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

Over this past two weeks practical outreach has been very evident at Magdalene. Last Friday night the IPT class along with Mrs Hrvatin raised funds for the Westmead Children’s Hospital. This proved to be a worthwhile and entertaining evening at which, all proceeds went to a worthy cause. At the end of the night well in excess of $6000 had been raised in support of the Children’s Hospital. The funds will be used to purchase items, which make life for families with sick children at the hospital, that little bit easier. The willingness of so many to support the evening either by their presence or through donations was inspiring. I thank and acknowledge Mrs Hrvatin and the IPT class for their truly remarkable efforts. The names of the sponsors are included in this newsletter.

Following the Trivia Evening the school hosted the Annual St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal on Saturday 24 August and Sunday 25 August. Once again, this was supported by staff, students and parents of the community. There were over ?? Magdalene students and staff involved in the collecting. I thank Mr Pannell for his coordination and all people who were willing to be involved.

Finally, the most recent community event was Magdalene Shines, which took place on Thursday 29 August. This again was a community celebration, which afforded us the opportunity to celebrate the talent at Magdalene while also raising funds to support Corey Lake and his family. The evening was a wonderful spectacle and certainly a showcase. A report on Magdalene Shines will be included in the next newsletter.

As I reflect on the above events I realise they are a very real reflection of people answering Christ’s call to reach out to our neighbour in very practical ways. I am grateful to everyone involved and sincerely thank anyone who was able to offer support in any way.

As was stated in the last newsletter the HSC practical examinations and marking have taken place over the last two weeks. The Industrial Technology and Drama projects have been marked and over the coming week the Design and Technology projects will be completed. Following the Design and Technology marking Music and Visual Arts will also be marked. The standard that students have produced has been most impressive to date and the capacity of a number students to produce work at such a high standard is inspiring. We eagerly await their results in early December.

Over the last term the school has been conducting a review of our reports to ensure that they meet the requirements of the Board of Studies and parents. A survey has been given to members of the Parent Consultation Committee and some parents of Year 8 at their Information Evening. In an attempt to gain as much information as possible the survey has also been attached to this newsletter. I would ask parents to consider the questions in the survey and submit responses. This will allow us to set future directions for reporting at Magdalene.

During Week 9, Year 11 students will begin their final Preliminary Higher School Certificate Examinations. This will complete their Year 11 year and they will begin their Higher School Certificate year at the beginning of Term 4. I ask everyone to keep Year 11 in their prayers in the lead up to these very important examinations.

Strong minds, gentle hearts
Over the coming weeks two very important elections will take place. Firstly, the Federal election will certainly have a significant impact on Magdalene as each party establishes their approach to the direction and funding of education. I ask everyone to make themselves aware of the policies of parties and the impact of these policies on your children’s education. The winner of the election will make some significant decisions impacting on education over the next 3 years so it is important that voters are fully informed. As Catholics it is also important to consider policies related to social justice issues especially refugees. This is not a problem that we must hope will go away it is an issue that has a significant impact on our fellow human beings. This is a time when we can certainly make a difference as voters. We can also influence the thinking of our politicians through our voting. Again I ask that everyone is fully informed as they make decisions about who will lead our country over the coming 3 years.

The second elections that will impact on Magdalene are the elections of our own school leaders. This process is continuing and the students have now completed their speeches. Over the coming week students will be involved in a leadership day to focus on their leadership styles and qualities. This will be followed by the election of leaders for 2014.

On Sunday 18 August the Campbelltown Catholic Club celebrated their Annual Mass and luncheon. This is a celebration of a club committed to supporting the local community in a very practical way. The Club has always been a wonderful supporter of the school and this year is no exception. The club made a significant donation to the school to support projects and add to our hall fund.

In addition to this the club has offered direct support to our students through the MaxPotential Leadership Project. This project enables students to develop their leadership talents through the support of a mentor supplied by the Catholic Club. The students involved in the MaxPotential project presented their initiatives at an exhibition at the Catholic Club this week. A summary of the projects is included in this newsletter.

