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

Last Friday we welcomed 186 Year 7, 2014 students to the school. The students had the opportunity to meet significant members of staff and become familiar with the Magdalene environment. There were also a number of lessons during the day, which gave students the opportunity to experience learning in a high school environment. Finally each student undertook the ACER General Ability Test (AGAT). This test allows the school to gain greater insights into each individual’s ability, which will help teachers to support them in their learning journey at Magdalene. We look forward to our association with these students over the coming years.

Last Friday evening I had the pleasure of attending the Wollongong Diocese Annual CDF Sports Awards Presentation. The evening brings together students from over the Diocese to acknowledge the 2013 sporting achievements at Diocesan, State and National level. I congratulate the Magdalene students: Samuel Harrison, Jackson Harrison, Sheree Farrell, Ayden Brown, Jordan Parker, Maddison Rullis, Matthew Stewart, Matthew Edwards, Christie Owen, Matthew Burke who were all nominated to receive awards at the presentation.

This week Jackson Harrison received the Victor Chang Cardiac Award at the University of Western Sydney. Jackson received this award as the most outstanding Year 11 Science student at Magdalene. The Award recipient is given the opportunity to learn more about the Institute and develop an association with the University of Western Sydney. Well done Jackson.

Last Thursday the art works of a significant number of students were on display at Magdalene Impressions. The individual work on display was very impressive and certainly a reflection of the talent of students at Magdalene. I thank Miss Partridge, Mrs Tree, Mr Loyola and Ms Benny for their organisation of the evening. I also thank the teachers and students who offered support on the night.

At the end of each year it is important to ascertain the view of parents in relation to the performance of the school throughout the year. With this in mind a survey has been created to capture the thoughts of parents in this area. Parents have been sent a link to the electronic survey this week. I ask all parents to fill in the survey as this will enable us to evaluate our performance and set directions for the future in order to improve student learning. The following link will also allow access to the survey: http://goo.gl/1asrCi

I remind all parents that the Presentation Day for 2013 will be conducted on Monday December 16. The presentation will be at St Gregory’s College Hall beginning at 10am. I invite all parents and friends to join us at this most significant event.

Over the past weeks there have been continuing reports related to the earth quake and Typhoon Haiyan disaster in the Philippines. These events have been massive in their destruction and brought upheaval and death to the people of the Philippines. Next week the Magdalene community will hold a fundraiser for the people of the Philippines to support them in these very difficult times visit the website www.caritas.org.au for further information on how to donate.

Donations can also be made to Unicef Typhoon Appeal at the following address.


Strong minds, gentle hearts
I ask everyone to keep these people in your prayers.

God, who quiets great winds and stills rough seas
We ask your protection for the people of the Philippines.
Comfort them in their fear.
Stay close to them in their danger.
And we ask the intercession of Your Blessed Mother
That together with her and with all your holy saints
We may stand in solidarity with our Filipino brothers and sisters
through their darkest hour
through their longest night.
Give us the courage to remain steadfast
To reach out to them in their need
To comfort them in their sorrow
To hold them as closely as You hold them
To see them through to morning.
Amen.

Prayer from Catholic Relief Services.

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

School Sports Socks
for juniors

As part of the two year phase in period the new sports socks are available for all junior Years 7 - 10. These socks are to be worn during Tuesday sport and for practical PDHPE lessons.

These are available from the school office, sizes 2-7, 7 - 11, 12 - 14, at a cost of $6 each.
Royal Commission into Sexual Abuse of Children

COMMITMENT STATEMENT

MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Commencing on Monday, 9 December 2013, at its public hearings the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will examine Towards Healing, the Catholic Church’s protocols for addressing sexual abuse within the Church. As I have said on previous occasions, I welcome the Royal Commission: the protection of children is of prime importance, not the protection of any organisation.

The Diocese has cooperated fully with the Royal Commission and the Truth, Justice and Healing Council in any request made of it to date and will continue to do so.

With the leaders of the Catholic Church in Australia, I recognise and acknowledge the devastating harm caused to people by the crime of child sexual abuse. Sexual abuse of a child by a priest or religious is a crime under Australian law and under the Church’s Canon Law. Whenever it occurred, the sexual abuse of a child by any Church personnel was then and is now indefensible. That such abuse has occurred at all, and the extent to which it has occurred, are facts of which I personally and I feel sure, you and the whole Church in Australia are deeply ashamed.

As a Church we fully and unreservedly acknowledge the devastating, deep and ongoing impact of sexual abuse on the lives of the victims and their families. Sadly, many victims were not believed when they should have been.

