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

Last Thursday the school celebrated the Opening School Mass for 2015. The celebrants for the Mass were Fr Michael and the new assistant priest at Camden Fr Joseph. The Mass provided us with the opportunity to reflect on the fact that we begin the 2015 journey with our God. It was also a reminder of the wonderful community that is Magdalene and we certainly travel the journey together supporting each other.

The theme of the Mass was “Hope” and in so many ways Magdalene is a place of hope. That hope comes from each individual and is very much a part of our vision which challenges each person to provide hope in the future by taking their place in society. “In partnership with families we aim to assist students to become strong, clear thinkers who are capable of taking their place in society whilst at the same time always being guided by their faith in Jesus Christ.” It is my hope that each member of our community commits to our vision throughout 2015.

I thank Fr Michael Fr Joseph and our special guests. Mr Chris Patterson, Mrs Lara Symkowiak, Senior Constable Alan Clapham, Mrs Mary Ellen Bland, Mrs Isabella Potts, Mr Alan Mc Manus for honouring us with their presence. It certainly added to the sense of occasion. I also thank the family members and members of Year 12, 2014 for being part of such a memorable ceremony.

After the Opening School Mass the school community had the opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate the high achievers in the 2014 Higher School Certificate. These people achieved a Band 6 result in one or more of their subjects. As a community we are most proud of their efforts. Once again we acknowledged the 2014 Dux, Taylah Davidson, who responded with the following:

“Good morning Staff, Students and distinguished guests,
I would first off like to congratulate all of my fellow high achievers, we have all seen how hard you worked over the past two years and you have all been rewarded with outstanding results. Now is the time, when our dreams are in reach and possibilities vast, so I would like to wish you all every success in the future.

The biggest piece of advice I would give to any student but particularly those heading into senior school, would be to ensure you have balance. Although you will probably need to work harder than you have before, it is still important to take time out for yourself away from study and do things that you enjoy; spending time with friends and family, exercising and just relaxing.

I was reminded of a quote before my HSC – ‘Believing in yourself is half the battle’ I think it is really important at times we get caught up worrying about rankings and comparing ourselves to other students but at the end of the day none of that matters, none of that stress is going to improve your results. What will however is having confidence in yourself and your own ability and setting goals that are achievable for you.

Lastly I would like to say good luck to all the current Year 12 students, just remember to work hard, relax and believe in yourself and the year will fly by.

Thank you”
On Monday, February 2, I had the pleasure of witnessing two of our students receive a Blues Award at St Patrick’s College Sutherland. The Blues Awards acknowledge outstanding sporting performance by students in Catholic Secondary Schools in NSW. Matthew Stewart (Year 12 2014) was acknowledged for his outstanding performance in Soccer and Matthew Edwards (Year 11 2015) was acknowledged for his outstanding performances in AFL. Congratulations to both young men on such fine examples of use of talents and personal excellence.

Last Tuesday the first meeting of the Parents and Friends Association and The Parent Consultation Committee was conducted for 2015. The topics were an update on the school, the Annual Improvement Plan 2015, an outline of the building of the proposed school hall. I thank all parents in attendance and encourage all parents to take the opportunity to be involved in the future.

I remind parents and carers that if there is an issue with your child you should contact the school as early as possible so that matters may be resolved. The first point of contact is the subject or pastoral care teacher of the child. If the concern is not resolved the matter will then be referred to the KLA coordinator or the Pastoral Care Year Coordinator. All matters arising will be referred back to the teacher directly involved in the first instance, so this is the most appropriate point of first contact.

Next week we begin the season of Lent. Lent is period of 40 days that allows us to stop, reflect on ourselves and recommit to God. In the busyness of our day it is a perfect opportunity to stop and pray more deeply. It is a time of renewal and preparation for celebrating the resurrection. One way for people to prepare is to make sacrifices in our lives. People often speak of what they will sacrifice (give up) during Lent. I include the following reflection as a suggestion of what we could sacrifice during this Lenten season to help us to prepare for Easter.

