Dear Families and Friends of the St Pius X Community,

**Merry Christmas**

Christmas is an exciting time! Christmas is a time of new life. It is a time when we remember the most amazing and unfathomable fact that our God actually chose to come and live among us as a human being! The reality that God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to live with us gives us great hope for a bright and meaningful future, both for ourselves as individuals and for the whole world.

Our world is a wonderful place. Our country is safe, free and awe-inspiring. Our city and region are fantastic places to live. Our School and our Catholic School System provide caring environments in which our students are guided to a deeper knowledge of themselves, of their growing spirituality, of their gifts and talents and are nurtured in the development of their self-esteem and sense of belonging and worth as people. We really do have much for which we should be thankful.

I offer to all staff, parents, carers and students, my thanks for your efforts throughout this year. This year has been very exciting and productive one. I share with you St Paul’s sentiments when he writes:

"My prayer is that your love may more and more abound, both in understanding and wealth of experience, so that with a clear conscience and blameless conduct you may learn to value the things that really matter, up to the very day of Christ. It is my wish that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God."  (Phil 1:9-11)

I wish each of you a happy and holy Christmas and a safe, relaxing and refreshing holiday.

**Acknowledgement of Staff**

I want to make special mention of all the staff of St Pius at this time. I want to acknowledge and thank all staff for their tireless efforts and good humour throughout this year. It has been very tough. Due to the building program and the consequent short supply of rooms and space, staff have had to contend with much more movement around the campus, often lugging resources around with them instead of being able to store them in a home room. Conditions have been less than perfect but staff have taken this in their stride and continued to provide quality teaching and learning experiences for their students. I offer a huge well done and my heartfelt thanks to all staff for your professionalism, dedication and support of each other throughout this year.

**Reports**

Semester II Reports will be included in the Award Folders presented to students at the Awards Ceremonies on Thursday 15 December. Should your child miss this day, Reports can be collected from the school on Friday 16 December. Any Reports not collected by 3.10pm on Friday 16 December will be available to
your child in Morning Care Group on their first day back next year.

**Professional Development Days**
Monday 19 December and Tuesday 20 December will be **pupil free** Staff Professional Development Days. Staff will complete their annual CPR update and participate in Faculty planning for 2012 on these days.

**Start of School 2012**
Friday 27 January – Staff Professional Development (pupil free day)
Monday 30 January – Year 7 & Year 10 Peer Support Leaders
Tuesday 31 January – Whole school returns

Best wishes

Robert Emery
Principal

**Conservatorium Scholarship**
Congratulations to Patrick McCoy (7.5) who has been awarded a scholarship to study violin at the Conservatorium for 2012. This is the fourth year running Patrick has auditioned and been offered the scholarship.

**Basketball**
Congratulations to Gabby Lyth (Year 8) who was selected as the female representative of the Hunter Academy of Sport Basketball Program, to attend the NSW Regional Academies of Sport Parliamentary Reception at NSW Parliament on Thursday 24 November 2011.

Twenty two athletes and a coach from throughout regional NSW were invited to the Parliamentary Reception to acknowledge their achievements in various sports.

Gabby was selected as part of the Hunter Academy’s successful basketball program and acknowledged for the following:

- selected in Newcastle Hunters Representative Basketball teams for the last 5 years 2011
- Hunters Under 16 Dive 1 team member
- winner of the Central Junior League Championship and Country Championships
- recipient of the Port Hunter Basketball Club Junior Club Person of the Year 2011
- junior referee in both domestic and representative programs.

**Year 9 Parents/Carers**
– The 1:1 Laptop Program User Agreement was mailed out to you on Friday 25 November. Please ensure that you read this agreement carefully, complete page 11 and return it to the school before the end of the school year. Also, included in the mail out are instructions on the procedure to follow to collect your child’s laptop at the start of next year.
School Contact Details
St Pius X High School
Park Avenue Adamstown   2289
Reception:  02 4957 1032
Student Office:  4013 2634
Fax:   02 4957 5088
email:  admin@adamstownsp.catholic.edu.au
web site:  http://www.adamstownsp.catholic.edu.au
P & F Meetings: 2nd Tuesday each month at 7.00pm
School Portal:  http://intra.adamstownsp.catholic.edu.au
Parent/carer user name:  
adp.homeshare and password: adp9822

Australian Titles Surfing
Jackson Baker (8.4) made the semi finals at the Australian Titles last week at Coffs Harbour. As a result of this he has gained an opportunity to attend the World Titles selection camp. Eight boys from all around Australia have been chosen for the camp and the four best performers at this camp will get an opportunity to compete at the World Surfing Titles in Panama next year. This camp will be held at the High Performance Centre near the Gold Coast just before Christmas.

Next Life Teen Night:  “Christmas Social”
Wednesday 21 December
Please bring a plate to share in place of the meal.
Wear something festive!
Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm
St Philips Parish Hall  Kotara
for high school teens in years 8-12

HOLIDAY CAMPS
WIN A CHELSEA SHIRT! *Must attend a full week to go in the raffle.
Week 1 9th -13th January 9am-3pm at Wallsend (Col Curran Oval)
Week 2 16th -20th January 9am-3pm at Wallsend (Col Curran Oval)
Week 2 16th -20th January 9am-3pm at Maitland Federation Centre

Coaches Include ex All-White player Phil Gaedo and QPR Premier League Academy coach Ricky Pattenden.
InZane Football is conducting soccer clinics run by former Soceroo, Clinton Zane this school holidays. The clinics are for boys and girls between the ages of 5 to 14 years. All of our holiday programmes will run for five days between 9am-3pm.
Programmes are designed to improve specific skills, co-ordination and confidence in young footballers. If you are interested in attending one of our clinics or after school programmes please contact us - info@inzanefootball.com or call 0402 352 132

Find us on facebook. M. 0402 352 132
www.inzanefootball.com | info@inzanefootball.com
Kotara Bears JRLFC
Under 6’s to Under 18’s

Registration Days at
Hudson Park:
(Behind Westfield Kotara)

Sunday 5th February 2012
11am to 4pm
and
Sunday 12th February
11am to 4pm

For further details contact
Kotara Bears on 0401251237

New players need to bring their Birth Certificate.