It is a cause of deep shame that, in some cases, those in positions of authority concealed or covered up what they knew of the facts, moved perpetrators to another place, thereby enabling them to offend again, or failed to report matters to the police when they should have. Such behaviour too, is indefensible. Too often in the past some Church leaders gave too high a priority to protecting the reputation of the Church, its priests, religious and other personnel, over the protection of children and their families, and over compassion and concern for those who suffered at the hands of Church personnel. That too, was and is inexcusable: in so doing,
we as your leaders betrayed your trust and the expectations of the wider community. For all these things I, together with Church leaders throughout Australia, am deeply sorry.

As Bishop of Wollongong, I again offer my sincere apology to those who have suffered abuse at the hands of a member of the clergy or indeed, any person representing the Catholic Church, particularly one who was ministering in the name of the Diocese of Wollongong. The Church humbly asks your forgiveness.

I again wish to assure you and the wider community that the Diocese of Wollongong is committed to the protection of children and young people and to addressing with sensitivity and determination any concern or allegation brought forward. In fact, my words of apology and sorrow would be hollow without decisive action.

As I have done previously. I strongly urge any person with a complaint of mistreatment or abuse to come forward to the appropriate authority. If the complaint is of a criminal nature, I ask you to notify the police. If you prefer to go to the Royal Commission the contact details are: Telephone: 1800 099 340; Post: GPO Box 5283, Sydney NSW 2001; Web: www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au

If you need assistance with this, or if the matter is not of a criminal nature, I invite and encourage you to telephone the Catholic Church’s Helpline on 1300 369 977 or to contact my office on 02 4222 2400 and ask to speak to Sr Moya Hanlen who works closely with me in these matters.

In conclusion, I renew my heartfelt apology to victims of sexual abuse by Catholic Church personnel. I also apologise to their families and all who have shared their suffering. I join the leaders of the Catholic Church in Australia as we commit ourselves to endeavour to repair the wrongs of the past, to listen to and hear victims, to put their needs first, and to do everything we can to ensure a safer future for children. I invite you to join me in prayer that our combined efforts may lead to the greater protection of children.

[Signature]

Bishop Peter W Ingham DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

Wollongong
14 November 2013

See also the Truth Justice and Healing Council’s Towards Healing submission to Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, September 2013 – www.tjhcouncil.org.au
Year 7 Orientation Day
30 October 2013

Students from St Clare’s Narellan and St Paul’s Catholic primary schools

Assembly
22 November 2013
Congratulations

Ana Gracanin, who is in class English Extension 2 this year, has just come equal first in the Charles Sturt University Creative Writing Competition with a poem entitled *Croatia: Parallel Migrations* that incorporates some of her Extension 2 poetry.

This is a wonderful achievement for Ana and showcases what a talented student Ana is.

Well done!

Congratulations to Emily Hajdu and Leah Carlsen of Year 11 who have achieved the Silver Award of The Duke of Edinburgh Award.

They are the first students to complete this level and they are to be commended for their continued efforts to develop their whole person through the Award. As a school community we look forward to them achieving the Gold Award.

The following students have been nominated for consideration for inclusion in InTech 2014, the annual exhibition of outstanding Major Design Projects developed by 2013 HSC Industrial Technology students.

Alana Di-Filippo, Thomas Paparo and Michael Robinson

Well done!

SPORT NEWS

MISA RESULTS: MAGDALENE V ST BENEDICT'S

Due to the wet weather the only representative games played against St Benedict's were the Year 7 Boys and Girls Basketball. The Girls won their game 23-4, dominating the match. The Boys lost 3-2 in a very close fought game with Luke Jansz named MVP.

2014 NSWCCC INDIVIDUAL NOMINATIONS FOR SPORTS:

*Note: These nominations are for athletes already competing at a high representative level.*

Parents and students are advised to check for individual sports as soon as possible. Some sport selections occur very early in Term 1 with even earlier cut-off times. To understand the processes involved for each sport go to the ‘Sports Specific Information’ for each sport.

Nomination is through the NSWCCC Website: [www.csss.nsw.edu.au](http://www.csss.nsw.edu.au)

**Sports Include:**

AFL, Baseball, Basketball, Canoeing, Cricket - Boys, Cricket - Girls, Diving, Golf, Hockey - Boys, Cricket - Girls, Diving, Golf, Hockey - Boys, Hockey - Girls (This is usually through a Diocesan selection process), Netball, Rowing, Rugby, Rugby League (This is usually through a Diocesan selection process), Netball, Rowing, Rugby, Rugby League (This is usually through a Diocesan selection process) Sailing, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Touch, Triathlon, Volleyball
On Friday 15 November the following students received Diocesan Sports awards for their outstanding efforts in Sport this year. The school congratulates them on their outstanding achievements;

**Samuel Harrison – Hockey**
Samuel has had outstanding success in Hockey this year. Samuel achieved the Goal-Keeping position in the under 16s School Boys team and represented NSW at the national competition held in August. Along with the success of the NSW team Sam was named as the shadow goal-keeper for the national squad.