I sincerely thank the Campbelltown Catholic Club for their ongoing support of Magdalene and the extra support given directly to our students. I also acknowledge Year 12 students Marcus Fitzpatrick and Nicole McKenzie for representing Magdalene at the Mass.

This Sunday we celebrate Father’s Day, this is an opportunity for us to be thankful for our Fathers and to recognise the significant challenges each faces in their role as a parent.

God bless all the fathers in the world.
Guide them to be good role models
and loving to all their children.
Help them to be a father like You are.
Give them grace and patience
to handle situations in a loving way.
Amen!

Happy Father’s Day to all Fathers.

St Vincent De Paul says - THANKYOU!!

This is the third year that Magdalene Catholic High School has hosted the St Vincent De Paul Door Knock Appeal and it was a great success. Huge thanks to the following staff for helping out with the recent St Vincent De Paul Door Knock Appeal; Mr O’Neill, Mr Wright, Miss Partridge, Mr Loyola, Mr Lo Cascio, Mr Sligar, Mrs McClure, Mr Trimarchi, Mr Elliott, Mrs Cuomo and Mrs McAllister.

Huge thanks to the following students for helping out with the recent St. Vincent De Paul Door Knock Appeal: Christian Dankers, Leah Carlsen, Tiarne Brown, Lyndel Elliott-Buckley, Georgia Fitzpatrick, Bianca Collimore, Annabelle Brislane, Joshua Abbott, Hamish Miller, Cameron Mills, Tanisha Lo, Kayla Acorn, Ana Gracanin, Alex Fitzpatrick, Blake Harvey, Eliza Sawyer, Lauren Napper, Madeleine McClure, Robert Menon, Luke Abbey, Joshua Vinoya, Christopher Gatt, Kim Ustariz, Jessica Hart, Natasha Rodgers, Nicole Spinks, Nicole Ferraro and Nelson Cumming.

Thank you to all involved your contribution of time and effort is truly appreciated by those needy amongst us in the Macarthur Region. Certificates will be given to each student who participated.

Mr Pannell
Art Exhibition

On Wednesday a number of staff joined a gathering of people at the opening of Mrs Benney's art exhibition at the ACU Gallery. For some time now Mrs Benney has been working with asylum seekers at the Villawood Detention Centre. She has captured many of their stories through her art. The exhibition was a combination of Mrs Benney's artwork with the sculptures of Mr Keith Chidzey, the sculptor of our Mary Magdalene statue. Jeremy Berenger, in opening the exhibition, commented on the unintended link with the issues of the forthcoming election. Paul Power from the Australian Refugee Network was the keynote speaker and he spoke of the need for a humanitarian approach rather than one of political expediency. He quoted Pope Francis' visit to the refugees on Lampedusa Island in the Mediterranean and his condemnation of a "globalisation of indifference." Mrs Benney's work speaks of a compassion born of personal contact with those in tragic circumstances. Her painting "Women of Fortitude" speaks of the resilience of the human spirit whether it be Mary at the foot of the cross or an asylum seeker mourning the loss of a loved one.

Kevin Wright

By Jackie Benney,
Titled: Women of Fortitude

By Keith Chidzey
Titled: Give me a home among the gum trees.

Reflections Upon Friday Mass

23 August 2013

At Friday lunchtime Mass, Fr Whitty spoke upon the day’s Bible passage where Ruth encountered a crossroad in her life and faith. Our lives too meet crossroads, whether physically, emotionally or spiritually. The strength we need to find the right path, the right decision, is found in our faith within ourselves, with others and with God.

Currently Australia is at a crossroads. The nation is divided by so many issues and one of the greatest being the issues with “boat people”. Rather, dehumanising terms have been used to fuel the audience of today’s mass media. The truth lies in the fact that these are refugees, people; human beings, who have travelled through their own crossroads, asking for our help, and many are being denied.

In the Old Testament, Ruth, is drawn by affection for Naomi to join her faith, “Wherever you go I will go, your people shall be my people, and your God my God.” Here just as Jesus spoke of his greatest commandment that the love of God connects to the love of neighbours, Ruth has found this in reverse. The love and loyalty to Naomi transcends into a love for God.

