Dear Families and Friends of the St Pius X Community,

**Pentecost**

Last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost, often referred to as the Birthday of the Church. It is called that because Pentecost is when the apostles went out among the people and began spreading Jesus' message, thus establishing the beginning of the Church.

Pentecost (Greek for "50th day") is celebrated by Christians 50 days after Easter, and marks the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles while they were cowering and hiding behind locked doors following Jesus' resurrection. After receiving the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit, the apostles immediately went out and preached Jesus' message to everyone – even those who spoke other languages.

Pentecost reminds Christians of our responsibility to proclaim the good news of Jesus in our world today. We are not asked to stand on a soap box and proclaim the good news from every street corner. We are asked to take every opportunity to show by our words and actions the love that Jesus has for everyone. We are asked to be brave when people ask us questions about our faith and to answer them honestly. This is not easy. In fact it is completely counter-cultural in a secular world that is all about money, self and power.

Are we brave enough? Probably not on our own but then that is the power of Pentecost. We are not on our own. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with each of us always and everywhere. If we open ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit, we can achieve anything we put our minds to.

**Farewell Bishop Michael & Welcome Bishop William**

I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the whole St Pius X High School community to thank Bishop Michael Malone for his dedication and leadership as Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle over these last 16 years. The farewell to Bishop Michael on Sunday 29 May was a wonderful occasion and a fitting celebration of his excellent leadership through some very difficult times. The community of St Pius wishes you well, Bishop Michael. Farewell and God bless.

On Wednesday night of this week, the School Captains, Rachael Scott & Lachlan Young, and I attended the Ordination of Bishop-Elect William Wright as the eighth Bishop of the Diocese. I am sure you will all join with me in welcoming Bishop William and praying for him in his ministry as Bishop.

**Factory Wing Works**

All is going well and on-schedule with the works on the Factory Wing. Work is about to start on our new Theatre. A link called “Construction Photos” has been placed on the Home page of our school website (http://www.adamstownsp.catholic.edu.au). This links to the Morrell Architects’ website, where you will find photos of work being done each week. Worth a look!

Parents & carers should have received a letter sent home with students last Friday explaining that due to the works the Canteen will be closed from Wednesday 15 June until day 1 of Term 3. Students will need to bring food & drink with them each day. No student will be allowed to leave
the school grounds to buy food or drink during the school day. We may run some sausage sizzles. Stay tuned for details.

**Cost of Education**
A recent article in *The Sunday Telegraph* was entitled: **“$500,000 per child”** (29/5/11, by Laura Speranza). The article claimed that the cost of educating a baby born this year from kindergarten to Year 12 would be $76,435 in the public system, $226,087 at Catholic Schools and $491,570 at Private Schools.

The article used figures published by the Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) which took into account tuition fees, textbooks, uniforms, excursions and other unstipulated expenses. I did a quick calculation of what it has cost my family to put my son through Catholic education in this Diocese. He is now in Year 12. Taking into account the same items as considered by ASG and including all school fees not just tuition fees, it works out to about $22,000 total or roughly $1,700 per year averaged over all 13 years of Catholic education.

My point is that the article has grossly over-estimated the cost of education, even considering the fact that it claims that the cost of education will rise by double the inflation rate for the next 20 years. If you do the maths, assuming a 6% per annum average inflation rate over the next 20 years\(^1\) and therefore an annual rise in the cost of education of 12% you get some interesting results. By the time a baby born this year starts school, that average annual cost of education will have risen from $1,700 to $2,675. To get the child through 13 years of Catholic schooling will cost around $75,000. Although still a lot of money, this is a long way short of the $226,087 estimated by ASG.

I question the purpose of such newspaper articles. What are the motives of the newspaper editors or owners who print such stories? Even though ASG is a not-for-profit organization, it is in their best business interests to inflate the estimates of the cost of education. It would probably entice more people to invest with them. Articles such as this are of questionable value. They serve merely to scare parents and carers. Such articles should emphasize that the figures they quote are guesses and are absolute worst case scenarios in any case.

**Bibliography:** 1. Website [http://www.tradingeconomics.com/australia/inflation-cpi](http://www.tradingeconomics.com/australia/inflation-cpi) - average inflation rate in Australia 1937 to 2010 was 6.02%.

**My Review**
As most would be aware, I have been undergoing a Performance Review over the last few weeks. The review was conducted by the Catholic Schools Office.

Reviews provide a wonderful opportunity to hear from all stakeholders as to how well they consider you are fulfilling your role and meeting their expectations. I sincerely thank all people who took the opportunity to be part of my review. I greatly appreciate your participation and contribution. The review was very positive and supportive across all aspects of my role as Principal. It has also provided me with constructive guidance as to how I can improve my service to the school community as leader. I look forward with confidence and excitement to working with you into the future to ensure that the young people in our school receive the absolute best in Catholic education.