Lenten promises
Give up complaining...be grateful.
Give up pessimism...be an optimist.
Give up harsh judgements...be kind.
Give up worry...trust in God.
Give up discouragement...be hopeful.
Give up bitterness...forgive.
Give up hatred...return good for evil.
Give up anger...patience, patience, patience.
Give up pettiness...mature as a person.
Give up gloom...beauty is everywhere you go.

God Bless

[Signature]

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

Magdalene Catholic High School
Year 7, 2016 Open Day/ Information Evening
Monday 9 March 2015

School Tours running every half hour from 3pm to 6pm.

Formal information session (including talks by school Leadership Team) from 7pm to 8pm in the CAPA block.

Enrolment packages will be available for collection on this evening at the information session, and thereafter from the School Office.

ALL WELCOME

Any parent help with the Parents and Friends BBQ during the afternoon would be most appreciated.
If parents are able to help please contact Isabella Potts 0407 234946.
OPENING SCHOOL MASS
OPENING SCHOOL MASS  
HSC Achievers Ceremony

The Magdalene community welcomed back a number of the following High School Achievers, Taylah Davidson, Taylor-Anne Barbaro, Lucy Sharp, Jackson Harrison, Cody Newton, Elizabeth Coluccio, Tiarne Brown, Hannah Perigo, Emma Potocki, and Clare Dowswell. These students all received ATARs above 90.

Mr John Lo Cascio, Taylah Davidson with Mayor Mrs Lara Symkoviak

A warm welcome was also given to a number of students in attendance who received a Band 6. The following students all received a Band 6 in the HSC. Congratulations to Rhiannon Ace, Bree Aldridge, Thomas Arias, Chiara Assetta, John Azzi, Taylor-Anne Barbaro, Aleesha Bertoldi, Jake Bethune, Katherine Bonanno, Monique Borg, Tiarne Brown, Abbey Bull, Joel Burke, Lachlan Burke, Megan Casey, Elizabeth Coluccio, Taylah Davidson, Clare Dowswell, Keziah Duguid, Alexandra Francis-Reynolds, Campbell Green, Yasmin Haley, Jackson Harrison, Jarrad Harvey, Danica Irving, Tahlia Irving, Emily Jansz, Sarah Kennedy, Jake Lombardo, Jaqueline Marshall, Kate Moran, Cody Newton, Eloise O’Meara, Jordan Parker, Hannah Perigo, Nicholas Pervan, Laura Petrie, Emma Potocki, Madeleine Rosevear, Maddison Rullis, Joshua Sanchez, Lucy Sharp, Rachael Smith, Christopher Talese, Christopher Willis, and Daniel Zanatta.

Congratulations
We wish you well and God’s blessings in your future endeavours.

dux
Taylah Davidson
97.95 ATAR
Bubbleology: The Science of Bubbles

Year 7 have completed one whole week of lessons, experiencing many new opportunities. In Science, they mastered the skill of creating the biggest bubble possible. As a team they worked together to capture bubbles, create bubble structures (many looking like igloos), and beat the other groups at forming the largest bubble.

For 7.2 the winning bubble was 30cm wide and 20cm high.
Amazing stuff.

Miss Passlow

Congratulations
SHeree Farrell and Madyson Kenny

Congratulations to Sheree Farrell Year 10 Wilson who will be competing in the 10km and 5km, and Madyson Kenny Year 8 Wilson competing in the 5km in the Australian Open Water Championships in Perth.

Sheree has also been selected in the 2015 Australian Open Water Swimming Talent ID squad and will be attending Mooloolaba Queensland to participate in the training camp on 20—22 February.

We Congratulate Sheree and Madyson on their swimming achievements and look forward to hearing of their results.

Well done!
This week year 7 students started using their iPads at school for the first time. By introducing iPads to the 1:1 Learning Technology program Magdalene Catholic High School aims to support all students in improving student engagement, participation and achievement. iPads are a powerful tool for collaboration, active participation, critical thinking, innovation and discovery. They allow students to personalise their learning to suit their individual needs, abilities and interests.