I feel that this sense of faith, loyalty and love is needed by all Australians. As we come to face the nation’s crossroad, the right attitude, understanding and choices we make, can extend the love of God unto others, and a love of others unto God.

Ana Gracanin
Year 7 Outreach

Year 7 Bruchhauser raffled one of Mr Loyola’s amazing snapback hats and had a lolly guessing competition. All funds raised are going towards Catholic Mission, which this term goes towards Sister Clara in India to build a new orphanage. We thank everyone for the support they have given to our fundraiser. You all should know that your money is going to an important cause and we are helping those who are less fortunate than we are. Sr Clara runs an orphanage in Chennai (South-East India) helping young people our age who have no other home. Thank you to Mr Loyola for donating one of your hats, we know that this was a great sacrifice for you! Congratulations to Lacey Boss for winning the snapback hat and the lolly jar. A total of $180 was raised by Bruchhauser. - Bethany Cooper on behalf of 7 Bruchhauser.

The students of 7 Dunne chose to sell bags of mixed lollies at recess and lunch on Monday 19th August. Due to their joint efforts of bringing in lollies, cash or providing their all important labour for packing, this fundraiser was a huge success. Their superior sales skills topped the day off with total funds raised being $144.20 going directly to Catholic Mission. Their ability to rise to the occasion and dig in to get the job done is to be admired. Some of the ladies from this class contributed at every stage of production and whose efforts I am incredibly grateful. This is why I call them ’7 Awesome!’. Great job everyone. - Mrs O'Flynn

Last week Year 7 Hogan were selling Lush Berries on Thursday at recess and lunch. We were very successful by raising $380 to go towards a Catholic Mission in Chennai, which is in southeast India. The lush berries were donated by Ellie Duggan in Year 7 Hogan, and her family, so thank you Ellie. - Mr Hewitt

Year 7 Moore students showed dynamic team spirit to raise awareness for the orphans of Chennai India. They all contributed to a chocolate hamper with enough goodies to make a first and second basket. They all enthusiastically took part in selling tickets throughout week 6. The lucky winners were Bethany Cooper 1st and Lauren Avero 2nd. Well done every one! - Mrs Brislane

Year 7 Sedgwick organized a coin line competition to raise money for CATHOLIC MISSION. Each Homeroom collected money on the day. Two volunteers from each homeroom organised the line for their group. Each coin line was made up with various coin donations. The value of a gold coin could be made up with two fifty-cent pieces. The Homeroom with the longest line won. 7 Sedgwick had the longest line and the greatest amount of donations. All that were involved had a lot of fun. This money will go towards the Orphanage in Chennai (India). Thanks, Year 7 Sedgwick

Looking back on our first day of Year 7, it was a big part of our school life where we realize that our journey had just begun. That was the time we created friendship groups and got lost throughout the day. We learned how to use our school diary and more and from them we have become more mature and learnt skills that we will have for the rest of our life.

Recently our homeroom ran a fundraiser for PROJECT CHENNAI. Chennai is a city in South-East India and we’re raising funds for Sr Clara and the Orphanage that she runs there. Dominique Messina and 7 Wilson
Caitlin Whalan of Year 9 celebrated her 15th birthday addressing a large crowd in Martin Place Sydney for Vietnam Veterans Day (Long Tan Day). Caitlin recited a Poem called "Not a Hero" by Clyde Hamilton and then recited the "ode". The ceremony had official representatives including the Governor of NSW and also the Premier of NSW. Caitlin has attended a number of functions of this nature wearing her school uniform and as a representative of Magdalene.

Caitlin reflects on her experience
On Sunday, 18 August 2013, I attended the Cenotaph, Martin Place, Sydney. I have participated in a service commemorating the 1966 Battle of Long Tan during the Vietnam War. This was the largest single battle fought by Australian troops. Eighteen Australian soldiers died and up to a thousand enemy forces. One of the Australians that died was Private Paul Large, who was a cousin of my Grandmother. Paul died with three minutes left in the battle. This day is now known as Vietnam Veterans Day. It is a day to commemorate all those who served in the Vietnam War. My Grandfather is a Vietnam War Veteran and so the day means a lot to my family. It also happens to be my birthday.

