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

This week’s newsletter is a reflection of the successes of the year in the Academic and Sporting arenas. The outstanding student performances were acknowledged at the sports awards held on Tuesday December 10 and the Presentation Ceremony held last Monday. I acknowledge every student who received an award for their commitment to achieving their personal best. I encourage all students to follow their example and strive for personal excellence in all they do in 2013 and beyond. A special edition of Award winners will be uploaded to the website.

As part of the recent ceremonies we welcomed a number of special guests who gave their time to acknowledge our students. Thank you to World Boxing Champion Daniel Geale, Local Federal Member Russell Mathieson, Camden Mayor Mrs Lara Symkowiak, Mr Allan McManus Head of School Services Diocese of Wollongong, Mrs Mary Ellen Bland Board Member Campbelltown Catholic Club, Mrs Wade and Catherine Ong (Mother and Sister of Kevin Wade), Mrs Claire Madrill & Mrs Pamela Templeton (Mother and Grandmother of Bastien), Mrs Joann Lake (Mother of Corey Lake)

This week the 2013 HSC results and ATAR rankings will be released to students. We look forward to hearing about our students successes and will include these in the first newsletter in 2014. The students will also be acknowledged at the High Achievers ceremony to be conducted in February 2014.

On Monday all students in Year 7 to 10 received their End of Year Reports. This was followed by the Parent Teacher Interviews held on Wednesday 18 December. Any parent who was not able to attend the interviews but still has concerns about their child’s performance or is seeking clarification should contact the appropriate teacher early in 2014.

It is important for everyone that students begin the year on the right note and in a positive manner. I remind parents that all students are to return to school in full summer uniform in 2014. It is important that each student attends on the first day in 2014 ready to commit to their studies for the year ahead. I also remind parents and students of the importance of meeting all expectations (including uniform) from day one.

Recently the school has celebrated and will celebrate a number of staff events of particular note Congratulations to Miss McCallum who married her fiancé Mitch on November 20. Congratulations also to Miss Kirby who will marry Troy this Saturday. We wish both couples all the best for their future lives together. Finally congratulations to Mr Houghton and his wife Tanya on the birth of their son Harry John last Friday. We wish little Harry a prosperous life.

As we conclude the year I wish to take this opportunity to thank the students, parents and staff of Magdalene for helping to make this school the wonderful community that it is. Thank you for your support and allegiance to the school. I feel privileged to be part of this wonderful community and I thank God for the blessings he has bestowed upon us.

Strong minds, gentle hearts
I wish everyone a holy and happy Christmas and look forward to the enthusiastic return of students in 2014.

God Bless

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

Catholic Christmas Prayer
(Nativity Prayer by St. Augustine)

Let the just rejoice,
for their justifier is born.
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,
For their saviour is born.
Let the captives rejoice,
For their Redeemer is born.
Let slaves rejoice,
for their Master is born.
Let free men rejoice,
For their Liberator is born.
Let All Christians rejoice,
For Jesus Christ is born.

(St. Augustine of Hippo, AD 354-440)

Book Lists / Equipment Lists 2014

The book lists / equipment lists for Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 have been mailed out to parents. These book lists / equipment lists for Years 7 - 11 will be accessible from the website and the link is as follows:

Year 7 = http://www.mchsdow.catholic.edu.au/attachments/article/41/Year%207%202014%20Book%20and%20Equipment%20List.pdf
Year 8 = http://www.mchsdow.catholic.edu.au/attachments/article/41/Year%208%202014%20Book%20and%20Equipment%20List.pdf

End of Year Mass

TERM DATES 2014

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Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2013

Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2013 was something none of us could have imagined, or can now even put into words. A few months ago, Year 12 students were offered a special opportunity to attend the first ever Catholic Youth Festival held in Australia in Melbourne. Seven students were chosen to attend with Mr Pannell and Ms Partridge. This group consisted of Bianca Collimore, Carly Reynolds, Taylah Earnshaw, Reece Nies, Emily McFarlane, Joshua Abbott and Amber Reynolds. We expected to be opened up to our faith, but didn’t expect it to be something so life changing.

After a long few months counting down, finally the day came. We set off on a journey that would soon change us all for the better. We were to take a train for 9 hours to our destination, Melbourne. This long trip gave us time to meet new people, talk about our expectations and to eat a lot of food. Unfortunately the only thing making it hard was that our carriage had the only broken air conditioning, which made it very hard for us to sit comfortably. After learning a lot of new names and faces we were finally there. At 6:30pm we set off walking with our luggage to the place we would soon call home. After an extended walk due to Mr Pannell’s direction, we finally made it to Space Hotel in the centre of Melbourne.

Day one started with the collection of our lanyards, which we carried with us everywhere we went. The excitement for the days ahead had completely taken over our bodies, but we needed to hold it in just a little longer. The 3 hour gap before the first of many brilliant Plenary sessions, lead us to the painting of Mr Pannell’s nail (only one), meeting Ms Universe, Rachael Finch & Didier the model and then going to the wrong end of Melbourne for the Plenary. We finally made it to the first session at around 1:30pm sitting in the back row, not knowing what to expect, we sat there in anticipation. From this moment we learnt the 4 main songs which we then sung/screamed around the streets. Together as the Magdalene group, we found fellowship with our Wollongong group made up of 83 students from schools in Wollongong Diocese. This session was so inspiring, we had opening talks upon the theme, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. We were told that God is challenging us, and we need to answer the question how will we show his greatness in our lives for the rest of our life. At this moment it all hit us, we soon felt the excitement from the rest of the room and the people sharing this experience with us, we felt the faith and hope that God wishes for us to feel, also the encouragement from the Bishops who spoke to us saying that we are keeping the church ‘alive’. It hit us that this was more than just a trip it was a journey of discovery for oneself.

