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

On Wednesday 11 March the Annual Education Mass was celebrated at the St John Vianney pro-Cathedral in Fairy Meadow. This Mass was an opportunity for staff members of Catholic Schools across the diocese to come together with Bishop Peter and the Diocesan clergy to reflect on the achievements and challenges of Catholic education in the year ahead. During the Mass the Diocesan Director, Mr Peter Turner, launched “Lighting The Way” the new vision and strategic direction statement, for the diocesan schools, now and into the future. This document challenges us as educators to meet the needs of our students in their faith, academic, social and physical development. In essence we as educators are challenged to “Be the best we can be” to meet the needs of our students. We look forward to the challenge ahead.

This week Year 12 students began their half yearly examinations. This is a challenging time for our students and provides them with an opportunity to reflect on their educational journey to date, while considering future directions. As in any assessment task in any year, examinations are not only an opportunity to consider present performance but also an opportunity to reflect on ways to improve learning. I ask all students whether in Year 7 or Year 12 to consider each task as a learning experience, which will enable further development and growth so that each student can strive to achieve personal excellence. We wish Year 12 all the best in their examinations and look forward to their results.

Last week I had the pleasure of visiting the Year 7 Camp at Teen Ranch and the Year 9 Camp at Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens. Upon arrival at each of the camps I was impressed by the sense of community and cooperation amongst both staff and students. I was also pleased to witness students, in many cases, move beyond their comfort zones and meet new challenges, which always has a positive impact on their resilience.

As a school, Magdalene is committed to giving students these extra curricular opportunities as often as possible. We firmly believe that the sense of community and challenges, created by the experience, will add to our positive learning environment for individuals and the community. I am grateful to the students for allowing themselves to be fully engaged in the activities on the camps. I am also thankful to the teachers who spent time away from their families to ensure the students had such a worthwhile experience.

Over the past few weeks the Magdalene community has been raising funds to support Caritas projects across the world. As usual students and staff have been quite passionate about this worthy cause and are to be congratulated on their efforts. The small sacrifices made by a large number of people will certainly make a difference to the lives of many across the earth and promote a truly Christian sense of giving within our community.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday and on that day we as Catholics celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. Palm Sunday also begins the week leading to Christ’s death and resurrection. It is the beginning of Holy Week. The week Christ gave us the first Eucharistic celebration on Holy Thursday, the week He died for our sins on Good Friday and the week He rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. These events would not only fulfill the scriptures but give each of us the opportunity to have eternal life in God’s kingdom. Easter is a celebration that each one of us should take personally. Christ died and rose from the dead for each one of us so that we may “have life and have it in abundance”.

This Easter we are challenged to be thankful for what we have been given by our God and to make a commitment to do God’s will now and into the future.

Strong minds, gentle hearts
I wish everyone a holy Easter and a safe holiday break.

God Bless

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

EASTER SERVICES

St Paul’s Parish, Camden (St Mary’s Leppington & St Clare’s Narellan Vale)

Mass Times Holy Week and Easter
2-4-2014 Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord’s Supper
St Mary’s Leppington - 7.00pm, St Paul’s Camden - 7.00pm.

3-4-2014 Good Friday, Stations of the Cross
St Mary’s Leppington - 9.00am, St Paul’s Camden - 10.00am.

Commoration of the Lord’s Passion
St Paul’s Camden - 3.00pm.

4-4-2014 Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil, St Paul’s Camden - 6.00pm.

6-4-2014 Easter Sunday
Mass of the Resurrection, St Mary’s Leppington - 8.00am, St Paul’s Camden - 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am and 5.30pm.

Picton - Tahmoor - St Anthony’s Parish

Holy Thursday: 7.30pm.
Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10.00am, Passion 3.00pm.
Easter Masses: Vigil 7.30pm, 7.30am & 9.30am.
Reconciliation: First Rite: Good Friday 11.00am - 12noon & 4.30pm - 5.30pm.

The Oaks - St Aloysius Parish,

Holy Thursday: 7.00pm.
Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10.00am, Passion 3.00pm
Easter Masses: Vigil 7.00pm & 9.00am. (Open Air)
Reconciliation: Second Rite: Tuesday 26 March, 6.30pm.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS TERM II

During Term 2 there will be 2 staff development days for staff professional development.
These will be conducted on Friday 1 May and Friday 29 May.
Students ARE NOT required to attend school on the above dates.

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http://goodspace.wordpress.com
ISLANDS OF MERCY
As I was reading through Pope Francis’ Lenten message for 2015 I was struck by one of the images that he used. The Pope says: “Dear brothers and sisters, how greatly I desire that all those places where the Church is present, especially in our parishes and our communities, may become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference!”

