On Friday 16 November the Diocesan Sports Council staged the 16th Annual CDF Sports Awards to recognise the outstanding achievements of students from primary and secondary schools across the Diocese. The evening, proudly sponsored by the Catholic Development Fund, attracted over 475 guests to St Mary Star of the Sea College, Wollongong. It was a fitting culmination to a busy sporting year and certainly a positive advertisement for the pathways and structures now available to our students and teachers.

Over 160 students, 9 teams and 1 teacher were presented on the night with the most outstanding awards going to the following students:

The Father Ward Trophy Most Outstanding Girl Primary Sport – Emily Prouten
Good Samaritan Primary, Fairy Meadow

The John Gamble Trophy Most Outstanding Boy Primary Sport – Bailey Antrobus
St Therese Parish Primary, West Wollongong

The Terry White Trophy Most Outstanding Secondary Sportswoman – Kara Styles McLaren, John Therry Catholic High, Rosemeadow


Darryn Warren, Teacher Educator at the CEO, received a primary service award for outstanding contributions to primary sport in the Diocese.

Ali Day, Surf Ironman Champion was the guest speaker on the evening. Ali, a former student of Ss Peter & Paul Primary, Kiama and St Joseph’s Catholic High School, Albion Park, was interviewed by John Sparks and spoke of his training regimes, career highlights, his sporting goals and provided some helpful advice for parents and students.

The Vince Villa Trophy was awarded to the champion secondary schools across all sports in 2012 with St Mary Star of the Sea College, Wollongong winning the girls trophy and Holy Spirit College, Bellambi winning both the boys trophy the overall champion secondary school across all sports.
CEO closure dates
– Christmas & New Year period
Schools and Principals are advised that the Catholic Education Office will be closed for the Christmas - New Year break from Tuesday 25 December 2012 until Tuesday 1 January 2013 inclusive. The CEO will re-open on Wednesday 2 January 2013.

Catholic Schools Staff Survey
As indicated in an email to Principals from Carolyn Hadley on 22 November, we have been asked by the Catholic Commission for Employment Relations for all School Staff to participate in a survey that will assist Catholic Employers respond to the actions of the government and the union in light of recent events. This request is being made of all staff in all diocesan and independent Catholic Schools in NSW. An email was sent to all DOW school email addresses. Principals are asked to remind all staff and if they have time to complete the survey, to please do so by the due date of 9 December 2012.

Secondary Prayer and Conversation with the Bishop
A reminder that the one gathering for Prayer and Conversation with Bishop Peter Ingham this year is being held next week on Tuesday 4 December from 12.00 noon to 2.00pm at Corpus Christi Catholic High School, Oak Flats. This event is an important opportunity for Bishop Peter to discuss and share ideas with our young people. For further information please contact Jane McDonald at CEO phone 42530 828

Fostering Vibrant Faith Communities
An enrichment program designed separately for Primary and Secondary School Communities is being offered by Emmaus Productions. Please find attached information flyers regarding these Professional Development programs that may be of relevance or interest to your school community.

Asthma Campaign
The Illawarra Asthma Service based at Wollongong Hospital has noted that when children return to school at the start of a year there is a marked increase in the number of asthma admissions to the Emergency Department in February/March. Attached is a letter to schools and an information flier that Principals are asked to bring to the attention of parents and carers.

School Liturgy Resources
Please find attached an information flier about liturgy resources for schools.