After the Plenary we set out with the rest of the 3,000 youth to the Australian Catholic University where we started our seminars. The seminars we attended over the three days were conducted by Sister Bernadette, Melinda Tankard Reist, Bishop Peter and finally one about Aboriginal Spirituality. These seminars really opened our eyes to the many different social and religious issues in our world today.

You’d never expect that you’d hear moshing, Jesus and partying in the same sentence, but this basically summarises our amazing pilgrimage to Melbourne in December this year. It was 3 days that have changed our lives. Our eyes have been opened to so much more and we have become stronger in our faith.

Taylah Earnshaw, Amber Reynolds, Carly Reynolds, Bianca Collimore, Emily McFarlane, Joshua Abbott, Reece Nies, Marty Pannell, and Marie Partridge
Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2013
The students at Magdalene Catholic High School have been creating hampers for the St. Vincent de Paul Society to deliver to families and people who might not be as fortunate as many of us are this Christmas.

Each year around the start of Advent, a special time of preparation for Catholics in the lead up to Christmas, students begin collecting and decorating Christmas Hampers that are given to specific families and people in specific circumstances. Each of the Hampers come to Magdalene Catholic High School empty with a tag. On the tags are specific scenarios that are matched with specific people in those situations. One tag might read Single Mum with 3 children and the gender and ages of the children. Another tag might simply say Elderly couple.

The students in each homeroom are given an empty hamper with one of these tags and they choose as a homeroom how they will fill it with Christmas foods and drinks as well as a gift that is specific to the tag on the hamper. This morning the truck arrived from the St. Vincent de Paul Society and 45 hampers were loaded into that truck by our Magdalene students and they will be delivered over the next few weeks leading up to Christmas.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our staff and students to give selflessly during this special time of year. Thank you to all staff and students who contributed with goods and gifts.

Thank you to the wonderful St. Vincent de Paul Society who make this opportunity happen every year.
End of Year Presentation Ceremony
Magdalene Twinkles
Ancient Egyptian Feast

HSC Ancient History finished their study of New Kingdom Egypt with an Egyptian banquet. They enjoyed ‘Egyptian’ delicacies such as grapes, honey, melon, goats cheese, ginger beer and grape juice. There was much amusement as they replicated Egyptian makeup courtesy of their resident artist Ally Francis-Reynolds. - Lucy Sharp

Year 8 Geography Classes

Over the past term 8 Geography 6 and 8 Geography 5, have been learning about Global Issues. One of the areas we learnt about was that children, especially girls, cannot go to school because there is no toilets at the school. We decided to raise money to assist a poor community with this issue, and use the Oxfam web site to buy a gift for a disadvantaged community. We raised $140, which we spent on supplying clean water and sanitary toilets to a school in Cambodia so that children can stay in class and get an education. This affects the whole community, as it will help them fight against preventable diseases and an education will help overcome other struggles in the community. As well as this we used the remaining money to buy a flock of chickens for the people to use as a food source and to use them to make a profit on excess produce, as well as being able to reproduce the chickens so as to increase food security. Both 8 Geography 6 and 5 are happy that they have raised this sum of money to help those who are less fortunate and possibly brighten up a disadvantaged community, particularly at Christmas time.

Jesse Marchand and Lachlan Abernethy.
On Tuesday 10 December Magdalene’s annual Sports assembly took place. During the assembly our winning MISA and Diocesan teams were recognised, along with the Age Champions for our Cross Country, Athletics and Swimming Carnivals. Students who had achieved All-Schools representation were also honoured, while students who had refereed and umpired for our local Primary Schools were acknowledged.

Our special guest speaker on the day was world champion boxer, Daniel Geale, who gave some great words of encouragement about sport to our students and who also presented our athletes with their certificates.

Students who were presented with certificates and acknowledged at this assembly are photographed with their teams and included below:
Sports Assembly Awards
10 December 2013

Congratulations
Sheree Farrell
Swimming
Sheree has succeeded in coming first IN THE STATE for the 10km open water event today!

MISA Tennis - Coached by Mr Hewitt
Diocesan Senior Boys Soccer - Coached by Mr Zakris
Swimming - Age Champions 2013
Athletics - Age Champions 2013
Cross Country - Age Champions 2013
Dunne won the overall House Championship
Daniel Geale - Special guest at this years Sports Awards
Student Referees at The West Region Primary Netball Gala Day
Daniel Geale with Mr Kennedy
All-Schools Certificates (for representation at NSW level)
Student Referees at The West Region Primary Soccer Gala Day
Student Referees at The West Region Primary Basketball Gala Day

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NOTICEBOARD

December
19 Thurs ATAR Morning Tea 10.30am - 11.30am

January
30 Thurs Year 7 and Year 11 First Day
31 Fri All School Returns

February
3 Mon UOW Discovery Day
5 Wed Opening Mass Year 12 Information Evening
10 Mon Year 7 IPAD Day
11 Tues Parents and Friends Meeting - 7pm
12 Wed Year 11 Assessment Information Evening - 7pm
13 Thurs School Assembly
14 Fri Swimming Carnival

Second Hand Uniform Pool

The Second Hand Uniform Pool will be open on: 28 January 2014 from 9.00am - 11.00am.

The Second Hand Uniform Pool requires donations of pre-loved uniforms in good condition. Please hand in at the Administration office.

Please do not send in the previous style of sport uniform as these are no longer part of the current uniform.

There are a large number of Senior Uniforms currently available.

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

Gardener of the Year

Merry Christmas and thanks Joe

Wishing you a Happy and Holy Christmas