Have a wonderful week!

Robert Emery
Principal
Semester Reports
Semester 1 reports are now being finalised and will be given to students on Thursday 30 June.

Accompanying the report will be a note for the next set of Parent-Teacher interviews to be held in Week 2 of next term. The interview request forms can be returned to the school the following day or in Week 1 of Term 3.

Please note that the school Athletics carnival is scheduled for the Friday of first week back.

Year 8 Elective Choices
The much anticipated Elective Booklet for 2012 will be given to Year 8 students next week. It contains a description of the various subjects on offer, it provides useful tips about how to select an elective and the procedures we use to help students get the subject they want. There is also an outline of the VET courses available once the students reach Year 10 in 2013.

A parent information evening that covers the Elective process and provides parents with the opportunity to ask questions about individual subjects will be held at the school on Tuesday 21 June. The evening will be held in Sr Marie Hall commencing at 7.00pm and should be over by 8.00pm. All are welcome.

Entertainment Books
Families recently received Entertainment Books home via the youngest child in the family. Payment/Returns of unwanted books were due on 16 May. If you did not receive a book or would like extra books please let the school know. All payments and unwanted books can be returned to the Student Service office.

Thank You
A big thank you to the Rogers Family for donating a 68cm TV which is now being used in our classrooms.

LOTE and Creative Arts Department News
What is coming up in the Creative Arts and LOTE Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/9 June</td>
<td>Dio Sounds – Civic Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 June</td>
<td>Performing Arts Friday Group to attend “Starstruck” performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 July</td>
<td>Elective Music, Drama and Entertainment students to attend “Mary Poppins” performance in Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 August</td>
<td>Vocal Group Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 August</td>
<td>Vocal Group performing at Diocesan Choral Showcase</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 August</td>
<td>Arrival of our Sister School students from Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 August</td>
<td>Study Tour of Italy departs for elective Italian students</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 September</td>
<td>Music and Drama Day and Night Performances at St Pius X High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 September</td>
<td>Music Night Performance at St Pius X High School</td>
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Gabriella Smith
Studies Coordinator
Australian Geography Competition 2011

Results are back – finally! – and there are some pleasing ones this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Juniors</th>
<th>High Distinction</th>
<th>Breanna Grant, Ashleigh Moylan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Phoebe Cousins, Christopher Hendry, Thomas Newman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>Patrick McCoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Intermediate High Distinction</td>
<td>Laura Brake, Michael Brien, Ellen Browning, Lachlan Deverell, Alexandra Donovan, Sam Maguire, Matthew Newman, Isabella Oke, Patrick Russell, Lily Ryan, Lachlan Smyth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Brianna Clipperton, Joshua Donnelly, Victoria Parr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>Emma Hart, Joel Oliver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>High Distinction</td>
<td>Grace Cousins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Holly Harrison, Phillip Johnson</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to all.

Nancy Battiston
Teacher

Talented Artists
Three of our talented art students have been selected to participate in The Arts Emporium and Aaron Framed It! Young Emerging Artists Competition.

Phoebe Cousins, Alessia Sakoff and Hannah Dunn have been selected to enter this competition as they have shown great potential and skill in their artistic pursuits. Phoebe, Hannah and Alessia, along with nine other young artists aged between 12 and 18 will have their work on display for four weeks, during which time they will have the opportunity to have their artwork seen by some of Newcastle’s leading working and professional artists.

The artworks will be on display and for sale at The Arts Emporium Studio Exhibition at Studio 48 gallery from 24 June until 10 July.

IMPORTANT DATES for your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 16 June</td>
<td>Entertainment Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21 June</td>
<td>Year 10 Road Safety Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 June</td>
<td>Year 10 Marine Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 27 June to Friday 1 July</td>
<td>Year 10 Work Experience for selected students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 1 July</td>
<td>End of Term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24 August</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day – Staff Pastoral Care Professional Development</td>
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</table>
Uminohoshi High School Visit to St Pius X High School 9 – 21 August
As mentioned in our last newsletter, our sister school Uminohoshi High School in Hamamatsu Japan will be sending approximately 13 of their girls to St Pius for their biannual visit. The girls will attend school with our students, taking part in classes as well as going on local excursions. The Japanese students will be with us for twelve days. I am asking for families from our school community to billet the students as we have done in the past. Any families who would like to take part in this wonderful experience are asked to send their son or daughter to Mrs Porter or myself for more information. If you have any more questions please email me at Gabriella.smith@mn.catholic.edu.au or call me at school.

Mrs Smith
Studies Coordinator

Hospitality
I dropped into the Kitchen the other day to see how our first Hospitality class was doing. When you have been a teacher for a few years you get a feel for when things are “happening” in a classroom. I certainly had that feeling watching this class going about their practical work. First of all, they all looked the part, dressed in their sparkling white Chef uniforms, including head gear. Secondly, they were all totally involved in what they were doing and thirdly, they were obviously enjoying what they were doing. Speaking to the group they indicated that they were loving the course and were very happy to be doing it.

