The Art of Deception
In scientific circles worldwide there is no doubt that global warming is occurring, is being driven by human causes and presents a distinct threat to the earth’s climate system and sustainability. The evidence is overwhelming and the conclusions indisputable. However, the public perception of the whole issue is being clouded and confused by self-interested big-business groups selling doubt and marketing uncertainty in an effort to protect their profits. Why should I mention this in a school newsletter? As members of a Catholic School community we should be keen to ascertain the truth, especially in relation to such an important issue.

A recent article in Cosmos Magazine investigates how and why this campaign of doubt has been waged. The article is entitled “Merchants of Doubt” by science historian Naomi Oreskes and appears in Issue 38 of Cosmos, May 2011. It is an excellent article and is well worth a read. The article can be accessed online at:

http://www.cosmosmagazine.com/node/4376/full

Digital Education Revolution (DER) Update
The Federal Government’s DER has been in progress for a number of years. In 2008/2009 St Pius purchased 219 computers with DER funding which when added to our existing computers enabled us to achieve the mandated ratio of one computer for every two students in Years 9 & 10. At the time, there was no suggestion that the DER funding would be extended beyond 2009.

Much to everyone’s surprise, the DER program was extended into 2010/2011. Funding was provided for infrastructure upgrades and to enable schools to achieve a ratio of one computer for each student in Years 9 & 10 by the end of 2011.

The infrastructure upgrades across the Diocese have been planned and implemented exceptionally well by the relevant teams at the Catholic Schools Office (CSO). Server upgrades, high speed internet connectivity and commercial grade wireless networks have been rolled out across the Diocese.

By the end of 2010 the staff at St Pius had devised a plan of acquisition and deployment of the next round of DER computers. Discussions and negotiations in recent months between the CSO and all High Schools across the Diocese have led to the development of a Diocesan-wide plan of acquisition and deployment of DER computers.

Later this year we will purchase a further 280 (approx) computers to enable us to achieve the mandated 1:1 ratio of computers to students in Years 9 & 10. The deployment of 250 of these computers, however, will be as take-home laptops to Year 10 2012. This is a major, exciting change to our original plans but one that has the full support of all Faculties.
Take Home Laptop Program Year 10 2012
In 2012, in association with the Federal Government’s DER program, all Year 10 students will receive a laptop computer to take home and use 24/7. Current Year 9 parents and carers will receive an information pack very shortly that will provide details of our 1:1 computer scheme for Year 10 2012.

There will be sufficient school-based computers to ensure that Year 9 2012 will have access to computers at school on a 1:1 basis when required. Years 7 & 8 2012 will as always have access to computers as needed. Note that current Year 10 2011 students will receive 1:1 laptops in Year 11 2012 at St Francis Xavier College.

Immersion Experience to Vietnam
About 120 parents and students attended a meeting in Sr Marie Hall on Tuesday 2 August to hear the details of a proposed student immersion trip to Vietnam for interested Year 10 students in 2012. The trip will be the first of its kind run at St Pius and I am very pleased to be able to offer such an experience to our students. The trip will be run in association with the World Challenge Organisation – a group with over twenty years experience running such trips. As part of their three week experience students will be engaged in some social work for the Catholic Church in Vietnam.

Exit Stage Right – School Certificate
Last week it was announced that 2011 will be the final time that the external School Certificate Examinations will be held. Education Minister Adrian Piccoli announced the change, saying the certificate has become redundant after 46 years. Indeed, the relevance of the School Certificate has been questioned for many years but especially since the school leaving age was raised to 17. As to what might replace the School Certificate, the Minister was quoted as saying: “We want to put something in place where a student’s performance at school is recognised right up until the very day that they leave.”

During the review of the School Certificate the Board of Studies developed a Discussion Paper. The Board will continue to consult with key interest groups, especially High Schools, on the key points raised in this paper in order to develop a new credential. The discussion paper is available at: http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/schoolcertificate/sc_review.html

Have a great week!

Robert Emery
Principal
Year 9/10 Boys Representative Football
On Thursday 22 July we left a water logged Newcastle to head up to Tamworth to play McCarthy College in Round 2 of the NSW CCC Knockout Competition.

We stopped at Lochinvar to pick up the St Josephs Year 9/10 Girls Team who also had to play against McCarthy College. It was very interesting to watch the socialising of the two groups as the day progressed.

Thankfully we left the heavy rain behind and the weather in Tamworth was overcast with a strong, cold breeze blowing down the ground. The grounds were quite dry.

Running into the wind in the first half, St Pius dominated possession but often found it difficult to get out of our half because of the strong wind. We were creating chances but not hitting the target and when we did, the keeper saved. Eventually, an individual effort from Jacob Tarasenko put St Pius up one nil.