The two days started with a presentation from Senior Constable Allan Clapham who discussed the importance of online safety, protecting their identity and how to be responsible when working online. Students then participated in a series of workshops that included email, Google, researching, organisation, using calendars, video editing, the school library, how to borrow books, ebooks, audio books and much more. At the end of the two days each students created a short presentation using the knowledge gained over the two days. Any information that students may need related to managing and using their iPads at school can be found on the iPad site. goo.gl/16bZlh

I would like to thank Mr Collins and his year 12 Computer Applications class who planned and ran two of the workshop.

Year 12 Computer Applications Class:

Mr Danny Avalos - Learning Technology Coordinator
SPORTS NEWS

Sport for Term 1, 2015

Sport re-commenced on the 3rd February, 2015 with the Term 1 MISA Trials being held for the following sports: 10-12 Boys Cricket, Open Girls Cricket, 8/9 Boys Basketball, 8/9 Girls Basketball, 7-9 Boys Softball, 7-9 Girls Softball, 10-12 Boys Oztag, 10-12 Girls Oztag, 7-9 Boys Volleyball, 7-9 Girls Volleyball.

The Term 1 MISA competition commences on 10th February.

2015 Elective Sports and Year Group Sports

During Term 1, 2015 the following Year Groups will be participating in the following sport activities:
- Year 7 – Indoor Sport rotations
- Year 8 – Multi-Sport
- Year 9 – School Sport

There is an information note that has been given to students to take home detailing individual sports that Years 7-9 will be participating in. This note also details sports expectations and procedures for non-participation. A copy of the Sports Information note has also been emailed to students. The information note will also be made available on the school website.

Students in years 10 and 11 have chosen Electives.

Year 10 students are participating in the following sports:
- Dance Group, Camden Power walking, Beach Soccer Volleyball, Boxing for Fitness, Ten Pin Bowling at Macarthur Square, Mount Annan Walking Group and Squash.

Year 11 students are participating in the following sports:
- Dance Group, Boxing for Fitness, Female and Male Weights/Squash, Mount Annan Botanic Gardens Walking Group and Ten Pin Bowling at Leumeah (Macarthur Bowl)

Students have been given notes detailing these sports. These information notes have also been emailed to students and will be made available on the school’s website. This note also details sports expectations and procedures for non-participation.

No Hat = No Sport

Students are required to have a drink bottle for all sports and a hat for all outdoor sports. Students should also bring sunscreen for outdoor sports. Students who do not have a hat for outdoor sports will be required to go to a “No-Hat Detention”. Students are advised to always keep a hat, sunscreen and a water bottle in their bags. Please Note: School bags are not able to be taken to most sports.

Inability to participate in Sport (Sports Study – Non Sport)

It is expected that students will participate in Sport, unless the Sports Coordinator is otherwise advised. Students who cannot participate due to sickness/illness or injury must have a note from their parent/guardian. This note must be sighted by the Sports Coordinator (Mr Kennedy) on Tuesdays no later than recess. Notes should include any details of injuries or medical concerns. Students unable to participate in sport attend the Sports Study.

Please Note: ‘Sports Study – Non Sport’ is only for students who cannot participate in sport due to medical reasons.
SPORTS NEWS

2015 NSWCCC and All-Schools Sporting Information

These sports are for students already competing at a high representational level eg. district or regional.

Information for individual nominations can be accessed via the following website link www.csss.nsw.edu.au. This allows parents/students to apply for individual nominations for sports on-line. The application is subject to both to sports specific criteria and approval by the Sports Coordinator and Principal.

