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

Since our last Newsletter we have celebrated Magdalene Feast Day, which was a truly wonderful community event. The day began with the celebration of Mass, which was certainly uplifting and joyful. At the end of Mass students were reminded that we need to reflect on the fact that we are a community which has the example of Mary Magdalene to guide us. Mary Magdalene stood up for the values that Christ taught and followed Christ in a time and environment that was certainly opposed to the teachings and challenges of Christ. Students at Magdalene also have the opportunity to live that same lifestyle promoting what they believe to be right and in many ways to be counter cultural. It is certainly a challenge for each of us.

The afternoon of Magdalene Feast Day allowed us to enjoy each other’s company while raising funds to support those in need in our community. We were joined by students from St Clare’s who not only enjoyed the festivities but also made a positive contribution to both the Care Fund and the overall atmosphere. I thank our special guests especially our state member Mr Chris Patterson, The Mayor of Camden Mrs Lara Symkowiak, Fr Michael (who also celebrated the Mass), Mr Alan McManus—Head of School Services, CEO Wollongong, and staff and students from St Clares. I also thank the staff, parents and students from Magdalene for their involvement. A special thank you must also go to Mr Wright and Mrs Forner for the organisation of the Mass and Magdalene Feast Day festivities respectively. It was certainly a memorable day at which we were able to raise over $6000 for the Care Fund.

Finally I thank the many supporters of Magdalene who helped us with donations and time. Your support is invaluable and very much appreciated.

Last Wednesday Magdalene was visited by Year 5 students from St Anthony’s at Picton. The visit is part of the transition program, which is being promoted between Magdalene and our feeder schools. The day was an opportunity for students to explore questions about high school and to experience lessons in a high school atmosphere, well before they enter high school. By all reports students and teachers appreciated the experience and students are a little more confident about their transition to high school.

This week Year 9 students travelled to Tea Gardens for the Year 9 Camp, and next week Year 11 students will be involved in the Year 11 Retreat. These are valuable experiences that help to build a sense of community and instil confidence in individuals as they undertake new and different challenges and reflect on their approaches to different aspects of life. I remind everyone that these events are compulsory at Magdalene as they provide students with such meaningful and fulfilling learning experiences beyond the classroom.

Last Tuesday the Parents and Friends Meeting and the Parent Consultation Committee meeting was again conducted. The Parents and Friends Association is always very supportive of the school and ratified their support for the improvements to the school over the recent holidays. With input from Mr Avalos the Parent Consultation Committee had the opportunity to review approaches to technology and learning at Magdalene, with a focus on support for parents. Finally parents had the opportunity to comment on our reporting system. The feedback given by the parents was limited due to time constraints. This issue will be explored more over the coming term. Any feedback from parents in this area is really appreciated we will certainly help us to set future directions in the area of reporting.

Strong minds, gentle hearts
This week the students of Year 12 began the Trial Higher School Certificate examinations. Students began the examinations in a mature albeit nervous manner. The exams were well supported by our volunteer supervisors who give our students a realistic experience as they approach the Higher School Certificate. I sincerely thank all of the parents and helpers who supervise during the “Trial Examinations”. Your contribution cannot be overestimated. Please keep the Year 12 students in your prayers as they continue with their Higher School Certificate Trial Examinations this week.

In the last newsletter I informed parents that Mrs Sheehan would not be returning to Magdalene. This week Mrs Denise Phillips returns to Magdalene to teach Mrs Sheehan’s junior classes for the remainder of the year. We welcome Mrs Phillips back to Magdalene.

This newsletter contains a letter from the Wollongong Diocesan Director of Catholic Education Mr Peter Turner. The letter addresses Funding of schools via the Better Schools Plan put forward by the Commonwealth Government. I encourage everyone to read the letter in order to be fully informed about school funding directions.

As we reflect on Magdalene Feast Day I am reminded of one of the core values of Magdalene: Peace.

The following prayer is a peace prayer related to disability.