In the second half we dominated both possession and territory and peppered the McCarthy goal with shots but could not get the second goal to put the game out of reach for the opposition. Their goalkeeper saved a couple of fierce shots from Samuel Tarasenko and Reece Jarrett hit the woodwork with a couple of great shots. Our goalkeeper, Jesse Swain, did not touch the ball in the second half.

Although this was not one of our better performances, we deserved our win. McCarthy College had a couple of good players and a solid defence who never stopped trying and constantly made it difficult for our team.

The team was: Benjamin Di Rienzo, Jesse Swain, Joshua Donnelly, David Hecimovic, Jess Henderson, Rhys Higgs, Zachary Hook, Reece Jarrett, Jethro Pinney-Elkington, Benjamin Quick, Isaac Reeves, Alex Rutledge, Jacob Tarasenko, Samuel Tarasenko, Thomas Carias-Cox, Ryan Bailey.

Gary Atherton
Teacher

Netball News
The Diocesan Netball Gala day was held at National Park Courts on Tuesday 26 July. It was a beautiful day to play netball and the three St Pius teams had a very successful and enjoyable day.

The junior team (Mia Keenan, Chelsey Girvan, Hannah Simmons, Emily Reed, Shanaya Neesom, Phoebe McMillan, Eliza Cook, Aimee Avery, Brooklyn Garay and Sophie Jordan) finished the day with a nail-biting grand final which they lost in extra time.

The intermediate team (Gabrielle Lynch, Abbey McQualter, Abbey Braye, Meg Bailey, Isabella Gray, Jacquelyn Baita, Puonyuom Mathiang, Maegen Morrissey, Jordan Daly and Jessica Murray) were knocked out in the semi finals.

The senior team (Alexandra Murray, Georgia Graham, Elizabeth Curk, Chantelle Graham, Prudence Morrissey, Emily Emmerton, Samantha Howard, Amelia Cook, Hilary Chapman and Maddison Daly) just missed out on a spot in the finals after having acquitted themselves admirably against teams consisting of Year 11 and 12 girls.

Thank you to our umpires - Jessica Sorby, Mackenzie Ptolemy and Jade Bennett.
Looking forward to the NSW Catholic Carnival in Penrith on 17 August.

Mandy Willis, Simone Kelly and Gabriella Smith
Team Coaches
**NSW Surfing Titles**

Congratulations to Jackson Baker who was recently placed fourth in the NSW State Titles for surfing. We wish him the very best in the Australian Titles which will be held later in the year.

*Mandy Willis*

**Student Coordinator**

**Athletics Carnival**

Due to the athletics carnival having to be cancelled on Friday 22 July, because of torrential rain and no vacancies left at Glendale Athletics Field, we secured the only date at Newcastle Athletic Field before the Diocesan carnival.

Thursday 28 July was a beautiful sunny day and we took all of Year 7 because it was their first carnival and Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 became a competitor’s only carnival due to the venue being smaller and unable to cope with larger numbers.

The carnival was a big success and a huge thank you needs to go to the Year 10 helpers who worked tirelessly to help the day run smoothly.

At the end of the day the age champions were as follows:

- **12 Years** – Connor Lynch (Helferty) and Josie Rae (Fahey)
- **13 Years** – Thomas Vandenberg (Fahey), Peter De Laurentis-Larkin (Helferty) equal 1st and Hannah Simmons (Polding)
- **14 Years** – Ryan Johnston (Helferty) and Isabella Gray (Deane)
- **15 Years** – Dinh Do (Polding) and Torrie Boyd (Helferty)
- **16 Years** – Patrick Vaughan (Perry) and Grace Salter (Polding)
- **17 Years** – Jesse Back (Chisholm)

The Diocesan carnival is on Thursday 11 August at Glendale Athletics Field.

*Kerry Sellers*

**Sport Coordinator**

**SUPERMARKET PROMOTIONS**

Please support our attempt to gain resources for the school

This year we are taking part in both the *Woolworths Earn & Learn program* and *Coles Sports for Schools*.

**WOOLWORTHS:** From now until September 18, 2011, you can earn one Earn & Learn point for our school for every $10.00 you spend at Woolworths. Points automatically appear on your shopping docket, so all you need to do is bring those docket to school and put in the box at Student Services. The more points you bring in, the more we can redeem from a choice of more than 7,000 educational resources including library books, classroom equipment, art and crafts materials and much, much more!

**COLES:** From now until October 18, you can collect vouchers by shopping at any Coles, Coles online, Pick n’ Pay or BI-LO supermarket. For every $10.00 spent, you’ll earn one voucher.