The Pope believes that the world is experiencing a selfish attitude where we do not care about others, their problems or the sufferings they endure, and that this is happening across the globe. He calls this the ‘globalisation of indifference’. What a wonderful idea then, that God is calling us to be ‘islands of mercy’ in the midst of this indifference to suffering. The Pope says that, “A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart”.

This is a challenge to all of us but Lent is a time for challenges. The strength to take up the challenge comes from God: “We love because God first loved us.”

(1 John 4:19). Through prayer, through awareness of others, “If one member suffers, all suffer together” (1 Corinthians 12:26), through “reaching out to both those near and far through the Church’s many charitable organisations” (Pope Francis), and by responding to God’s call to conversion as we realise, through the suffering of others, that our own lives are uncertain and that we are dependent upon God, we can become the “islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference!”

Mr O’Neill
Religious Education Coordinator

CARITAS “RED DAY” AND “CARITAS FOOD FESTIVAL”
On Thursday 12 March Magdalene held Caritas ’Red Day’, and the Year 12’s hosted a ‘Caritas Food Festival’ during lunch to raise money and awareness for Project Compassion. The focus for Project Compassion is ‘Food For Life’, so the Year 12’s helped run three stalls; focusing on some the countries that Project Compassion is aimed at: Fiji, Peru and Australia.

We had tropical smoothies on the Fiji stall, hot chips on the Peru stall and a sausage sizzle on the Australia stall. It was really great to see the whole school getting involved wearing mufti clothing in either red or the colours of these countries and donating to such a wonderful charity. There was also music playing in the TAS quad by our talented Year 12 students for entertainment.

Students were also given the option of buying VIP passes for $2, which gave students a ten minute early pass to be one of the first in line. The total raised for this day was $3378.60 which is an amazing achievement. Congratulations to all students and families at Magdalene for getting involved in this amazing day and especially to the Year 12’s for leading the day, as well as the teachers who helped get everything sorted out and organised on time. Thank you so much to everyone who generously donated on the day. Your kindness will go a long way in helping CARITAS AUSTRALIA to do continue in their amazing work. Special thanks to Isabella Tenaglia in Year 12 who is the President of the CARITAS CLUB who was instrumental in making the day such as a success

Bianca Messina and Isabella Tenaglia

WINTER UNIFORM
A reminder that students will return to school in summer uniform.
Students will change to winter uniform on the first Monday after Mother’s Day (11 May).
Students will continue to wear winter uniform until the First Monday after Father’s Day (6 September).
On Monday 16 March, Year 11 and 12 worked together during their Pastoral Care period to raise awareness for Caritas. With coins and notes ready in hand, they participated in a year group challenge. Students raced over with their money to cover the words ‘Food for Life’ that had been written on the ground in chalk. After about 10 minutes of careful coin placement and vigorous teamwork, we had a winner! Year 12 rose to the occasion, victoriously taking out the Stage 6 coin challenge title.

Ms Partridge
Today, the Year 8 Pastoral teams showed a strong sense of community by working together to create our farmyard.

Throughout this term students have displayed generosity and compassion by donating money to raise funds in order to support countries less fortunate and those devastated by natural disasters.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Mrs Foti  
Year 8 Coordinator
Mount Annan Christian College recently partnered with Knox Grammar School’s da Vinci Program to offer an exciting regional ‘Decathlon with a Difference’ for students in Years 5-8. This decathlon consisted of the following rounds:

**Mathematics and Chess** – problem solving, number patterns and logic puzzles

**English** – spelling, word origins, definitions, textual analysis and writing tasks

**Science** – engaging with higher level scientific concepts and testing the ability to apply them

**Code Breaking** – deciphering complex, mysterious codes

**Engineering Challenge** – a design task that tests problem solving skills, creativity and ingenuity

**Philosophy** – dealing with logic, observations and evidence

**Creative Producers** – creating and performing a 60 second drama or a 30 second commercial to promote a product

**Art and Poetry** – developing an original poem and a connected art work on a given theme

**Cartography** – deciphering maps and applying map-making principles to represent spatial information imaginatively

**General Knowledge** – current affairs, entertainment, the Renaissance, sport and trivia

I am pleased to report that one of our teams (Year 7, Team 2) achieved first place in the General Knowledge & Code Breaking rounds. At the conclusion of the day this same team achieved second place overall against sixteen other schools.

The participants were:

**Year 7 Team 1:** Jasmine Ayoub-Everingham, Rachel Bagot, Olivia Gallagher, Claudia Henderson, Jake Hyland, Analea Lindo, Aiden Shaw and Liam Yabsley.