Some important NSWCCC and All-School Sports coming up as early as Term 1 include:

NSWCCC Girls Softball – Closing date 10/2
All-Schools Triathlon – Closing date 17/2
NSWCCC Baseball – Closing date 17/2
NSWCCC Tennis – Closing date 23/2
NSWCCC Girls Cricket - Closing date 26/2
NSWCCC Golf - Closing date 2/3
NSWCCC Boys and Girls Hockey - Closing date 12/3
NSWCCC Boys and Girls Diving - Closing date 30/3
NSWCCC 15Yrs Netball – 1/5
NSWCCC Open Netball – 1/5
NSWCCC Boys and Girls Volleyball – 22/5

These and other sports are detailed on the website. Please go into “Sport Specific Information” after ‘clicking’ onto the sport you are enquiring about and look for ‘pathway’ information and very importantly ‘closing dates’. Check this information at your earliest convenience to avoid disappointment.

Parents need to register through the website to nominate students for these sports: at www.csss.nsw.edu.au

St Anthony’s Parish Church
Youth Mass

The first YOUTH MASS of 2015 at St, Anthony’s Parish Church, Tahmoor/Picton will be at 6-00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 21 February.

Come along and join in the celebration with a great choir – Huge band and all the students /parishioners that make this so SPECIAL.

Refreshments will be served after Mass.
ALL WELCOME.
February

16 Mon Secondary Girls Hockey Trials
17 Tues Shrove Tuesday—Pancakes sold before school and recess Project Compassion Launch
18 Wed Yr 11 and 12 Meet the Music Ash Wednesday
26 Thurs Yr 9 History Elective Excursion—The Rocks

March

2 Mon Yr 12 Hospitality Excursion
4 Wed Yr 10 ELEC History Excursion — Jewish Museum Yr 10 History—Mandatory History Excursion
6 Fri Yr 8 and Yr 11 Geography Field Work Yr 10 MUS - Brandenburg Orchestra
9 Mon Yr 7, 2016 Open Day/Information Evening School Tours every half hour from 3pm–6pm. Formal Information session from 7pm–8pm. Enrolment packages will be available at the evening session.
9–13 Mon–Fri Catholic Schools Week
16–18 Mon–Wed Yr 7 Camp Yr 9 Camp

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP
The Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open on the following dates and times:

- Monday 16 February 8.00am - 8.20am
- Friday 20 February 8.00am - 8.20am
- Monday 23 February 8.00am - 8.20am
- Friday 27 February 8.00am - 8.20am

If you require second hand uniforms outside of these hours please call Kelly O’Keeffe on 0410 553812

MATER DEI
Enrolment Information Evening 2015

Mater Dei School is an exciting and innovative educational facility for Infants, Primary and Secondary students who have been assessed with a developmental delay or whose primary disability is an intellectual disability in the Mild or Moderate Range.

For people interested in finding out more about enrolment at Mater Dei School in 2016, the Information Evening will be held on

Wednesday 25 February 2015
7.00pm - 8.30pm

Please phone the Mater Dei School Office on 4655 7481 for further information or to reserve your place at the Information Evening.

CANTEEN

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<td>16 Feb - 20 Feb</td>
<td>Thai Tyquin</td>
<td>Kathy Foden</td>
<td>Rosalie Lopez</td>
<td>Michelle Crowe</td>
<td>Jade Adamson</td>
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<td>Mandy Newton</td>
<td>Anna Geering</td>
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<td>Week 5A</td>
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<td>Fran lapa</td>
<td>Isabela Riservato</td>
<td>Sandra Chamberlain</td>
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<td>23 Feb - 27 Feb</td>
<td>Jen Quinn</td>
<td>Peta Teuma</td>
<td>Anita Jerak</td>
<td>Tracy McConchie</td>
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<td>Week 6B</td>
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<td>Kylie Greffenius</td>
<td>Jo Britt</td>
<td>Lyndal Musico</td>
<td>Rachael Miller</td>
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<td>2 Mar - 6 Mar</td>
<td>Sue McCann</td>
<td>Maria Murphy</td>
<td>Coralie Kelly</td>
<td>Kerry Bolwell</td>
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MAGDALENE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
“Because I have seen the Lord”
Smeaton Grange Road, Narellan NSW 2567 Phone: 02 4631 3300 Fax: 02 4631 3398 email: info@mchsdow.catholic.edu.au P.O. Box 222, Narellan NSW 2567 www.mchsdow.catholic.edu.au