During the service I have recited the poem by Clyde Hamilton called 'Not A Hero' and I have also recited the full extended version of the Ode of Remembrance.

The event was attended by many dignitaries and official civic leaders that included Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, The Governor of New South Wales.

This week in Year 9
Congratulations to Laura Barillaro, Bianca Suraci, Victoria Stuart-Smith, Julian Krpez, Riley Maguire and Elyse Beauchamp who were all nominated for the Student Representative Council. All students overcame nerves to give compelling speeches in front of the year group. Voting takes place later this week, good luck to all candidates!!

This week, Riley Maguire and Sophie Cornett have been preparing themselves for the MISA Youth of the Year Competition. The competition is held at Mount Carmel Catholic High School 2 September. The competition involves a 3 minute interview conducted by a panel about some of the major religious, social, educational and political issues in Australia at the moment. The students are also required to give a 3 minute speech about a topic of their choice drawn from current everyday life. Good luck to Riley and Sophie!

Greetings from Amsterdam
From 2012 to 2013 we hosted Laura de Graaf, a Year 12 exchange student from Amsterdam. She quickly became part of our community, made so many friends and left her mark at Magdalene. She has long since returned to the Netherlands to graduate and commence her studies in Physiotherapy. She sends us her greetings, and a photo of her wearing our Magdalene Year 12 Jersey in her home city! We wish her all the very best.

She writes this message to her Year 12 friends:
"Hello Year 12!!
I hope you're all doing great and are having fun with your HSC.
I wish you all the best and I know you can do it!

I'm doing great back home, and I will start my new school in September. I will study physiotherapy. I miss you all!! Enjoy your last weeks of school!!

Love Laura"
Dear Mr Whicker,

The Belanglo Hike was very challenging and it pushed me both mentally and physically. I learnt a new skill, which was navigating, as I have never done it before. This was difficult at times but was a great experience and helped me as a person. I made new friendships along the way with people who I may not talk to but overall it was one of the best experiences I have had.

Thanks, Madison Moser

Our recent hike in Belanglo State Forest as our qualifying journey of Bronze Duke of Edinburgh was a rewarding and educating experience. For some of us, learning how to read a map and navigate was the most challenging aspect but I'm sure most of us will agree that overall it was lots of fun, especially the campfire.

- Brittany Tekely

Coming to school bleary eyed at 6:00am in the morning was just the start to the test hike for Duke of Edinburgh in the Belanglo State Forest. An hour later we reached our destination, unloaded our bags and we were off into the forest, trying not to get lost, building tepees and aiming rocks into a tree hole. Duke of Edinburgh was an amazing experience, with breathtaking views and a roaring campfire that kept us warm till bedtime at 7:30pm. I can't wait to do the silver award.

- Jasmine Apap

This Duke of Edinburgh hike was a very memorable experience, filled with the great memories of hiking, camping and navigating our way through the forests in Belanglo.

- Joss Taylor

The Belanglo Hike was a challenge not only physically but mentally. Reading maps, using a compass and overcoming challenging obstacles was just some of the thing I accomplished on this trip. I bonded with people on a different level and had a lot of fun with peers and teachers. Duke of Ed for me was challenging yet extremely fulfilling.

- Eliza Rourke

The Belanglo hike was very challenging and enjoyable for me. I believe that it brought me closer to the people in my group and I made new friendships along the way. Using a compass and a map was a new thing to some of us but even though it could be difficult at times, I think that we got the most out of our trip.

- Tegan Sereno

Congratulations to Sam Harrison

Sam has just returned from the All Schools Under 16 Australian Hockey tournament held in Tasmania last week.