**Year 7 Team 2:** Liam Bos, Erin Cato, Joshua Cox, Larissa Crowe, Carla Fitzsummons, Michael Fuller, Kane Harrington, Flora Mo

**Year 8 Team 1:** Lucas Barreto, Kirsten Burgess, Emily Kitchener, Anthony Macri, Georgia Myers, Paulina Siewicz, Joseph Smith and Kaitlyn Stanbrook.

**Year 8 Team 2:** Rachel Boaro, Travis Clark, Peter Cornett, Emelia Duff, Aaron Godwin, Zach Gunner, Emily Said and Zoe Wade.

I would like to congratulate our participating Year 7 & 8 students who exemplified the spirit of the da Vinci Decathlon and were all wonderful ambassadors for our school.

*Linda Maher*
*da Vinci Decathlon Facilitator*
Last Wednesday morning at 7:00am Jessica Cunningham (in the foreground) and Kayla Grech (right) met with business women from the Macarthur area at Rydges function centre to enjoy a talk by Donna Pace from My personal brand, [http://www.mypersonalbrand.com.au/home](http://www.mypersonalbrand.com.au/home).

It was a great opportunity for the two girls who are talented in the textiles and design area, to find out about starting up their own business, how to dress for success and explore a range of job opportunities associated with their area of passion.

### MAXIMISING BATTERY LIFE - MacBooks

As laptops start to age and the battery life gradually starts to decrease students must learn to maximise battery life. MacBooks need to be fully charged at home every night, the school’s 1:1 Learning Technologies policy does not allow students to bring chargers to school as power chords in classroom pose a WHS risk.

The IT department has purchased replacement batteries for the older 13-inch MacBook Pro models. Batteries cost $134 and can be purchased from the front office. The IT staff will install the battery at no cost, eliminating the need to have the machine sent away.

**Tips for maximizing battery life:**

**Energy** - The Energy Saver preference pane includes several settings that determine power levels for your MacBook. Your MacBook knows when it’s plugged in and runs accordingly. When using battery power, it dims the screen and uses other components sparingly. If you change this setting to maximise performance, your battery will drain more quickly.

**Brightness** - Dim the screen to the lowest comfortable level to achieve maximum battery life. For instance, when watching a video in a dark room, you may not need full brightness if the lights are off.

**Applications** - Quit applications not in use, any application that is running in the background is using power. This also includes having multiple documents open at once or listening to music.

**Peripherals** – Disconnect any external device connected to your laptop as portable hard drives and other USB powered devices will drain power.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me or email me; [danny.avalos@dow.catholic.edu.au](mailto:danny.avalos@dow.catholic.edu.au)

Mr Avalos
Learning Technologies Coordinator
IGNITE Twilight Retreat - Friday 13 March 2015

Student Reflections on their experience at the Ignite Twilight Retreat.

At first, I didn't really think that it would be for me, because I didn't really know anyone who was going and thought that I would feel uncomfortable or even out of place, but I was completely wrong, because it turned out to be one of the most wonderful experiences that I've had in High School, and I met people that I would not have otherwise met. Everyone was so welcoming and friendly. It was a really supportive, open and fun environment and everyone came together to appreciate the same thing. It is a really enjoyable night.

It is just a break from everyday routine. People are taking time out of the busy schedule at school and just relaxing and enjoying themselves, but I also learnt about Oasis and what it means, and how important it is to take time out of the day to be quiet and peaceful. The games were really fun and definitely let people get out of their shell a bit. This made it a lot easier to enjoy the rest of the night and come together as a group instead of separate groups. The food was really good! Since attending my first IGNITE, I would never even think of missing one. It is a place that everyone can be their complete and honest self and feel completely comfortable in doing so. I would recommend IGNITE to everyone!

Ignite is a great chance to see people in a different light, to see what motivates them and how they relate to God and to others outside of the classroom.

I loved hearing and seeing present and past students share their musical talent. It was great to see so many senior students step up and take a leadership role through their presence at Ignite and through the way they helped with various activities on the night.

This year’s first ignite coincided with my first attendance at the function as well. I was really excited when it was revealed that I could attend Ignite as I am a year 8 student this year. The discussions are deep and cultivate your understanding of Jesus teachings and how to live by his words in our own daily lives. The staff are always willing to assist with the night, with theirs and the other students enthusiasm as a symbol that everyone who goes, whether to work on the delicious meals or participating in the festivities, are enjoying themselves and experiencing that true Oasis.

I will always recommend IGNITE and I would do it every second week if we could, it is a thrilling night that is thought provoking and leaves a strong message that will always be with you, whether to respect your elders or trying to limit your sugar intake! So please go to IGNITE, it is absolutely an amazing opportunity to relax and will always leave you feeling even more enlightened in life’s great works.