Vouchers can be left in the box at Student Services. Thank you for your support as we endeavour to gain resources for the students of St Pius.
LOTE and Creative Arts Department News
What is coming up in the Creative Arts and LOTE Department
20 August - Study tour of Italy departs for elective Italian students
2 September - Music and Drama day and night performances at St Pius X High School
5 September - Music Night performance at St Pius X High School

Gabriella Smith
Studies Coordinator

IMPORTANT DATES
for your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11 August to Monday 22 August</td>
<td>Visit by Sister School from Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17 August</td>
<td>NSWCCC Netball Penrith</td>
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<td>Saturday 20 August to Sunday 4 September</td>
<td>Excursion to Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23 August</td>
<td>Year 8 Religious Literacy Test – 10.00am to 11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24 August</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day – Staff Pastoral Care Professional Development</td>
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Canteen Roster - Mrs Helen Mulligan, Mrs Janelle Oliver
URGENT!!!! Helpers are needed every day except Friday.
Anyone who would like to assist one day per month please contact Helen or Janelle.
If you are unable to attend your allotted day please contact either Helen or Janelle on 4957 1032 ext 312.
The canteen is back to fully operational and we now require all volunteers every day to maintain this service to the students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 15 August</th>
<th>Tues 16 August</th>
<th>Wed 17 August</th>
<th>Thurs 18 August</th>
<th>Fri 19 August</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Parsons</td>
<td>Anne Marie Sheridan</td>
<td>Louise Scott</td>
<td>Tracey Blore</td>
<td>Zelka Batkovic</td>
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<td>Fran Short</td>
<td>Vicki Sculli</td>
<td>Amanda Best</td>
<td>Robyn Ross</td>
<td>Kerrie Griffin</td>
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<td>Cindy Sutherland</td>
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<td>Linda Curk, Ala Marks</td>
<td>Cynthia Maxwell</td>
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<td>Michelle Bennett</td>
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<td>Julie Bowen</td>
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<th>Wed 24 August</th>
<th>Thurs 25 August</th>
<th>Fri 26 August</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tracey Rogers</td>
<td>Rachel Soars</td>
<td>Kate Cousins</td>
<td>Sue Purcell</td>
<td>Rebecca Smith</td>
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<td>Jo Wiseman</td>
<td>Helen Farrell</td>
<td>Amanda Smith</td>
<td>Fotina Nadalin</td>
<td>Marina Bernard</td>
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<td>Annie Smith</td>
<td>Janice Sands</td>
<td>Janine Linsley</td>
<td>Michelle Smith</td>
<td>Patricia Maloney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrea Hewitt-Panteleos</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alison Greenwood</td>
<td>Ann-Maree Bertoss</td>
<td>Michelle Curtin</td>
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St John's Primary School Trivia Night!!
St John's Lambton are having a trivia night as a fundraiser to buy some additional technology resources. We would love some of the St Pius X community to come along and join us as we have some great prizes on offer!

Date: Saturday 20 August
Venue: Lambton Bowling Club
Time: 7.00pm
Cost: $100.00 per table of 8
For bookings please contact Marion in the school office on 4952 1423.
Welcome to our new addition to the Lion newsletter!

“The Environ-mental” will become a regular feature of the school newsletter and will focus on the environmental sustainability efforts being made around St Pius X High School.

So far in 2011, both students and staff have been working tirelessly to establish a vision that will make St Pius X a more environmentally friendly community. One of the new initiatives within the school has been the introduction of the Climate Cam program.

The Climate Cam program is supported by the Newcastle City Council. The aim of the program is to achieve benchmark goals that contribute to the level of sustainability within the school. For every goal met, students receive a star to display on their plaque, which now hangs proudly in the school foyer.

In Term 1, a number of students attended a training day in at Newcastle Town Hall, where they learnt all about climate change and the need for action within our schools. Holly Harrison, Claire Cummings, Maddison Callinan, Gabrielle Callinan, Nicola Hawes, Madeline Lee, Meg Hoffman, Cameron Lovell and Nicholas Standing are to be congratulated on their efforts on the day.

Since then, we have conducted energy, water and waste audits within the school. These figures provide us with information regarding our energy and water usage and waste production. A big thank you to Lily Ryan, Rachael Scott, Matthew Newman, Holly Harrison, Maddison Callinan, Gabrielle Callinan, Nicola Hawes, Madeline Lee, Thomas Newman, Meg Hoffman, Cameron Lovell and Nicholas Standing for their endless counting and rubbish rummaging!

With many more jobs to do, look forward to another jam-packed issue next time!

SCHOOL AUDIT FACTS

Energy Audit
St Pius X has 1334 fluro lights that use almost 75 000 kWh per year (and that’s just in the unrenovated buildings!)
The 76 air conditioners in the school chew through over 87 000 kWh per year.

Waste Audit
St Pius generates 52 220kg of waste per annum- enough to fill an Olympic size swimming pool!
Over 50% of the waste produced is recyclable.
We have begun planning this year’s Mothers’ Dinner, which will be held in September before the busy Christmas rush.

We are looking for businesses to donate prizes for the night eg vouchers, clothing and women’s accessories. Businesses that donate prizes will be advertised and recognised through school newsletters and flyers over the coming months.

Please contact
Terri Galbraith 0412 453 718
Deanne March 0414 830 918