He was selected as the shadow goal keeper for the Australian Hockey team that will tour South Africa next year.
MAX POTENTIAL

Madeleine Vella

I developed my project around the topic of healthy eating in young children. I worked with the year 6 students discussing the consequences of both healthy and unhealthy lifestyle habits, as well as a practical based component where we taught them how to make fruit kebabs and rice paper rolls. I was happy to see that the children enjoyed preparing the food and were willing to try new things. I would like to thank everyone involved in the project and especially Scott's Fruit Shop & Butcher in Mount Annan for kindly donating all the ingredients used on the day. I encourage all families to visit Scott for the freshest produce in the area.

Thank you.

Taylah Earnshaw

My project was based on bullying especially the bystander affect. This is the person or persons, who witnesses the victim being bullied and either does nothing or stands up and says something to the bully or gets help. I developed two sessions targeted at year 6 students of St Anthony’s at Picton. In the first session I focused on bullying in general. I got the students to participate in an activity where it allowed them to say sorry for anything they had done that caused another person pain or unhappiness. I later turned their sorry letters into a poster that I will give back to the school. In the second session I focused on the bystander affect where I showed different videos and information on what the bystander affect is and how to become an upstander. I also got the students to make posters on how their school can become a bully free zone. These posters will be given to the school to place in different areas around the school.

Lachlan Burke

I have with the close support and assistance of Mr Elliot, Miss Benney and Miss Hulme established and managed a peer support program for reading for students in year 7. The program allows our year 9 capable leaders to enter into a peer relationship with a tutee and assist them in reading. The program is running as a trial for the next few weeks of term and is something I would love to bring about next year in a much larger and more beneficial program of the same nature with more students involved and for a longer period of time.

Cody Newton

As part of the Max Potential program I completed a community service project at Macarthur Magic. Macarthur Magic is a special needs football club where every Saturday a group of special needs children, their parents, a few coaches and any volunteers engage in a number of soccer drills. The aim of the program is to allow special needs children to be given the opportunity to enjoy and gain skills in soccer, where they otherwise wouldn’t be able to. My involvement in the program has been purely volunteering. I have been able to assist in running the drills and joining in on gameplay in order to help the kids have as an enjoyable time where they can express their passion for football, as well as gaining social and physical benefits. I have extremely enjoyed being able to give my time at Macarthur Magic each week, and have been able to meet and help a number of amazing young children.

Jayden Caccamo

Throughout the past 8 weeks 10 fellow members of year 11 underwent my Max Potential community project. My project was designed too teach the students in our school community the importance of a healthy balanced lifestyle with suitable exercise, with this I called upon the help of an accredited exercise physiologist from health solutions to attend my meetings to help those students in health club achieve their goals. During health club I have made some changes in my peers life as they are still learning how to exercise correctly and eat accordingly to the guidelines, while teaching their parents who continue to spread the knowledge to their friends. It is great to see that what has been taught to my fellow students is extending throughout the community.
Year 11 Retreat

My experience on Year 11 Retreat at Blue Gum was fun and spiritual, it included interactive activities such as tennis, the games room, ping pong, the gym, and also good food. The free time was great because you could go wherever you wanted to and do and interact with everyone, but, probably the best thing there was tennis. The teachers tried hard but Mr Wright is deceptively good at tennis. This retreat was more than I expected because I thought that it would be just sitting round a campfire discussing life stories, but there was much more. The stories shared by my peers were reflective and provided an amazing insight into their triumphs and determination, I learnt a lot from them as it put our small issues into perspective. I learnt to never give up no matter what life throws at you.

- Dominic Dahler

We had an inspirational experience at Kiah Ridge that we will never forget. We were given a great opportunity to take a step back from our busy lives, and get in touch with each other, our teachers and ourselves. We came together as a group, both in a small groups and a large group, and accepted each other and opened up to each other. We were also given the chance to get in touch with our faith and reflect on our relationship with God. Teachers shared some inspirational stories that were life changing, and made us realize that everyone has a story, and to appreciate what we have. Retreat at Kiah Ridge has changed my outlook on life, and has given me a chance to create friendships with year 11 students I didn’t know before. Many thanks to Mr Lipscombe, Mr Pannell, Mr Loyola, Mrs Said, Miss Crandell and the Staff at Kiah Ridge for the experience we had.