Mrs Helen Davies, the Hospitality Teacher, told me that she felt so lucky because the class was such a lovely group and that they were all working very well and enjoying the course.

We, as a school, are very lucky to have students setting such high standards for future groups to aspire to.

Gary Atherton
TAS Co-ordinator

UN Women’s Leadership Day
On 27 May we participated in one of many UN Women’s Leadership forums across Australia. The day was held at Newcastle High School, with participants from other schools across the Newcastle/Lake Macquarie region attending. Throughout the day, there were several guest speakers including former Newcastle State MP, Jodi McKay, who spoke of her past experiences as being one of the only female politicians in State Parliament. She also spoke about the importance of resilience, dignity and sticking to your values in a position of leadership. We heard from Dr Kate Brooks who completed her PhD in Astrophysics in 2000. She is the Vice-President of the Australian Astronomical Society and talked about the importance of juggling family life and work commitments as a woman. We also participated in group workshops where we were able to interact with fellow female student leaders. The day, overall was enjoyable, inspiring and motivational. We learnt many valuable skills and are now more inspired to make the most of our positions of leadership.

Rachael Scott, Lily Ryan, Hilary Chapman and Chelsea Slater
Student Leaders
**Surfing**
Jackson Baker (Year 8) recently spent 2 weeks surfing the waves of Grajagan, Indonesia. July will be a very busy month for Jackson as he will be competing in the Rusty Gromsearch at Lennox Head, Occy’s Gromsearch *(former SPX student Ryan Callinan won this event in 2007)* at the Gold Coast and the state titles to be held at Forster. Good Luck Jackson.

**Cheerleading**
Congratulations to Maddison Callinan, Gabrielle Callinan and Lauren Hardman (Year 10) who recently travelled to Disneyland Orlando, Florida to compete at the World Cheerleading Championships.

After spending a week training in California with East Coast Allstars the girls were ready to take on teams from all nations. The preliminary round selected the three best teams from every country who progressed to the finals. After two days of competition the East Coast Allstars finished 4th in nations cup and 14th overall. Well done girls!!

**Water Skiing**
Carly O’Toole (Year 9) was recently crowned Under 14 Australian Water Skiing Champion after outstanding performances at the Nationals held in Townsville.

Carly placed 1st in the Slalom, 2nd in Tricks and 2nd in Jump (jumping 23.4 meters) ranking 1st Overall.

The course had additional obstacles with numerous crocodiles being sighted during the competition.

David Pitfield
**Sports Department**
Upcoming Events

Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>16/6/11</td>
<td>Rugby Union Year 7/8 &amp; Year 9/10</td>
<td>Waratah Oval</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Coast to Country Cup</td>
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Term 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>22/7/11</td>
<td>School Athletics Carnival</td>
<td>Glendale Athletics Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>26/7/11</td>
<td>Dio Netball &amp; Dio Rugby 7’s</td>
<td>National Park &amp; Waratah Oval</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Turner Cup

In Round 1 of this year’s competition our opponents were San Clemente. They were a very young and inexperienced team and we ran out comfortable 14 – 0 winners. Full marks to San Clemente for the way they tried and their attitude of giving their best right to the last whistle.

Round 2 was much more difficult. Our opponents were Wallsend High and it was their home game. Wallsend were a very big, fast and aggressive team who totally dominated the first half. They closed us down quickly and we could not get any rhythm into our game. Wallsend were deservedly 2 – 0 up at half time and controlling the game. We changed a few players around at half time with a view to getting control of the mid-field. It worked a treat and we slowly took control and stamped our authority on proceedings. We were creating plenty of good chances but it looked like it was not going to be our day, we just could not find the back of the net. Then we scored and in a very short time we were leading 4 – 2, having scored some great goals. Jacob Tarasenko scored three and David Hecimovic scored one. Wallsend never gave up and we had to defend strongly on many occasions as the opposition tried to get back into the game. Our goalkeeper, Jesse Swain was injured when he bravely dived on the ball to prevent a goal and was kicked in the shin – he had to be replaced. Two other St Pius players were injured and had to be replaced during the course of the game. It was a very tough game.

I was very proud of our team for the courage they displayed, for their great second half fighting effort and for some of the great football they played. If they can maintain this attitude we will be very hard to beat. A great team effort – well done boys!

Our next opponent is Merewether High. Go St Pius!!!!!!!!!!!


Gary Atherton
Coach

Next Life Teen Night:

Wednesday 22 June
6.30pm Food
7.00pm - 8.30pm Life Night
St Philips Parish Hall Kotara

Next Life Teen Youth Mass:
Sunday 19 June at 5.45pm
St Therese’s Church, New Lambton.
Followed by Tea and Biscuits served by the youth