Throughout my sixth Ignite retreats I have met and made friendships with incredible people, some who have left the school and I keep in contact with. I keep coming back to Ignite because of the remarkable atmosphere, everyone is so friendly and willing to let each other have a go. I never knew how the organisers who ran them could come up with such creative games and engage such a group of people, that’s what I have always loved about these retreats. The most recent Ignite was especially helpful to me, as someone who is about to leave the stability of school. With the idea of the HSC so close it all gets so overwhelming, the meditation helped me realise whilst it was important it wasn't the end of everything. If I do horribly I will still be able to wake up tomorrow, I needed to hear that. Ignite is a break from your usual regime, it is a way to learn about the people you have been going to school with for the last few years but never spoken with. When I come home after Ignite there is never a negative feeling.
IGNITE Twilight Retreat - Friday 13 March 2015
On Monday 16 March Year 7 and their pastoral teachers embarked on the Year 7 Camp at Teen Ranch, Cobbity. As the camp began it did not take long for this fantastic group of young people to settle in and really make the most of the camp experience. Whether it was in the air, on the high ropes and giant swing, on land in archery or the challenge course, on the water canoeing or during those long hours of socialising that seemed to stretch on into the night, the students came together, supported each other and pushed their limits. This theme continued throughout the three days of camp and was clearly evident to both the Magdalene and the Teen Ranch staff as they continued to get to know the students.

I was proud to be a part of this camp experience and a year 7 group that demonstrated outstanding courage, teamwork, support and maturity throughout the camp experience. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all the staff that attended the camp and selflessly donated their time to ensure this camp experience was as rewarding and fulfilling as possible all that attended.

Mr Matthew Dowdell  
Year 7 Pastoral Care Co-ordinator
YEAR 9 CAMP

From the 16 - 18 March, at The Great Aussie Bush Camp, Tea Gardens, Yr 9 students and ten Magdalene staff members tackled various demanding activities including a giant swing, abseiling, hurtling across a lake and swamp on flying foxes, raft-building with tyres and rope and a high ropes course.

Throughout the three days, the students experienced fear, wonderment and elation. I was most impressed with their gung-ho attitudes and camaraderie. The dedicated staff at The Great Aussie Bush Camp were impressed by our students’ politeness and maturity. My sincere thanks to Mr Boom, Mrs Barreto, Mrs Robinson-Dawe, Mrs Keith, Mrs McClafferty, Mrs Rowe, Mr Arzapitian, Mrs Brislane and Mr Hogan for accompanying me to the mid-north coast. Your alacrity and vitality was invaluable.

Mr Lorne Johnson
Yr 9 Coordinator
SPORTS NEWS 17/3/2015

MISA RESULTS : Magdalene v St Patrick’s College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>WINNING SCHOOL</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>MOST VALUED PLAYER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Girls Cricket</td>
<td>St Patrick’s College</td>
<td>2/39-2/41</td>
<td>Thanks to Bethany Perkins for filling in. MVP: Jessica Whitall. Coach: Mr Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Boys Basketball</td>
<td>v Mount Carmel</td>
<td>DRAW</td>
<td>An amazing effort by all the team. MVP: George Awad, MIP: Reyce McMonigal &amp; Joel Tekely. Coach: Mr Gorrie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Girls Basketball</td>
<td>St Patrick’s College</td>
<td>29-8</td>
<td>Thanks to all the girls that filled in today. The game was well played with good defense. Coach: Mr Dowdell/Mr Gorrie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12 Girls Oztag</td>
<td>St Patrick’s College</td>
<td>5-4</td>
<td>A close result against a quality team. Coach: Mrs McAlister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9 Girls Volleyball</td>
<td>St Patrick’s College</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>Thanks to the Year 8 girls who put their hands up to fill in this week. The girls were enthusiastic and eager to learn the game. MVP: Monique Newton Coach: Miss J. Miller</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Diocesan Swimming Carnival

The team had a great day and although we were few in number we packed a punch. Congratulations to Matthew Burke for achieving Age Champion in the 15 years boys and for setting a new record for the 50m Butterfly. Congratulations also to Jemma Simpson for an excellent effort in achieving Age Champion in the 14 years girls. Sheree Farrell also finished strongly in the 16 years girls. Thankyou to all the swimmers who attended on the day and a big thankyou to the staff who gave support to each swimmer that competed.


Congratulations to the following students who will be representing the Diocese at the NSW CCC Swimming Carnival at Homebush; Jack Beeby, Zac Byles, Matthew Burke, Sheree Farrell and Jemma Simpson.