- Carly Reynolds

Student Reflections on Year 11

Year 11 has been quite a shock due to the increased workload and difficulty of the work. Nothing can really prepare you for the amount of work and the difficulty of the work, except experiencing it first hand. With all this work comes the stress of school. This stress can be detrimental to our learning as well our performance. Building structure to your school and home life to accommodate for schoolwork, your social life and any possible jobs, hobbies or sporting commitments is essential to creating a happy relaxed atmosphere for yourself.

I personally find it hard to stick to a structured routine, where everything is set out and your days and weeks are already planned out. I rely on flexibility between my social life, schooling and work because my life personally can be unpredictable and things can come up out of the blue and ruin any routine I have set. But I have found that creating priorities seems to work as I can then complete any homework or assessment tasks before I socialise. On top of this I ensure that I study and complete assignments from the moment the task is released instead of cramming all the work and study the nights before.

- Christian Dankers

From the beginning, Year 11 was unlike anything we had ever experienced in our 4 years of high school. There were many more expectations from both our teachers and fellow peers. Although becoming a senior is stressful at times it has been worthwhile, I have enjoyed finally being able to do subjects that I enjoy. Year 11 has challenged us and at times pushed us to our limits, but with the support and encouragement of our teachers and peers we have finally been able to settle into our final years of high school.

- Abbie Brennan
Each year, the Year 11 Information Processes and Technology students at Magdalene Catholic High School work together to plan and organise a Trivia Night in order to raise much needed funds for The Children’s Hospital at Westmead.

This annual event was held last Friday night at the school. The evening was an overwhelming success attended by 300 parents, friends and students dressed in their best Wild West costumes. We would like to congratulate the winners of our Trivia competition “The Arkansas Tom” Table booked by Mrs McFarlane who not only won the Wild West Trivia Rounds but were also the overall Trivia champions. Well done!

It was wonderful to see the spirit and enthusiasm displayed by everyone who attended. Thanks to your support and the generosity of all of our sponsors we were able to raise a substantial amount of funds to donate to the Children’s Hospital at Westmead.

These funds will enable the hospital to continue to conduct vital research, purchase much needed equipment, discover better treatment options and care for children like Corey Lake and their families in hospital.
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 $20 each, will be available on Friday 30 August and Friday 6 September during lunchtime at the Library.

Corey Lake Foundation
Annual Dinner Dance

Supporting Corey fight yet another battle – after receiving a heart transplant at four then going on to beat Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma last year he’s now seriously ill with acute rejection of his transplanted organ – he is also the bravest boy in the world.

Courageous Corey with sister Mackenzie

Corey Lake Foundation
Annual Dinner Dance

“I don’t say why, I say why not!” This is the motto adopted by Corey to help him get through the tough times.

‘Why not’ join the QUOTA Club of Ingleburn for a night of fun and dance the night away to the tunes of ‘Just Jamm’n’

To make a reservation R.S.V.P. by 13th September to Pat Cowell – 4655 8372 Mob. 0407 859 319 or Anne Adams – 0414 577 931

Corey Lake Foundation
Annual Dinner Dance

Where:
Ingleburn R.S.I.
Club, Chester Road
Ingleburn

Date:
Saturday,
21st September 2013

Time:
6:00 pm for
6:30 pm start

Cost:
Adults: $38
Children under 12: $18
Children under 4:
Free.

M.C. –
C91.3’s Captain Pat

Corey Lake Foundation
Annual Dinner Dance

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Ingleburn R.S.I.
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6:30 pm start

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Children under 4:
Free.

