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

Last week an appeal for the Philippines was conducted to raise funds after the recent devastation created by Typhoon Haivan. The theme of the day was “Yellow,” which is the colour that represents peace in the Philippines. Many students joined in support by dressing in yellow. Once again I was amazed at the generosity of students and their willingness to reach out to others in need. I thank everyone for their efforts and generosity. At the end of the day over $4,600 was raised in support of the victims.

As we conclude the year a number of staffing changes will take place at Magdalene. Sadly the following staff will not be returning to Magdalene in 2014. Mr Vannan (Curriculum Coordinator at Good Samaritan Catholic College Hinchinbrook), Mrs O’Flynn (HSIE Coordinator at St Benedict’s Oran Park), Mr Sligar (Science Assistant Coordinator at Mount Carmel High School, Varroville), Mrs Bonfield (Science Support Officer, St Benedict’s College, Oran Park), Mrs Rumble (Finance Support Officer St Benedict’s College, Oran Park), Mrs Hrvatin (Finishes temporary appointment – Mr Collins will return from leave), Mr Luff (Finishes temporary appointment – Mrs Hynes will return from leave), Mr Loyola (Finishes temporary appointment), Mrs Hulme (Maternity leave), Mrs McClure (Taking a year’s leave), Mrs Denise Phillips (completed temporary appointment), Mrs Vaughan and Mrs Monger (Jobshare; Mrs Vaughan taking a year’s leave) and Mrs Rebecca Moraghan (Maternity leave). I wish each of these people well as they leave Magdalene and look forward to the return of those teachers who will be returning in 2015. I sincerely thank each of the above people for their dedication and contribution to the lives of students at Magdalene.

Recently the Pastoral Care Coordinators for each year group were decided for 2014. These people have displayed a commitment to the welfare of students and will continue this approach in 2014. The Coordinators for 2014 are: Year 7 - Mrs Foti, Year 8 - Mr Dowdell, Year 9 – Mr Sinclair – Kydd, Year 10 - Miss Rose, Year 11 Mr Zakris and Year 12 Mr Lipscombe. I congratulate them and thank them for undertaking this very significant role in 2014.

Last Friday, I had the pleasure of attending the University of Wollongong Engineering Awards. A number of senior students received recognition for their outstanding work in the subjects related to engineering. Congratulations to Tahlia Irving - runner up in the “Portfolio Award,” Nicholas Pervan - “Portfolio Award,” Design & Technology, Joshua Bourke - “Best use of Referencing / Bibliography” Award winner, Michael Robinson - “Timber Products & Furniture Technology” Award - runner up, Alana Di-Filippo - “Women in Industrial Technology” Award runner up. These are outstanding achievements in the various Technology and Applied Sciences subjects. Well Done!

I remind all parents once again, that the Presentation Day for 2013 will be conducted on Monday 16 December. 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. I also invite parents to be present at the End of Year Mass to be held at 9.30am on Friday 13 December at Magdalene. This Mass is a celebration of our community with our God. It is a fitting way to reflect on the year. I remind parents also that the Parent Teacher Student interviews will be conducted on Wednesday December 18 from 8.30am until 2.30pm. Parents are able to book in for these interviews online at www.schoolinterviews.com.au. Please see attached letter with instructions on the booking process.

This week Mr Pannell, Miss Partridge and 7 students: Reece Nies, Joshua Abbott, Taylah Earnshaw, Carly Reynolds, Emily McFarlane, Amber Reynolds and Bianca Collimore will travel to Melbourne to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. These students were chosen from a number of applicants and are certainly worthy representatives of Magdalene. We look forward to hearing about their experiences with other young Catholics from across the nation.

Strong minds, gentle hearts
Over the last two weeks students talents have been showcased at two events hosted at the school. Magdalene Twinkles and the Year 9 and 10 Music Showcase highlighted the musical talents of our junior students. I congratulate the students on their performances and achievements and thank the parents and supporters who were able to attend. Finally thank you to Mr Mäe and Mrs McClure for their encouragement and support of the students.

Over the final two weeks of this term Mr Elliott will be taking long service leave. During that time Mrs Forner will be assuming the role of Acting Assistant Principal. This week Mrs Hulme will leave Magdalene to begin her Maternity leave. On behalf of the school community I wish Mrs Hulme all the best for the birth of her fourth child.

This week is the beginning of the season of Advent. The word Advent means Advent comes from the Latin “adventus”, meaning ‘coming.’ The Advent season has a focus on preparation for the coming of our Lord. Advent is also a season of hope. In our world today there is much sadness and tragedy and Advent provides us with hope in the future and hope in our God.

Mr Wright has supplied the following reflection for Advent.

The readings of Isaiah are so moving during Advent, calling us to consider our relationship with God in new ways. Isaiah invites us to consider a relationship with God on a very deep and personal level, to feel comforted, loved and protected. Isaiah offers us a God who rejoices in us and celebrates us with banquets of rich wines and choice food. There is a constant exhortation not to be afraid.

