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

Last week we welcomed Miss Partridge back from World Youth Day in Brazil. We begin this newsletter with Miss Partridge’s reflections on her experiences. This is a small extract from Miss Partridge’s reflections which have been uploaded to the school website.

“My journey to Brazil for World Youth Day 2013.” Looking back I still don’t think I have come to fully comprehend all that I encountered. In so many ways I have tried to divulge all that I have seen to those around me, my adventures vividly exposed through my enthusiasm and intensely burning memories. But on many levels I feel I have failed to give any aspect the justice it deserves repeatedly struggling to convey the essence and core spirit of the whole event.

So much of my pilgrimage was more than just viewing the landmarks and observing communities we travelled through. Rather it was a life changing experience, which embraced people and overall environment that surrounded us. This was a life changing opportunity for all who joined us in community, visiting, meeting and celebrating with other like-minded young Catholics. We partook together, with the young people from all areas of the world with one goal in mind; to celebrate our Catholic faith. This experience was an all-encompassing, endearing encounter of faith, exposing to all who attended a direct feeling of the vitality of the Church. It has revealed to me an invigorating renewed hope for the way of the Catholic Church and in particular the youth of the Church. I quote the inspiring words of Bishop Peter Ingham when he stated that; ‘Faith is like electricity, you can’t actually see it, but you continually witness how it lights the path for so many.”

Upon reflection, I feel that before World Youth Day I always believed I was a Catholic but I now see that I never fully experienced or embraced my faith on all dimensions. We came to Rio from all across the globe and when standing on Copacabana beach for the final Vigil Mass, witnessing a countless diversity of flags, flying high with pride, becoming lost in the crowded millions that sprawled harmoniously across beach line, I could officially say that ‘I am not alone.”

A pilgrimage reminds us of our reality and takes us out of our comfort zone, throwing all who come with openness and a longing, rapidly into the unknown. It became a way for me to detach from the world, as I knew it. With limited, to no access to phones, the Internet and Wi-Fi, I became quickly separated from the busyness, distractions and chaos of life itself. It allowed me to slow the pace of my walk, become more aware of my surroundings and thus direct my attention upon the beautiful reality that surrounded me, a nature that I had so often overlooked. I embarked on this journey with an open heart and mind, ready to embrace and prepared to delve into the depths of my faith. I have taken away such a stronger conviction, a deeper awareness and the ability to nurture my own direction in life, which is all paralleled by my faith.

Strong minds, gentle hearts
Overall the whole trip was amazing, exhilarating and spiritually nurturing in every way. Although I am completely exhausted, I also feel deeply rejuvenated by the sheer passion and lively soul continually reflecting by Brazilian people. People regardless of race, religion and age came together to celebrate and strengthen their own faith. I feel that we have much to learn from the way they whole-heartedly embrace their notion of Religion. The music, the dancing and the overwhelming atmosphere captured throughout everyday, at any hour of the day, is purely infectious.”

Miss Marie Partridge

This week Year 12 students returned to school after the completion of their Trial Higher School Certificate Examinations. This period between now and the conclusion of the term is a time of revision and consolidation of knowledge as students approach the Higher School Certificate at the beginning of Term 4. In the interim there will also be the completion and in some cases marking of major works in a number of subjects. Industrial Technology was marked this week and Drama practicals will be marked next week. These will be followed by Music; Visual Art; Design & Technology and Textiles. I ask everyone to keep the students in their prayers as they undertake their final weeks at Magdalene and prepare for the Higher School Certificate Examination.

Next Friday night the school will conduct the annual Trivia Evening in support of Westmead Children’s Hospital. The night has been organised by Mrs Hrvatin and the Year 11 Information Processes and Technology class. The theme of the evening is a “Western Theme” to add to the atmosphere. All tickets have now been sold and we look forward to a very exciting evening. I sincerely thank Mrs Hrvatin and Year 11 IPT class for their efforts to date.

A reminder to everyone that the annual Magdalene Shines evening will be performed on Thursday 29 August at Mount Carmel Catholic High School Varroville. This night is always a very entertaining evening and is certainly a showcase of talent. An invitation is extended to the community to join with us on the night and be entertained by the very talented Magdalene community. (There will also be some fundraising activities on the night to support Corey Lake and his family during this very difficult time).