Diocesan Tennis

Last Thursday, the Boys and Girls Tennis Teams travelled to Wollongong to compete in the Diocesan Tennis Championships. The aim of the event is to select a boys team and girls team to represent the Wollongong Diocese at the NSW CCC Championships to be staged in Bathurst on Monday 15th June, 2015.

The standard of tennis was incredibly high, with many national ranked juniors in action. The girls team in particular had a very tough draw, coming up against the strong team from John Terry in the first round. They were eliminated, however, they went on to be runners-up in a very close Consolation Final.

The boys team played quality tennis throughout the day, defeating Corpus Christi 4-2 in a tense final. Highlights of the day included Tom Gallagher's quality of play in his singles matches, Sam McConchie's incredible 200km/h+ serves and the girls team's sportsmanship in their Consolation Final. Games were played in good spirit and the level of camaraderie amongst teams was a pleasure to witness. I was very proud of both our teams, as we all should be. The teams were:

Boys: Sam McConchie, Tom Gallagher, Sam Gallagher, Jack Davenport and Ryan Lewis.

Girls: Maighan Duck, Teagan McConchie, Brittney McCrorey and Brooke Peters.

Well done.
CAMPBELLTOWN TERM 2, 2015

MORE HARMONY NO HARM (MEN)
Topics covered include understanding and managing strong emotions, effective communication, assertiveness skills & positive behaviours for healthy relationships.
7 Thursday evenings 6:30pm - 9:00pm
30 April, 7, 14, 21, 28 May, 4 & 11 June
CatholicCare
35A Cordeaux St
Campbelltown
Workshop Fee: $15 per session

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS
Parents will learn “mindfulness” techniques to increase awareness of their thoughts & feelings. They will learn to be more aware of their children’s needs & how to better respond to their child’s behaviour to improve their child’s self identity, decrease parental stress & enhance the parent/child relationship.
3 Wednesday mornings 10am - 12:30pm
22, 29 April & 6 May 2015
CatholicCare
35A Cordeaux St
Campbelltown
Workshop Fee: $15 per session

SEASONS FOR GROWTH PARENTING
This workshop gives an understanding of divorce/separation from a child’s perspective and helps parents to support their children through family change.
2 Wednesday mornings 10am - 12:30pm
27th May & 3rd June 2015
CatholicCare
35A Cordeaux St
Campbelltown
Workshop Fee: $15 per session

123 MAGIC & EMOTION COACHING
This time tested workshop provides easy to follow steps for disciplining children aged 2-12 years without yelling, arguing or hitting.
3 Tuesday evenings 6:30pm - 8:30pm
29 April, 5 & 12 May 2015
Bright Sparks Early Learning Centre
30 Rixon Rd
Appin
Workshop Fee: $15 per session

MY KIDS AND ME
A workshop for parents who have had children removed from their care. Assists participants to identify parenting skills, strengths and resources to develop relationships with their children.
7 Thursday mornings 10am - 12:00pm
30 April, 7, 14, 21 & 28 May, 4 & 11 June 2015
Caymores Community Centre
80 Goulgoolba & Bobsel Rds
Caymores
Workshop Fee: No Fee

KEEPING KIDS IN MIND
A post-separation parenting workshop. Learn how to deal more effectively with the emotional & practical issues of parenting after separation. Explores loss & grief in parents and children, power grabs & impact on children.
5 Monday mornings 10am - 12:30pm
27 April, 4, 11, 18 & 25 May 2015
CatholicCare
35A Cordeaux Street
Campbelltown
Workshop Fee: $20 per session

GRASSROOTS PARENTING
This program, for parents of children aged 0 - 8, covers child development, behaviour and management of, safety, play and nurturing the whole family. Each of the 5 sessions is self contained. Pick which sessions you wish to attend.

Rebellion 0 - 12 mths - 15 May
Child development, crying, setting ideas, routine, safety, play and interaction

Toddlers 1 - 2 yrs - 28 May
Child development, meeting toddlers needs, tantrums, safety and play

Pre-Schoolers 3 - 5 yrs - 5 June
Child development, behaviour and management of routine, rules and boundaries, safety and play

School Aged Children 5 - 8 yrs - 12 June
Child development, discipline, consequences, communication, negotiation, safety and play

Nurturing the Whole Family - 19 June
Self esteem, family resilience, assertiveness and nutrition

5 Friday Mornings 10am - 12:30pm
CatholicCare
35A Cordeaux St
Campbelltown
Workshop Fee: $15 per session

WORKSHOP BOOKINGS
Campbelltown 4628 0044

CatholicCare | hope begins with us
Concessions may apply dependent on financial circumstances
## NOTICEBOARD

### April

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Term 1 Ends Holy Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Term 2 Commences Summer Uniform</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Yr 9, 10, 11 Photographic Excursion AGNSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Anzac Day Ceremony Commemoration</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Yr 7, 2016 Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Yr 7, 2016 Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Diocesan Cross Country</td>
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### May