I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand;
It is I who say to you, “Fear not, I will help you.” Isaiah 41:13

I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand ... I will help you.

I can see that the passage means that I can’t do it all alone. I am strong, busy, independent and apparently somewhat arrogant. I want to do it all myself. How do I share my life and my work with a God who at the moment seems to be hampering my progress?

That’s where the Isaiah reading adds, “It is I who say to you, ‘Fear not, I will help you.’”

I really, really don’t have to do it alone. I can step off my self-imposed pedestal and join the rest of the human race in asking for help.

I can ask God every morning to open my heart in new ways for the freedom to accept what God wants for me - not what I want for me. I can realize that God stands ready, cherishing me every moment, holding my hand and offering me a banquet.

I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand;
It is I who say to you, “Fear not, I will help you.”

Finally the Caritas website provides a link to the advent calendar, which can be used for prayer each day, in the lead up to Christmas. http://www.caritas.org.au/advent

God Bless

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

Conversation and Prayer with Bishop Peter

A few weeks ago, Reece Nies, Ellie O’Meara, Mr O’Neill and myself went to John Therry Catholic High School for a Conversation with Bishop Peter. Students from all over the Wollongong Diocese schools attended to chat with Bishop Peter about current events – both globally and locally, ask him about his life and also his opinions on different issues in society, including asylum seekers, motorcycle gangs and the recent Typhoon devastation.

Talking to other young people from other schools made the afternoon more interesting, and allowed us to share our ideas and discuss things that we were all passionate about. Thank you to John Therry, Bishop Peter and Mr O’Neill for the great afternoon. Emily McFarlane
PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEW BOOKING PROCESS

YEARS 7 -11

Book School Interviews Online

Parent teacher interviews will be held in the School Library on Wednesday 18th December 8.30am – 2.30 pm.

Please follow the steps listed below to book your interview times.


2 – Enter this event code then follow the three steps below MFXSF

3 –
   • Enter your details
   • Choose teachers
   • Choose Times

4 – When you click finish, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

Bookings open Monday 9th December at 9.00 am
Bookings close on Tuesday 17th December at 3.00 pm
Yellow Day

Yellow day was held to raise money to support the victims of Typhoon Haivan.
St John the Evangelist Parish Primary School
100 Years Celebration
1914 - 2014

CLAIM THE DATE:  **Friday 11th July 2014**
WHAT:  Celebration Mass
WHERE:  St John’s Parish Church
TIME:  **5.00pm**
AFTERWARDS:  **6.30pm** Centenary Celebration Dinner
at The Cube Campbelltown Catholic Club.

TICKETS:  Will be available to purchase closer to the date

- Do you have any photos or stories to share? Please bring them to the school. They can be scanned or copied.
- Do you know the whereabouts of ex students, parents and staff. Please contact them and pass on the information.
- Please feel free to email your details to be provided with further information closer to the date: info@sjctdow.catholic.edu.au or visit our website www.sjctdow.catholic.edu.au

Enquiries: 4625 1171

*We look forward to hearing from you and celebrating St John’s Primary 100 Years.*
**NOTICEBOARD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 Mon</td>
<td>Presentation Day - St Gregory’s College</td>
<td>3 Dec</td>
<td>4 Dec</td>
<td>5 Dec</td>
<td>6 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Tues</td>
<td>Activity Day</td>
<td>3 Dec Chris Lindo Sarah Penney</td>
<td>5 Dec Michele Abbey Tracey McConchie</td>
<td>6 Dec Leanne Wolf Renea Wales</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Wed</td>
<td>HSC Results available Last day Parent/Teacher interviews</td>
<td>10 Dec Karen Ryan Nicole Mortimer</td>
<td>11 Dec Janelle Moser Jo Britt</td>
<td>30 Jan Year 7 &amp; Year 11 Return Michelle Crowe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Thurs</td>
<td>ATAR Morning Tea 10.30am - 11.30am</td>
<td>27 Jan Australia Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>29 Jan</td>
<td>30 Jan Year 7 &amp; Year 11 Return Michelle Crowe</td>
<td>31 Jan All School Resumes Leanne Irons Linda Maguire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Thurs</td>
<td>Year 7 and Year 11 First Day</td>
<td>10 Mon</td>
<td>Year 7 IPAD Day</td>
<td>5 Dec Michele Abbey Tracey McConchie</td>
<td>6 Dec Racheal Miller Megan Gibson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Fri</td>
<td>All School Returns</td>
<td>11 Tues</td>
<td>Parents and Friends Meeting - 7pm</td>
<td>5 Dec Michele Abbey Tracey McConchie</td>
<td>6 Dec Racheal Miller Megan Gibson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Wed</td>
<td>Year 11 Assessment Information Evening - 7pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>13 Thurs</td>
<td>School Assembly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Frid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 January</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Second Hand Uniform Pool**

The Second Hand Uniform Pool will be open on: 9 December from 7.55am - 8.20am

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.