M.C. –
C91.3’s Captain Pat
**NOTICEBOARD**

**September**

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

**October**

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**Thinking of leaving school before the HSC?**

**Enrolments opening soon for the October 2013**

**Literacy and numeracy tests.**

The Record of School Achievement (RoSA) was first awarded at the end of 2012 and along with its introduction came the option for students school leaving before their HSC to take the online literacy and numeracy tests. Entries for the next round of tests will open on 16 September 2013 and close on 17 October 2013, with tests held from 24 to 30 October 2013. The tests focus on the literacy and numeracy skills required by school leavers for employment and further education. There is one test for literacy and one test for numeracy, with concepts drawn from the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) developed and endorsed by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). Each test consists of 60 multiple choice questions with a maximum completion time of 60 minutes per test. Students will be able to access their literacy and numeracy test results on Students Online from 13 November 2013.

The test results are reported separately from the RoSA and are not a requirement for award of the RoSA credential. Students completing the tests will receive separate reports for literacy and numeracy which will detail their achievement from Level 1 to Level 4. Students can then provide tangible evidence of these skills to employers and further education providers. Schools enter students for the literacy and numeracy tests through Schools Online. The tests are undertaken online at school, under the supervision of teachers. If you are thinking about leaving school before the HSC and would like to do the tests, please see the Curriculum Coordinator, Mr Vannan, as soon as possible.
SURVEY

Reporting At Magdalene Catholic High School

Consider your child’s Semester Report and reflect on the questions below.

Does this report format give you a good understanding of a child’s learning / progress?

What aspects of this report are essential? Not necessary?

If the school was to remove the:
- Mark
- Grade
- Comment
- Rank

Do Parents have a clear understanding of what the above mean? If no what needs to be done to ensure greater clarity?

PLEASE RETURN SURVEY TO THE OFFICE AT MAGDALENE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL.
CATHOLIC EDUCATION – FOR A STRONGER COMMUNITY

UNDERSTANDING THE FACTS ON FUNDING FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

For over 180 years, Catholic schools have educated children in Australia. Today, Catholic schools enrol 735,000 students in 1,706 schools across Australia.

Both major parties have committed to increases in school funding over the next four years. It is important to understand the facts on funding for Catholic schools.

One-in-five Australian students currently attend a Catholic school.

Catholic schools have a strong social justice mission to form well-rounded individuals who make a positive contribution to their local communities.

A strong Catholic education system contributes to a strong Australian community.

All governments provide important funding for Catholic schools along with families who contribute to the costs of Catholic education through fees and fundraising.

According to the Australian Government’s My School website, Catholic students receive, on average, 20 per cent less government funding than students in government schools.

Even when parent fees are taken into consideration, Catholic schools operate with an average of 10 per cent less recurrent funding than government schools.

Even with fewer resources per student, the Australian Catholic school system is amongst the best in the world, compared to Shanghai, Finland and Singapore on international tests, for student performance across all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Catholic schools save the taxpayer $2.2 billion each year which helps take the pressure off government schools.

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS PER SCHOOLING SECTOR

AVERAGE NET RECURRENT INCOME PER STUDENT - GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS & AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMIC CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Source: ACARA, My School 2011

www.noec.catholic.edu.au  02 6201 9830

Authorised by Ross Fox, Executive Director, National Catholic Education Commission, 51 Cowper Street, Brodmea 2612
CATHOLIC EDUCATION - FOR A STRONGER COMMUNITY

CATHOLIC EDUCATION POLICY PRIORITIES

Catholic education is seeking a statement from both major parties on their education policies and how they will affect the 735,000 students educated in the 1706 Catholic schools across Australia.

Both major parties have been asked the six questions below. Their responses will be provided in the near future.

POLICY QUESTIONS

1. How will your policy support parents to choose the education they want for their children and ensure religious freedom for Catholic schools is preserved?

2. How will your policy affect the ability of Catholic education systems and schools to distribute funding according to locally-identified needs?

3. How will your policy deliver additional government funding to support student needs and ensure funding keeps pace with the real cost of educating a child?

4. How will your policy support the needs of students with particular disadvantage, students with disability and other special needs to receive funding to meet their needs, regardless of the school they attend?

5. What government funding for the capital needs of Catholic schools do you have planned? Does this funding recognise Catholic education’s support of disadvantaged communities and willingness to establish in new growth areas?