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Yr 7, 2016 Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - 12</td>
<td>Tue - Tue</td>
<td>Pre-Lim Examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Yr 7, 2016 Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 - 14</td>
<td>Tues - Thurs</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Staff Spirituality Day</td>
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## SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open between 8.00am - 8.20am on the following dates.
- Monday 20 April, Friday 24 April
- Monday 27 April
- Monday 4 May and Friday 8 May

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

## ENROLMENTS Year 7 2016

The enrolment applications for Year 7, 2016 are due on Tuesday 31 March. Please ensure your child’s application is submitted by this date.

## CANTEEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>10B</td>
<td>30 Mar Cherie Bulgin Tanya DeBono</td>
<td>31 Mar Racquel Olegario Vanessa Crowe</td>
<td>1 Apr Rachel McVittie Jerry Berenger</td>
<td>2 Apr LAST DAY TERM 1 Loukia Georgiou Kim Campbell</td>
<td>3 Apr GOOD FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>9A</td>
<td>20 Apr TERM 2 COMMENCES Lisa Burke</td>
<td>21 Apr Kathy Foden Anna Geering</td>
<td>22 Apr Kath Stone Lynsey Foley</td>
<td>23 Apr Sandra Polkinghorne Angela Rao</td>
<td>24 Apr Bernadette Kiss Leisa Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>10B</td>
<td>27 Apr Michele Abbey Peta Teuma</td>
<td>28 Apr Fran Lapa</td>
<td>29 Apr Rosalie Lopez</td>
<td>30 Apr Kelly Dawson Maginn L Musico</td>
<td>1 May Rachel Miller Megan Gibson Susan Pernia</td>
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## LOWES School Uniforms

Parents now have the option of purchasing their children’s school uniform directly online from Lowes.

If you wish to take advantage of this option please visit the website address on the left.

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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
STATE ELECTION

As we approach the State Election tomorrow parents should be aware of party policies to ensure that the students in our Catholic schools and our church are given due consideration. The policies of each party are included for your information.

NEXT NSW GOVERNMENT MUST LIFT CAPITAL FUNDING TO ALL SCHOOLS

Enrolments in NSW schools will grow by 267,000 students by 2031, putting more pressure on both the government and non-government school sectors to expand.

Catholic Education Commission NSW Executive Director Brian Croke said the NSW Government must increase capital funding to all school sectors to accommodate this growth in enrolments.

"The NSW birth-rate is now 10,000 per year higher than it was in 2010," Dr Croke said.

"That means 500 extra kindergarten classes are needed each year - which must then become 500 additional Year 1 classes the following year, then 500 Year 2 classes the year after that, and so on.

"This growth rate will be sustained, if not increased, in coming years and it will affect all sectors – government, Catholic and independent.

"The NSW Government and Opposition have already announced several new government schools during this election campaign - which we support - but the government sector alone will not be able to meet this growth in enrolments.

"Catholic and independent schools currently educate 400,000 students or a third of those enrolled in NSW.

"The NSW Government needs non-government schools to grow so that they can continue to enrol their current proportion of this increase - otherwise, taxpayers will be forced to foot the bill for far more classrooms and teachers than is currently envisaged."

Dr Croke said the NSW Government must first reverse its 2012 decision to cap capital funding to non-government schools at $11 million per year and put in place a sustainable, long-term funding framework that grows as enrolments increase.

"Catholic schools, which enrol more than 251,000 students, need to build more than 2,300 new classrooms to accommodate a further 58,000 students by 2031.

"For decades, these building projects have largely been funded by parents - and they will continue to be - but the NSW Government must now ease the pressure on parents by lifting its funding support.

"Catholic schools educate 21% of the state’s students, but receive just 2% of the capital funding allocated by the NSW Government to all schools.

"Last year, Catholic schools received just $7.6 million in capital funding from the NSW Government. That’s less than what was received in 2011 – and since then, Catholic school enrolments in NSW have grown by more than 10,000, or the equivalent of 12 new secondary schools.
STATE ELECTION

"By comparison, government schools will receive $399.1 million for capital works in 2014-15.

"To put it another way – that’s $524 per government school student and $30 per Catholic school student."

Dr Croke said Catholic schools save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars each year because Catholic school parents met most of the capital costs.

"Without Catholic schools, taxpayers would have to fund hundreds more government schools because those students have to be educated somewhere."

Media contact: Jim Hanna 0414 828 029
Catholic Education Commission NSW and the Council of Catholic Schools Parents NSW/ACT approached the major parties to determine how their education policies will impact the 254,000 students in NSW Catholic schools and their families. We have published a summary of their responses below to help you with your vote on 28 March.