**Jackson Harrison- Hockey**
In addition to being selected into the NSWCCC Open Boys hockey Team Jackson has also made it into the Under 21s State Squad at quite a young age. Jackson is heading towards the possibility of national representation and we wish him every success in his endeavours in Hockey.

**Sheree Farrell- Swimming**
Sheree made it into the NSW Swim Team competing at The National Championships at Adelaide in September. Sheree managed to gain a fantastic result, achieving 2nd place in the 200m Butterfly. As a young swimmer, Sheree has a promising future in the sport.

**Ayden Brown All-Schools Cricket team.**
Ayden has excelled in cricket over this past year, quickly gaining reputation as a fearsome fast bowler. He progressed to NSW All-Schools representation through some outstanding all round performances. Ayden always puts in 100% effort and maintains composure in all situations.

**Jordan Parker - Hockey**
Jordan continues to be a focussed and consistent Hockey player being selected into the NSWCCC Hockey team. Jordan maintains a good team based approach to her sporting endeavours, encouraging others while also displaying her individual talent.

**Maddison Rullis - NSWCCC Open Netball**
Maddison is an outstanding Netball player who continually maintains enthusiasm and fair play on the sporting field. She was deservedly selected into the NSWCCC Open Netball Team due to her outstanding talent. She has also successfully represented the school in both Basketball and Volleyball.

**Matthew Stewart – Football**
Matthew is an outstanding football player who has a promising future in the sport. Matthew was named Captain of the Wollongong side and went on to play in the NSWCCC Team. Matthew has previously represented Australia in the under 17s “Joeys” team touring the Middle East. He has also played Premier League for Blacktown and has recently been selected into the Western Sydney Wanderers under 21s team.

**Matthew Edwards**
Matthew was selected into the NSWCCC AFL Team (North) and competed at the All-School selection trials held at Broken Hill this year where there was tough competition against the other regions. Matthew is a competitive athlete who displays good sportsmanship at all times. He has also represented the school in Cricket and Cross Country.

**Christie Owen**
Christie started off this year by dominating her age group at the Magdalene Swimming Carnival and becoming Age Champion by a margin of 110 points. She went on to become Age Champion at the Diocesan Carnival and followed this by gaining a 3rd place in the 100m Butterfly at the NSWCCC Carnival. She continues to be an outstanding athlete.

**Matthew Burke**
Matthew has represented the school in Cross Country, Swimming, AFL and Oztag. He achieved Age Champion at the Magdalene Swimming Carnival and followed this up by achieving Age Champion at the Diocesan Carnival. Competing in the NSWCCC team Matthew achieved 3rd in the 50m Butterfly.
SPORTS NEWS

On 12 November Magdalen played Mount Carmel in the 5th Round of the Term 4 MISA competition. Due to the wet weather only Basketball could go ahead. The girls team were victorious winning 14-6, once again displaying great team work. The boys lost 34-3 with Luke Jansz and Lachlan Stone performing well.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rheanan Lewis who has been selected into the NSW U14 Ladies Indoor Netball Team. She will be competing at the 2013 Indoor Junior Netball National Championships from 8-14 December. We wish her all the best for the competition.

CONGRATULATIONS

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NOTICEBOARD

Second Hand Uniform Pool

The Second Hand Uniform Pool will be open on the following dates:

Monday 25 November 2013
7.55am - 8.20am

Friday 29 November 2013
7.55am - 8.20am

There are a large number of Senior Uniforms currently available.

All donations of Second Hand Uniforms welcome, please hand in at the Administration office.

If you require uniforms outside of these hours please call Kelly O’Keeffe on 0410 553 812.

CANTEEN

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<td>Term 4 Week 8B 25 November - 29 November</td>
<td>25 Nov Betty Roberts Cathy McDonald</td>
<td>26 Nov Carol Miskell Fran Lapa</td>
<td>27 Nov Rosalie Lopez Raquel Cosio</td>
<td>28 Nov Lyndall Musico Anne Hyeronimus</td>
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<td>Term 4 Week 9A 2 December - 6 December</td>
<td>2 Dec Nicole Ferraro Emma Grech</td>
<td>3 Dec Chris Lindo Sarah Penney</td>
<td>4 Dec Alison Gerada</td>
<td>5 Dec Michele Abbey Tracey McConchie</td>
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