve attendance have been unsuccessful, fines imposed by the Local Court can reach a maximum of 100 penalty points. This is equivalent to a maximum of $11,000.00.

AT WHAT AGE CAN MY CHILD LEAVE SCHOOL?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 9. After Year 9 and until they turn 17 years of age students must be:

- in school or registered for home schooling; or
- in approved education or training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship), in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and/or training.