Diocesan Resource Centre
The Diocesan Religious Education Resource Centre at Bellambi will have its last day of operation on Thursday the 6th December, 2012 due to the relocation of the new library to the St Francis Xavier site in 2013. Anne Russell will accept urgent requests only after this date. Contact details: anne.russell@dow.catholic.edu.au, Phone: 02 4285 0911, http://oliver.dow.catholic.edu.au/rc

2013 National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence
NSW Catholic Schools are invited to register early for the 2013 National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. Registrations are now open for the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, to be held on Friday 15 March 2013. The day is an initiative of all Australian Education Ministers and schools across the country are called to Take a Stand Together and register to be part of the National Day of Action. To create supportive school environments free from bullying and violence, teachers, parents and students all need to send a clear message that bullying and violence, in or outside of school, is not okay - at any time. Schools are encouraged to organise local events and activities to support the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence in 2013. Details about the National Day and practical resources and information for teachers, parents and students are available on the Bullying. No Way! website. http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/ Further details are available from Jane Worrell, Project Manager, National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence at Jane.WORRELL@dete.qld.gov.au
2013 Science Passport: National Science Education Program
Attention: All Science teachers and Senior Students. Science Passport: National Science Education Program is a focused and fun week for young scientists in Years 11 or 12 in 2013. Based in Canberra, the five-day conference style applied learning program includes key note science lectures, laboratory work and problem-solving team events, tutorial sessions and personal revision assistance, a science career panel with a focus on diverse careers as well as tours of ANU, CSIRO, Academy of Science and other Canberra science icons. Accommodating both day and overnight students, the next program runs from Monday, 14 January to Friday, 18 January, 2013. Please refer to the attached flyer or visit www.globalschool.com.au/sciencepassport to find out more about this exciting program.

Caritas Australia – Advent Calendar 2012
Learn, pray and act each day during Advent with Caritas Australia’s Advent Calendar available online, as a PowerPoint or the new iPhone app! Featuring inspiring stories, photos and reflections from our partners and projects around the world, this is a great resource. To view the calendar online, or download the PowerPoint or the iPhone app, go to: www.caritas.org.au/advent

Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2013
- Celebrating the Young Heart of the Church in Australia
Schools are advised of the date for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival to be held in Melbourne from 5-7 December 2013. Organised by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, further details are available at www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au

Igniting the Fire 2012
A group of teachers recently completed the last of the four modules of the “Igniting the Fire” course. These professional development modules developed by members of the CLARE Team are aimed at Primary school teachers and is about encouraging teachers to explore ways of creating a creative and effective Religious Education Classroom.

The modules covered in this program are:
• Effective Prayer in the RE Classroom
• The Creative Arts in the RE Classroom Parts 1 & 2
• Engaging in the Word in the RE Classroom

Congratulations to all who participated and completed the program. It is planned to offer this course again for teachers in 2013. Principals will receive information and applications called for early next year. For further information about this course please contact Beth Riolo or Jen Charadia at the CEO.
If the response from the participants is anything to go by the recently held Diocesan Secondary Social Justice Day was a wonderful experience and a most successful program.

The Social Justice Network of teachers conceived the focus idea around ‘making a difference’ and empowering students to recognise how they can do this. The program then evolved leading to the day’s program that presented this theme showing the global, national, local and relational dimensions.

With more than 130 students from 11 schools, who were so engaged and passionate about issues of justice, it was truly a ‘day of grace’. The messages they received were powerfully presented in a variety of ways – Catholic Mission’s Village Space drama production; Jeannine Ashton’s stories and local programs from SVDP; Gail Tarrant’s challenges to develop right relationships and do justice with those closest to us and Josh Cotter’s personal testimony about being a young leader involved in local community/issues.

Cameron Smit and Josh Cotter, as MC’s for the day, were fantastic role models to these students, demonstrating clearly that justice and faith are inseparable. Cameron’s experience in the Youth Mission Team (YMT) enabled him to run the games and prayers so well. Marty Pannell organised students to provide some live music over lunch and add to the atmosphere of the day.

The support from Wollongong Catholic Youth Ministry enabled us to have Village Space, at no cost to schools with thanks to Loretta Brinkman for making these arrangements. Special mention to all the teachers involved for their assistance on the day and in particular, a special thank you to Jane McDonald, RE Education Officer for her outstanding organisation and planning of this event.

Copies of the Circular to Schools can be downloaded on Infopoint