**A Peace Prayer**

Lord,
Let your peace fill me up until I overflow;
That where people cannot speak, I may be their advocate;
That where anyone is rejected. I may extend my arms in welcome;
That where parents are heavy burdened. I may offer a word of comfort;
That where our children struggle, I may lift them up and cheer;
That where some see disability, I may reveal to them extraordinary gifts;
That where others judge, I may share with them my deep gladness;
And that where any are overlooked. I may help the lights of all to shine.
O Giver of These Gifts, grant that I may not so much seek
To be reassured as to reassure; to be praised, as to praise;
To be accepted, as to accept; for it is in all our uncertainty
That we are inspired to hope; it is in great challenges that we discover our greatest joys,
and it is in our community of wanderers that we find the way home.

Amen

_Tim Tucker “Both Hands and a Flashlight Parenting, Autism, and the Pursuit of Being Awesome”_

_http://www.bothhandsandaflashlight.com_

“.... Spread a culture of encounter, solidarity and hospitality towards persons with disabilities, not just asking for the proper social services but also encouraging their active participation in society.”

_Pope Francis, June 11, 2013_
Vinnies Doorknock Appeal

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Carers,

Please consider saving a few hours to help with the Macarthur Vinnies Doorknock Appeal, your time would be most appreciated. Our School is hosting the Vinnies Door Knock Appeal for the Macarthur region for the third time.

When: Saturday 24th August and Sunday 25th August from 8.30am - 4.00pm on both days.

To parents of Year 10, 11 & 12 students: Please promote this opportunity amongst your children to help in the local community. Certificates are given to all volunteers and it is a very rewarding experience. For further information and to register your interest, please email: martin.pannell@dow.catholic.edu.au

“Year 10 are Lightning Writers”

As part of Literacy Week, Year 10-6 Religious Education have been focusing on improving the length and complexity of our writing. We have been doing this by using a strategy called Lightning Writing. Here's how it works:

We have a set time limit (5 minutes usually) to write as much and as fast as we possibly can. Today, we were writing about the Eucharist. When the time is up, we score our work based on a set of criteria. For example, we score one point for every five lines, one point for every three syllable word, one point for every complex sentence etc. Our aim is to have a go at ‘Lightning Writing’ several times on the one topic so we can see our scores improving, ready for our formal assessment. It sounds simple, but we are seeing how much our writing benefits from such a simple exercise."

Pastoral Years 7 and 11

On Tuesday 30 July the sun finally decided to share its warmth through the gloomy winter weather, reassuring us that it was going to be a beautiful day. During Pastoral Care time, both Years 11 and 7 met up with their matching homerooms and met some new friendly faces.

It was a morning filled with many fun games to help break the ice and bond with our peers. We got to introduce ourselves to one another as Year 11 shared stories, embraced hope and supported the students of Year 7.

It is a difficult time for these young students to understand and deal with Corey Lake and his courageous battle against his illness. This is why Year 11 have decided to work with the Year 7’s for the next few weeks as we have all experienced the challenges that they are going through in past and now present years with the sorrowful loss of Bastien Madrill.

Through the prayers of the school community, the support and the love of each individual student, Year 11 strive to form strong and supporting year groups just like our own, so that everyone can feel the same special, united bond that we have built over our time spent within the Magdalene community together.

We ask for you to keep Corey in your thoughts and prayers to overcome his challenging obstacles, and for those in our lives that we have lost but still remain forever in our hearts.

As a very brave and inspirational young man continues to remind his friends and family… “Love Life, Don’t Waste It”.

By Jayden Caccamo and Katelyn Hokin 11W
Magdalene Welcomes St Anthony’s Students

Visit - Wednesday 31 July
Magdalene Feast Day
29 July 2013

Dear Parents and Families,

Last week you would have noticed the extensive coverage in the media indicating that the Catholic school sector has reached agreement with the Commonwealth and had ‘signed up’ to the Better Schools Plan that includes a proposed new model about how schools are to be funded by Federal and State governments. I write to provide you with some of my views about the implications of this arrangement.