**Q1: Does your party support NSW Catholic schools receiving the recurrent NSW Government funding already agreed with the Commonwealth to 2019?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liberal-National coalition</th>
<th>Australian Labor Party</th>
<th>NSW Greens</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes. “The Baird Government is committed to fully funding its share of the Gonski Agreement, which delivers an additional $529 million to Catholic Schools over 6 years.”</td>
<td>Yes. “Labor supports the current NSW Government commitment to fund the Gonski reforms for the full six years of the agreement.”</td>
<td>No. “The Greens believe that the state government has a primary responsibility to secure outcomes for public schools.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Q2: Does your party support an immediate annual increase in NSW Government capital funding to Catholic schools to relieve pressure on parents who currently meet most of the building costs for new Catholic school places?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liberal-National coalition</th>
<th>Australian Labor Party</th>
<th>NSW Greens</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maybe. “The Baird Government will continue to engage with the Catholic school sector to target capital funding to Catholic schools in growth areas, and other Catholic schools most in need of investment.”</td>
<td>Maybe. “Labor will take a cross-sectoral approach to school capital funding, and prioritise additional investments in new schools in growth areas and upgrade schools that need it most.”</td>
<td>No. “The Greens believe that meeting the demand for new enrolments in public schools should be the priority of the NSW government.”</td>
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</table>

**Q3: Does your party support parents’ right to choose a faith-based education for their children and the right of Catholic schools to deliver on that commitment through appropriate employment, enrolment and curriculum policies and practices?**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liberal-National coalition</th>
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<th>NSW Greens</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes. “The Baird Government supports the right of Catholic schools to deliver a faith-based education in line with the provisions of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.”</td>
<td>Yes. “Labor has always shared the aspirations and beliefs in the right of families to choose to have their children educated in the Catholic and independent schools that their communities have so proudly built.”</td>
<td>No. “The Greens have campaigned for over a decade for the removal of the exemption for educational institutions in the Anti-Discrimination Act. No public money should be handed over to any school that engages in outdated and discriminatory practices towards its staff, students or parents and guardians.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Authorised by Bron Crooke, Executive Director, Catholic Education Commission NSW and Linda McNeill, acting Executive Director, Council of Catholic School Parents NSW/ACT. 113 Liverpool Street, Sydney NSW 2000.
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
The NSW State Election is on Saturday 28 March. I enclose the words of Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney:

“This is an important opportunity for us all to cast our vote in accordance with our conscience and with the profound truths of the dignity of the human person, our right to religious freedom, the preciousness of life, marriage and the family, and the right of parents to educate their children in a way which respects their religious and moral beliefs. Clearly, this is not an exhaustive list of considerations. But I believe they are of especial gravity because they shape the very foundations of our free and democratic society and affirm that the dignity of the person is a good for which both Church and State must both work and often together. Let us continue to pray for our leaders, for all these men and women called to public service, and for our fellow citizens as they approach the coming elections that they may recognize and defend those Christian values which have given us the freedoms and the social capital that we cherish today.”
Most Rev Peter W Ingham ⊖ (Bishop of Wollongong)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abortion &amp; Protection of the Unborn</th>
<th>Liberal/National Coalition</th>
<th>Labor</th>
<th>The Greens</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No party policy. Conscience vote.</td>
<td>Prolife, voted in support of “Zoe’s Law”. (This vote took place in the Legislative Assembly – for further details please contact us.)</td>
<td>Labor “support the rights of women to determine their own reproductive lives, particularly the right to choose appropriate methods of birth control and abortion.” * In practice, members are allowed a conscience vote.</td>
<td>Pro-life. (As a member of the Legislative Council, Mr Foley did not have an opportunity to vote on Zoe’s Law as this Bill did not come before the Council.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Euthanasia</th>
<th>Liberal/National Coalition</th>
<th>Labor</th>
<th>The Greens</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Liberal/National Coalition</th>
<th>Labor</th>
<th>The Greens</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The current Liberal Platform identifies... “...the family as the primary institution for fostering the values on which a cohesive society is built.” * Marriage is a union between a man and woman, not... opposes marriage equality.</td>
<td>Labor “will amend the Marriage Act to ensure equal access to marriage under statute for all adults regardless of sex, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity or marital status, to adapt and flexibly assist the achievement of the Commonwealth’s vital goals and aspirations.” * Mr Foley has stated that “I...no longer believe in the wisdom of...[and]...equal respect, recognition of sex, sexuality and gender identity and marital status, to adopt and flexibly assist the achievement of the Commonwealth’s vital goals and aspirations.”</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catholic Schools</th>
<th>Liberal/National Coalition</th>
<th>Labor</th>
<th>The Greens</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Coalition has budgeted for the NSW contribution of the Gonski Agreement – fully funding NSW’s share of $17.7 billion in additional funding for all schools over the full six years of the Agreement.</td>
<td>Labor has committed to meet the obligations to provide an extra $1.76 billion and to fully fund the six year Gonski Agreement. *</td>
<td>The Greens NSW will work to... to abolish all state government funding of non-government schools. Public funds that are given to these schools under current arrangements should be committed instead to equity programs within the public school system. **</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Freedoms Special Religious Education (ESSE) classes in schools and Religious Exemptions from the Anti-Discrimination Act</th>
<th>Liberal/National Coalition</th>
<th>Labor</th>
<th>The Greens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Minister for Education, Mr Adrian Piccolo, has stated that... Religious teachers play an important role in providing support to our students... the GREENS support religious exemptions.</td>
<td>The shadow minister for Education, Mr John Park, has stated that SRE is a “vital... for our multicultural, multi-faith society...” The Greens NSW call on the State Government to... * The Greens NSW support the teaching of Special Religious Education (SRE) in public schools and... the provision of public funds and facilities that promote religious education, subject to the teaching of Special Religious Education (SRE) in public schools ** and... The Greens NSW support... the provision of public funds and facilities that promote religious education, subject to the teaching of Special Religious Education (SRE) in public schools **</td>
<td>The Greens NSW must work towards... the elimination of exemptions currently provided in the Anti-Discrimination Act.</td>
<td></td>
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| References | | | |
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A Special Note regarding the Legislative Council (Upper House): Persons elected to the Legislative Council (Upper House) play an important and influential role and often exercise the balance of power. The three minor parties who hold this role in the Legislative Council are the Christian Democratic Party (CDP), the Shooters and Fishers Party (SFP) and the Greens. On significant pro-life and pro-family votes, the CDP and the SFP have supported the principles of life, marriage and the family. For further details about these votes, please see below.
### NSW 2015 STATE ELECTION GUIDE

#### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - LOWER HOUSE

**Crimes Amendment (Zoe’s Law) Bill (No 2) 2013**

This bill sought to recognize and protect the lives of unborn children like baby Zoe Ball, who is killed by negligent alcohol- or drugs-affected drivers or by acts of domestic violence against their mothers. – Legislative Assembly (21 November 2013)

**AYES (63)**

- Richard Amery (ALP)
- Kevin Anderson (ALP)
- Gregory Aspinall (ALP)
- Michael Baird (L)
- Giovanni Barbaro (L)
- Kurt Barritt (L)
- Stephen Bronnyhead (N)
- Glenn Brookes (ALP)
- Claire Burton (ALP)
- Clarks Cassioli (L)
- Kevin Conolly (L)
- Andrew Constantine (L)
- Andrew Cornell (L)
- ... (continued)

**NOES (26)**

- Stuart Ayres (L)
- Clayton Barr (ALP)
- Gary Berijiklian (L)
- Linda Burney (ALP)
- Barry Coe (L)
- Lee Evans (L)
- Robert Farrel (ALP)
- Andrew Fraser (N)
- ... (continued)

**% OF AYES AND NO VOTES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>% Ayes</th>
<th>% Noes</th>
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<tr>
<td>ALP</td>
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<td>LNP</td>
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<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>79.3%</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
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#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - UPPER HOUSE

**Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill 2013**

This Bill sought to legalise the euthanasia or assisted suicide of persons who are suffering a terminal illness. – Legislative Council (23 May 2013)

**AYES (13)**

- Jan Barham (G)
- Cate Faehrmann (L)
- Mark Harris (ALP)
- John Kari (L)
- Peter Pirrosio (ALP)
- Adam Swan (ALP)
- ... (continued)

**NOES (22)**

- John Akaka (L)
- Robert Borsak (FL)
- David Clarke (L)
- ... (continued)

**% OF AYES AND NO VOTES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>% Ayes</th>
<th>% Noes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal</td>
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<tr>
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<td>61.3%</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
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#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - UPPER HOUSE

**Motion to support Same-Sex Marriage**

Called on the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia to amend the Marriage Act 1997 to provide for same-sex marriage. – Legislative Council (31 May 2012)

**AYES (22)**

- John Akaka (L)
- Jan Barham (G)
- Jeremy Buckingham (G)
- ... (continued)

**NOES (16)**

- Robert Borsak (FL)
- Robert Brown (FL)
- ... (continued)

**% OF AYES AND NO VOTES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>% Ayes</th>
<th>% Noes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
</tr>
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All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live for ever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.

Pope Francis