This week the process of selecting school leaders for 2014 began with initial input given to the students in relation to school leadership. The process will involve a time of discernment and the election of a core group who will spend some more time reflecting on leadership. At the end of that process the leaders for 2014 will be elected. This is a very important process and I commend those students who are prepared to put themselves forward as leaders in 2014.

Last Tuesday the school conducted the assembly once again this provided an opportunity to acknowledge both staff and student success across the school. During the assembly it was my pleasure to present Mr Zakris and Mrs Borg with acknowledgement as outstanding teachers. Both were nominated by members of our community as “Inspirational Teachers” who have been nominated through the National Excellence in Teaching Awards. This is certainly a reflection of their dedication and commitment to students. Congratulations to Mr Zakris and Mrs Borg.
This week as Catholics we celebrated the feast of The Assumption of Mary. On this feast day we recognise that Mary was taken into heaven body and soul. This was Mary’s reward for her love of God and her years of commitment to her God and her faith. Mary our mother is the perfect example of service to God for all of us. Our church encourages us to seek Mary’s intercession through prayer and in times of need or uncertainty.

Mary, our Mother,
your total giving of yourself
reminds us
that we hold in trust
from God our Father
all our accomplishments
and talents and gifts
trusted as we are
to offer them in his service,
and bring happiness and well-being
to our brothers and sisters

Your yes to God’s invitation
to be the mother of his son
reminds us
that prayer is not just words
but is from the heart.

We ask you to pray to Jesus for us
that the Holy Spirit
may live fully in us, too,
so that we may pray
in the way that each of us finds best.

So may we be prepared to join you
in saying yes to God our Father,
that Jesus may be born anew
in our hearts. Amen.

[Prayer can be found in Praying Each Day of the Year Nicholas Hutchinson fsc.)

God Bless

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

NEW PHONE SYSTEM

This week a new phone system has been installed in the school. The new school phone number is (02) 4631 3300. The Fax number (02) 4647 7022 remains the same. Please ensure that you record the new school phone number. The phones are answered by office staff between 7.30am - 3.30pm Monday to Friday.
Vinnies Van

To the Staff and Students of Magdalene Catholic High School

I would personally like to thank all the schools involved in running food drives and collecting warm winter items which were then donated to the Vinnies Van.

All the gloves, beanies, scarves and socks have been distributed to all the clients accessing the Vinnies Van over the last couple of weeks. The clients were extremely grateful and appreciative, with numerous of them asking for their “thanks” to be passed on to those concerned.

Thank-you for all of your support with the Vinnies Van.

Regards,

Linda Andersen
Coordinator – Vinnies Van Illawarra
Ph: 4228 8140
Mob: 0408 926 612
Email: vinniesvan@svdpwgong.org.au

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
A raffle has been organised for Corey to support Corey and the Lake family and that will be drawn at Magdalene Shines.

The tickets will be sold at $1 each or 3 for $2. All proceeds will go to the Lake family.

Corey’s 13th Birthday

Mr Josh Hewitt, Mrs Shareen Borg, Sam Mumberson, Cooper Rodwell and Bradley Bishop (Year 7 students) decided to pay a visit to Corey for his 13th Birthday and help him celebrate his birthday on 7 August 2013.
Movie Fundraiser for Corey
Claim the date Monday 9 September

A movie fundraiser has been organised on Monday 9 September to support Corey and the Lake family. Get together a group of your friends and have an enjoyable evening supporting this event. Tickets will be available on Friday 30 August and Friday 6 September during lunchtime at the Library.
Year 10 Costume Design

Over the past term, the Year 10 Textiles Technology class have been given the task to design and construct a costume based on their choice of film and character. This task enabled students to look at historical and cultural influences of design through film and theatre. Students had to portray their chosen character’s personality and background through the design of their garment. Good work Year 10 on some wonderful designs.

Pink Beaded outfit designed by Kayla Grech
Blue outfit designed by Caitlin Fitzgerald

Gold and blue dress designed by Jessica Cunningham

Black ballerina outfit designed by Emily Muir

Red skirt and vest designed by Lucy Huxley

Year 10 Excellence in Mathematics

Students in Year 10 recently sat their fourth assessment task in Mathematics. Congratulations to the following students in 10MAT2 for their excellent results.

Bianca Messina - 93%
Georgie Paterson - 91%
Christopher Gatt - 91%

Congratulations to all students in 10MAT2 and keep up the hard work!