This agreement means that we are now in a better position to communicate with our school communities with more clarity and greater certainty about what the Better Schools plan will mean for them. This continuity in funding will allow our Catholic schools to be effective in their long term planning and evaluation of programs. I am relieved that what is being proposed will allow us to sustain major investment in high quality educational, curriculum, student wellbeing and targeted intervention programs that will make a difference for our students, especially those with special needs or those who are impacted by other measures of disadvantage.

While I am satisfied that we can now provide greater certainty to Catholic school parents regarding the future funding of their children’s school, I do so in a ‘cautiously optimistic’ context because, in reality, the significant funding increases promised by the Better Schools model will not be realised for some years to come. The new funding to our schools will only increase incrementally over the next six years, with the majority of the increase due to be delivered in 2019. Given the significant difficulties governments have had in recent times in accurately estimating their revenues and expenditure, then it is simply prudent to keep this all in perspective. We should also assess the merits of this funding agreement amidst the uncertainty of an upcoming Federal election and the differing policies of the Government and the Opposition.

While our Catholic schools are well advanced in terms of meeting the requirements of the National Plan for School Improvement, there is still a lot of work to do to fully implement the Better Schools funding model. The NSW Catholic Education Commission will continue to constructively engage with government and work on behalf of Catholic school systems like ours to develop and strategically plan to ensure our schools receive the funds they need. This will mean we can then allocate additional resources to maintain and enhance our focus on building teacher capacity to deliver ongoing educational benefits to all students.
I reaffirm to parents the ongoing commitment of the Catholic education system in this Diocese to act in the best interests of our schools and to work hard to meet the needs of our students, staff and families. I believe that the guiding principles of any new funding model should clearly incorporate equity and fairness, a commitment to excellence and recognise the fundamental right of parents to choose the educational environment that best suits the needs of their child. I am pleased that these principles have been considered in this agreement allowing us to move forward with a greater degree of certainty.

As you would expect, we take very seriously the financial stewardship of the resources we have available to fund our Catholic schools. Our priority has always been, and will always be, to provide the best possible education for every child in every one of our schools. This agreement means that as a system of schools, we retain the flexibility to be able to direct resources to where the needs are greatest.

I sincerely thank parents for the support and involvement they have provided over the past year around the important issue of funding for Catholic schools. I do ask that you continue to raise the issue of fair and equitable funding for Catholic schools with your local MP both at State and Federal level, particularly in the lead-up to the Federal election later this year. Until a new model for funding is actually implemented, please remember that when all sources of income are combined, Catholic systemic schools, on average, receive significantly less funding per student than government schools.

I encourage you to contact your school Principal if you have any further questions or feedback about the issue of school funding. Finally I deeply value your ongoing partnership with us in the education of your child in our Catholic schools and thank you for entrusting your child into our care.

Yours sincerely

Peter Turner
Director of Schools
Diocese of Wollongong
On Tuesday 16 July the annual Magdalene Athletics Carnival was held at Campbelltown Sports Ground. The mild weather proved perfect for a day of running, jumping and throwing. It was great to see large participation rates and many closely contested events. Once again Year 12 set the standard high with support for their houses and also led the way with participation. The final house points will be announced on the next assembly.

There were a number of excellent performances. Congratulations to our age champions and students who have earned a place on the school athletics team for the Diocesan Carnival on Friday 30 August. Details of the Diocesan event will be distributed soon. Many thanks to the parents who came along to support the event!