6. How will your policy deliver funding certainty for schools?

Catholic education will continue to work with all parties in the Parliament to ensure that Catholic schools have the resources to support the needs of all students.

National Catholic Education Commission

www.ncec.catholic.edu.au 02 6201 9830

Authorized by Rea Fox, Executive Director, National Catholic Education Commission, 31 Corner Street, Westmead, 2112
Nationally Consistent Collection of Data
School Students with Disability

Information for Parents/Carers

All Australian governments have agreed to work together to implement a new annual national data collection on school students with disability. This data collection process is being phased in over a three year period in 2013-2015.

The first two years will be a transition period. This means that all schools will begin preparing for participating in the collection from 2013.

In 2015, the first full national collection of data on school students with disability will take place in all Australian schools. From then on, this data collection will occur every school every year, along with other school data collections.

WHY INTRODUCE A NATIONAL COLLECTION OF DATA ON SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All Australian governments agree that every child in an Australian school, regardless of his or her circumstances, has the right to a high quality and inclusive education that meets his or her needs.

Better information about school students with disability will assist teachers, principals and education authorities to support their participation in schooling on the same basis as students without disability.

HOW WILL IT BENEFIT MY CHILD?

There are students with disability in every school in Australia at some point. This means that every school needs to be ready and able to support students with disability to ensure that any obstacles to participation and achievement in their school education are identified and minimised.

This new national data collection will reinforce the action required of schools under the national Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005. These laws mean that schools and education systems are required to make, where needed, reasonable adjustments for students with disability.

An adjustment is a measure or action taken to assist a student with disability to participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting, in the classroom and at the individual level.

Determining the level and type of support needed for an individual student is not a new activity for Australian schools.

Currently there is only limited and inconsistent information available at a national level about school students with disability, their educational needs and the support provided to them.

The information provided by this new national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources. That will assist students with disability in government and non-government schools across Australia to complete school and go on to further education or find employment.
WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?
The following information will be collected annually at the school level:
- the level of adjustment provided;
- the number of students receiving each level of adjustment to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as other students; and
- where known, the student’s type of disability.

WHO WILL COLLECT MY CHILD’S INFORMATION AND HOW WILL THEY DO IT?
School teams will collect evidence based on:
- consultation with parents/careers;
- their observations and professional judgements; and
- any medical diagnosis.

The evidence will be collected over at least a 12-month period. This evidence will help the school teams to determine:
- which students are included in the data collection;
- the levels of adjustment that are provided, both within and outside the classroom; and
- the broad category of disability.

In line with good teaching practice and the requirements of the Disability Standards for Education 2005, you will continue to be provided with opportunities to discuss ways to assist your child overcome barriers and the adjustments that could be made to support your child.

Principals and school teams will be supported with training to assist them to make accurate judgements.

School principals will assure the accuracy of information collected about each student.

WHICH SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS WILL BE INCLUDED?
Your child’s school principal will be advised about their school’s involvement and when the school will be participating in recording information for the data collection.

A student will only be included in the data collection if he/she meets the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the school has evidence of this.

CAN I WITHDRAW MY CHILD’S INFORMATION FROM BEING INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REPORTING ACTIVITY?
You decide whether you want your child’s information to be included or not in the national reporting activity. Your school principal will forward information to you once they are participating so you can make an informed choice.

HOW WILL MY CHILD’S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?
Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all children and their families is a key priority.

Authorised staff in each school will manage the information to ensure that personal or confidential information is not disclosed.

Transmission of data by the school will be done in such a way that the privacy and confidentiality of all students is protected.

When data is reported it will be at the school level only and no individual student will be able to be identified in the data collection.

WHAT WILL THE INFORMATION BE USED FOR?
It is intended that the data collected about children with disability will be published on the My School website and in other national reports on schooling from 2016 onwards.

Public reporting of these data will mean more is known about how all Australian schools and education authorities support students with disability.

Australian schools and education authorities will use these data as evidence to improve their support for students with disability.

FURTHER INFORMATION
For further information about the national collection of data on Australian school students with disability and how you can support it, please visit www.deewr.gov.au/students-disability.