Miss Rose

ICAS Science Competition

Every year Magdalene enters the ICAS Science competition. 14 of our students competed against thousands of others throughout NSW and the ACT.

I am pleased to announce the following outstanding achievements for those students who received a credit or distinction in this year's competition.

Brandon Shaw; Daniela Camilleri; Danielle Flood; Oliver Ireland; Kristina Markovic; Dominique Messina; Monica Porteiro; Maddison Radl; Olivia Smith; Luke Summers (Yr7), James Gibson; Renee Ryan (Yr8) and Luke Papandrea (Yr10) all received a credit award. Robert Menon of Yr12 received a distinction award which placed him in the top of 8% of Yr12 students in NSW and the ACT.

Congratulations to all of the students who entered the competition. Those students who did not receive a credit or distinction will receive a certificate of participation in their Science class.

Mr Hatton
Acting Science Coordinator

AUSTRALIAN STORY FEATURES
Chloe Palmer-Simpson

Chloe Palmer-Simpson will be featured on the Australian Story on Monday 19 August.
The preview link is attached. http://www.abc.net.au/austory/
Year 9 Camp - Tea Gardens

In week 3, Year 9 travelled to Tea Gardens to attend the Great Aussie Bush Camp. The bus ride was long, but it gave the students plenty of rest time to prepare them for a fun filled, action packed 3 days of outdoor activities and physical challenges. As their Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, I was so proud to watch our students (and staff) overcome their fear of heights to conquer activities such as the ‘Leap of Faith’ (climbing atop an 8m, 10m, or 12m telegraph pole and then jumping to reach a trapeze), the ‘Dual Flying Fox’, ‘Giant Swing’ and Abseiling.

Their teamwork and communication skills were put to the test in Canoeing, where students had to work together in order to travel down the creek in a relatively straight line. One of the most fun activities was the ‘Lost Island’, where our instructors put us through a boot camp style workout all the while in freezing cold, muddy water.

I would like to congratulate Year 9 for their teamwork, co-operation and participation while at camp. All students did themselves, their families and Magdalene proud. Thanks also go to the staff who came along to support the year group.

Miss Rose
Year 9 Camp - Tea Gardens

Assembly 13 August 2013
Year 11 Retreat
Year 9 and Year 10 Diocesan Netball Report

On a very cold and windy day the Division 1 and 2, Year 9 and 10 Girls Netball teams headed down to Berkley Netball Courts to participate in the Diocesan Netball Carnival. Both teams played a total of 9 games of Netball and performed extremely well. The Division 1 team lost to Holy Spirit team by 2 and drew with St Patrick’s 9 all. Even though we finished equal second on points we ended up finishing 3rd on count back. The Division 2 team lost 2 games over the entire day and ended up coming in second overall.

The teams consisted of:

Team A
Jenaye Collins
Jessica Cunningham
Maddeline Kenny
Nikki Miskell
Paige Pirotta
Jordan Russell
Holly Silm
Emily Sutherland
Gemma Watts
Zoey Willis

Team B
Lauren Allen
Caitlin Fitzgerald
Katelyn Marshall
Dayna Sales
Bianca Spiljar
Ally Turner
Zoe Townsend
Georgia Tyler
Celene Watson
Bree Wiltshire

The girls played with both great skill and sportsmanship, they were an absolute pleasure to coach and should be proud of their efforts and achievements. Congratulations.

A special mention and thank you must go to Brooke Hoskin for umpiring both teams all day.

Mrs Hort
August

23 Fri Trivia Night
24 Sat St Vincent de Paul Doorknock Appeal
28 Wed Design & Technology HSC Marking
29 Thu Magdalene Shines
30 Tue Diocesan Athletics Carnival

September

9 Mon Yr 11 Preliminary HSC Examinations
Yr 5 Transition Day at Magdalene
12 Thu Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
19 Thu Yr 12 Breakfast
Yr 12 Graduation Mass Practice
Yr 12 Graduation Mass 7pm
20 Fri Last Day Term 3

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!!!!!

School Fees

The 3rd and final school fee instalment is due on Tuesday 20 August. If payment is unable to be made by the due date please contact the school

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.

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 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

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<td>Louise Fallshaw</td>
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<td>Carol Miskell</td>
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<td>Fran Lapa</td>
<td>Sayanavongpheth</td>
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