### Age Champions

#### Girls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Champion</th>
<th>U/12</th>
<th>U/13</th>
<th>U/14</th>
<th>U/15</th>
<th>U/16</th>
<th>17+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age Champion</td>
<td>Kaitlin Leonard</td>
<td>Kate McDermott</td>
<td>Bethany Perkins</td>
<td>Paige Pirotta</td>
<td>Madeleine Taylor</td>
<td>Jaqueline Marshall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Teagan McConchie</td>
<td>Stephanie Brancato</td>
<td>Bianca Spiljar</td>
<td>Katelyn Marshall</td>
<td>Holly Silm</td>
<td>Morgan Kitchener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Micaela Rixon</td>
<td>Anastasia de Pourbaix</td>
<td>Olivia Sanchez</td>
<td>Lauren Allen</td>
<td>Emily Shanahan</td>
<td>Taylah Earnshaw</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Boys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Champion</th>
<th>U/12</th>
<th>U/13</th>
<th>U/14</th>
<th>U/15</th>
<th>U/16</th>
<th>17+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age Champion</td>
<td>Nicholas Ciappara</td>
<td>Zachary Gomes</td>
<td>Jared Levi</td>
<td>Nicholas Kotevski</td>
<td>Mitchell Gallagher</td>
<td>Mark Stewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Saigoa Kepu</td>
<td>Mitchell Coleman</td>
<td>Nicholas Appleton</td>
<td>Daniel Lapa</td>
<td>Connor Perkins</td>
<td>Thomas Paparo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Zachary Byles</td>
<td>Matthew Casey</td>
<td>Bailey Wray</td>
<td>Jack Stone</td>
<td>Jackson Rosier</td>
<td>Joshua Appleton</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## SPORT

**M.I.S.A. Sport Results - South, Term 3 2013**

Magdalene Catholic High School v Mount Carmel High School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Winning School</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round: 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Girls 7-9</td>
<td>Magdalene Catholic High School MVP: Bethany Perkins</td>
<td>1-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Girls 10-12</td>
<td>Magdalene Catholic High School MVP: Tiarne Brit</td>
<td>1-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball Year 8</td>
<td>Magdalene Catholic High School MVP: Madelyn Ace</td>
<td>36-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFL Boys 7-9</td>
<td>Magdalene Catholic High School MVP: Jordan Vella</td>
<td>5pt Win</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFL Girls 7-9</td>
<td>Magdalene Catholic High School MVP: Elyse Walker</td>
<td>21-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8 Rugby League</td>
<td>Magdalene Catholic High School MVP: Ben Fallshaw</td>
<td>22-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10 Rugby League</td>
<td>Magdalene Catholic High School MVP: Joshua Holz</td>
<td>24-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding achievements beyond the school recently.

Jemma Crane who will be travelling to New Zealand on 25 September to compete in the Trans Tasman tournament as a representative in Oz Tag.

Tiana Vanderburg who will represent Australia in the World Baton Twirling Federation International Cup Championships in the Netherlands on 7 August Carroll Gymnastics.

Caroline O’Sullivan who was recently a VET in School Student of the Year Finalist.

Nicole Sandrone of Year 12, 2012 whose major project will be included in the Woodtech 2013 exhibition.

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### August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 - 12</td>
<td>Fri - Mon Year 12 Trial Exams continue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - 9</td>
<td>Wed - Fri Year 11 Retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Fri Spark Retreat 7.0, 4pm - 9pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Fri Trivia Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Sat St Vincent de Paul Doorknock Appeal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Tue Diocesan Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Second Hand Uniform Pool

If Parents have any enquiries or wish to make an appointment to purchase uniform items please call Kelly O’Keeffe on 0410 553 812.

### For the Diary

**“Magdalene Shines” Performance Evening**  
Thursday, 29th August, 2013  
7.00pm  
Mt Carmel Catholic High School, Cnr St Andrews Rd & Spitfire Dr  

*Tickets on sale soon!!!!!!*

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:

A relationship enrichment 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!

**Date:** 6 – 8 September  
**Venue:** 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

### CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 3 Week 4B 5 August - 9 August</th>
<th>Term 3 Week 5A 12 August - 16 August</th>
<th>Term 3 Week 6B 19 August - 23 August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Aug Nicole Ferraro Emma Grech</td>
<td>6 Aug Jeneen Brady Rachel Campbell</td>
<td>7 Aug Francois Moutia Janette O’Reilly</td>
</tr>
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</table>